



B. C. M. COLLEGE

A Women's College at Kottayam was the long cherished desire of the Kottayam public. Until 1927 there was only one High School for girls at Kottayam. This town has for long rightly enjoyed the fame of a great educational centre in Kerala. The Kottayam public knew the great interest His Lordship Bishop Chulaparambil took in education. So they appealed to him and the result was the starting of St. Anne's High School in 1927. While opening St. Anne's High School, the good Bishop had assured the public in his address that he would do all in his power to raise this High School to a first grade Women's College. But His Lordship had many difficulties in his way and so he was not able to carry out in his life-time this great will of his. It had to be carried out by his admirers under the active and efficient guidance of his worthy successor, the Rt. Rev. Mar Thomas Tharayil.

In 1951 after the sad demise of our dear Bishop Chulaparambil, a memorial committee was set up. The unanimous opinion of the committee was that a Women's college at Kottayam was the best and most fitting memorial to him, whose public life was primarily devoted to the advancement of education with special emphasis on the spread of female education in the State in general and in the town of Kottayam in particular, whose genuine friend and leader he was.

The Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. A. V. George, N. Govinda Menon, N. Krishna Iyer, M. C. Mathew and K. P. Mathew submitted their memorandum dated 21st January 1955

to the Travancore University supporting the prior application of Bishop Tharayil, dated 31st July 1954, for sanction to open B. C. M. College in 1955. A Women's College at Kottayam established in the heart of the town, within easy reach of local and outside students was found an urgent necessity and therefore provisional sanction was accorded by the University of Travancore on 1st March 1955.

His Excellency Bishop Tharayil, consulted his council and the leaders of the town and replied to the University agreeing to satisfy the conditions imposed, and the final sanction was obtained on July 2nd 1955.

After Holy Mass by Bishop Tharayil in the Cathedral, attended by the staff and students, and after a formal opening function presided over by him. Entrolment of 63 students for the junior Intermediate class, who formed the corner stone of the new College, was done by Rt. Rev. Mgr. Cyriac J. Mattathil, the Pro-Manager and its First Principal, the Veteran educationist, Chev. V. J. Joseph M. A. at 10 A. M. on 11th July 1955, housing the College temporarily in the hall of St. Anne's Boarding House.

Mgr. Mattathil and Chev. V. J. Joseph went ahead with enthusiasm and leadership in the construction of the new building. Engineer Mr. R. Parameswaran Nair and Architects Messrs. J. C. Alexander and Cyriac Vellappally and Contractor. Mr. Chacko Mathai deserve special and grateful mention for their invaluable services in the erection of this beautiful monument for

which the foundation stone was laid on 7th October 1955. It was completed and blessed on 7th October 1957, a majestic monument an ornament to Kottayam Town.

Prof. V. J. Joseph, Prof. P. L. Stephen M. A., and Miss K. Annamma Pothen M. A. L. T., Rev. Fr. Peter Uralil M. A. L. T., Rev. Dr. Simon Kottoor M. A. and Rev. Sr. Rosalia were doing honorary work as Lecturers at the initial stage of the college.

In July 1956, the new college started its second year of life with 57 students in the intermediate class and 165 in the newly opened Pre - University class, with a staff of 14 members in the finished rooms of the unfinished college building. Che. V. J. Joseph continuing as the Principal.

In June 1957 we opened classes in an almost finished college, with 205 students in the Pre-University classes and 27 in the First year of the Three year Degree course.

At this time the University appeared keen on the administration of this college for women by a woman. Rev. Sr. Fedlis, M. A. of the Mangalore Apostolic Carmel rendered her valuable services for one year as Principal. The pioneers were builders in more than one sense, setting a contagious example of adaptability, cheerfulness, optimism and hard work.

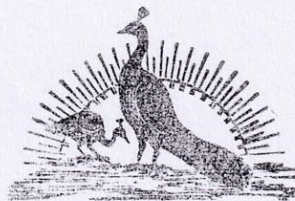
Not content with providing the students with this imposing building at a cost of lakhs of Rupees, the management started Degree Course in 1958. In July 1958 Rev. Sr. M. Goretti with her companion Sr. M. Savio, the present Principal returned from U.S.A. after their studies, and Sr. M. Goretti took

charge as Principal on July 26, 1958. The formal inauguration of this college took place on 16th February 1959 by His Eminence, the most Rev. Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Arch Bishop of Bombay.

During the past 15 years the college has grown in all directions with 1865 students for the various courses. The long desired Auditorium was completed and was blessed on 7-10-'69.

The college maintains a creditable record in the matter of University Examination results. She keeps away from the world of stricks and agitation, for which the entire credit goes to our students and staff.

The College owes much to Rev. Dr. Thomas Tharayil the Patron of this college, the late Chev. V. J. Joseph who is the architect of this edifice and Mgr. Mattathil, who is the Pro-Manager of the college from the start. We congratulate His Excellency and implore God's blessings on this occasion of his Episcopal Silver Jubilee.



ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, UZHAVOOR.

The College was started in 1964 under the auspicious of St. Stephen's Forane church, Uzhavoor. The foundation stone was laid by Dr. Samuel Mathai, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kerala, on 9-5-1964. Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Tharayil, Bishop of Kottayam and Patron of the College, inaugurated the College on 6th July 1964.

The sanction to upgrade the college was granted by the University of Kerala on 2nd September 1968 and degree classes were started on 16th September 1968 with the formal inaugu-

ration by His Excellency, the Patron of the college.

The college is owned by the Diocese of Kottayam and is under the Corporate Management of His Excellency, the Bishop of Kottayam.

It is intended to give young men and women the advantage of University education along with opportunities for cultural development; and spiritual and moral formation.

The motto of the college is "intendes in Caelum" 'looking up to heaven'.

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