

Sr. M. Veronique – N. D. Veronica Reddy **(1954 – 2019)**

Early Life and Family

Sr. M. Veronique – N. D. Veronica Reddy was born on April 15, 1954, in Bangalore, India, to Mr. Doraiswamy Reddy and Mrs. Philomena. She was the fourth of eight children, growing up among four sisters and three brothers. Her elder sister, Sr. Fathima Rani, is a Religious Sister belonging to the Congregation of Bon Secours.

From her high school days, Veronica nurtured a deep desire to become a Religious Sister. This calling grew stronger after her post-graduation when she joined the Daughters of St. Paul in Mumbai.

Religious Vocation

In 1980, during her Postulancy, she visited St. Joseph's educational institutions and was inspired by the life and mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy. Responding to this inner call, she left the Daughters of St. Paul and joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy in 1981 at the age of 27.

She entered the Novitiate on December 21, 1981, made her First Profession on December 10, 1983, and her Final Commitment on January 16, 1988.

Academic and Professional Career

With an M.Sc. in Home Science, Sr. Veronique began her teaching career in 1983 as an Aided Staff member in the Department of Home Science, St. Joseph's College for Women, Waltair. Though new to the profession, she taught with dedication and enthusiasm for twelve years, earning the admiration of her students. She also served as Hostel Warden, known for her kindness and approachability.

Principalship and Institutional Growth

In 1995, Sr. Veronique became the Fourth Principal of St. Joseph's College, succeeding Sr. Alice Marie. She went on to complete her M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Family Resource Management from Sri Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore (2000).

Under her visionary leadership, the College saw significant developments:

- **Infrastructure:** Second-floor extension of the Home Science Block (UGC aid), establishment of a Language Lab, and strengthening of facilities.
- **New Academic Programs:**
 - B.Sc. (Vocational) in Chemistry, Botany, Food Science & Quality Control
 - Postgraduate courses in Mathematics, Journalism & Mass Communication, Computer Science, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Analytical Chemistry, and English
 - New undergraduate combinations in Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics, and Computer Applications

- Add-on Courses: Travel & Tourism Management, Copy Writing & Editing, Communication Skills, and Event Management
- Introduction of B.Com. at the undergraduate level
- **Accreditations and Recognition:**
 - NAAC accreditation in 2001, 2008 & 2014
 - Multiple extensions of UGC autonomy
 - Establishment of IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell)
 - Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the College

Her tenure was marked by teamwork, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, positioning the College as a leader in women's higher education. She served as Principal for **19 years**, officially retiring in 2012 but continuing for two more years until 2014.

In **2016**, she was appointed **Correspondent of the College**, a role she fulfilled while continuing to guide and mentor faculty and students. She also served two terms as **Provincial Councillor** of the Congregation.

Sr. Veronique spent her entire religious life in the field of higher education, dedicated to the empowerment of women.

Personal Qualities

She was known for her **punctuality, truthfulness, hard work, simplicity, kindness, compassion, and deep prayer life**. Her leadership was marked by humility and openness to new ideas. She enjoyed working with young people and remained young at heart.

Even during the Provincial Chapter of 2019, she was actively engaged in discussions and planning. In January 2019, despite illness, she supported her staff through the rigorous NAAC re-accreditation process.

Sr. Veronique passed away on **March 5, 2019**, in **Maryland, Waltair**, aged 64

“May the Upright Judge crown her with His glory and grant her the reward of eternal life.