



# TERASOPHIE

WISDOM FROM YOUNG TERESIANS



**IGNETTES**  
**OF**  
**ENERABLE**  
**MOTHER**  
**VERONICA**





MOTHER MARY ELIAS OF JESUS

(1839-1933)

Co-foundress

Congregation of the Carmelite Religious

Cover Design: Sr. Saroja CCR

**VIGNETTES  
OF  
VENERABLE  
MOTHER VERONICA**

**PROJECT WORK BY  
SECOND YEAR STUDENTS 2023 - 24**

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**SOURCE OF OUR INSPIRATION**



**SR. MOLLY ATTULLY CCR**  
**SUPERIOR GENERAL**



**SR. MARY LILLIAN CCR**  
**PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR**

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## FOREWORD

**Sr. Margaret Mendonca CCR**  
**Provincial Councillor**  
**St. Joseph Province, Pune**

Mother Veronica of the Passion, Foundress of the Congregation of Carmelite Religious, shines bright in the galaxy of Carmelite saints. On the threshold of sainthood, she has left behind a legacy of indomitable courage, single-minded pursuit of truth, tender-heartedness of a mother, uncommon humility for a person of her lineage, patient endurance of a hovering cross and other heroic virtues characteristic of saints.

Undeterred by setbacks Mother Veronica faced challenges with grace that came from a heart embedded in faith. To a woman of such calibre the students of St. Teresa's Junior College of Education have paid rich tributes in prose and verse. The incidents of her life-experiences are aptly scribed in Short Stories that make interesting reading. Underlying are lessons to learn and emulate. The Verselets have a natural flow of thoughts reflecting her person and mission.

This project, undertaken at the behest of the Principal and the Staff, on the occasion of the Bi-centennial Birth Anniversary of our Foundress is praiseworthy. Congratulations to the budding composers and fruitful reading to those who will read these pages. It is my earnest hope that they draw a streak from her eventful life and blend it into their own lives thereby enriching their personalities to make a difference in today's society.

God bless you.

## MESSAGE



**Sr. Louella Rodrigues CCR  
Manager**

It gives me great joy to know that the Second and First Year D. EL. ED. students have made an attempt to write on the life of our Foundress, Ven. Mother Veronica, during her Bi - centennial birth anniversary may we imbibe her virtues.

Mother Veronica's heroic obedience to the will of God, at every step of her life, led her to do all her assignments in total obedience to her Superiors. She prayed unceasingly and sat at the Master's feet before the Blessed Sacrament for long hours in deep faith. She believed in the 'Real Presence' of Jesus in the Eucharist. Mother Veronica was filled with much zeal for the Catholic Church and was ready to bear the cross and endure many sufferings for the love of Jesus. She says, *the only ambition of a Carmelite should be to surpass the others in humility*. She had much zeal for the Missions and love for the poor. She worked for the upliftment of the girl child through education. This summarises her life story.

*To a dull mind, all of nature is laden. To the illumined mind the whole world burns and sparkles with light, says Ralph Waldo Emerson. Dear students, we too must burn and sparkle with light to let others light their candles. Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.*

**Inspired by the Second Vatican Council for creative fidelity to the Charism, the Congregation charted out new avenues of apostolate – care of the sick, the aged and the mentally challenged beyond the frontiers of Formal Education. Hence our vision for mission encompasses all areas of social concern: spiritual, moral, cultural and economic poverty especially the marginalised.**

**Mother Veronica's missionary thrust was a well-planned response. She had a love for the missions: love for the poor who always had a preference in her life; the joy of teaching Catechism and to reach out to the sick with great kindness. She planned with the signs of the time: quality education with sound human and moral values. This was realised by Mother Elias, our Co-foundress.**

**We humbly ask Jesus to grant that she be raised to the honours of the altar, so as to be a continual source of inspiration to all who aspire to a life of close union with Jesus, and of selfless service to others.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In embarking on this project, I sought to instill in the teacher-students of STJCE the art of storytelling and poetry. The intention was to delve into the life of Mother Veronica, our revered Foundress, as a window into her remarkable journey. The resulting storybook, "Vignettes of Venerable Mother Veronica," and the accompanying poems, "Verselets on Mother Veronica," represent a humble attempt to impart writing skills while honouring the legacy of our Foundress.

First and foremost, I am profoundly grateful to God for being the wellspring of inspiration that guided me and my students throughout this endeavour.

I am deeply indebted to Sr. Molly Attully CCR our esteemed Superior General, for her unwavering support through prayers. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sr. Mary Lilian CCR our Provincial Superior, for her invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout this project. Sister has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

Special appreciation goes to Sr. Louella Rodrigues CCR for her assistance, including writing the message and facilitating access to the Convent library.

I am particularly grateful to Sr. Margaret Mendonca CCR for her prompt response in writing the foreword, meticulously reviewing the text, and providing invaluable corrections and

advice, ensuring the accuracy and quality of the final work, and whose attention to details is commendable.

To all the teachers who offered their unwavering support, I extend my sincere gratitude.

To the teacher-students of the Second Year and First Year D. EL. ED., their patience and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Despite the challenges, they persevered in exploring the life of Mother Veronica, weaving her story into their own projects.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Sr. Helen Correia CCR for her painstaking proofreading, ensuring the accuracy and quality of the final product.

To each individual who contributed to this project, your support has been paramount and deeply appreciated. Thank you for joining me on this journey of learning and creativity.



Sr. Saroja Mates Pereira  
Principal, D. EL. ED.

# 1.

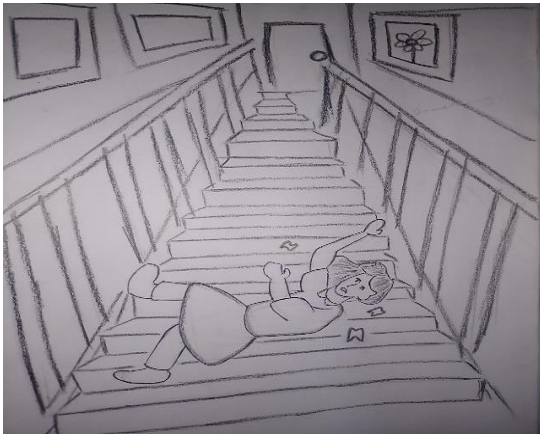
## The Adventurous Life of Sophie Leeves

Melisa Isaac Almeida

Roll no: 01

In the early 19th century, in the vibrant city of Constantinople, a remarkable family thrived. Sophie Leeves, born in 1823, was the daughter of an Anglican clergyman. Her family, which included her older brother Henry and three younger sisters, Mary Anne, Emily, and Catherine, was close-knit. Their life in Constantinople was filled with both memorable events and challenges.

At the tender age of five, Sophie's life took an interesting turn. Her sister, Mary Anne, was placed under the care of a governess, who would remain with them for five years. During this period, the family had relocated to London, and Sophie's youngest sister, Catherine, was born.



However, Sophie's adventurous spirit got the best of her one day. She watched in amazement as her brother and cousin daringly slid down the stairs' baluster. Sophie, not one to shy away from adventure, decided to give it a try.

Climbing up onto the baluster, she aimed to ride down to dinner

just like the boys. But fate had other plans, as she lost her balance and tumbled down thirteen steps. She was found senseless, with a deep gash on the left side of her mouth and some of her teeth left behind on the stairs. After a surgeon carefully sewed up the gash, Sophie had to stick to liquid food for weeks, a painful reminder of her equestrian mishap.

She distinctly recalled receiving her first whipping from her dear father, a man she regarded as almost saintly. It happened after he had given her and her sister, Mary Anne, a lesson on the Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal." After the lesson, he sent them into the dining room to play. Seeing the cream jug, Sophie couldn't resist the temptation and took a spoonful of milk. Her younger sister, Mary Ann, ever vigilant about the lessons, promptly informed their father. He returned and administered a correction she would never forget, emphasising the sin of stealing. This incident left a deep imprint on her character, and Sophie carried the lesson of honesty and integrity with her through life.

At the age of six, Sophie's family relocated to Corfu, leaving her brother at a Jubilee school near London. However, two years later, their father's wish to have all his children together led to the return of Sophie's brother, who arrived in Corfu with a tutor. The family's governess also returned to England, and Sophie, along with her sister Mary Anne, continued their education under the guidance of her brother.

## 2.

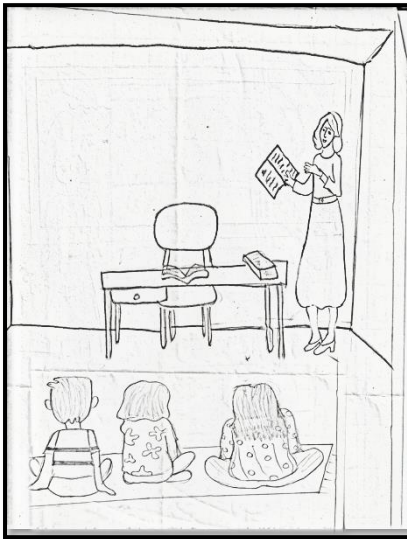
### Innocence and Ideals

#### Sophie's Unconventional Childhood

Kimaya Abhay Raut  
Roll No: 19

Sophie's mother, in stark contrast to her father, possessed a different character. She was a spectacle of beauty, with fair features, blue eyes, and long golden hair that she wore in ringlets down to her waist. Her devotion lay in her Protestant

faith, and she remained unwavering in her beliefs. While she was devoted to her husband and children, she could not reconcile herself with both of her daughters' conversion to Catholicism and their religious vocations. This caused her much unhappiness throughout her life.

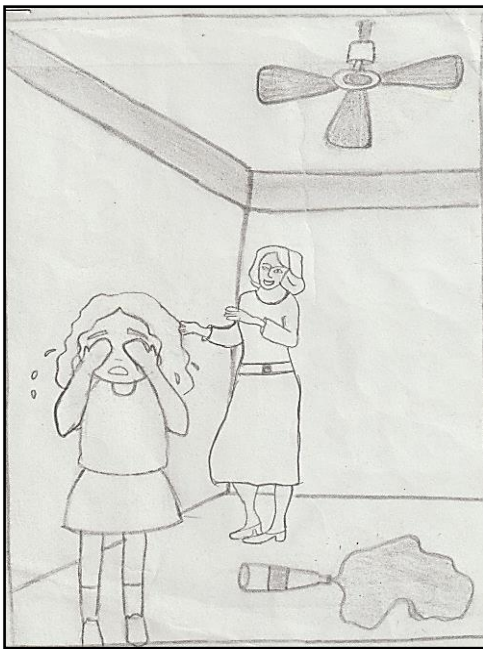


Sophie and her siblings rarely interacted with the household servants and were not allowed to engage in conversations with them. Their mother protected them from exposure to what she considered inappropriate influences, ensuring their minds remained innocent and untainted. The girls did not attend school, but their education was diligently structured. Alongside their brother Henry, they studied Latin,



while Greek and French flowed naturally from their earliest years. Their father fostered a deep connection to spirituality, reading the New Testament in Greek with them each morning.

But her life was filled with challenges. Sophie's third sister, Emily, was born deaf and dumb. This condition went unnoticed for some time, as Emily was a delicate child. It wasn't until one day, during a geography lesson with their governess, that they realised Emily's deafness. As she lay on a table, not yet able to



stand, she reached for her mother's smelling bottle. Pulling out the stopper, she inadvertently spilled aromatic vinegar on her face, causing her to cry and rub her eyes. Despite Miss Thornton's (governess) quick actions, Emily's eyes swelled, leaving her unable to open them for a week.

When Sophie was ten years old, her family settled in Athens, where

Sophie's father bought land for a new home. They also acquired an estate on the Island of Euboea, where they sought respite from the Athenian heat.

**3.**  
**Roots of Faith**  
**Through Leeves Family to Sophie**

**Rhea D' Mello**

**Roll no: 04**

Mother Veronica née Sophie Leeves was born into the Levees exceptionally God-fearing family of Anglicans, whose grandfather, Rev. William H. D. Leeves, was the parson of Wrington Chapel for 50 years, and her father, Mr. Henry Daniel Leeves, himself a parson and attached to the English Embassy at Constantinople, was brought up in a religious and pious family. Sophie speaks of the father as a pious and holy man who was very prayerful. The daily family prayer was a must, and the father himself took charge of it. Sophie used to watch her father through the keyhole of his locked room, kneeling and reciting prayers aloud.

Sophie's father took religion lessons every day. When he instructed them about the Commandment: '*Thou shall not steal*' and later was told that Sophie took a spoonful of milk from the jug and drank it, he gave her a spanking, saying that he had just instructed her about the sin of stealing. He expected Sophie to attend the Sunday services and to write the sermon to be shown to him. As strict as the father was on disciplinary matters, he was very loving towards the family.

The mother did not appreciate any frivolous talk, nor did she want the children to speak to the servants or workers. She encouraged the children to save money by abstaining from

sugar in their tea and using the money thus gained on buying



clothes, to stitch clothes for the poor to be presented at Christmas. The mother sent them to sewing classes to learn how to stitch clothes for the poor. Though the children did not have any formal schooling, tutors were arranged to teach them drawing, singing, dancing, and music. They regularly visited places of interest in Rome, Naples, and France.

When the girls had grown up, the mother introduced them to the Christian society of that time. She saw that they were well dressed for the occasion. This fine upbringing set the tone and was the ideal seed ground for a religious vocation, and God did not hesitate to take advantage of the occasion.

#### **4.**

### **Threaded Empowerment**

### **Stitching Together a Legacy through Sewing.**

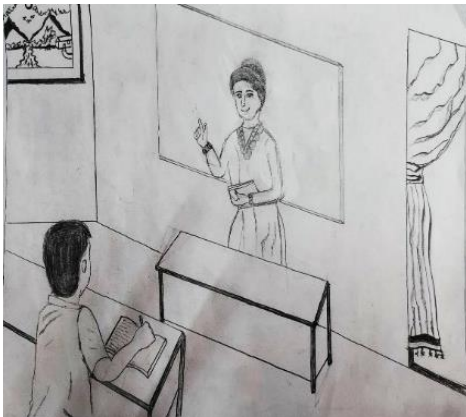
**Cynthia D'souza**

**Roll No: 05**

Sophie Leeves was a remarkable soul, driven by an unwavering determination to uplift the lives of the underprivileged children of her community. Sophie saw potential where others saw despair and hardship, and she embarked on a mission that would leave a remarkable impression on the village.

One of Sophie's most notable initiatives was to provide sewing classes for the children of the village. She believed that by imparting this valuable skill, she could empower them to not only stitch clothes but also mend the threads of their own destinies. In a place where resources were scarce, sewing and tailoring were skills that held immeasurable value. They weren't just practical skills; they were pathways to self-sufficiency and independence. The children flocked to Sophie's makeshift sewing, their eager eyes reflecting their dreams of a better future. With her patience and gentle guidance, they learned the art of sewing and tailoring. As they threaded needles and stitched fabrics together, they wove the fabric of their own lives, one stitch at a time.

Sophie's mission went beyond sewing; she remembers especially a boy, who was the son of the village priest. The



priest named Pappa Stathi led his congregation in prayer and guided them through life's trials and tribulations. It was Pappa Stathi's dream that his son would follow in his footsteps and become the next village priest. As the boy was intelligent and responded to Sophie's love and care by

studying well, Sophie taught him old Greek grammar, which he could read and write almost as well as herself.

It was a comprehensive effort to provide education and vocational training to the children in the village. She believed in the transformative power of education. Sophie Leeves had left a lasting imprint on the hearts of the village children, a legacy of compassion and empowerment.

## **5. Sophie's Spiritual Odyssey and Emily's Unspoken Testament**

**Christine Gonsalves**

**Roll no: 07**

Once upon a time, in the city now known as Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, there lived a girl named Sophie. Born on 1st October 1823 to Reverend Henry Daniel, an Anglican chaplain to the British Embassy, and Sophie Mary Haultain, the daughter of a British army Colonel. Sophie possessed a unique blend of intellectual and emotional gifts. Her artistic and linguistic talents were carefully cultivated through a sound education and diverse experiences.

As Sophie entered her teenage years, a transformative shift occurred within her. She developed a profound inclination towards prayer, dedicating hours to this spiritual practice. It was during this time that she found herself yearning for a light beyond her grasp, a soulful longing with an elusive destination. Unaware of what precisely she sought, Sophie remained in the embrace of God's unfolding plans for her life.

On the tranquil morning of Easter Tuesday, Sophie found herself immersed in the quietude of the hour. As darkness still enveloped her surroundings, creating an atmosphere of profound stillness. It was in this serene moment that a remarkable event unfolded, forever etching itself into the fabric of Sophie's memory.

A gentle, yet crystal-clear voice disrupted the silence, resonating with a celestial timbre that seemed to emanate from realms beyond. The words, '***My Peace I Leave You; My Peace I Give,***' wafted through the air, reaching Sophie's ears with a distinct clarity. The soft proclamation held a mysterious power, and its impact was felt deep within her being.

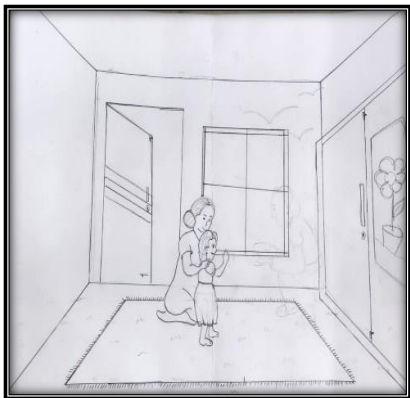


For a brief moment, the stillness of the dawn was transformed into a symphony of enchanting whispers, leaving Sophie in a state of unspeakable delight. However, as quickly as the celestial voice had graced her senses, the night and her heart returned to their former quietude.

Strangely, though she could not visually discern the source of the ethereal utterance, Sophie was certain of its origin. A sense of sacred recognition filled her, and she treasured the experience like a precious secret tucked away in the recesses of her heart. In the solitude of that Easter Tuesday early

morning, a divine encounter had unfolded, leaving Sophie with a cherished mystery to ponder and hold close for a long time to come.

As Sophie's spiritual journey deepened within the embrace of the Catholic Church, facing the disapproval of Mrs. Leeves and others only strengthened her conviction. Undeterred, Sophie believed that God was unfolding mysterious paths before her. Amidst this transformative period, Sophie's sister Emily, with her visible and vocal limitations, found solace in the simple act of watching Sophie knit. In the tender moments spent caring for Emily, Sophie discovered a richness in love that surpassed the barriers of physical limitations. Each stitch in her knitting and each tender kiss from Emily became threads in a tapestry of compassion and devotion.



As Emily's journey unfolded, bathed in the warmth of Sophie and her mother's care, it became clear that their lives were intertwined in a divine narrative. The Maltese maid, a silent witness to the unfolding drama, played an unexpected role in shaping the destiny of their family. When illness cast its shadow upon Emily, Sophie and her mother, unwavering in their devotion, never left her side. In a poignant twist of fate, as Emily was found alone, without assistance of her mother or sister, without losing any moment, the Maltese maid, recognizing the sacred depths of her soul, baptised her into the Catholic faith.

And so, Emily, surrounded by the love and devotion of her family, departed from this world as a Catholic, leaving behind a poignant tale of faith, love, and the unspoken bonds that transcend the limitations of earthly language.

## **6.**

### **The Leap of Faith Taken by Leeves**

**Tanisha Rumao**

**Roll no: 21**

In a small English town, there lived a young woman named Sophie Leeves. She was raised in a loving Protestant family, where her Sundays were filled with hymns and Bible readings. Sophie was a curious soul, always seeking answers to life's deeper questions.

One day, while walking through the charming countryside, she stumbled upon a picturesque Catholic church. Its grand architecture and ornate stained glass windows captured her attention. Sophie had never been inside a Catholic church before, and her curiosity got the better of her. She decided to step inside.

As she entered, the soft candlelight bathed the church in a warm, inviting glow. The smell of incense filled the air, and the serene atmosphere enveloped her. Sophie took a seat in the back pew and watched as people knelt in prayer. She felt a profound sense of peace in that holy place.



Over the next few weeks, Sophie continued to visit the Catholic Church regularly. She would often sit in the same pew, quietly observing the rituals and listening to the priest's



sermons. The teachings of Catholicism resonated with her in a way she hadn't expected. The emphasis on compassion, forgiveness, and the sacraments began to touch her heart.

One Sunday, after the service, Sophie approached the parish priest, Father Thomas Giuliano. She was filled with questions about the Catholic faith. Father Giuliano welcomed her with a warm smile and answered her inquiries patiently. Their conversations continued over several weeks, and Sophie's understanding of Catholicism deepened.

As time went on, Sophie felt a profound spiritual awakening. She realised that she wanted to embrace the Catholic faith fully. With the guidance of Father Thomas Giuliano, she began her journey of conversion. The process was both challenging and enlightening, as Sophie had to confront her previous beliefs and reconcile them with her newfound faith.

After a year of study and prayer, Sophie was received into the Catholic Church, a tribute to her deep devotion and the transformative journey she had undergone. Her family, initially apprehensive about her conversion, saw the joy and peace it brought her and eventually came to accept her decision.

Sophie's journey was a testament to the transformative power of faith, curiosity, and the pursuit of a deeper spiritual connection. Her conversion story inspired many, and her legacy lives on in the Carmelite Order she helped establish.

## **7.**

### **Anchored in God's Transformative Power**

**Sr. Roshani Bendoamar**

**Roll No: 03**

The head of the Society of Ladies was a Spanish woman named Mrs. Demech, and the group's gatherings occurred at her residence. Sophie and Mary Ann encountered a Jesuit priest during one of these meetings before he departed for Rome. Father Giuliano discussed the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, capturing Sophie's attention. Overwhelmed, Sophie burst into tears, prompting concern from those around her.

Mary Ann inquired, “*What's wrong, Sophie? Are you unwell?*” Unable to respond, Sophie continued sobbing. Father Giuliano, perceiving the situation, advised, ‘*Leave the poor girl alone. Grace has touched her heart.*’ When Sophie regained composure, she expressed doubt about being in the true church. Mary Ann admitted her own uncertainties, revealing her reading of Milner's 'End of Controversy.' They decided to seek the truth together.



Father Giuliano encouraged them, saying, *God has sparked this within you. Don't let it fade.* In the midst of doubt and challenges, Sophie and Mary Ann's journey reflects the transformative power of faith. Their shared quest for truth, ignited by the words of a Jesuit priest, led them to a profound commitment.

A servant with a lantern accompanied them, but they encountered Mrs. Leeves, who scolded them for staying out late. This marked the start of a challenging period for the two girls. Sophie and Mary Ann shared a tearful night before an early morning appointment at the Gesù at 7 o'clock. In simple Sunday attire, they silently passed the man-servant and maid and joined Father Seagrave and Mrs. Bowden, an English convert, as their Godmother.

When Father Seagrave uttered, *I absolve thee from the excommunication incurred by...*, it felt like a burden lifted from their souls. The Mass commenced, marking the occasion of their First Communion. The Sisters of St. Joseph, invited by Chaplain Padre Marchetti, witnessed the event. They both experienced a communion, a real communion indeed with Jesus Himself. The Good Shepherd, having carried His two humble lambs from distant lands on His shoulders, arrived to claim their souls for His one Fold—the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. In His blessed sacramental presence, earnestly sought for so long, they finally found Him.

In the face of uncertainty, they found solace in each other and embraced the path of spiritual growth. Only an eternity could suffice to thank Him for the inestimable gift bestowed on Sophie and her sister Mary Ann that blessed day, 2nd February 1850, the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin– the gift of faith, a faith so profound that she trusted to carry it intact before the Throne of God for all eternity. After wavering and doubting, she was firmly anchored on the rock of Peter.

A marvellous change overcame her, astonishing even those who knew her best, and herself more than anyone. It highlights the resilience that faith can inspire, even amid the darkness of uncertainty.

## **8.**

### **Revelation of Divine Lead to Divine Rebirth**

**Mansuri Habiba Bari**

**Roll No: 13**

The narrative unfolds in the year 1850, on the eve of the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. Two sisters, Sophie and Mary Ann, are poised to embark on a clandestine journey that will alter the course of their lives. With courage and determination, they slip away from their home separately to rendezvous with Father Seagrave at the Church of the Gesù.

Under the cloak of secrecy, the sisters make their general confession, a momentous step that leaves them with a sense of foreboding despite the jovial atmosphere at home. The evening is filled with visitors, music, and pleasant conversation, but

within the sisters' hearts lingers an apprehension of the impending storm.

As the night unfolds, they find it difficult to tear themselves away from their mother and brother, who remain in the drawing room after the guests depart. The family eventually retires for the night, but Sophie and Mary Ann, lying in bed, can only weep together in anticipation of the challenging day to come.



The morning, however, promises both joy and fulfilment. Dressed in their Sunday best, the sisters, signalling silence to the Catholic maid, set out for the Church of the Gesù. There, in a side chapel, they receive conditional Baptism and absolution, marking their conversion to Catholicism. The day commences fittingly with Holy Mass, and their First Communion becomes a deeply moving and overwhelming experience, instilling in Sophie a profound sense of transformation and an unshakeable faith.

However, the newfound faith cannot remain a secret. With trepidation, the sisters return home, where they must confront their mother. In the drawing room, Mamma, engrossed in reading her large Bible, questions them about their morning activities. Sophie, kneeling beside her, discloses the truth—they have joined the Catholic Church.

Mamma's reaction is one of anguish and anger. She pushes Sophie away and paces the room, expressing her disdain for

the Catholic Church. The insult to the Blessed Virgin wounds Sophie deeply. Mary Ann, unable to bear the scene, weeps uncontrollably. Mamma, in grief, retreats to her boudoir.

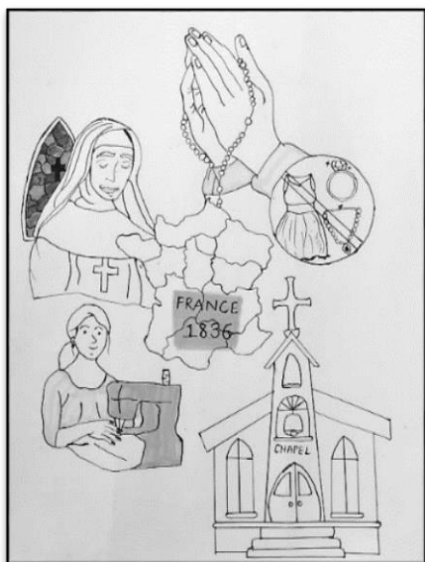
Henry, the brother, unaware of the unfolding drama, joins them for breakfast. Sophie, breaking the news, reveals their conversion. His response is a mix of scepticism and sarcasm, believing they were secretly Catholics all along. The narrative takes a poignant turn as Mamma, in despair, puts on mourning clothes and visits Bishop Tomlinson. Unbeknownst to her, Emily, another family member, had died a Catholic. The day unfolds as a tale of conversion, faith, and the challenges faced by a family divided by religious beliefs.

**9.**  
**Sophie Leeves**  
**The Relentless Seeker of the Way**

**Jenisha Nadar**  
**Roll No: 14**

Sophie Leeves was gifted with singular talents of mind and heart, along with artistic and linguistic skills that were nurtured by sound education and wide experience. The experience of helping the poor children of the neighbourhood, giving them tuition and sewing garments for them from her own pocket money, helped her to be involved in acts of mercy. When Sophie was in her teens, a change came over her. She spent long hours in prayer. She was like a child crying for *the light*. Her spirit craved something that was beyond her reach.

Sophie searched for God, and it seemed that she had a weight that she wished to get rid of. Things began to change for Sophie, and she gave up all her pretty dresses and her fine jewellery. Sophie felt drawn to the Roman Catholic Church. She visited the chapel twice a day and then visited the sick and the poor. Sophie, in spite of her mother's strong opposition, embraced the Catholic faith. She felt that God was calling her to be a religious.



As Henry was sick in Euboia, his mother had to be with him. Arrangements were made for Sophie and Mary Ann to stay with the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. Sophie got what she wanted. God had arranged it just for her. Very quickly, things worked out favourably for her, as Sophie felt an inner voice inspiring her to join the

Congregation. She wrote to her mother about it, and though her mother denied giving her consent, Sophie told her that since she was of appropriate age, she could not object to her choice.

The following year, she went to France, where she entered as a Sister in St. Joseph of the Apparition, which had been founded in 1836 by Emily de Vialar. After completing the novitiate, she was professed as a member of the Apparition on September 14, 1851, and received the name Veronica of the Passion following her patron saint, St. Veronica, 'the stigmatist.

Her obedience to God was remarkable in every situation, accepting with grace and virtue all the assignments that were given to her. She could rightly say, 'Obedience is my life'. She was overjoyed that she was finally able to live her dream, which God had planned for her. She worked in different schools of the Order and also as a nurse, assisting the sick and the dying. Her zeal for God's glory was so great that she was happy and ready to begin her pure and spiritual journey.

## **10.**

### **Harmony of Hearts**

#### **A Mother's Compassion in Times of Trial**

**Shabana Qureshi**

**Roll No: 17**

Sophie, now known as Sister Veronica of the Passion, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, made her profession on the Feast of the Purity of the Blessed Virgin in October 1852. She embraced her duties wholeheartedly. Her fervour for teaching French, Greek, and music to children of various backgrounds grew with each passing day. She especially cherished educating Catholic and underprivileged children, finding profound joy in their learning.

However, her dedication led to an unexpected setback. While helping with laundry duties, Sister Veronica fell ill with a severe cold that escalated into a lung inflammation. Mary Ann, her devoted sister, quickly contacted their mother, who, despite



previous clashes, displayed a tender, compassionate side, setting aside any former anger in concern for her ailing daughter.



During Sister Veronica's stay in Athens, the embrace of family love enveloped her, offering a respite from the rigours of convent life. The change of air worked wonders for her health, and under the care of her mother and siblings, she gradually regained her strength. Mrs. Leeves, though still grappling with the recent tragedies, found solace in nurturing her daughters, their bond strengthening amidst adversity. Sister Veronica had now received the habit. *Poor mother!* Sophie (now Sister Veronica) exclaims, in deep appreciation, *'She had forgotten her anger and received me with great affection and then, looking at me in the religious dress, she exclaimed that she had never seen me so lovely.'*

In those moments of reprieve, amidst the bustling streets of Athens, Sister Veronica found herself torn between the comfort of her family's embrace and the sense of purpose that awaited her back at the convent. Her heart, firmly rooted in her devotion to her calling, longed to return to the humble routines of teaching and guiding young minds, the fulfilling duties she held dear within the convent walls.

The warmth of familial love, however, left an indelible mark on Sister Veronica's spirit. She treasured the moments shared

with her mother, Mary Ann, and Henry, the laughter and tender conversations serving as a balm for her soul. Yet, as the days passed, a quiet longing for the tranquillity of the convent nestled within her, reaffirming her commitment to her religious vocation.

As the time drew near for their departure from Athens, Sister Veronica's heart brimmed with conflicting emotions. Gratitude filled her for the healing respite her family had provided, but an undeniable sense of duty and belonging tugged at her being, beckoning her to resume her noble pursuits within the convent walls.

Upon their return to Syros, it became clear that while Sister Veronica found her calling in the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mary Ann's path lay elsewhere. Mary Ann joined the Ursulines in the same town, eventually making her profession in 1861. She later returned to Greece with a group of Ursuline Sisters to establish the Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart at Tinos (Lutra). Meanwhile, Sister Veronica's commitment and capability caught the attention of her Superior, who contemplated a new venture in England, considering Sister Veronica for the task.

The story unfolded with Sister Veronica's unwavering dedication to her calling, Mary Ann finding her own path, and the prospect of a new chapter beckoning Sister Veronica in a distant land, carrying the light of her faith to new horizons.

## 11.

### Tragedy and Healing of Sophie's Family

Saarah Noori

Roll No: 16

Sophie and Mary Ann were converts when they joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition at Syros. Sophie initially sought guidance through prayer and received a divine calling to join the Order, despite having no natural attraction to it. She became Sister Veronica of the Passion. Mary Ann, on the other hand, didn't feel called to this religious life and eventually left to join the Ursuline's de Casa.

Sophie faced opposition from her mother but still followed her calling. Meanwhile, Sophie's brother, Henry, had married and had a son named Henry Samuel.

A few months after a robbery, the family faced a horrifying incident. Four peasants invaded their house and injured Henry and his wife while stealing their money and valuables. The situation took a terrible turn when Harriet recognized one of the intruders as the son of a local priest, Pappa Stathi, and exclaimed in English, *Oh, Henry, it is the priest's son!* This moment of recognition proved fatal, as the young man, who had been educated by Sophie years earlier, understood that he had been identified. In a desperate attempt to avoid capture, he killed both Henry and his wife, Harriet, before fleeing the scene.

The next morning, the family's servants discovered the gruesome murder. The authorities, including the English

Embassy, were notified, and a warship was dispatched to Euboea to rescue the orphaned child and his nurse and bring them to Athens. Subsequently, the culprits responsible for the heinous crime were apprehended and ultimately faced execution for their actions. This tragic incident serves as a sombre reminder of the harsh realities faced by the family in Castaniotisa during that time.

Mrs. Leeves was left alone and in deep mourning. Her only source of solace was her grandson, who was brought to her, allowing her to find some comfort in caring for him. She desperately called for her daughters, and Sister Veronica, her daughter, was permitted to be with her in Athens, providing some consolation. However, the brief respite was short-lived, as the grandson, little Henry, passed away three months later, leaving Mrs. Leeves completely isolated and desolate.

A year later, a new Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph was established in Athens, and Sister Veronica became a member of this community. This development allowed her to visit her mother and gradually brought some healing to Mrs. Leeves as she started to rebuild her life and come to terms with her profound grief and loneliness.

## 12.

### A Nun Much Sought After

Samruddhi Nijai

Roll No: 15

From the time the two sisters had come as boarders to the Convent at Syros, dates Sophie's embarkation on the voyage of prayer. Before this, she had wished and tried to pray and meditate, but there had been no one to guide her. Her happiness had been daily Communion, but she had not known anything about the interior life of prayer.



After her profession, since there was a question of beginning a new foundation in England, Mother Vialar wrote to Syros on March 21, 1853: *A house in England is necessary for our mission in India and Malta. I cannot do without Sister Veronica for a year or 18 months; after that, she will return to Syros. I shall send her with a Sister Superior who would suit England*—and adds in a postscript: *Repeat, I cannot do without Sister Veronica.* Sister Veronica was held in great esteem, which she deserved for her knowledge and good education. Sister Veronica was not sent to England but was sent to Athens.

At Athens, Sister Veronica was, as usual, assigned to teaching. However, an incident occurred that helped her recognize another special vocation. One day, the king's chief doctor asked that a Sister be sent to nurse him (the doctor) in a very serious illness—pneumonia. Sister Veronica was

appointed to this task. "...from that time, dates her special vocation with the sick," she recalls.

In another instance, however, we have reason to believe, with Sister Jeanne Blanca, that Sister Veronica's independent spirit, combined with her inexperience of the religious life, caused embarrassment to others concerned. The short period of 'consolation and celestial sweetness' had long passed. However, now and then, Sister Veronica tasted a little of it. But, as 1860 approached, she saw a cross falling on her, the meaning of which was withheld from her for a time. It was shortly after this that she was sent to found the house at Piraeus.

Soon, however, in June 1860, her Superior General, Mother Emilie Julien, summoned her to Rome. Sister Veronica responded promptly. She withheld it from her for a time. It was shortly after this that she was sent to found the house at Piraeus.

Sister Veronica's attraction to the contempt of life kept surfacing, whatever the work she was doing. At Tremont (1860) was the occasion for her to frequently tell Mother Emilee Julien that the life she led did not correspond to the ideal she had of the religious life.

Sister Veronica remained at Tremont for only a year, for her own health suffered from the cold, wet climate and from overwork. Her new assignment was to go to India and take charge of the house that the Sisters of St. Joseph were planning to open at Calicut on the coast of Malabar.

### 13.

#### **Odyssey of Zeal**

#### **Sister Veronica's Mission in the Mystical Orient**

**Sancia Gonsalves**

**Roll No: 08**

The Suez Canal had not yet been built. Sister Veronica and her companion, a novice by the name of Sister Marie Joseph, had to go first to Alexandria from Rome by boat then cross by rail to Cairo and Suez. From there they travelled by a troop warship on a long enough voyage to Point de Galle, Ceylon. Another merchant vessel took them from there to Calicut. All these changes and the consequent inconveniences could not dampen Sister Veronica's spirits, nor did the half-naked crew who manned the boat deter her from stepping ashore with eagerness and kissing the earth "*sanctified*", as she said, by the great *Apostle of the Indies*. She was full of zeal to begin work on her new mission.

Everything was strange. The stifling heat was overpowering. But the official who received the English woman put her at ease immediately with refreshments of water melon and coconut water, accompanying her himself to the shore to fetch her companions who had been reluctant to expose themselves to the danger of landing among "savages". His ability to speak English was a great help and he informed her that Father Marie Ephrem had already left Cannanore for Mangalore. She and Sister Marie-Joseph were to proceed there after some rest. They left for Mangalore a few days later.

When Fr. Marie Ephrem met Sr. Veronica, a special rapport sprang up immediately between these two great souls. '*What a treasure you have sent us!*' wrote the priest to the Superior General of the Sisters. While Father Marie Ephrem recognised the mystical graces that God had showered on Sister Veronica, enriching her natural gifts of mind and heart with spiritual vitality, the latter saw in the priest a zealous missionary after God's own heart, gifted with learning and eloquence among other attractive personal endowments.

Before beginning her work, Sr. Veronica made a retreat which served to deepen the mutual respect and affection that made their relationship a blessing to both in their apostolic work. Fr Ephrem called her '*God's favoured child,*' and she, in turn, referred to him as her '*guide and father.*'

## **14.**

### **Pioneer of Empowerment In Education and Social Service**

**Manisha Santosh Gupta**

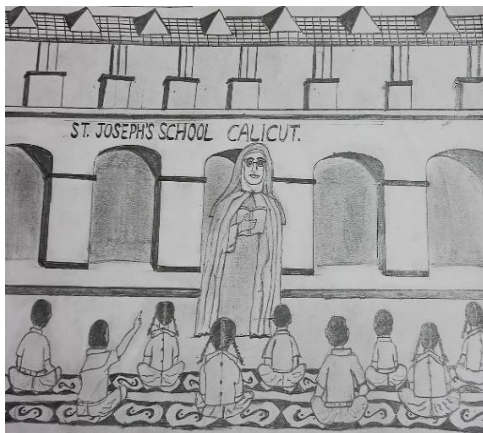
**Roll No: 09**

In 1862, a remarkable woman named Mother Veronica arrived in the coastal town of Calicut, India. She was a Sister of St. Joseph, an Order of nuns dedicated to education and community service. Her journey from Europe to India would lead to the establishment of the Third Order of Carmel and leave an indelible mark in the fields of education and social service.



Mother Veronica's early life and experiences in Europe had prepared her for the challenges and opportunities that awaited her in India. She had worked in various schools, gaining valuable teaching and administrative skills. Her dedication to education and her strong faith in God's mission guided her path. Upon her arrival in Calicut, she encountered Father Marie Ephrem, a French Carmelite priest. Father Marie Ephrem had a vision of establishing Catholic schools to provide quality education and moral guidance to the youth of India.

Recognizing Mother Veronica's commitment to education



and her strong spiritual foundation, he invited her and the Sisters of St. Joseph to come to India to help fulfil this vision. Mother Veronica embraced this opportunity with zeal and determination.

She believed that education was not just a means of intellectual growth but also

a way to empower individuals, irrespective of their social or economic backgrounds. In her eyes, the land and its resources were God's gifts to His people, and it was her mission to ensure that everyone could partake in these blessings.

One of the most striking aspects of Mother Veronica's character was her special love and concern for the less fortunate. She had a deep-rooted empathy for those who were

struggling in life and believed that education was the key to their success. Her schools, which she founded with Father Marie Ephrem's support, welcomed students from all walks of life. She made sure that no one, especially the marginalised, was left behind. As time passed, Mother Veronica's teaching apostolate in India proved to be richly blessed. Her schools flourished, and her influence extended well beyond the confines of the classroom. She instilled in her students the values of love, faith, and a thirst for knowledge. She believed that these values were the foundation of a meaningful and purposeful life.

Amid her educational work in India, something extraordinary happened in Mother Veronica's life. She heard a call to enter "Carmel." This calling was more than just a religious vocation; it was a deeply spiritual and personal journey. She felt a profound connection to the Carmelite Order, which was characterised by a life of prayer, contemplation, and spiritual growth. Mother Veronica's decision to embrace the Carmelite way of life was a pivotal moment in her journey. It was a testament to her unwavering faith and commitment to her calling. While she continued her educational mission, her spirituality deepened, and she became an inspiration not only to her students but to all who knew her. Her legacy in India continued to grow.

The schools she established became centres of academic excellence and moral values. Her commitment to empowering the youth, regardless of their social or economic status, became the bedrock of the Apostolic Carmel's mission. The Apostolic Carmel, which she co-founded with Father Marie Ephrem, is a religious Congregation dedicated to education, with a strong

presence in India and beyond. Mother Veronica's story is a testament to the transformative power of education and the strength of one person's vision and determination.

Her life and work left an indelible mark on the communities she served. Her belief in the inherent worth of every individual, her love for the less fortunate, and her unwavering faith in God's plan made her a true pioneer in the field of education and social service.

## **15.**

### **The Angel of Consolation**

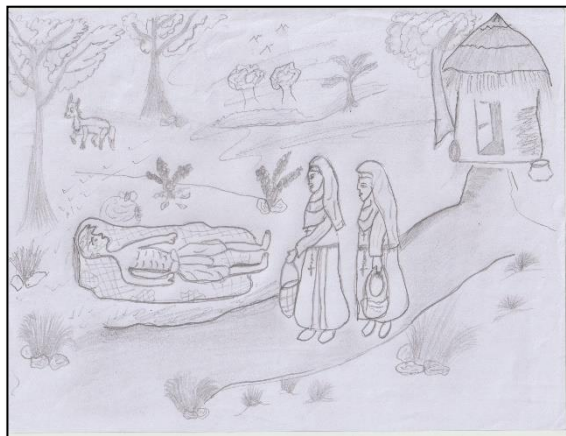
**Sr. Smita Tairipascu**

**Roll No: 24**

Mother Veronica had just transferred to Rangoon after a challenging overseas mission trip to India. With great anguish of heart, she tore herself away from her dear Christians and alone started the journey. Upon her arrival in Rangoon, she was met with a disheartening sight. The local school and orphanage were in dire need of help and support. The facilities were in a state of disarray, and the children there were longing for guidance and care. She wrote to her Superior General, that *you send me to a place where there are always things I have to put in order. It is very painful, as far as we are, to be left without any instruction when we face difficulties.* With renewed determination and a heart full of compassion, Mother Veronica

set out to restore the school and orphanage, providing education and a loving home for the children.

Mother Veronica had a heart-warming tale to share about a man who was more a skeleton than a person, with skin clinging to his bones.



Once in a quaint little town, Mother Veronica and her sisters were on their usual walks. They saw a man lying on a dirty mat. As one of the Sisters approached him, she couldn't help but inquire why he

lay on a shabby mat in such a pitiable state. He replied that his kin had left him there to die. He was left there to wither away like a forgotten flower. Mother Veronica felt sorry for the man and with the help of the Sisters carried him to the convent and did everything to revive him. He seemed lonely and in need of care. Without hesitation, she offered her assistance to him.

The old man seemed to open up to her by seeing her kind heart. He felt her to be an angel sent from God. He shared his story with her and expressed his desire to follow a path of goodness and righteousness. The old man's story was not just a testament to the power of love and compassion, but a reminder that it is the goodness within our hearts that truly unites

us. As the man was dying, the Sisters asked him if he wished to be a Christian and go to heaven. This man had never come across any Christians before, but he replied: *'I wish to be like you, you are very good and charitable to me. I want to go where you are going after death.'*

Mother Veronica was so struck by his words and openness to accept Christ that she didn't hesitate to baptise the dying man and he gladly accepted the offer. The old man was thankful for what Mother Veronica had done for him. He was touched by her compassion, kindness and generosity. He often said, *you have shown me the path towards true salvation, and I am eternally grateful.* One day, without suffering or agony, the old man peacefully passed away, surrounded by the loving community.

## **16.**

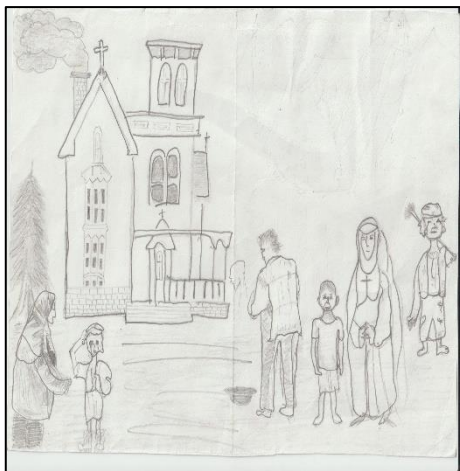
### **Overcoming Challenges Through Trust and Faith**

**Shanaia Shiri**

**Roll No: 22**

Rangoon was a challenging place for Mother Veronica. There was an incident where, on one rainy day in Rangoon, a severe storm struck the village, leaving many families homeless and without food. Mother Veronica sprang into action to help. She opened the doors of her orphanage and welcomed desperate families with open arms. Despite scarce resources, she managed to feed everyone, ensuring no one went to bed

hungry. Her boundless love and selflessness were beacons of hope in those dark times. By God's grace, she trusted His plan, witnessing another incident that affirmed her faith in God.



Amidst her work and experiences in Rangoon, Mother Veronica's heart continued to yearn for her Carmelite vocation. In a letter to her Sister, Mother Emilie Julien, she hinted at leaving Rangoon someday. She wrote, *Oh Mother Emilie, the Superior's instructions confuse me,*

*causing me to feel lost. But I trust in the Lord; He will make a way.* She assured it wouldn't be an escape from hardships but a response to her calling.

Mother Veronica's journey in Rangoon was interrupted by a severe fall, injuring her left foot. The injury was so critical that necessary surgery couldn't be done due to weakened health and the tropical climate in India. As a result, at the end of 1865, she had to return to her homeland, England. Her mother insisted on writing, *Come home, my child, I will get you treated*, providing the best medical care.

In London, a renowned surgeon examined her foot. Although there were no fractures or dislocated bones, he recommended a treatment plan. Gradually, with the aid of the cool climate and

tonics, her health improved, and strength returned. This situation enabled her to renew her trust in God.

During recovery, her desire for the Carmelite vocation grew as she found her purpose in God, longing to meet Father Marie Ephrem, who had returned to Europe and was in Rome. Father Marie Ephrem suggested Mother Veronica join the Carmelite vocation, but her journey was far from over. Her Superior General soon summoned her back to Rome.

Mother Veronica's story was one of unwavering faith, dedication to her calling, and an unquenchable desire to follow her Carmelite vocation, no matter the challenges she encountered through selflessness and kindness.

Overcoming Challenges through Trust is based on how Mother Veronica entered into the vocation of the Carmelite Congregation; her kind works enabled her to bring in peace and understanding in her surroundings. There were challenges in Rangoon as she wrote to Sister Emilie Julien, *No matter what may come by, I trust the Lord to show me a way through all circumstances*. Due to her foot injury she had to leave Rangoon and go back to England. Luckily, it wasn't a severe one and she decided to stay back for her recovery and kept trusting God.

During her recuperation, Mother Veronica grew more interested in the Carmelite Congregation when at that time, Father Marie Ephrem suggested Mother Veronica join the Carmelite vocation.

## 17.

### The Inspiring Eagles of Carmel

**Sr. Rabecca Vasaikar**

**Roll No: 26**

This story is of twin souls - the eagles of Carmel. The two mystic souls encounter each other in this way. At Marseilles the Novice Mistress, Mother Honorine was ill and could not carry out her duty. Hence, there was a need for replacement. A couple of days after the arrival of Mother Veronica, Fr. Olive, the clerical Superior of the house, in the presence of the Superior General, told Mother Veronica that they wanted her to be the Novice Mistress. She explained that there was an obstacle because her cause was in Rome before the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars in order to enter Carmel. Fr. Olive replied that it was no obstacle because she could give to the novices the spirit of



Carmel – the spirit of prayer and penance. Mother Veronica bowed her head in submission. The will of God was her guide and He would accomplish His designs.

The next day (Wednesday) while entering the chapel, Mother Veronica was stopped by a little Arab postulant who said in broken French, that she had to do the washing of the clothes that day. Since she was regularly ill on Thursdays, she needed the novices to help her to finish the work that day itself. Mother Veronica looked at her for a moment and a flash of interior light made her perceive that the young girl participated in the Passion of Christ. Mother Veronica told her that she would send the



novices. This was the beginning of the spiritual bond between Mother Veronica and Mariam.

Mother Veronica immediately went to Mother Honorine to know more about the little Arab postulant. Mother Honorine told her several things about Mariam, and also that on every Friday she got the stigmata. She came to know that Mariam was misunderstood by some of the Sisters who suspected that evil influences were responsible for her mystical experiences. Mariam herself did not understand what was happening and thought it was a 'malady'. Mother Veronica witnessed for herself the mystical phenomenon of the stigmata unfolding itself from Thursday morning to Friday evening. On Thursday evening she saw the blisters form on the palms of her hands and on the feet. The next morning blood flowed from the hands, feet, her left side and her head. All the time she suffered terribly. At midday the stigmata began to dry up and by evening she was able to go for supper with the others.

Mariam was also gifted with prophetic utterances which were often verified by later events. For example, on the day that Mother Veronica had arrived, Mariam had told Mother Honorine that a Sister had arrived with Mother General, that she loved her very much and that she would be the Novice Mistress. Mother Honorine knew that Mother Veronica was to go to Carmel, so she told Mariam that it was not possible. Mariam replied that she would see it for herself.

Later she told Mother Veronica that she would die in her arms, but Mother Veronica could not understand how that was

possible because she was soon to leave for Carmel. One day after Holy Communion the Lord told Mother Veronica that He wished that Mariam should go with her to Carmel. She told the Lord to arrange for it.

The time came for Mariam to be admitted to the Novitiate but she did not get the required number of votes to be admitted to the Novitiate and had to be sent back. Hence, Mother Veronica was free to suggest to Mariam that she could accompany her to the Carmel of Pau. With great joy Mariam replied, almost in the same words as Ruth to her mother-in-law, Naomi, in the Bible, *Mother, where you go, I shall go, and where you are, I shall be, and where you die, I shall die.*

Mother Veronica then told Mariam to ask Our Lord not to let the outer signs of the stigmata show. The next morning Mariam came with a radiant face, saying that the Holy Virgin had told her that she would not have the 'malady' until the next year during Lent. And so it was. Mother Veronica wrote to the Prioress of the Carmel of Pau for permission to bring Mariam to the Carmel of Pau, adding that the child was very virtuous and obedient. When her former confessor, Fr. Philip Abdon was told that Mariam was going to Carmel, he said, *She needs to be in a cloister and I thank God that she has found someone to protect her.* Yes, Mother Veronica would do all she could to protect her. They were destined to grow together in the love and experience of God, supporting each other. Their devotion to the Passion of Christ knit them together. Mother Veronica and Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified were an example of true companionship and shared a unique bond of friendship and love of God.

**18.**

**The Spiritual Odyssey  
Of Sr. Mary of Jesus Crucified and Mother Veronica**

**Titiksha Raikar**

**Roll No: 18**

In the quiet halls of the General House in Marseilles, an extraordinary tale of faith was about to unfold. Mary, a young postulant, was the central character of this story. Her days were filled with prayer and devotion, and she bore an aura of inexplicable spirituality. Signs of her remarkable connection with the divine manifested in the form of stigmata, the marks of Christ's suffering appearing on her body.

However, the unexpected twist in this narrative was the appointment of Mother Veronica as the Mistress of Novices. Mother Veronica herself had longed for a life within Carmel, but destiny had other plans. Instead, she was tasked with guiding the novices on their spiritual journey.

As Mary continued to exhibit her exceptional devotion and the stigmata phenomena deepened, Mother Veronica was faced with a challenging decision. Despite her own yearning for the cloistered life of Carmel, she accepted her role as Mistress of Novices with grace.

The fateful encounter between Mother Veronica and Mary set in motion a journey of faith that would transcend the boundaries of ordinary life. It became evident that both shared a destiny entwined with Carmel's cloisters, where they would dedicate their lives to serving the divine.

With time, Mother Veronica's own vocation to Carmel became undeniable, and she decided to follow her calling. In an act of profound faith and love, she extended her hand to Mary, offering her the opportunity to join her on this sacred path. Mary willingly agreed, her heart filled with a burning desire to enter Carmel.



The journey was not without its challenges. Mary's spiritual experiences intensified, and the physical pain of the stigmata became an ever-present companion. Initially met with scepticism and resistance from the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mary's unwavering faith and Mother Veronica's determination gradually won their acceptance.

Together, Mother Veronica and Mariam embarked on a pilgrimage towards Carmel, their spirits unshaken by the trials they faced. Their journey led them to the doors of the Carmel convent of Pau on June 14, 1867, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their religious life. It was the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. For Mother Veronica, it was a time of great graces. Prayer was her delight. Mariam, too, was accepted with great love and respect by the community and given the postulant's dress. On the feast of St Elias, Mariam was given the holy habit and the name Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified. However, she called herself, 'the little nothing'. Mother Veronica and Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified shared a strong bond of love. At the profession ceremony, Sister Mary saw a huge cross over

Mother Veronica. The cross was the suffering she would endure until her death.

United by faith, stigmata, and an unbreakable bond, they entered the cloistered world of Carmel, ready to embrace their divine calling.

## **19.**

### **Mother Veronica**

#### **A Trailblazer to the Third Order Regular**

**Jenis Fernandes**

**Roll No: 06**

In the serene Carmel of Pau, Sr. Veronica embarked on a retreat to prepare for founding the Third Order Regular. This Order, distinct from the First Order of Carmelite Friars and the Second Order of Cloistered Sisters, comprised apostolic Sisters working outside convent walls.

On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Dolours, Mother Veronica made her Profession under Reverend Father Robert's guidance. Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified witnessed a vision of a great cross hovering over Mother Veronica during this sacred moment. Would this foretell the challenges ahead or signify the Holy Cross as her constant companion?

After her Profession, Mother Veronica began crafting the Constitutions for the Third Order Regular at the request of

Mother Elias, drawing inspiration from St Teresa's writings. Eager for the foundation of the Third Order, Mother Veronica left Pau in mid-December 1867, aiming to start the work. Arriving in Annecy, she encountered reluctance from a priest linked to Monsignor Magnin, the Bishop of Annecy, due to existing convents. However, permission was granted for a foundation in La Roche.

Renting a small apartment in La Roche, Mother Veronica prepared to receive candidates. But when Father General received her letter, he suggested Lyons as a better place to meet supporting Priors. A letter of recommendation without a seal failed to impress the Priors, leaving Mother Veronica disheartened; she even was labelled as 'adventuress in black veil'. Returning to Pau, she sought counsel from Mother Elias, who advised a journey to Bayonne. Establishing a new home without certainty proved challenging. Overwhelmed, she confided in Mother Elias, who advised rest before the journey to Bayonne.

Forbidden from entering the cloister, Sr. Veronica could only listen to the Sisters' prayers, unable to join. Seeking comfort from Fr. Richard proved futile, leaving Mother Elias her sole solace. Leaving the cloister in Pau weighed heavily on Mother Veronica, but she pursued her mission. In June 1868, armed with recommendations and facing uncertainty, Mother Veronica journeyed to Bayonne. Meeting Sr. Dosithea brought relief. The community offered a temporary house for 500 francs a year, igniting hope for her mission in distant lands like India.

Her newfound abode, however, was ridden with rats, requiring Mother Veronica to laboriously clean it. As candidates



started arriving, she discerned that not all were meant for the Order, leading her to send away about 24 of them. Among the chosen few were Teresa Devine, now Sr. Elias; Agnes from Nimes, now Sr. Agnes; Marie

Francoise Duchen from Bordeaux, now Sr. Marie des Anges; and Justine Juge, now Sr. Mary Joseph, a lay sister.

## 20.

### **Embarking on a Sacred Journey Preparing Sisters for their Mission to India**

**Sharvaree Hate**

**Roll No: 10**

After a month in Pau, on July 14, 1868, Mother Veronica embarked on a journey to Bayonne. Taking over an outhouse from the Carmel of Bayonne, she initiated the Carmel for the Missions on July 16, 1868, accompanied by two postulants. Despite facing great poverty, 'Little Carmel' flourished with peace and joy.

Mother Veronica's nimble fingers worked tirelessly to meet the unexpected request from Bishop Marie Ephrem. In India,



Fr Marie Ephrem, the Vicar Apostolic of Mangalore, desired not only the Third Order Regular of active Carmelites but also a foundation for the Great Carmel at Mangalore. Mother Veronica prepared three Sisters: Teresa Devine, now Sr. Elias; Marie Françoise Duchon now Sr. Marie des Anges; and

Justine Juge, now Sr. Mary Joseph, a lay sister for this mission, including six cloisters among them were Mother Elias and Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified.

The urgent call for four Sisters of Apostolic Carmel, including Sister Agnes of Jesus, threw the convent into a whirlwind of activity. With the Vatican Council abruptly suspended, the challenge intensified. Mother Veronica, known for her resourcefulness, sought divine guidance as she hastily gathered materials for Sister Agnes' outfit. It was a race against time, each stitch carrying the weight of urgency and devotion.

Word spread through the convent like wildfire, and the Sisters rallied to support Mother Veronica's mission. December 8th approached swiftly, the day marked not only by the opening of the Vatican Council but also the journey of the Sisters to India.



In the midst of chaos, Mother Veronica embarked on a journey to Pau, determined to explain the predicament to Bishop Marie Ephrem. As she arrived, anxiety etched on her face, the Bishop and Father were understanding. The urgency of the situation resonated with them, and they extended their support.

In the final hours, amidst prayers and shared determination, Sister Agnes' outfit was completed. The Sisters of the Little Carmel, accompanied by the contingent from Pau, on August 19, 1870, accompanied by Carmelite priests Frs Lazare O.C.D. and Gracian O.C.D., set sail for India with a sense of purpose that transcended the temporal challenges.

The journey unfolded with both trials and triumphs, and Sister Agnes of Jesus, clad in the outfit crafted with unwavering devotion, became a symbol of resilience and faith. The new Carmel of the Second Order in Mangalore flourished, a testament to the fortitude of those who answered the call in a moment of urgency.

Years later, the Sisters reflected on that pivotal moment, recognizing it as a divine intervention. The Vatican Council may have faced a temporary suspension, but the seeds planted during that hurried departure blossomed into a legacy of service and dedication.

## 21.

### The Journey from Quaint Carmel of Bayonne to Distant Shores

Marilyn Lobo

Roll No: 11

Mother Veronica was worried about her Sisters. She sent three of her Sisters to the Indian Missions. They left together with Rev. Mother Elias of the Cloistered Carmel of Pau, and five Cloistered nuns. One of them being her holy child, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified. *My heart and soul are with my beloved children*, Mother Veronica exclaimed.



In Vellore, there were three young Sisters named Sister Marie des Anges, Sister Elias, and Sister Joseph from Ireland. They had embarked on a mission to India, filled with excitement and curiosity. Rev. Mother Elias, being their "poor secretary," diligently wrote letters to Father Lazare, sharing how impressed and inspired they were by the kind hostesses and Mother Mary Thomas' caring nature. Rev. Mother Elias updated Father Lazare on their physical health and also their spiritual journey.

Rev. Mother Elias expressed her concern for Sister Marie des Anges, who was unwell. However, Sister Joseph was also

facing health challenges, but she promised to follow Father Lazare's instructions and take care of herself. Sister Joseph, out of frustration, had written a harsh letter to Mother Veronica, expressing her discontent. However, she quickly regretted her words and felt ashamed for speaking ill of their dear Mother Veronica. She learned humility and recognised her own flaws through God's guidance. The journey was a testament to the power of faith, forgiveness, and growth.

As a reply Father Lazare wrote a letter regarding Mother Veronica to Rev. Mother Elias but said it more politely and respectfully. Poor Mother! It is only now I see all the good she has done for me.

After spending nearly a month in Vellore, the second party finally arrived. Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified narrates that the journey from Aden to Madras was good, and all the Sisters, including Rev. Mother Elias, got quite well. While in Madras, they visited Vellore and stayed with the Good Shepherd Sisters for five days. Bishop Marie Ephrem heard about people facing problems while travelling to Mangalore in India while he was in Europe. He rushed to India and caught up with the travellers in Madras.

The Bishop was kind, his attention was focused on four other individuals which made the journey a bit more challenging for the three Sisters. As members of the Third Order, they didn't feel equal to the others. Being new to religious life, having been in the convent for only a year and a half, they needed to find the strength to overcome the difficulties they were facing.

After a week of hardship and discomfort, they reached Calicut, where Rev. Mother Elias fell seriously ill and unfortunately didn't recover. She passed away with great virtue. Calicut was significant because it's where Mother Veronica founded a convent and where the idea of the Apostolic Carmel was nurtured by Bishop Marie Ephrem and Mother Veronica. Although Bishop Marie Ephrem couldn't be there when Rev. Mother Elias passed away, he expressed his belief that the foundation of the Apostolic Carmel was now secure, built on the foundation of the cross, even though they had lost three important Sisters along the way.

Having stayed about twenty days at Calicut, the group continued their journey at Mangalore. They travelled to Tellicherry by carriage and there they met Father Alphonsus. He introduced them to a small community of Carmelites who were trained by Bishop Michael Antony. At Cannanore, their next stop, there was a community of Sisters of St. Joseph.

They finally arrived in Mangalore, India, on November 19, 1870. However, only six out of the nine Sisters reached Mangalore. These six included three Cloistered Carmelites and three sisters of the Apostolic Carmel.

Bishop Marie Ephrem was indeed very happy because his dream of establishing a Third Order of Carmel for educational purposes in Indian missions had come true on this day. As for Mother Veronica, her hard work paid off but sadly, she wouldn't be there to witness it.

## **22.**

### **Harmony Amidst Hardship Pioneering Spirit of Carmelite Sisters in Mangalore**

**Aarti Vaje  
Roll No: 25**

In India, the Vicar Apostolic of Mangalore, Fr. Marie Ephrem, expressed a desire not only for the establishment of the Third Order Regular of active Carmelites but also for the foundation of the Great Carmel in Mangalore. Mother Veronica prepared three Sisters for this mission, and on August 19, 1870, the Sisters of the Little Carmel, accompanied by a contingent from Pau, set sail for India.

The voyage was marred by tragedy as three Great Carmel Sisters succumbed en route and were laid to rest in Aden. Eventually reaching St Joseph's Convent, Calicut, on their way to Mangalore, they found solace. The arduous journey marked the beginning of a challenging yet purposeful mission in a distant land.

After arriving at Mangalore, Bishop Marie Ephrem and the local people welcomed them with great joy. A special High Mass and a thanksgiving prayer were held, followed by a procession leading the Sisters to their new convent. Children along the way sprinkled them with scent. The convent, known as St. Ann's, formerly belonged to the Sisters of St. Joseph, and eventually it would become the headquarters of the Apostolic Carmel.

After some initial challenges, the diverse group of Sisters gradually adapted to their new surroundings in Mangalore. The

Cloistered Carmel Sisters found solace in their secluded abode, fostering a serene environment for their contemplative life. Meanwhile, the Sisters of the Third Order Regular faced humble conditions in outhouses with cracked walls and limited facilities. Despite these hardships, they persevered with determination, bound by a common purpose and shared mission.

As time passed, efforts were made to secure more suitable accommodation for the Sisters, reflecting the resilience and



unity that marked the beginning of their journey in Mangalore. The challenges of the early days paved the way for a foundation upon which their shared commitment to faith and service could flourish.

In the quiet enclave of the Carmel of Mangalore, the arrival of two Sisters sent by Mother Veronica brought a period of peace and unity. Bishop Marie Ephrem expressed satisfaction with the Sisters' presence in India. However, the weight of responsibility as a distant mother and foundress burdened Mother Veronica.

Among the Sisters was Mary of Jesus Crucified and her fellow Sisters. Amidst her Gethsemane of suffering, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified faced isolation when Fr. Lazare, her confessor, was transferred. Mother Veronica, unwavering in her

faith, believed Mary's tribulations mirrored Christ's. Despite mistrust and hostility, Mary was welcomed back to the Carmel of Pau in 1872, finding solace in Mother Veronica's support.

In the face of Sister Mary's prophetic words, Bishop Marie Ephrem's demise did indeed cast a shadow over the Apostolic Carmel Congregation. Faced with the threat of dissolution, Mother Veronica bore the heavy burden, grappling with the notion of whether God would forsake the labour undertaken with obedience, self-sacrifice, and suffering.

## **23.**

### **Trials and Resilience**

#### **The Dissolution of the Little Carmel**

**Alisha Priyanka**

**Roll No: 23**

During that time, the situation at Bayonne was deteriorating. Candidates arrived and departed, with some choosing to stay while others returned home. In September 1871, Mother Veronica formed a connection with a benefactor named Madame Pedro Gil Moreno. Their bond was immediate and strong. Madame Pedro Gil Moreno, a wealthy widow with an only son, became Mother Veronica's most devoted friend and generous supporter. However, the sustainability of Mother Veronica's reliance on her generosity remained uncertain.

Mother Veronica as well as Father Lazare informed Bishop La Croix about the happenings at Mangalore, namely, the sending of Mary of Jesus Crucified and Father Lazare back to

Pau and amalgamation of the Third Order Carmelites and the Congregation of St. Joseph of the Apparition Sisters, without proper formation. The Little Carmel had existed as a formation house for new recruits to be sent to India. Now there was no need for this house. She was advised by Bishop La Croix and Monsignor Manuadas to dissolve the little community.

The Bishop released the professed Sisters from their vows. All had turned against Mother Veronica, even the next door Carmelites of Bayonne. This upheaval shattered her dreams, hopes, and plans, leaving only Madame Gil as a steadfast supporter until the end. The poignant scene of dissolution haunted Mother Veronica, particularly as the novices pleaded to persist in their religious life.

The Little Apostolic Carmel, foreseen by Mary of Jesus



Crucified to be "swept away," endured for five years, three months, less five days. Recalling the concluding days in Bayonne, Mother Veronica articulated the intense agony she bore, confessing, *'My heart*

*suffered so much that it seemed to become insensate.'* Despite the profound pain, she recognized a special grace that prevented her from succumbing, trusting in the divine will that ordained such trials. This period marked a poignant chapter in Mother Veronica's journey, testing her resilience and unwavering trust in the face of profound adversity.



Mother Veronica, who had braved so many tribulations in the past and followed God's will meticulously in every directive of her Superior, now had to face this adverse circumstance. Her faith however, never wavered. Her heart never questioned. For the answer was deep down in the recesses of her soul —the God of her life ordained it so. The massive doors of the Carmel of Pau opened to receive Mother Veronica, forever isolating her from the external world and instilling in her the commitment to live and die for its salvation.

Despite the seemingly insurmountable challenge, Mother Veronica, with a spirit undeterred, endured the pain of witnessing the closure of the Little Carmel at Bayonne. Hindered by circumstances, she couldn't send Sisters to Mangalore or embark on the mission herself. The agony she experienced mirrored that of death, yet she persisted, returning to Pau physically broken and empty-handed on October 10, 1873.

## **24**

### **Beneath the Veil of Pau Sacred Threads of Resilience**

**Arpita Thomas Lopes**

**Roll No: 12**

Mother Veronica's life was marked by a deep affinity for tea, a comforting refuge during times of adversity. At the Carmel in Pau, she was revered despite her health limitations, earning a reputation as a benefactor.

Upon her arrival in Pau, Mother Veronica embraced the white novice veil for her second novitiate in Carmel. This period, marked by an extended duration, saw her omitting the words "which is without mitigation" upon profession due to her inability to fully adhere to the rule.

During her preparatory retreat, Mother Veronica sought the grace to kneel during her profession, a request granted by St. Teresa of Avila. This experience filled her with profound joy and grace, even amid interior sorrows. Messages from the Lord, conveyed through Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified, culminated in a significant revelation: a change in her name to *Sister Marie Thérèse of Jesus*, signalling the beginning of an extraordinary journey.

In Pau, Mother Veronica, with a spirit crushed by illness,



found solace only at the feet of the Crucified Christ.

Questions about her choices lingered within her, contemplating why she left the Sisters of St. Joseph where she was so happy, why she trusted Fr. Marie Ephrem without full

knowledge, and why she did not remain in her beloved Carmel of Pau. Why had all her friends deserted her and turned against her? Why had she sent away those committed Sisters for whom

she cared, and who desired so ardently to give themselves to God? The Order founded in India was now without a mother, what would be their future? Despite the challenges, she remained obedient, risking and losing everything.

From the ashes of her broken body, new life slowly emerged. Mother Veronica recognized that the Lord had room in His heart for the lost. As a seamstress, she took the broken threads of herself, allowing God to design a new life according to His choice. Her journey was ongoing, a process of self-giving and transformation guided by the One who loved her.

Shortly after her profession on December 12, 1874 Mother Veronica received the news of her mother's death. Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified, in ecstasy, had foretold this event, emphasising her mother's salvation through faith. Divine favour was conveyed to Mother Veronica's family, particularly her sister Catherine, who, despite visiting the Holy Land, remained unconverted, highlighting the enduring challenges faced by the faithful.

Mother Veronica held a profound desire to join the group of Sisters to establish a Carmel in Bethlehem, inspired by Sister Mary of Jesus' predictions. Mother Veronica selflessly offered herself for the future Carmel. Mother Veronica's life was all about strong faith and devotion. Sister Mary guided her, and the dream of the Carmel in Bethlehem came through despite challenges.

## **25.**

### **The Birth of Carmel's Cloister in Bethlehem**

**Jelina Richard Rodrigues**

**Roll No: 20**

In the wake of Mother Veronica's return to Pau, discussions arose in Pau about establishing a Carmel in Bethlehem, a project dear to Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified. Mother Veronica, even while still in Bayonne, committed her expected inheritance and any remaining from the Little Carmel to this cause. Despite numerous obstacles, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified sought a divine sign and through a pink geranium leaf, received one - a sprouting shoot. She entrusted the geranium, fondly named "Jeremie," to Mother Veronica, who nurtured it into a thriving plant.

Constructing the convent in Bethlehem was a unique endeavour. Guided by supernatural inspiration Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified with the help of Mother Veronica devised the convent's plan without an architect. Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified designated the chapel's location, and the foundation stone was blessed on a significant day.

On September 5, 1875, accompanied by ten Sisters, two priests, and Mademoiselle Dartigaux, the group reached Jaffa, a place documented in the Acts of the Apostles. The arduous 51 km journey to Jerusalem in rickety carriages became a spiritual experience for Mother Veronica. Visiting significant sites, such as the Church of the Sepulchre and the Mount of Olives, stirred deep emotions. On September 11, they left for Bethlehem, visiting the birthplace of Jesus marked by a star.

The initial fortnight was spent at the Franciscan Fathers of the Holy Crib, with preparations made for a temporary house. The installation of the community took place on September 24, with a room transformed into a chapel and a Thanksgiving Mass held.

Through divine guidance, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified identified the site for the Carmel in Bethlehem, miraculously obtained from multiple owners. The construction plan, envisioned by Sister Mary, was entrusted to Father Matthew, a Polish Franciscan priest. Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified had conveyed that the ground floor would have workrooms and dormitory would be on the first floor. The completion of the new convent established the solemn enclosure, bringing Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified and Mother Veronica's dream closer to reality. Sister Mary continued to experience mystical phenomena such as stigmata and celestial visions, deepening the community's faith, until her death at the age of 33.

Mother Veronica was crushed with grief and overcome with fatigue at the death of Sr. Mary. What a void she felt in her heart! She longed to follow her as she felt that she could no longer live on this earth. Shortly after the death of Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified, Mother Veronica began to hear an inner voice, "prepare yourself for suffering". Despite the trials she encountered, Mother Veronica's faith remained resolute, allowing her to faithfully serve her Master.

## **26.**

### **Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy The Carmelite Legacy in Distant Lands**

**Ciyan Andrandes**

**Roll No: 02**

After enduring long and arduous suffering in Bethlehem Mother Veronica asked to return to the quaint town of Pau. She dedicated the remaining nineteen years of her life, yearning for the presence of her child, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified. Yet, she found solace in knowing that her mystic daughter's heart beat in Pau. Here, Mother Veronica could re-establish connections with the Sisters who had embarked on a mission to India. The seeds sown in the soil of Bayonne and Pau had borne abundant fruit in the distant land of India.

The journey of the Carmelite Sisters dispatched from Pau and Bayonne unfolded in Mangalore. In 1878, the Carmelite Diocese of Mangalore shifted hands to the Jesuits, prompting a division among the Sisters. Some believed they should be under a Carmelite Bishop to preserve their spiritual essence, while others disagreed. The former group, led by Mother Marie des Anges, found themselves in Mangalore. The latter set out to Kerala, becoming the Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The Carmelite presence in Kerala dates back to 1875 when Bishop Alphonse invited Mother Marie des Anges to establish a convent in Quilon. The Convent of Our Lady of Mount Carmel emerged on May 19, 1875. Like its counterparts in Mangalore,

Cannanore, and Calicut, it stood as an autonomous entity. Mother Veronica, though physically distant, prayed fervently for the Sisters in India. Bishop Pagani's visit brought firsthand news of their commendable work.

Amidst the blossoming of Carmel in India, a remarkable figure emerged – Mother Mary Elias (formerly Teresa Devine). Nurtured spiritually by Mother Veronica, she played a pivotal role in India since 1870. Despite challenges, she remained steadfast in preserving the true Carmelite spirit. Facing distortions in Cannanore, she chose to uphold Carmel's fervour and, in 1879, moved to Quilon.

Mother Elias, an Irish Lily, had a crucial role in establishing Holy Angels Convent in Trivandrum. At this time the Sisters of the convents of Quilon, Tangacherry and Holy Angels, Trivandrum founded by Sister Elias in 1880, severed connection



with St. Ann's as they wanted to continue under the Carmelite Vicariates of Verapoly and Quilon. They were later amalgamated as the Congregation of Carmelite Religious (C.C.R).

In 1891, Mother Elias journeyed to Europe for vocations, contemplating a Novitiate in England or Ireland. Her return in 1892 witnessed warm welcomes but also health tolls

due to her unstinted efforts in education. Bishop Ferdinand Ossi expressed satisfaction in a letter to Mother Veronica.

Mother Elias fulfilled her dream of a European Novitiate in 1900, establishing a house in Ypres, Belgium. Over the years, this house bestowed India with several gems. Her subsequent sojourns took her to the tranquil realms of Switzerland and the enchanting landscapes of Australia, where she found eternal peace in 1933.

Returning to the central figure, Mother Veronica's later years in Pau were marked by prayer, spiritual writings, and reflections on her life. Despite physical limitations, her cup of joy remained full. On November 16, 1906, Mother Veronica joined the celestial realm, her final resting place in the common tomb of the Carmelites, a testament to a life dedicated to God's work across continents.

Maintaining close contact through constant correspondence, Mother M. Elias faithfully adhered to the Carmelite spirit under Mother Veronica's guidance. Mother Veronica's influence extended to matters of religious, social, and cultural formation for the Sisters and children. The CCR Sisters proudly trace their heritage to Mother Veronica, who founded the 'Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel' and Mother M. Elias who played a key role in the origin and development of the 'Congregation of the Carmelite Religious'.





# TERASOPHIE



WISDOM FROM YOUNG TERESIANS



Celebrating Bi-centennial Birth Year



PRESENTED BY  
FIRST YEAR  
D. EL.ED  
2023-24

Mother Veronica  
1823 - 2023



# MEMORIES NEVER FADE



**VERSELETS**  
*ON*  
***MOTHER***  
***VERONICA***

***PRESENTED BY***  
***FIRST YEAR***  
***D. EL. ED 2023-24***

## 1. OH, MOTHER VERONICA

Savia Jewel Alphonso

In a family that was humble and noble  
Born was she in Constantinople.  
Sophie Leeves is what they called her  
A woman of compassion, many loved her.

Raised funds by sewing dresses,  
For the children of the masses.  
Engaged was she to the man of her dream  
But God prepared her for another stream.

Desiring to become a nun,  
To the Carmel of Pau she did run.  
Sophie now called Sister Veronica.  
CCR Foundress, fondly called Mother Veronica.



## 2. Mother Veronica - Our Gracious Queen

Deepali Dinesh Avchite

In a distant land, where mountains meet the sky,  
A star was born, so gentle and so shy.  
In the heart of a village, so serene,  
Mother Veronica, a woman of dreams.

God's will to fulfil her sole desire  
Trusting the One who set her on fire  
Through the years, she's shown CCRs the way,  
With firmness and kindness come what may.





Her wisdom, a treasure, passed through the years,  
Guiding with love, dispelling all fears,  
Mother Veronica, a beacon in life's stormy sea,  
A mother's love, an eternal legacy.

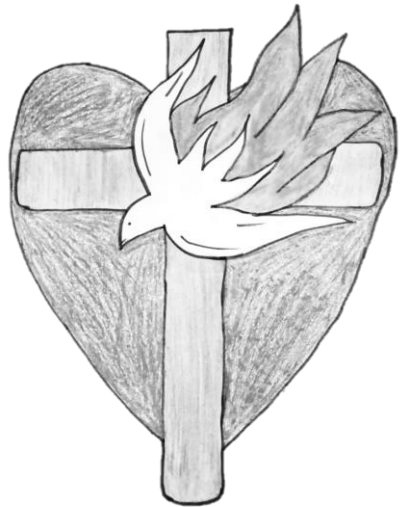
### **3. Mother Veronica - Woman of Grace**

**Linneat Henry Bawla**

Her maiden name Sophie Leeves,  
Her heart a blazing fire,  
Her soul a shining future,  
Her spirit that never will tire.

Her eyes are filled with light,  
That shine so bright and clear.  
A beacon of hope and love,  
To those far and near.

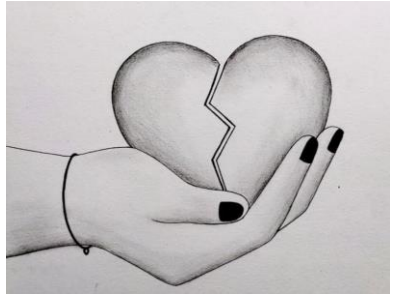
May we all be inspired,  
By this woman of great grace,  
And may her passion live on,  
In all of us, in every place.



#### 4. Mother Veronica with a Golden Heart

Rukaiya Saifuddin Burhani

Lady with a golden heart,  
Believed in fixing broken hearts,  
Concern for the poor led to charity,  
Sophie Leeves was her identity.



To surrender her life to God was her only urge,  
Anglican Church was her place,  
Criticism, poverty all she faced,  
In search of Jesus she went to the Catholic Church.

She left her joys far apart,  
Way to God was her only path,  
To be tied with the Divine she cried many nights,  
Prayers in her voice she was hoping for light.

In service of God, she found her true home,  
Mother Veronica, forever known,  
Her life a testament to love and care,  
A peaceful soul beyond compare.

## **5. Venerable Mother Veronica Said** **Saniya Walter Dodti**

Be Courageous, Be Elegant  
While you pray, be Excellent.

Second child of the family,  
With nurtured values and harmony,  
Love, truth, and forgiveness,  
Always, she believed in faithfulness.

And this is what Mother Veronica said,  
Be Courageous, Be Elegant  
While praying, be Excellent.

Charitable Heart and mind,  
Graceful ways and always kind,  
Valuable teachings she gave,  
Towards God a path she paves.

And this is what Mother Veronica said,  
Be courageous, Be Elegant  
While living, be Excellent.

Mother was home for all,  
Fruitful Education she kept for all,  
Teaching people to come close to God,  
All her life she believed in an Almighty Lord.

And this is what Mother Veronica said,  
Be Courageous, Be Elegant,  
While teaching, be Excellent.



## 6. Mother Veronica: A Gift from Above

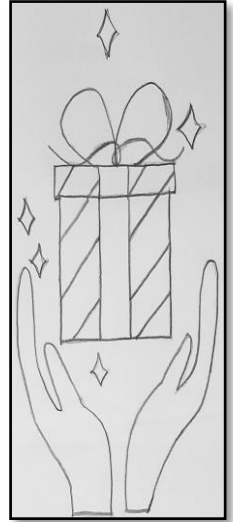
Raizel Augustine D'Souza

Mother Veronica of the Passion, a guiding light,  
In her devotion, she shone so bright.  
With heart ablaze, she walked a sacred path,  
A nun whose love could end wrath.

In Passion's name, she gave her all,  
Answered the needy's earnest call.  
A life of service, in faith she thrived,  
Through every challenge, her love survived.

Her legacy is education's grace,  
Nurturing minds in sacred space.  
In her words and deeds, a lantern of love,  
Sent from the heavens, a gift from above.

Mother Veronica, a saintly soul,  
In her love and kindness, she made us whole.  
With faith as her guide, she leads the way,  
In our hearts, her memory will forever stay.





## 7. A Seraphic Soul

**Dalrin Gladwin Godinho**

Mother Veronica with a radiant face,  
Set up a mission with God's grace.  
A Foundress she was called to be,  
Using knowledge and teaching as a key.

She has been a great inspiration,  
To those devoted to her creation.  
Her daughters she invites,  
Work in charity is her advice.

Mother Veronica a seraphic soul,  
Changed many lives and made them whole.  
In God's path of the Catholic fold.  
In Carmel as her story unfolds.

Bright you are a luminary,  
Enlightening tender hearts like ours.  
Like a guiding star at night,  
In Carmel's homes forever reside.



## 8. MOTHER VERONICA - BEACON OF LIGHT

Rosemary Issac John

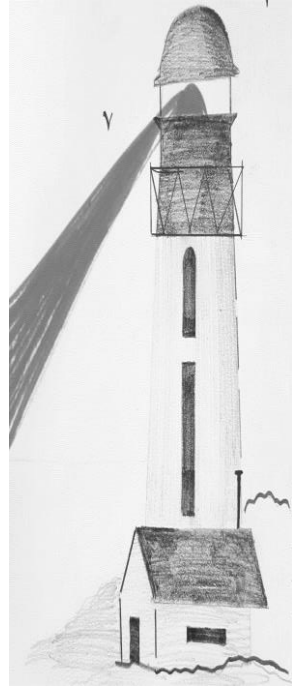
When we make the right choices,  
We become a beacon of light for others,  
Mother Veronica knew this truth,  
And so in wisdom used no other.

She had a questioning mind  
And forthright nature,  
Seeking knowledge,  
Embracing faith's profound stature.

To suffer for Christ,  
To live a life of contemplative prayer,  
Her dedication and devotion,  
A rare testament.

In silence and solitude,  
Her spirit took flight,  
A beacon of hope,  
And of profound inner light.

With grace she walked a path divine,  
Teaching a world, through love's pure design,  
Her legacy endures, her lessons endure,  
Mother Veronica, in faith, so pure.



## 9. MOTHER VERONICA'S JOURNEY

Kehkashan Shafiq Khan

In England's embrace, young Sophie's quest,  
A daughter of faith, put to the test,  
Born Anglican, her roots held fast,  
Yet with Catholic doctrines, her love amassed.

With her father's grace, in virtue she'd grow,  
In Greek and music, her talents would show,  
A questioning mind, searching for light,  
Catholic truths shone ever so bright.

An engagement to a naval officer, she'd break,  
For a life with Christ, she'd choose to partake,  
In 1850, a new chapter did commence,  
With the Sisters of St. Joseph, her faith's recompense.

On Malabar's coast, her journey would unfold,  
St. Joseph's Convent, a story to be told,  
In Calicut's heart, as Superior she'd stand,  
A foundation of faith, in India's land.

In humble grace, she served without acclaim,  
Igniting knowledge, generations she'd claim,  
A love for India, in her heart did reside,  
In saintly cloisters, her last days would bide.

At Bethlehem's site, she helped a foundation rise,  
Trials she faced, yet found peace in the skies,  
On November 16, 1906, her journey complete,  
Meeting the Saviour, her faith's ultimate feat.

## **10. Mother of Carmelite Religious**

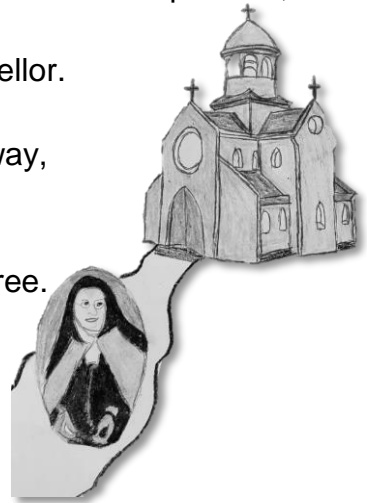
**Harshada Sanjay Kolambekar**

Born on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1823

She nurtured values of truth, love and honesty  
In her desire to become a religious,  
Broke the engagement so precious.

Received the name Sister Veronica of the Passion,  
Set up the Third Order Regular of Carmel with compassion,  
Known better as educator and mentor,  
God alone was her strength and counsellor.

On the journey of love, she found her way,  
Brightening souls with her prayer,  
In every act of love, we see,  
The spirit of Mother Veronica, forever free.



## **11. OUR GENTLE GUIDE**

**Senoria Camluss Mathra**

In the heart of compassion, she resides  
Mother Veronica, our gentle guide.

A beacon of love, a source of grace,  
Her presence, a warm and welcoming space.

With nurturing hands and a tender smile,  
She cares for the weary mile by mile.

In her wisdom, we find solace and light,  
Guiding us through the darkest night.

In her name, we gather and pray,  
For her love we cherish every day.

A symbol of love, so pure and true,  
Mother Veronica, pursuing your teaching we grew.



## **12. MOTHER VERONICA'S GRACE**

**Mridula Ashish Mathur**

In realms of faith, a name does shine,  
Mary Veronica, grace divine  
With love that knows no bound nor end,  
She's heaven's gift, a mother and friend.



Her heart, a vessel of endless care,  
In trials and joys, she's always there.  
With tender touch and soothing voice,  
She guides us through life's every choice.

In your name, we find love and grace,  
A shining example in life's embrace.  
Venerable Mother Veronica, with you, we'll be,  
In your love and care, eternally free.

### 13. A Guiding Light

Ayesha Rafique Momin

Mother Mary, full of grace and light,  
Guiding us through day and night,  
Veronica's touch, a moment sublime,  
In the annals of faith, for all time.



Her act of compassion, a selfless deed,  
In a time of sorrow, she planted a seed.  
For in her simple cloth, a relic to hold,  
The image of Christ, a story to be told.

In prayer and faith, we turn to thee,  
For in your love, we find simplicity,  
A mother's love, pure and divine,  
Mary Veronica, forever thine.

### 14. Mother Veronica - The Compassionate

Immaculate Nadar

A women of great devotion and compassion,  
Her faith and love for God, a never ending passion.  
She founded the Third Order Regular of Carmel  
Guiding others on the path of spiritual fulfilment so well.

Her life and teaching inspire us to be kind and strong.  
To spread love and serve others all life long,  
Mother Veronica a beacon of light in the darkest night,  
May her legacy continue to shine forever bright.

Her legacy forever we will endure,  
A beacon of hope, steadfast and sure.  
Oh, Mother Veronica, we honour your name,  
In our hearts, you'll always remain.

### **15. Mother Veronica - Shining Bright**

**Selvina Jao Pereira**

In hearts she dwells, a guiding light,  
Mother Veronica, shining bright.  
With love and grace, her soul's embrace,  
She touched the lives of every trace.

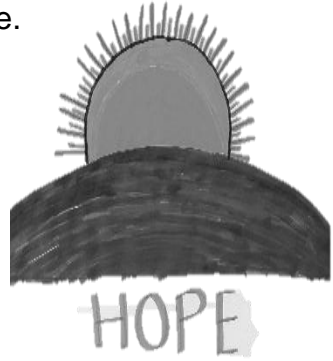
Her words like flowers, gentle and kind,  
A soothing balm to troubled minds.  
Through trials and tears, she led the way,  
Inspiring hope with each passing day.

With open arms, she welcomed all,  
Her compassion never ceased to fall.  
Her maternal love so divine,  
On her countenance does shine.

## **16. A Beacon Of Hope- Mother Veronica** **Rebecca Rocky Rodrigues**

Mother Veronica, a mother so noble,  
Born in the city of Constantinople.  
Her parents with nurturing hands and loving embrace,  
Taught their daughter to live with grace.

Veronica a name so bright,  
She had the power to carry light.  
In prayer and faith, she found a way,  
All night and day she knelt to pray.



Mother Veronica, a mother to all,  
Humbly and obediently answered God's call.  
Through trials and tribulations she stood strong,  
Because she knew she had God all along.

God's calling upon her was shown,  
To found the Third Order of Carmel at Bayonne.  
By wisdom and grace, she showed people a way,  
And listened to God till the very last day.

Oh Mother as we remember you today,  
May your wisdom and grace guide us, we pray.



## 17. A Venerable Soul

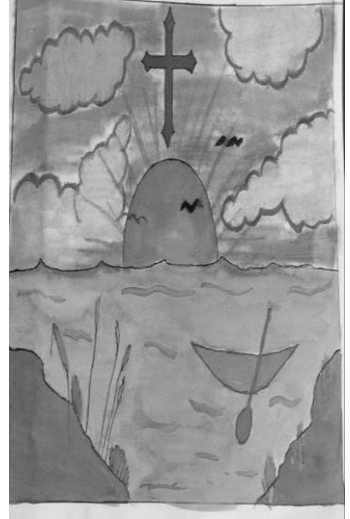
Bhavika Avinash Sadavarte

A holy soul born in Constantinople,  
Was loving, gentle and very noble,  
In making life's decisive choice,  
She heard God's clear voice.

Touched by the Almighty's grace,  
She left the world's vanities' race,  
On paths of new horizons to sail,  
Foundress of Carmelites she  
became.

Relentless seeker of God's ways,  
She found him in a human gaze,  
In the garden of Carmel she served,  
Blessings of heaven she deserved.

She was the beacon of love and warmth,  
Enriching the lives of poor and needy,  
Nurtured values like forgiveness and compassion,  
She was Venerable Mother Veronica of the Passion.



## 18. In Faith's Embrace

Krishma Naresh Sawle



In humble grace, her journey did begin.  
Mother Veronica, for Christ remains virgin.  
With humble heart and purpose clear,  
She walked a path without fear.

Through hardships, she led the way,  
Guiding souls, come what may.  
In love, she nurtured, her spirit strong,  
A life devoted to right the wrong.

Through trials and triumphs, her spirit soared,  
A beacon of hope, in service adored.  
With unwavering faith, she took her stand.  
Guiding hearts with love, across the land.

In prayer and work, her memory lives,  
To Mother Veronica, our gratitude.  
In faith's embrace, her holy call,  
A beacon of light, in service to all.

## 19. Mother Veronica - The Kindest

Hafsa Feroz Shaikh

Mother Veronica, forever in our hearts,  
Your legacy lives on, never departs

Her selfless love, a beacon of hope,  
In her presence, we learned to cope

Her simple act of kindness, forever told.  
In the history of Apostolic Carmel, both brave and bold.

Thank you for your love, so pure and true,  
Forever grateful, for all that you do.



## 20. Mother Veronica - Kind and Wise

Sumaiya Irfan Shaikh

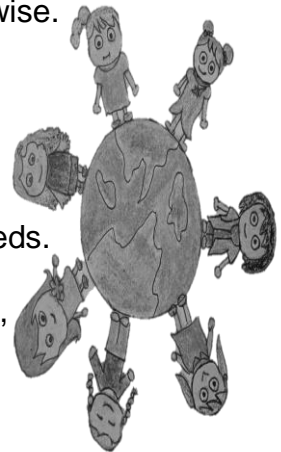
The depth of feeling In her dark brown eyes,  
She is gentle and kind hearted, and she is wise.

Mother Veronica so kind and true,  
Your CCR children look up to you.

With love and care, You tend to our needs,  
Your compassion and wisdom, It truly exceeds.

In your presence, we find solace and peace,  
Your gentle words, they never cease.

You inspire us to be our very best,  
With a mother's love, you truly bless.



## **21. VERONICA: KIND AND TRUE**

**Yusra Ansar Shaikh**

Mother Mary Veronica,  
Foundress of the Apostolic Carmel,  
A saint of great renown,  
She wears a heavenly crown.

Mother Mary Veronica, born in Constantinople town,  
Of faith and love, her spirit shining down,  
Mary Veronica, so kind and true,  
With a heart of gold, we remember you,

To love and serve our hearts renew,  
With a mother's love forever new.  
Mother Mary Veronica, we say,  
Thank you for lighting our way.

## **22. A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER VERONICA**

**Ankita Vasant Solanki**

The depth of feelings in her dark brown eyes.  
She is gentle, kind-hearted and she's wise.  
With resilience, determination, a deep sense of faith,  
In embrace, all worries may take off her weight.

She spent long hours in prayer.  
And wrote some books with care,  
In that high country miles from the nearest town,  
Where the roads wind up and down.

Veronica of the Passion she received the name.  
Well respected in the Congregation's frame,  
Mother Veronica, so sweet and dear,  
With a heart full of love, always near.

Towards Canonization her life embarked,  
*Venerable* The Holy See her they marked,  
With love and devotion, she lit the way,  
Guiding souls through night, to a brighter day.



### **23. MOTHER VERONICA - OUR GUIDING SOUL**

**Mansi Suryakant Tarve**

Mother Veronica, your name we revere,  
With knowledge and love, you drew us near.  
In the realm of education, your light did gleam,  
Guiding us all, like a soothing dream.

With compassion and grace, you paved the way,  
In our hearts, your influence will always stay.  
A mentor, a guide, through life's stormy sea,  
Mother Veronica, your legacy is our decree

Mother Veronica, a name so dear,  
In her presence, love and grace appear.  
A guiding soul with wisdom to share,  
In her embrace, we find solace and care.

Mother Veronica, a soul so kind,  
In faith and love, she's truly defined  
Carmelite grace, her life sweet rhyme,  
A beacon of hope every time.



## **24. Mother Veronica of Grace**

**Liseth Denis Vasaikar**

Mother Veronica, a name so dear,  
A woman of faith, strong and clear.  
Her love and kindness, a guiding light,  
In the darkest hours, she shines so bright.

With compassion and care, she'd mend every wound,  
In her presence, we felt truly attuned.  
A mother to many, her love did bloom,  
In her embrace, we found our room.

Through trials and tribulations, she'd stand so tall,  
A symbol of grace, inspiring all.  
Her legacy lives on, in our hearts she's enshrined,  
Mother Veronica eternally kind..

## **25. A RAY OF LIGHT**

**Valentina Teofline Vaz**

Sophie Leeves your like is rare,  
Grown in parents' love and care.  
Sophie Leeves is a ray of light.  
Her life is so bright.

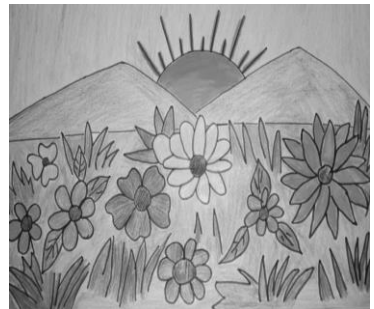
Sophie Leeves was born to serve,  
Her nature was to love,  
She did not say no to share,  
For the poor her heart did care.

## **26. Mother Veronica - Gentle and Wise**

**Yadnya Jitendra Verlekar**

Mother Veronica, so full of grace,  
In her gentle presence, we found our place.  
With a heart so kind, a love so deep,  
In our souls, her memory we'll keep.

Mother Veronica, so gentle and wise,  
A loving soul in God's holy disguise.  
In the garden of life, you're the bloom.  
Mother Veronica, dispelling gloom.



With love and kindness, you lit our way,  
A guiding star, both night and day.  
A symbol of love, of faith and grace,  
In your embrace, we find our special place.

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## CLASS PHOTO



## SECOND YEAR 2023-24



## FIRST YEAR 2023-24

## PRAYER

Oh Most Holy Trinity, I humbly beseech you to glorify, by raising to the altars, your faithful servant, Mother Mary Theresa Veronica of Jesus, who with love and zeal for Holy Church and in heroic obedience, founded the Congregation of the Carmelite Religious, for the glory of your name, the spread of your kingdom and to help the Carmelite Missionaries in India in the field of Education and other works of Mercy with confidence I earnestly ask you to grant, through her powerful intercession the grace (Here mention your intention) which I so ardently desire. Amen.

