

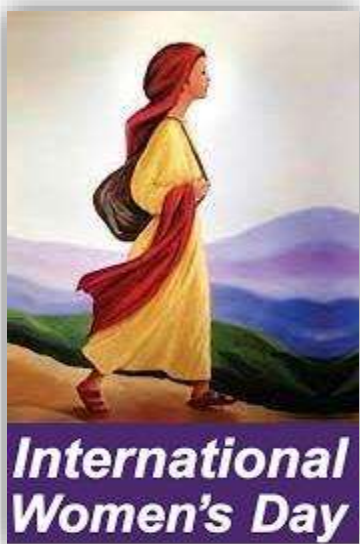
“Where there is a WOMAN, there is MAGIC.”

–Ntozake Shange

Celebrating Women, whether professionally or personally, is a sense of commitment to each and every Woman in one's life. Every year on March 8, International Women's Day is commemorated. It's the day for praising women who work hard each day to accomplish individual and professional goals.

How this day started?

The predecessor of International Women's Day, previously known as National Women's Day, was first observed in the United States on February 28, 1909, at the suggestion of activist Theresa Malkiel. The idea of an international women's day was unheard of until 1910 during an International Socialist Women's Conference that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark.



It was during this conference that Clara Zetkin, a German communist activist, universal suffragist and advocate of women's rights, proposed the idea to designate a day for women everywhere to “press for their demands”. Her idea was met with unanimous approval from all the women present representing 17 countries.

International Women's Day was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19, 1911, following the agreement at the Copenhagen conference.

Why this day?

It's a day when women are recognized and celebrated for playing various roles in different spheres of life. Women have a robust spirit which makes them excel in their fields. They contribute massively to the lives of their family members and the country.

For many people, the role of women is limited to household chores only. However, this needs to change as women deserve equal freedom and opportunities in everything like men. The world is moving towards gender equality. It is moving towards a balance between both men and women. A change is required and is also essential. It is

observed that men have had more advantages in every sphere of life in comparison to women since ages. However, this needs a change as we all are humans and should be treated equally with equal rights and opportunities.

Women's Day at Mercy Home

It was a great and joyous day for all our inmates as we celebrated women's day in our Mercy Home on 8th March, 2022. The elderly women around 40 of them decorated themselves with silk sarees, neatly plaited hair and with a huge beautiful smile participated in the Holy Mass at 7 am in the morning celebrated specially for them. The priest appreciated them for being 'woman' and for all their contributions to Mercy Home making it a better place to live in.

At 11:30 am we began our celebrations with cultural programmes. The chief guest of the day was Mr. Maanambadi Punniyamoorthy from Kumbakonam. He is an orator,



Tamil activist and a follower of Thiruvalluvar, the great poet of Tamil Literature. He was accompanied by Trichy Mr. Ramadoss, a politician and our benefactor. The 2 religious novices who have come for experience entertained the gathering with their songs and dances, after which the Speaker addressed the gathering with his classic

Tamil enriched with meaningful message to the audience. He praised all the women elderly present and appreciated the efforts and service of the FMM sisters. Mr. Ramadoss too addressed the gathering with a message and then distributed gifts to the inmates. The celebrations ended with a sumptuous meal provided by our benefactor, Mr. Ramadoss and family.

To conclude, **it feels nice to have a day to celebrate the achievements of women.** Thus, on this international women's day, let's recognize the significance of women in our lives and on society and inspire them for greater future achievements as they contribute equally to the home, society, and nation.





“A gracious woman gets Honour” – Proverbs 11:16

A woman is said to be a beautiful creation of God! It is a fact that all the great personalities are born from the woman's womb and have taken their initial teachings from a woman. And that is why we give due respect to women in their lives.

Happy Women's Day to all the incredible women! Shine on ... Not just today but every day!

St. Thomas Mercy Home
Crawford, Tiruchirappalli