

## Sisters of Sacred Sciences – Sister Sini Paul and Sister Frisca Guria

The Vocations Ministry is turning the spotlight this week on two women in our parish who have committed themselves to live as Sisters of Sacred Sciences, Sister Sini Paul and Sister Frisca Guria. They are currently the only two nuns of this order living in the Waco community.

The Sisters of Sacred Sciences (SSS) is a semi-contemplative religious society founded in 1997 by Father Antony Kolencherry in the Diocese of Mysore, located in south India. They are given opportunities to study the sacred sciences of theology and philosophy related disciplines as well as media sciences; and their charism is imparting this spiritual and intellectual knowledge to others. They do this through teaching, preaching and conducting seminars. They follow the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church, which is to give themselves wholly to God. Presently they have 72 professed Sisters living in ten communities in India, one [community](#) in Tanzania, one [community](#) in Switzerland and one [community](#) in Waco.



Sr. Sini was born as the sixth of seven children in Kerala, a state in South India. She has four sisters and two brothers, eleven nieces and nephews and a great nephew. Coming from a very devote Catholic family her father was very active in the church; her parents took the family to Holy Mass every day, seven days a week. Her parents instilled in them their special devotion to the rosary, praying it with them every evening. Before joining the religious community, Sr. Sini

was active in the youth ministry in her parish. From her childhood, Sr. Sini had a desire to dedicate her life to God. Upon completing her high school studies, she decided to join a religious community and she communicated her desire to Fr. Antony who was her neighbor. He told her of an opportunity to further her studies in Bangalore at the Indian Institute of Spirituality which he headed. She moved there in 1995 and learned that she needed to study English to communicate effectively with people from other states. Thus, she spent two years learning English and also studied Church History and learned about the saints. In 1997 Sr. Sini joined the SSS order and after two years of formation she took her first vows in 1999; she was convinced of her call and decided to make her final commitment as a Sister of Sacred Sciences in 2004. She was the first member to take the vows in Sisters of Sacred Sciences. After becoming a Sister, Fr. Antony appointed her as the superior of the community and allowed her to continue further studies. She has an Associate degree in Philosophy, a Bachelors in Theology from St. Peters Pontifical Institute Bangalore, a Bachelors in Sociology from the University of Mysore and a Masters in Spiritual Theology from the Indian Institute of Spirituality Bangalore.

Sr. Frisca was born into a family of five girls and one boy in Odisha at Sunabeda, a state in northern India. Her father, who worked in the aeronautical field, died when she was just nine years old leaving her mom to raise the children. They are a very devout Catholic family and her mom supported her desire to be a nun, which started when she was in the ninth grade. After

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completing her high school studies, she joined the SSS in 2001. Convinced of her vocation, she took her first vows in 2005 and continued her education. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Christianity and Literature in 2008 and took her final vows in 2010. The next year she was put in charge of candidates who were aspiring to become Sisters while teaching them grammar and stories of the saints.

Bishop Gregory Aymond invited the SSS community in 2005 to come to the Austin Diocese and Sr. Sini came at that time to St. John's the Evangelist in San Marcos where she was the Director of Religious Education. In 2007 the SSS community moved to Temple to work at Our Lady of the Angels Maternity Shelter where she worked for six years as a houseparent. Sr. Sini decided to study to become a Chaplain in 2013 and joined a five-month internship during the winter for Clinical Pastoral Education at Baylor Scott and White followed by a three-month summer internship. She then completed a year of residency in 2015 in Clinical Pastoral Education program from Baylor Scott and White and became a chaplain to the elderly at St. Catherine's (at Providence) where she continues her ministry.

Sr. Frisca came to Temple in August of 2012 and was also a houseparent at the maternity shelter. It was a great experience for her to work with the pregnant moms and their children and getting to learn about the people and culture here was a rich experience as well. In 2015 she did volunteer work at St. Luke's parish and was a teacher aide in 2016 for the pre-K at St. Mary's Catholic School. Currently she is a teacher aide in our Little Lions Learning Center.

Both Sr. Sini and Sr. Frisca are glad to be a part of our parish community and appreciate our support of them. They ask that we pray for them in their work and also for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life to keep up good works and glorify God. They stress to us that a religious vocation is a special gift and is a call from God that is received in faith and discerned in prayer. It is a call to follow Christ with one's whole heart of loving Him more than anything else. Anyone wishing to contact them may do so by email at [sssusa2013@gmail.com](mailto:sssusa2013@gmail.com)