

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



retary and editor of the book, included it in the book entitled *Reconciliation in India*, published by St. Paul's Publications, Bombay.

In response to the requests from different quarters, Dharmaram Publications in 1983 published this paper in a booklet form under the title *Justice and Reconciliation: The Sad but Living Story of a Church in Fetters*, along with an additional preface and a few church documents. It is worth quoting the courageous statement of Fr. Vineeth: "If the Latin Church wants to be really Indian, the first thing it has to do is to give up the desire for domination over the Orientals, because it is an offshoot and a still lingering remnant of Western colonialism." Many of his friends told him that this way

of writing would make him unpopular and unacceptable in many circles. This writing was much against his own natural liking and way of writing. Fr. Vineeth, being a just man, was compelled to write against an unjust system. The Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), in its meeting in Mumbai in 1983, made note of this prophetic intervention of Fr. Vineeth and in the future inter-ecclesial relations this paper played a very positive role, of course, besides many other factors. The autonomy and self-rule which the Syro-Malabar Church enjoys today is also due to the timely intervention of Fr. Vineeth. Therefore, the Syro-Malabar Church should be immensely grateful to Fr. Vineeth for his courageous and prophetic intervention.

Paulson Veliyannoor CMF, Spain

A Gentle and Kind Soul

Condolences on the passing of Fr. Vineeth. I was lucky to study under him in my philosophy years, and specially to have him as the guide for my BPh thesis. Such a gentle, kind soul. Fr. Saju, I know you had a profound relationship with him. May his soul rest in peace!

