

# FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

## *Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic*



mark is his interest in and his passion for developing an Indian Christian theological school assimilating all that is found unique in Indian spiritual traditions. In this connection, I also recall the Indian Liturgy introduced in the National Seminar on “Church in India” at

Dharmaram College in 1969. At that time, Fr. Francis Vineeth and his colleagues were giving a vital gush to the incipient Indian theological school of research and study which became a hallmark of his personality in the course of time.



the emerging reality that he encountered in the classroom and outside of it. When a question was posed to him he got into a reflective mode, intuited the images that arose from the depth of himself, articulated it with profound wisdom and it looked like a new idea was given birth! When he stumbled into a deep insight, one could observe a smile and a brief silence before he

**F**ather Francis Vineeth impressed me from the very first class on Existentialism that he taught 36 years ago at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bengaluru. He was not just a teacher, but an ardent seeker of

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### **A Reflective Thinker and Mystic**

put them into words. The students could understand that was a new idea that he had just stumbled into and he was still enjoying the insight before he shared with his students. Anyone who was deeply involved in the class would come out with a learning for life.

During my doctoral studies in clinical psychology there were many occasions I remembered Father Vineeth, especially during the course on inter-subjectivity theory in Psychodynamic school of thought. What he taught about inter-subjectivity resonated during this course in a very personal way and still continues to resonate in my clinical work. There are times when I apply metaphysical principles in my homilies: you cannot but remember his classes which,



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once again, come alive in the reflections. Yes, this man was indeed a mystic, who made sense of God's presence in various ways, touched people by his inspiring thoughts and gestures. May his spiritual presence con-

tinue to inspire his privileged students to imitate him in being reflective in their respective ministries! May the Lord continue to see the glory shines forth in the humble men and women like Father Francis Vineeth!

## Paulachan Kochappilly CMI, Dharmaram, Bengaluru

**Joyful Harp of the Spirit: An Awakened and Integrated Consciousness of V. F. Vineeth**



**F**ather Francis Vineeth Vadakethala CMI was a person of joy and spread the fragrance of it in silence and sound. His joy was radiant and crescent. A sweet smile was on his face always, glowingly growing as years passed by.

I consider that Father Francis lived the ideal of Jesus, "I have said these things, so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11) throughout his life. Joy was the key to his life.

At the heart of his heart, there was joy, flowing down through his words and gestures, a man singing and dancing for joy. A hallow of the innocent and in-

domitable spirit of joy made him special and genuine. While he was lost in search of the Ineffable, Father Vineeth was found connected with miseries and sufferings of humanity.

Recollecting his sweet and charming presence amidst us while he was alive and active, I would like to quote the first verse from *Madhurashtakam*, which fits his personality so well:

अधरं मधुरं वदनं मधुरं नयनं मधुरं हसितं मधुरम् ।  
हृदयं मधुरं गमनं मधुरं मधुराधिपतेरखिलं मधुरम् ॥१॥

*Adharam Madhuram Vadanam Madhuram Nayanam  
Madhuram Hasitam Madhuram  
Hridayam Madhuram Gamanam Madhuram Madhura-Adhipater-Akhilam Madhuram*