

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



The departure of an Indian Christian progressive theologian and mystic is a great loss for the Indian Church. As a student, I always cherished his classes because he was a teacher with a difference. He did not just teach but touched the hearts and opened the eyes of the students to the realities beyond the mundane through his original thinking, creative ideas and new insights. This difference resulted from his closeness to Jesus and closeness to the world around him. His simplicity in life, humility in approach, innocence in interaction, genuineness in relationship, depth in thinking, clarity in expression and availability in service was well appreciated by everyone. He maximized the gift of life to the fullest by unleashing his true potential, optimizing the world around him and

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An Indian Christian Progressive
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realizing that his existence creates a multiplier effect. He maximized the divine within and enlightened the people through meditative reflections, classes, personal sharing and writing.

What stands out most clearly in Fr. Francis's life and writings is *samanvayam*, integration of mind and heart, contemplation and action, Christian faith and Indian genius, and eastern and western traditions. He had an 'Indian mind', which perceived reality as an interconnected, interrelated, and interdependent whole. Therefore, he welcomed goodness coming from any source and incorporated them into his life and spirituality. He lived by convictions and converted intelligence into wisdom by implementing that knowledge in his life for the benefit of others. There is no doubt that for the years to come he will be remembered as a spiritual guru, an exemplary religious, a genuine priest, a passionate CMI, a great philosopher, and a progressive theologian, who was both Indian and Christian.