

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



It was during our Existential Philosophy class at Dharmaram Fr. Vineeth spoke about Jonathan Livingston Seagull: A Story (best seller of American Novelist Richard Bach). He was describing how you can become or you should become an ethical hero like Christ and Gandhi in our society. Think differently and creatively and you should swim across the current of the society. Again, he spoke about how we should become a man of being than a man of having by explaining the philosophy of Martin Heidegger. Going one more step ahead, in the next class, he spoke about

Paul Poovathingal CMI

Father Vineeth: An Ocean of Inspiration

the need for other-centredness in the society and in the priestly religious life by explaining the German existential philosopher Gabriel Marcel's vision on human life – my brother is part of my being – and how we have to get away from the negative vision of French Philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (for whom, my brother is my enemy).

From time to time, I felt that my 30 years of Karnatic music sadhana is a swim across the current. His classes inspired me like anything. It always provided me great inspiration and energy to swim across all odds in my musical journey.

In 1986, I got a chance to compose the songs written by him on the occasion of the first and final profession of CMIs. I was doing my studies at Christ College at that time. Whenever I interacted with him, he inspired and encouraged me like a prophet and Guru with great wisdom. He asked me to make pure Indian melodies. He loved Indian music very much. He also gave me full freedom to compose those songs and, then, they came out very well. Some of those songs are, Āsayēthum Samgrahichu, Yesu misiha mahimārtham,



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etc. Later, I had a golden opportunity to write my BTh thesis under his guidance. I happily recall that he always appreciated my music, thoughts, and creativity.

Finally, the inspiration and vision of my idea of starting a Ganashram is from his idea of



Vidyavanam Ashram. He used to encourage me, when I shared the idea of Ganashram. He was a big role model for me. He actualised his vision about Indian Christian Ashram by shaping the beautiful Vidyavanam Ashram in the outskirts of Bengaluru. He was a true Jnāni and Guru par excellence and a realised soul. My big salute and pranams to this great and noble soul!

Jaison Kavalakkatt CMI, Germany

Thank You for Your Great Trust in Me...



It was my first appointment after my Ordination. After my pastoral ministry in a parish, I came to Vidyavanam. We led a life of vegetarian food, simple way of living, yoga, singing.... I celebrated Holy Mass in the Latin Rite for the visitors and Sisters. Vineeth Achan guided me and made me stable for the ashram life in Vidyavanam. Meditation, classes for the groups, also with Yoga, was a new way of life.

Construction work was something new to me. But he was open for ideas. Ashram chapel construction was a nice project among many. Teak plantation was something good for green world. Unimaginable were the motor riding experiences to Dharmaram... Then, to Kengery to bring cow feed... But Vineeth Achan made it all possible. The long talks in the evenings with Vineeth Achan, sitting on the rock garden, remain etched in my memory. A different time, a different personality: he motivated me to undertake studies to become a Yoga teacher...

