



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Joseph J. Palackal CMI, New York

Bridging India and Christianity



Dr. Francis Vadakethala CMI was an intellectual giant who chose the name Vineeth, which, in Sanskrit, means humble. The name defined his self-understanding that matched with his public persona. Fr. Vineeth drew in-

spiration equally from the Bible and the Bhagavat Gita. He had an unusual intellectual acumen to explain Semitic thoughts in Sanskrit terms. The best example is

the lyrics that he wrote for the LP record, *Christian Bhajans, Jyothi Jyothi*. The lyrics are a simple exegesis to the prologue in St. John's gospel. Towards the latter part of his academic life, Dr. Vineeth broke away from the status quo and started an Ashram movement at Vidyavanam Ashram at Bennarghatta in the outskirts of Bengaluru. Fr. Vineeth was comfortable with bridging India and Christianity. I. C. Chacko's *Kristu Sahasra Namam* was his favourite poem. Fr. Vineeth appreciated Chacko's poetic genius to compress layers of ideas in a few Sanskrit slokas. It was Fr. Vineeth's interest that led to the commercial release of *Kristu Sahasra Namam* in the musical setting of his student, Dr. Anto Amarnad, in 1985, and a rerelease of the same in a CD format in 2014.

Christian Musicological Society is honoured to pay prayerful homage to Dr. Vineeth.