



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Flavia FMM, Stella Maris, Chennai

Creative Thinker, Prolific Writer, Humble Learner



I am grateful to Fr. Saju Chackalackal CMI, Provincial, for this opportunity to share few words celebrating the life of Fr. Francis Vineeth Vadakethala CMI, who went to his Eternal Abode on 30 May 2021. My association with Fr. Vineeth began in the late 80s when I first invited him to instruct the young religious FMM sisters on Indian

Spirituality. Since then, as a spiritual guide and friend, he has impacted my life. The Retreat he preached to our community and his session on prayer to the faculty of our college linger vividly in my memory as both the groups appreciated much the depth of his spiritual experience and clarity of expression.

Fr. Vineeth has come across to me as an earnest seeker of God, a fervent priest dedicated to his priestly mission of teaching and preaching. His authenticity

was manifested in his simplicity, friendliness toward all people irrespective of place, status, creed, and education. He will always be remembered as a creative thinker, a prolific writer, a humble learner who loved nature and silence and reflection on eternal truths not to forget his helping nature that put no limits to his time, energy in reaching out and complying with requests of any type, whether the need was spiritual, intellectual or any other, as the case may be.

Personally, I am extremely thankful to the assistance I received from him as an academician par excellence going through my doctoral thesis in literature, chapter by chapter. You will be missed not only by your family, confreres of your congregation as a pillar of Dharmaram College and founder of Vidyavanam CMI Ashram but by all whose lives you have touched by your peaceful presence, cheerful service, contemplative outlook, and courage of conviction. There is no goodbye as you are forever in our hearts. Thank you! May his soul rest in peace!