

# FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

*Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic*



## Winson Moyalan CMI, Vettathur

**Eternal Presence in Our Midst**



It was when I was a philosophy student I came to meet Fr. Vineeth for the first time in 1981. He was our Senior Tutor. It was a great experience to have conferences with him. Due to my over involvement in many extra-curricular activities, I was not a studious student. But I scored above 80% marks only in his subjects. That was the highest marks in the class. Such was my appreciation on his person and his teaching.

After ordination while he planned to start an Indian Ashram, one of the choice venues was Attappady where I was a member then. He liked very much the panorama there, and we travelled together in the nook and corner of Attappady for many days. It was only because of the lack of international exposure the venue was shifted to Bangalore. Indeed, the location of Vidyavanam is unique.

I remember the synaxis of 1993, when the members preferred to elect him to the post of Provincial; but his humility compelled him to denounce that position. That's how it happened to elect him as the Vicar Provincial during that term.

His stature, his vision, his knowledge, his contacts, his simplicity and everything in him gave me a feel of a real Guru; hence, there is no wonder that the Ashram is more popularly known as 'Vineeth Ashram'.

Myself being involved in social work activities for many years, whenever he met me, he invited me to join the Ashram team so that we could organize the surrounding villages. Though I agreed to his proposal many times, every time I was elected the Councillor for Social Apostolate (four terms), which restricted me from joining him. Though it was an unmaterialised wish, we respected each other till the end.

A man normally dies only once. But, in 2016, during his angioplasty, his heart was stopped and doctors



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announced his death. However, providentially, being in the operation theatre, with much massaging on the chest they could resuscitate his life and it prolonged for another five more years. If not affected by Covid-19, definitely he would have lived many more years with us.

His original thoughts in the classroom and the 'Vineeth Ashram' will make his presence eternal in our midst. He cannot die in anybody's life who had once interacted with him. I am glad that I am one among those fortunate ones.



## **Molly and Jose, Bhoothanahalli** **Memories of Our Father Vineeth**

**D**ear loving Vineethacha, we miss only your physical presence; your loving memories are always with us in our hearts.

We know Fr. Vineeth from 1983 onwards. He had helped us in many ways to come up in life. He made all arrangements for our wedding like a father getting ready with everything and blessed our marriage too.

We offered our service, when he started Vidyavanam Ashram in the year 1996 and stayed in the ashram till he was transferred from there. It was like a family; he treated us as his own children. For us, ashram

was our second home and Fr. Vineeth was like our own father. He was so innocent like a child, very open, transparent, very straight-forward, and so simple. He always had a good heart to help others when they were in need. We were with him in the ashram from 1996 to 2016 and were very lucky to have served him. Dear Father, we are very grateful to you.

It was really shocking news when Fr. Anto informed us that he is no more. We are very sad that we could not see him or say a last farewell to him. We remember that he used to say: "When I die, directly I go to heaven through the back door, because others will be waiting in front to get in." Yes, dear Father Vineeth, you are right up there, preparing a place for us. Thank you, dear Father, for everything you were to us all these years. We love you!