

# FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

## *Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic*



I sensed a thrill in him when he tried to expose the Christian faith in Indian terms – successfully ‘integrating’ and ‘contextualising’ the Gospel. When he was narrating his success in doing the same with platforms beyond the borders, he exhibited a childlike enthusiasm.

Like Eklavya, I have taken him for my *guru*, though I have not really tested my skills in his domain. Past two or three years, it had been at the back of my mind

that I should visit him and meet with him, and I was indeed hoping to do so, when the news came of his departure, even depriving me of the opportunity to pay homage to his mortal remains.

I salute him, quoting from *subhashita ratnani*: “That indeed there is no fear of (from) old age or death in (his) body of fame, for he has found a place eternal in our minds like the great poets.”

## Anto Amarnad Chittilappilly CMI

### Gentle and Sincere Person



With deep sorrow let me offer my sincere condolences and prayers. He was an exceptional and rare gift to the CMI Congregation and the universal Church. Never we get bored when we listened to him. Fr. Vineeth was one of the greatest souls who understood the true meaning of Vatican II’s invitation for inculturation. From his presence I developed my personality and thoughts.

My music got new divine wings when I composed his lyrics. I composed *Khristu Sahasranama Namam* because of him. The best bhajans I composed were on his profound lyrics. Gentle and sincere were his person and you can depend on him. When he bids farewell, our inner space is empty! Of course, his lovely meditations and hymns will make him alive amidst us. The Lord will rejoice at his presence in heaven. We have a sure intercessor in him. He was a devotee of Saint Teresa of Lisieux and he would, like his patroness, send heavenly petals of blessings! *My deep condolences!*