



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

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A Philosopher Par Excellence!



I am a privileged student of Father Vineeth. ‘Privileged’ because even to this day, I count him as one of three foremost inspirations that shaped the teacher in me. More than bookish wisdom, he carried inspiration into the lecture halls. In explaining difficult philosophical concepts, he would artfully

give a creative twist to words and to everyday examples of life. It was like Moses hitting the rock with his staff, letting the spring gush out. Decades have gone by after those lectures. But the steady flow of new meanings and inspirations from those words and examples has not ceased. (By the way, the other two inspirations are Father Thomas Kochumuttom, for his ingenuity in presenting the most difficult philosophical topics in the simplest forms, and Archbishop Antony Kariyil, for his clarity of articulation).

Ever since my first tryst with philosophy in the

1980s, when the word ‘virtual’ had not become a common parlance as now, the comment that I repeatedly heard about Father Vineeth was that he was a man, who lived in the virtual world of ideas and fantasies. Later, I realized that the comments were based on a cursory reading of Father Vineeth. True, he lived and moved in a sphere different from the one we, the aam aadmi engaged. The spheres were not separated physically though. While we, aam aadmi, engaged the peripherals, Father Vineeth went for the core. He scheduled no time for small talks and gossips, found no charm in the glossy and glittery of the big. A man of deep mindfulness and presence, he felt wonder at the beauty and grandeur in the common and ordinary. He modelled himself on the Guru of the Gospels: Jesus sat in some farmer’s farm. The farmer reaped corns and cereals. Jesus, sitting in the same farm, reminded the farmer that he had left the best unharvested – the treasures of the Kingdom that were all over his farm.

Father Vineeth was a complete philosopher: in his body, mind, and soul. The sense of wonder flashed in

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his eyes, innocent smile on his face, and deep silence of his tongue – all these showed that he had his finger on the pulse of the treasure.

- He carried his childlike innocence even to the upper circles of the society.
- He erased the gap between the wonder of philosophy and the ecstasy of mystical experience.

- He rendered credibility to the virtual, firmly founding it on the real.
- He made his life a synonym for nobility, simplicity, and beauty combined.

Father Vineeth, indeed, was a philosopher par excellence!

Shepherd Thelappilly CMI, Chavara Bhavan, Khairi, Narsinghpur

Mentor and Master



In 1978, while I was doing my second year philosophy studies in Dharmaram College, Bangalore, six of us CMI Scholastics, including me, ventured 'Simple Life' in huts made by our group in Dharmaram campus. Fr. Vineeth was our mentor and Master. Every day, after supper, he used to share inspiring stories of his life and we enjoyed his presence and ideas. He taught us various subjects in philosophy as well as theology. It was very original

and creative classes which I cherish for a lifetime.

After my ordination, in 1986, I was working in Sagar Diocese. In 1987, when I was informed that Fr. Vineeth was coming to Poornodaya in Bhopal for giving a retreat, I gave my name immediately to participate in it. I learnt lot of things to be a good retreat preacher from Fr. Vineeth and I am indebted to him. He gave me courage to be an inspiring speaker. His thoughts are still fresh in my consciousness and I am happy to be one of his disciples. The legacy of Fr. Francis Vineeth will surely be continued through his disciples. Let us enumerate good and practical values from this immortal soul. Let good Lord Jesus grant him eternal rest!