



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Joy Kottackal, Bangalore

“The song is ended but the melody lingers on...”



My relationship with Father Francis Vineeth CMI started in 1984 during my philosophy studies at Dharmaram College, Bengaluru. As a student, I admired his profound knowledge and his unique style of imparting the

same to his students. There was always an aura of serenity and tranquillity around him. He was impressed with my viva voce exam and I still remember him congratulating me after my viva.

Days passed and our relationship got stronger and personal. The level of freedom that I had with him is so deep that I could share almost all my personal matters with him for his advice and fatherly guidance. He was more than a family member to my wife and children. As a family, we were lucky to listen to his profound philosophical explanations of day-to-day happenings

in simple language whenever he used to spend his time at our home.

His passion for justice and order in society in general and Church in particular was explicitly evident during our conversations on various subjects. His presence in our family prayers was so enriching with his *bhajans* and simple prayers. “Peace radiates from him” was a regular comment that my wife used to make after every meeting with Father Vineeth. My children were awestruck seeing him clean the wash-basin with his bare hands after meals. He trusted me and engaged me in printing many of his books. We have been lucky to continue this warm and personal relationship till he was transferred from Vidyavanam Ashram. Undoubtedly, Father Vineeth had a great influence on me in forming my thought pattern and world vision.

For us, his life was a blessing and his memory a treasure to cherish... We love him beyond words and miss him beyond measure. To quote Irving Berlin, “the song is ended, but the melody lingers on...”