



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

James Aerthayil CMI, Palampra

Touched the Heart of Everyone



Fr. Francis Vineeth CMI has gone to his "Eternal Rest" after a sufficiently long committed and meaningful life for God and the congregation. A deeply religious personality as he was, he cherished the word "Rest" in his life and thought. For him prayer, contemplation and mystic experience were a Rest, "Rest in God". With his

deep knowledge of the mystical aspects of Indian thoughts, and the knowledge and the experience of western mysticism, "Resting in God" was a favourite concept for him. On the seventh day, God rested after the work of creation, which means God withdrew into his own inner Being and Bliss, he rested. Fr. Francis is now in the rest and bliss of God, enjoying the reward for his *jnana marga*, life of holy wisdom and mysticism. Let us thank God for the gift of this mystic thinker Vineethachan.

I deem it a privilege to have lived with him for many years in Dharmaram Collage. He was a friend of all and all enjoyed his company. He was very much alive at recreations and conferences, deeply recollected at prayer and meditations, eloquent and jovial in classroom and on public platforms. He contributed very much to the Indian and interreligious thought and writing and composed even Sanskrit and Malayalam Bhajans and songs for Christian and interreligious prayer meetings.

I can never forget our journey together to the universities of UK to learn more about the university education system there. We visited Oxford, Cambridge, Lancaster and Edinburg and held discussions with number of scholars. I still remember our meeting with Prof. Dr. Julius from Calcutta, who was the head of the department of Indology at Cambridge. We had a very fruitful discussion with him. He offered to write articles for the *Journal of Dharma*, published from Dhar-

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



maram Vidya Kshetram, which he qualified as the best periodical among the interreligious publications.

Fr. Francis touched the heart of everyone with whom he came into contact. Today, therefore, many

mourn his death. I too express my love and appreciation for Vineethachan through this note and convey my condolences to the members of the province of Coimbatore and Dharmaram collage. May his noble soul rest in God!

Benny Nalkara CMI, Provincial, SH Province, Kochi

An Unforgettable Good Friday Sermon



My Association with Fr. Vineeth started with my first BPh classes at DVK which were held in the present JBC auditorium of DVK. We were 138 students in number and he taught us metaphysics. Later, I had many opportunities to interact with him, especially when I came back to the campus as a lecturer at DVK.

But a memory still I cherish is about a Good Friday sermon at Vidyavanam. It was in 2009. I was invited by Fr. Vineeth to give a sermon on Good Friday evening. The audience consisted of hardly 25 people!

There were a group of people from Trichur who used to come over there every year in the Holy Week to make their annual Lenten retreat. But I was really disappointed. I used to give Good Friday sermons with a very passionate rhetoric style to comparatively larger crowds. Here, I had no other way but to switch over to a conversational style of speech. The people were listening to me very keenly. I noticed that Fr. Vineeth was gazing at me like a curious student.

At the end of my sermon, I narrated the story of a European missionary who worked in African missions. He was a married person with two children. It was a long time since he visited them. One day, he got a message that his wife was sick. He was shocked and sad. He was in an interior place close to the forest. It