



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

I recall with joy the convictions he imparted and the new perspectives he infused in us.

Today we remember this great personality whose footprints could never be erased. He is alive in us who shared his convictions and vision. The loss of him is an irreplaceable one. His memory remains with us and is growing in the perspectives we share in Interfaith Dialogue as well as Intercultural Communion. The depth of recognition, acceptance, cordiality and respect we have developed for other cultures is a great gift and India needs this dimension of Indian Christian spirituality today more than ever.

The best tribute we can give to Father Vineeth is to take forward his convictions and make it real in our lives. Let a million minds in this land catch up with his treasured thoughts and spread the Good News that our life is in connectedness and continuity in the web of humanity and his spirit will continue to inspire us all as we work for cosmic integration, community fellowship, and personnel wholeness.

Let there be compassion and grace in the midst of conflict! Let there be healing and handholding in the midst of tensions! Let his remembrance promote in us the cherished values of Indian Spiritual Ethos!

Tomy Chirapurath CMI, Darsana, Wardha

Vishwa Manav Father Francis Vineeth



I have always wanted to cherish my acquaintance with Father Vineeth, though it was minimum. It dates back to the late 1980s when I was a philosophy student at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram. He taught us Metaphysics at the BPh level at

Darsana, Wardha. During our Licentiate Programme, our batch moved with him more closely. He was the director of my licentiate thesis, which was on the philosophy of Gabriel Marcel.

His explanation of the 'Reality' in metaphysical and existentialist terms had its deep impact on my studies, so much so that I titled my work as the "Recovery

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of the Real," which was very much influenced by his book, *The Discovery of Being*.

Father Vineeth's appreciation for the Indian thought was manifest in his formal and informal talks – on music, art and architecture, philosophy, meditation, mysticism, holy liturgy, etc. It had its impact on a few generations of students. I think one could read between the lines that he was anguished and pained that there was a long way for the Indian Church yet to go in her efforts to communicate the Christ experience through the Indian genius. His uniqueness was that he didn't

sit back finding fault with the situation or the system. His meditations, retreat talks, lyrics, even Vidyavanam Ashram, are all fine expressions of the 'creative unrest' that he had been experiencing deep within himself.

I pay my tributes to this honourable teacher of mine who was simple and humble, truly 'vineeth' as a human person, a 'vishwa manav' (world citizen), who dedicated every moment of his life to radiate the divine love to the 'sacred' and the 'profane' alike, no matter in the East or the West. I must admit that I had a secret pride that he was a CMI.

Karuna Vadakethala SJB

(Sister of Father Vineeth)

My Great Brother

Father Vineeth loved Indian ashrams. Years ago, in 1968, he, along with a small team of Fathers and Brothers, stayed about two weeks in Vinoba's ashram at Pavanar in Wardha. Wardha, in the diocese of Chanda, is the main centre of our Congregations' activities in India. The purpose of his coming with the team was to make a draft of an Indian text for the holy Eucharistic celebration. This request was made

