

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



Paul Achandy CMI, Rector, Dharmaram College, Bengaluru

“All generations shall call me blessed” (Luke 1:48)

Being a dear son of Mother Mary, Fr. Francis Vineeth Vadakethala CMI had a blessed life on this earth and all generations will ever call him blessed!

Fr. Francis Vineeth has left a great legacy in the CMI family as a man of deep contemplative prayer and exemplary religious life and a person who has integrated the best of Indian and Christian spiritualities. As a member of Dharmaram family for more than 30 long years, as teacher, spiritual director, Dean, and President, he has inspired generations of CMIs and has touched their lives with his spiritual insights and philosophical reflections.

Fr. Vineeth lives in the hearts of his students as an exemplary teacher who motivated them to be original

and creative and to have an integrated outlook on life. His classes were very inspiring and had always a touch of reality and a taste of mysticism. He could connect from the East and the West and integrate the secular and sacred, reason and faith, to have a holistic vision. Being a person with double doctorate in Theology and Philosophy, he was recognized as a rare genius among CMI members, and his thought-provoking books and very revolutionary articles and seminar papers have created a momentum in the Church in India.

His book, *Call to Integration*, has been very unique and it had an experiential and personal meditative touch on religious life. He found joy in conversing with the Lord and radiated the joy of the Lord in the community. His experience of the Divine was expressed in poems, bhajans, hymns, and inspiring meditations. Originality has been his hallmark and it was evident in his whole life – prayer, relationship, conversation, gestures, and all what he did. There is no substitute for Fr. Vineeth except Fr. Vineeth.



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He was so much fond of ashram life in India and, in 1970s, experimented an ashram life on Dharmaram campus. Vidyavanam Ashram has been a natural progression of his long cherished vision and dream of ashram life. Seekers of truth and wisdom came from all over the world to meet with this rare Guru and Acharya, and Vidyavanam within a short span of time turned out to be the most sought after place for retreat,

spiritual guidance, meditation, and contemplation. While being at the zentih of knowledge and wisdom, he was so much available and approachable to the least of the brethren and he was indeed a perosn of compassion and love. He will be ever revered as a rare CMI with his contemplative spirit, missionary heart, and immaculate living.



Paul Pottackal CMI

Thrissur

മഹാനായ വിനീതച്ചൻ

സുതാര്യത, സത്യസന്ധത, സംലഭ്യത, സരളത, സമഗ്രത തുടങ്ങിയവയൊക്കെയാണാമഹത്യാത്തിന്റെ ലക്ഷണങ്ങളെങ്കിൽ, വിനീതച്ചൻ എന്തുകൊണ്ടും ഒരു മഹാനാണ്.