

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



Patrick CMC, Former Provincial Superior, Palakkad

A Journey from Pleasing Acquaintance to Fond Recollection...



The Hand of God created the Universe in great zeal of His supreme creatures, who could Outwit the other minor Creations... Yet, man disobeyed God. Nevertheless, man's disobedience resulting in God's wrath gave birth to new covenants.

The silent virus which has robbed several lives together has taught the world that nothing is permanent... Every life on earth shall diminish. The days of hope seem to be the days of despair. Amidst all such chaos, my heart finds solace in the sweeter remembrance of my spiritual friend Fr. Francis Vineeth Vadakethala, who also had fallen a prey to the bitter pangs of the virus. A highly motivational scholar has inspired a number of individuals in lighting up the power of the Holy Spirit. His name "Vineeth" itself personifies the experience of

'humbleness'. Yet one gets captivated with his practice of patience adorned with humility.

The very light of oneness, no matter of religion, was educated by Fr. Vineeth in those splendid days when the plan of Divyodaya Interreligious Centre was charted down. Fr. Vineeth is a personality beyond understanding. His knowledge and spiritual insights have paved the path of interreligious meetings for the Spirit of Unison even in our proud city Coimbatore.

The one-week seminar in our Avila Convent had surrounded us all with great memories. Fr. Vineeth's wonderful charm for classical genre is indeed appealing. Other than his spiritual endeavours, he had his time saved for classics.

An evening incident brings in fresh aroma of his acquaintance. The most important factor that led me closer to his nature was his patience. That evening facilitated the furtherance of that virtue. The virtue 'Patience' weaved the crown of his faithfulness towards his calm nature. I had committed a task of visiting a



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place along with him one evening. The acceptance towards evening changed into negative... But, to my surprise, Fr. Vineeth smiled and replied: "It is alright" and went on with his work.

That simple phrase surprised me of his goodness of accepting any situation that came across positively. Even after that simple incident, Father never gave me a glimpse of ignoring or even showing a shade of anger for my behaviour on the previous day.

A noble personality, who can smile at other's mistakes, has only multiplied his blessings and prayers from heaven. His motivating seminars had influenced the audience with positive reinforcement which made the entire week remarkable and memorable.

Beautiful is his soul which has ascended into heaven to sing the unceasing glories along with the hosts of archangels and cherubs. May his soul rest in Jesus' arms!

Sebastian Athappilly CMI, Austria

A Tribute and an Appreciation



It was in 1968, as I was in the Juniorate (Ampazhakad) that I met Rev. Fr Francis Vineeth, then known as Fr Francis Vadakethala, for the first time. He gave us the juniors a spiritual/theological talk. One new insight from his talk impressed me then so much that I remembered it ever since, and even

now, that is, even after 53 years! Fr Vineeth spoke to us then about the work of redemption wrought by Jesus Christ. He used the following analogy. He said, it was like a musical director (conductor), when the first violin in a concert, unfortunately strikes a false note, composes on the spot a new concert that begins with this false note that has been played! This note thus did not become false any more, but the *first note* of the new symphony! Similarly, God turned the false note of the sin of our first parents into the first note of the