



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Fr. Vineeth's simple, silent and contemplative life in the Ashram very soon attracted groups of Priests, Seminarians and Religious Sisters, as in the case of the ancient desert Fathers, to get his personal guidance for a life of simplicity and contemplation. He could effectively guide them and help them. And all those who came to the Ashram highly benefited from Fr. Vineeth's instructions, guidance and above all his inspiring and exemplary personal life.

Thus, in my perception, Fr. Vineeth was a noble

human being of childlike simplicity and humility, nobility and generosity. He was an excellent and original thinker and teacher. He was a genuine CMI religious, according to the model of our Father St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who could find real joy in prayer and contemplation. He was an effective and exemplary spiritual guru and guide.

I would like to describe Fr. Vineeth's whole life with the help of a Latin saying: "*Bonum est diffusivum sui ipsius*" meaning, "goodness radiates by itself."



Thomas Kadankavil CMI, Kottayam

A Man Who Stood for Indian Way of Spirituality

Over a quarter of a century (1966-1993) I was fortunate enough to work with Fr. Francis Vineeth as a member of Dharmaram College as well as Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram. Immediately after my term of office as Pres-

ident of DVK Fr. Francis Vineeth succeeded me as I was in the thick and thin to bring in the completion of DVK Campus development. When I came back to Dharmaram after my term as novice master Fr. Francis Vineeth as President of DVK was involved very much in the planning and executing of the present cafeteria in the campus. What I identify in him as a special

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mark is his interest in and his passion for developing an Indian Christian theological school assimilating all that is found unique in Indian spiritual traditions. In this connection, I also recall the Indian Liturgy introduced in the National Seminar on “Church in India” at

Dharmaram College in 1969. At that time, Fr. Francis Vineeth and his colleagues were giving a vital gush to the incipient Indian theological school of research and study which became a hallmark of his personality in the course of time.



the emerging reality that he encountered in the classroom and outside of it. When a question was posed to him he got into a reflective mode, intuited the images that arose from the depth of himself, articulated it with profound wisdom and it looked like a new idea was given birth! When he stumbled into a deep insight, one could observe a smile and a brief silence before he

Father Francis Vineeth impressed me from the very first class on Existentialism that he taught 36 years ago at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bengaluru. He was not just a teacher, but an ardent seeker of

Pancratius MSC, Bengaluru

A Reflective Thinker and Mystic

put them into words. The students could understand that was a new idea that he had just stumbled into and he was still enjoying the insight before he shared with his students. Anyone who was deeply involved in the class would come out with a learning for life.

During my doctoral studies in clinical psychology there were many occasions I remembered Father Vineeth, especially during the course on inter-subjectivity theory in Psychodynamic school of thought. What he taught about inter-subjectivity resonated during this course in a very personal way and still continues to resonate in my clinical work. There are times when I apply metaphysical principles in my homilies: you cannot but remember his classes which,