

PRIOR GENERAL'S CIRCULAR
CMI GENERAL PLENARY ASSEMBLY 2019

Circular 28

Ref: PG/136/2019

Dear Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

CMI General Plenary Assembly (GPA) 2019 was held at Jerusalem Retreat Centre, Thalore, during Christmas – Epiphany Seasons (4-8 January 2019), sharing the joy of the birth of the Lord and his manifestation through His baptism and public ministry. The CMI family prepared well for the GPA in a spirit of prayer, reflection and serious homework based on critical study among the members and views from outside. The General Plenary Assembly has been a historic gathering to set the tone for the forthcoming General Synaxis 2020 in the context of the 150th death anniversary of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, which will fall during 2020-2021, and the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the CMI Congregation in 2031.

The GPA had set “Listen, Discern and Go Forth” as its guiding theme. Eminent resource persons like Hon’ble Justice Kurian Joseph, Rev. Fr. Jose Mariadas OIC, Rev. Fr. Thomas Malipurath SVD, Rev. Fr. M.K. George, SJ and Rev. Dr. Valson Thampu gave critical insights into our life and mission and to evolve future vision and orientations. The assembly spent considerable time in listening to the voice of the community made possible by the feedback from the members of the congregation through the CMI Survey 2018. The General Plenary Assembly evolved a draft vision and orientations for the forthcoming General Synaxis, which will be the input material for the Lineamenta preparation for GS 2020. CMI Constitution Retreat, Study of the Lineamenta and creative celebration of the Mission Year along with other spiritual preparations and studies will make the GS 2020 a grace filled event.

The fruit of the engagement of the General Plenary Assembly – the report and the Final Statements are being sent along with this circular.

Pope Francis told the members in the youth assembly: “Do not let yourselves be tempted by the prophets of doom; do not spend your energy on keeping score of failures and holding on to reproaches. Keep your gaze fixed on the good that often makes no sound; it is neither a topic for blogs, nor front page news.” We shall make the right discernment between the demands of the world and those of the Gospel. Let us take our direction from the judgment of St. Paul: “But because of Christ, I have come to consider all these advantages

that I had as disadvantages.” We recall always that a supreme criterion is the one given by Our Lord: “We need to be more creative and more prophetic as a congregation. Let us listen, discern and go forth.

May the Spirit of renewal that guided the General Plenary Assembly go forth to all our communities! May the constant intercession of our Mother of Carmel and ever abiding inspiration of our Founder confirm us on our way of regenerating our charism!

Fraternally yours in Our Lord,

Fr. Paul Achandy CMI

Prior General