



# CARMELITES OF MARY IMMACULATE

## CMI PRIOR GENERAL'S HOUSE

Chavara Hills, P.B. No. 3105, Kakkanad P.O.  
Kochi 682 030, Kerala, India



ST. KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA  
1805-1871

**Fr. Thomas Chathamparampil CMI**  
**Prior General**

**REF: PG/272/2022**  
Circular No. 09

18 June 2022

### **Prior General's Circular**

Dear Fathers and Brothers of the CMI fraternity,

Prayerful Greetings from Chavara Hills!

Pope Francis in his Pentecostal homily in 2022 said, "The Spirit makes us see everything in a new way, with the eyes of Jesus. I would put it this way: In the great journey of life, the Spirit teaches us where to begin, what paths to take, and how to walk." The General Plenary Assembly of our Congregation which was held from 25 - 29 April 2022 at Dharmaram College Bengaluru, was a journey with the Holy Spirit. 89 Delegates representing all our provinces and different ministries and the apostolates came together to evaluate our life and mission of the Congregation, listening together for the voice of God, and to get inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit to start our preparations for the Bicentennial of our Congregation.

"Grace-filled Presence for a Transformed World," the motto of the decennial preparation for the Bicentennial of our Congregation set the tone for and guided the GPA 2022. Various panel presentations on the six faces of our Congregation i.e., Spiritual, pastoral, educational, social, media and public faces and the group discussions presented the hopes and expectations of the members and have given a clear picture of the profile of our Congregation in 2031. A panel presentation on "Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church," as proposed by Pope Francis deepened the vision 2031 of our Congregation. Having underlined the fact that the Synod is an "ecclesial moment", whose protagonist is the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis explained the objective of the Synodal process in the following words: "In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit." This is what we envisage for our Congregation which stands at the threshold of the third century as the one which journeys together encouraging the real involvement of each member of our Congregation and taking part in the Church's life and mission."

The General Plenary Assembly was fortunate to have the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio of India, His Grace Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli who celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the GPA 2022 and later addressed the Assembly and interacted with the members of the Assembly. Besides, we too had the opportunity to have Archbishop Peter Machado, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bengaluru and Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bishop of Mandya who presided over the Eucharistic celebration on different days.



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*The fruits of active involvement of General Plenary Assembly 2022 which has brought out an Action Plan for the coming years in view of the Bicentennial of our Congregation is attached along with this letter. As instructed by the GPA 2022, the night prayer is modified in view of praying for the success of the decennial preparation for the Bicentennial. Please see that our communities make use of this prayer as the concluding prayer of the day.*

As we are preparing for the Bicentennial of our Congregation let the words of Pope Francis be an inspiration for our preparation. "Let us sit at the school of the Holy Spirit, so that he can teach us all things. Let us invoke him each day, so that he can remind us to make God's gaze upon us our starting point, to make decisions by listening to his voice, and to journey together as Church, docile to him and open to the world" (Homily delivered by Pope Francis on the Feast of Pentecost Day 2022).

### ACTION PLAN FOR JUBILEE - 2031

The six faces of preparation for the Jubilee 2031 shall be introduced to the entire CMI community. The dynamics of the programme shall be worked out by the Provincials in collaboration with the General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral ministry.

#### A. Spiritual Face

1. The action plan has to be presented and explained in the zonal gatherings of the Provinces this year.
2. On the basis of the various faces that we have identified in preparation for the Jubilee 2031, a regular ongoing formation programme for the entire CMI community will be organised by the General Department of Formation in 2022.
3. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry may organize the annual retreat of 2023 for the all the members of the congregation, with the six faces of the preparation for the Jubilee as the focal themes.
4. In the Jubilee year 2031, CMI gatherings will be organised by the Generalate for all the members of the Congregation on the basis of the year of ordination in different batches.
5. A series of Chavara talks based on all his writings will be organised by the General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry in 2024.
6. The Provincial Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will organise an annual retreat on the Charism of the congregation for all the members of the Province before May 2025.
7. All the Major Study Houses will have chalked out a shadow action plan for themselves after the model of the action plan made for the entire congregation, which will contain the vocabulary to reflect deeper religious life. Clarity on religious life and values will be spelt out in order to have the religious aspect recaptured.



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8. In order to keep the momentum going, DVK will chalk out its own ten-year plan to include a few electives and programmes on the academic plan.
9. The General Department of Formation will see to it that by 2025, all the CMI Rectors in the initial level of formation have basic training and basic qualification and orientation to carry out the duties that the office calls for.
10. The Provincial Department of Formation will identify three prospective members and form a team for initial formation, and train them to be qualified and equipped within three years.
11. An Independent study of our initial formation will be conducted under the direction of the General Formation Co-ordinator in 2023, the YEAR OF CALL AND COMMITMENT
12. As a creative measure, posters are to be prepared and used in our Aspirant Houses to promote and establish the 'vision of mission as passion' in their minds. The General Formation Co-ordinator will see to the preparation of these posters in 2022-23, the YEAR OF CALL AND COMMITMENT.
13. The young generation generally tends to be sick, despite of the reasonably healthy food served in our Houses. The General Formation Co-ordinator shall see to it that in all our formation houses, physical exercises, games and manual labour be part of the curriculum in the YEAR OF CALL AND COMMITMENT.
14. Media Education and awareness will be made part of the aspirancy curriculum and the Formation Co-ordinator will see to it that it is implemented in the YEAR OF CALL AND COMMITMENT
15. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will make a survey of the entire congregation to locate possible candidates from the Provinces for canonisation. Additionally, the cause of the two founding Fathers will be initiated. The biographies of all possible candidates highlighting their sanctity of life will be brought out by the respective Provinces.

### **B. Pastoral Face**

1. We will adapt our night prayers to include a mention of the Jubilee 2031. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will take the initiative with immediate effect.
2. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry, with the help of the Provincials will make an evaluation of the CMI missions in 2025.
3. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will develop a tool or methodology to evaluate the mission quotient in our ministries by 2030, in the YEAR of MISSION
4. In the year of the MISSION, proactive steps will be taken by the Provincials to find and promote local vocations for the missions both home and global. The North Indian Missions could explore the north and the North-East of India in this regard.





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5. Each province shall open at least a centre for religious harmony and interreligious dialogue under the initiative of the Provincial Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry.
6. In 2024-25 the Provincial Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will facilitate a Home Mission for all the Catholic families in our care with the help of other religious congregations who are equipped with the know-how of the ministry.
7. The Provincial Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will identify one member from the respective Province and promote and prepare him by means of formal studies for the accompaniment of families and children in 2025.
8. The General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry will identify a suitable person and space in 2031 in order to develop and practice a Chavara style of biblical meditation. The centre identified will have a potency to develop into Chavara Research Centre and Chavara Centre of Spirituality.
9. In order to address the present-day challenges of the youth, under the initiative of the General Department of Education, the CMI educational institutions shall promote active involvement of their students in the already available fora like Jesus Youth or AICUF, and initiate such platforms, wherever they are absent.

### C. Educational Face

1. Guided by the Provincial Department of Education and Communication, all the CMI schools will see to it that the textbook on value education prepared by the General Department of Education and Communication is made part of the Curriculum.
2. In order to develop the vision of the CMI mission of education, an education core team will be instituted by the General Department of Education and Communication, which will initially make a study and evaluation of all our educational institutions.
3. A corporate syllabus may be formed with the essential lessons to be taught in all our educational institutions.
4. The Provincial Department of Education and Communication will see to it that a Vigilance Cell comprising both of teachers and students, is constituted in all CMI schools.
5. The General Department of Education and Communication will strengthen and empower the CMI Board of Education to promote the CMIness in our ministry of Education.
6. The Department of Education and Communication will make a thorough evaluation of effectiveness of the social orientation of our Education System involving the Alumni in 2025-26 the YEAR OF EDUCATION.



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### **D. Social Face**

1. We will institute Chavara Memorial Scholarship for the poor students by the General Department of Social Apostolate in 2027: YEAR OF COMPASSIONATE LOVE.
2. The Provincial Department of Social Apostolate will ensure that at least one frontier ministry is initiated in the Province within the coming four years.
3. In the light of *Fratelli Tutti's* thrust on 'neighbours without borders', each Province/House shall establish an Emergency Response & Relief Cell, networking with other actors in the locality to ensure adequate response to people in distress, avoiding duplication and promoting collaborative (synodal) framework of action.
4. Our candidates in formation shall take up different initiatives to come out of the insulated life of safety and security through social sensitisation programmes for them to encounter the reality of the life of common man with the help of the Rectors of the Major Study Houses assisted by the General Department of Social Apostolate for the initiative.
5. The Provincial Department of Social Apostolate will take proactive steps to support the families of our young brothers who are economically poor to have a decent dwelling at home.
6. The Provincial Department of Education and Communication will see to it that at least five of our schools in the Province be made available to the poor children who are not our students, in the after-hours in the evening.
7. The Provincial Department of Finance and Agriculture will take initiatives to implement a few practical steps suggested by the CMI Environment Policy in all our provinces within two years.

### **E. Media Face**

1. The General Department of Education and Communication will prepare a professional video presentation of the various historical phases of the 200 years of existence of the congregation in 2023.
2. The General Department of Education and Communication will form a committee within a year to write the CMI mission history, which shall be ready in 2031.
3. The Provincial Department of Finance will digitise all our archives by 2031.
4. The Provincial, with the help of the Department of Education and Communication will take steps to subscribe to one of the CMI periodicals at least by 2026 the YEAR OF MEDIA

### **F. Public Face**

1. A comprehensive study of the contribution of the CMIs to the Church, especially Syro Malabar Church and the society over the last 200 years will be published in the JUBILEE YEAR.



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2. A survey will be conducted by the Provinces involving the *genuine* well-wishers of our community who belong to various walks of life before the next General Synaxis, with a view to have an awareness of the public perception of the CMIs.
3. A PRO will be appointed in every Province as well as at the General level. To make the office stable, it will be an appointment on a par with, say, the Formation Co-ordinator.
4. Each Province will have formed one CMI community each in the developed countries like US and Germany by the year of REDEDICATION.
5. The Provincial Department of Finance shall conduct a workshop for all the members of the Province to make them aware of the Virtue of Waste Management and develop some strategies in 2024.
6. Each of our Houses/institutions shall reach out to the community around it, ensuring that all the families within the reach of our community/institution is known to us personally – (say, within the limits of the parish/ward/1 km radius etc.)

Let me thank each and every member of our congregation for your fervent prayers and ardent support for the success of the General Plenary Assembly 2022 which helped us to give a correct orientation for the decennial preparation for the Bicentennial of our Congregation. Let our Blessed Mother of Carmel and St Kuriakose Elias Chavara along with other founding fathers intercede and guide us our journeying together.

Fraternally yours in Our Lord,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI  
Prior General



Fr Benny Thettayil CMI  
Secretary, GPA 2022

Fr Francis Aykaraparampil CMI  
Secretary, GPA 2022