



# 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/371/2021

FILE: Canonization/Fr Bruno Kaniyarakath

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Prior General's Circular

### Servant of God: Fr Bruno Kaniyarakath CMI

Dear Fathers and brothers of CMI fraternity,

Prayerful greetings from Prior General's House, Chavara Hills!

With great joy and more than that a deep sense of profound gratitude we witnessed this afternoon the blessed moments at St. Ann's Monastery, Kurianad the ceremony officiated by Mar Joseph Kallarangattu, Bishop of the Eparchy of Pala, in which one of our members, Fr. Bruno Kaniyarakath, who is also popularly known as *Atmavachan* is officially promoted to the rank of *Servant of God*. With this declaration the cause of Fr Bruno for canonisation is officially accepted by the Church and permission is granted to begin the investigation of the life of the Servant of God making sure that he did indeed lead a heroic life in all matters, both public and private. It is indeed a moment of blessing for the entire that with Servant of God Fr. Bruno we have the third member of the Congregation, along with St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Servant of God Fr. Canisius, elevated to the rank of "Servant of God" - the first step on the road to canonization.

#### *An Unassuming and Simple Soul of Fr. Bruno*

Servant of God Fr. Bruno, who belonged to the Kaniyarakath family of Ramapuram parish in the Pala diocese and to St. Joseph's province Kottayam lived a simple and unassuming life, mostly spending his time in front of the Blessed sacrament and in the confessional. He has never adorned any higher position in the congregation, rather remained humble and meek all through his life. Being a priest of very lean and thin stature and was mostly concerned about taking care of the spiritual life of people who sought his help, he was fondly called by the people as *Atmavachan*. He did not possess anything extra as his own personal belonging in life except perhaps one or two sets of dress, and a simple mattress made of ordinary stuff of that time.

He did not exhibit any extra ordinary organizational or administrative skill, nor any rhetoric to attract people. However, all the people, irrespective of caste, creed and religion recognized and respected the sanctity of this great soul. For the people he was a living saint who could intercede for them and get the intervention from God. The children of his time were clever enough to recognize his sanctity and they came to him seeking his prayer and



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blessings before their exams. Even today this is a beautiful picture of students flocking to his tomb seeking his intercession.

#### *Vicar of Ars of CMI Congregation*

Servant of God Fr. Bruno possessed a compassionate heart and his approach to the people was characterized by this compassionate love for them. Like Blessed Kunjachan, his own contemporary and native who is known as Apostle of Dalits, he also took care of the pastoral needs of the Dalits and was always joyfully available for their pastoral and sacramental administration. Therefore, he, like the vicar of Ars, was permanently seen at confessional in the Church. He also found joy and pastoral fulfillment in visiting the sick and needy in their homes and to maintain a cordial relation with them all and to be interested in their well-being. He never made people wait for him for their pastoral needs, rather was available even sacrificing his own meals and personal convenience.

#### **Will of God was Everything**

As a religious priest, committed and ordained for God and His people, Servant of God Fr. Bruno became God's own. He spent most of his time in the Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. The underlying principle of the sanctity of Servant of God Fr. Bruno consisted in the fact that he gave prime role for God's will in his life. He believed in the truth revealed in the Scripture "And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever." (I Jn 2:17). Therefore, everything will be accomplished according to God's will was his firm conviction that the Servant of God kept all through his life. This total surrender to the will of God made him serene, calm and innocent always. This made him always content and happy without any complaint or ill-feeling to anyone in the community.

#### *A Blessing for the CMI Family*

Let us thank the Lord for the great gift of Servant of God Fr. Bruno who continues to shower blessings from heaven on his people who come to him seeking his intercession in their need. The official declaration of "Servant of God" was a blessed moment for the congregation that an illustrious son of our CMI fraternity, was recognized officially for his saintly and heroic life.

But at the same time, it is a soul-searching moment for all of us. Servant of God Fr. Bruno in one of his interviews for Province bulletin remarked: "A lot of changes have happened in our Congregation. The decisions of Second Vatican Council have caused several changes. It is good so and we need to change according to the times. However, the feeling of more laxity and a tendency for an easy life has taken prominence in our congregation." Perhaps,



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this is a prophetic voice that reminds us to examine constantly our life in the congregation. The holy life of the Servant of God Fr. Bruno is a blessing of God to CMI family and the Universal Church. At the same time, it is a time of retrospection for each of us to be reminded of the purpose of our call to be in the CMI Congregation which was founded by St. Chavara and other holy founders for self-sanctification and sanctification of all.

#### *Conclusion*

Let us thank the Lord for the gift of this saintly son to CMI congregation who is today presented as a role model on our way to the Promised Land. Let us pray to the Lord for being always ready to discern and do God's will and be happy and content in our life.

At the same time, we are also bound to draw inspiration from his life for us and to make his sanctity known to the people through propagating his sanctity, citing his life example and quotes and anecdotes in our sermons and talks as well as encouraging pilgrimage to his tomb whenever possible.

We are also bound to pray that the cause accepted by the Church finds steady progress. We are already praying for the canonization of Servant of God Fr. Canisius. We have reformulated this prayer in order to include Fr. Bruno too which his sent along with letter. Please see that this prayer is recited in our communities during our community prayer.

Yours fraternally in our Lord,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI  
Prior General

