



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/606/2024
FILE: Circular No. 24

07 December 2024

Circular on the Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Reverend Fathers and Brothers of CMI Fraternity,

Prayerful Greetings and Festal Wishes on this great Feast of the Immaculate Conception from CMI Prior General's House!

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the devotion which our congregation celebrated from its very inception. It was on this day in the year 1855 that eleven fathers along with St Kuriakose Elias Chavara made their first profession and canonically began the religious congregation "Servants of Mary Immaculate."

Immaculate Conception is the greatest honour that God ever bestowed on a human being. Mary, who was a simple, ordinary person of her times, was chosen to be endowed with this honour basically for her two most important attitudes which are revealed in the Holy Scripture. We find in the Gospel the angel calling her "full of grace". If she is full of grace, it means she is void of evil: she is without sin, and Immaculate. It is said that at the angel's greeting, Mary was "greatly troubled" (Lk 1:29). She was troubled because she was aware of her littleness before God as she does not hold claim to anything, she accounts nothing to her merit. She is not self-satisfied; she does not exalt herself. For in her humility, she knows she receives everything from God. Therefore, Pope Francis rightly says, "She is *free from herself*, completely oriented toward God and others. Mary Immaculate *does not look on herself*. This is true humility: not looking on oneself but looking toward God and others."

The second attitude that is revealed in Mary's life is her fidelity to simple things. There is nothing about Mary in the Gospel before the Annunciation and she is presented as a simple girl, apparently equal to so many others who were living in her village, Nazareth. A young girl who, 'specifically because of her simplicity, kept pure that Immaculate Heart with which, by God's grace, she had been conceived'. This, too, is important, as to welcome God's great gifts, it is necessary to know how to treasure those that are more common happening in our day-to-day life and less noticeable.

The feast of Immaculate Conception gives us the significant lesson to be endowed with true humility after the example of our Mother Mary not to be looking on oneself but toward God and others and to be faithful in little things that are more common and less noticeable.

First Profession on 8th December

It gives us profound joy and happiness that 45 of our novices from all the provinces but belonging to five countries (India, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and Uganda) after prayerful reflection and study have decided to make their first profession in our Congregation on this great feast day. I do accord them a warm welcome to the CMI Congregation. I do remember their parents and family members who encouraged and supported them in making this decision. Gratefully I appreciate and congratulate



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

their novice masters and team members who were instrumental in preparing these novices in their journey to be religious in CMI Congregation. Let us all pray for them that their religious commitment to the CMI Congregation be accompanied and find its realization through the grace and blessings of God, the source of every vocation to consecrated life.

Remembering the Heavenly CMIs on 9th December

The day after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (9th December) is dedicated as the day to remember *the departed members of our Congregation*. Let us observe this day meaningfully with fitting commemorative services in our provinces and houses remembering our departed members who lived their entire lives for the glory of God taking up different apostolates and ministries in our Congregation. They enriched our congregation through their valuable presence and committed services for which we shall be ever grateful to them.

Transfers and Changes

Due to some unavoidable reasons, we had to make a few changes and transfers in the General level:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Fr Anto Chakiath CMI | : | General Formation Coordinator |
| 2. Fr Joseph Edakkery CMI | : | Spiritual Director, Dharmaram College |
| 3. Fr Benny Mukalel CMI | : | Delegation Superior and Parish Priest in Brooklyn |
| 4. Fr Sebastian Thekkedathu CMI | : | Director of CMI Centre, Peabody, Boston |
| 5. Fr Sany Kannampuzha CMI | : | Prefect, Samanvaya, Rishikesh |
| 6. Fr Augustin Keemattam CMI | : | Director, Archives Prior General's House |
| 7. Fr Jose Ayrookaran CMI | : | Spiritual Director, St Joseph's Monastery, Karikkamury |
| 8. Fr Mathew Thadathil CMI | : | Chaplain, National Centre for Padre Pio, Allentown USA |

While wishing them all God's choicest blessings in their new assignments, I thank Fr Jerin Thuruthel CMI who served as General Formation Coordinator, Fr Sebastian Thekkedathu, who was the Delegation Superior of USA and Canada and Fr John Marius Manickanamparampil who was the Spiritual Director and Director of Aswas at Dharmaram college for their selfless and committed services.

Once again, I do wish everyone the Festal Greetings of the Feast of Immaculate Conception and pray for the choicest blessings of the Lord through the heavenly patronage of our Blessed Mother of Immaculate Conception.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General

