



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/01/2023
Circular No. 14

02 January 2023

Circular of Fr Prior General

Dear members of the CMI Fraternity,

Prayerful Greetings from Chavara Hills!

Let me wish you all the prosperous New Year 2023 filled with the grace and blessings of the Lord.

Feast of St Chavara

Let me wish all the members of our Congregation the festal greetings of the Feast of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara. We are grateful for the great gift of this saint who became instrumental together with other founding fathers of our Congregation to put a strong foundation for our beloved Congregation and to bequeath a great patrimony and legacy to the following generations. Essentially a man of prayer and intense charity, he lived in close communion with the Lord amidst his several religious and social activities. Owing to the deep spirituality that permeated all his actions, he was accepted and referred to as a man of God, from his early years. His ardent love for the Church made him work for the renewal and rejuvenation of the faith-life of the people of God in Kerala. Today the Universal Church, recognizing his heroic and virtuous life, presents him as an example to guide us in our earthly sojourn. As we are preparing ourselves for the bicentennial of our Congregation, let us pledge our faithfulness to the charism and great legacy that we have inherited from founding fathers.

06 January 2023: A day of Prayer and fasting for our Syro-Malabar Church

All are deeply pained and concerned about the recent developments in our Syro-Malabar Church which created a scandalous and outrageous situation in our Church. We hope and pray that the Syro-Malabar Synod which will be meeting from 06 January 2023 will be taking creative steps to solve these problems finding out an apt solution for all the problems that are existing today. At this juncture, we have to strengthen our Church through our prayer and fasting so that we come out of this crisis finding a permanent solution. Let the words of St Paul be an inspiration for us all to work together sincerely for safeguarding the unity in our Church disregarding all the differences and divisions that exist within the Church. For he writes to Ephesians: "I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



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There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph 4: 1-6).

The Syro-Malabar Religious Conference (SMRC), in the light of their annual meeting held at Bangalore, has proposed that all the religious Congregations join together to pray for our Syro-Malabar Church, especially on 6th January 2023 as the Synod of Syro-Malabar Bishops begins on this day (ref: letter dated 01 January 2023). *Therefore, let me request all the communities of our Congregation to conduct a Holy Hour and to observe this day as a day of fast and prayer on 06 January 2023* with this intention so that the Synod of the Bishops endowed with the grace of the Holy Spirit and with right discernment initiate steps for reconciliation and to bring back the lost unity in the Church. May all those who are hurt or wounded through various events and incidents of the previous months and days be ready and willing to come together to dialogue with each other.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

We are saddened by the news of the sad demise of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who led the Church as its Supreme Pontiff from 2005 to 2013. As a renowned theologian and a spiritual leader, he gave a right orientation to the Church through his firm faith convictions. In the face of scandals and ecclesiastical careerism, he never ceased to call for conversion, penance and humility, offering an image of the Church freed from material and political privileges to be truly open to the world. In his last testament published immediately after his death, he requests the people of God to "stand firm in the faith! Do not be confused!"... Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life- and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body." He was a lover of the Syro-Malabar Church and appreciated our CMI Congregation. At his demise let us pray for this great soul that the good Lord grants him the eternal reward to be at his right hand. Let me also request all our members to offer the suffrages in the tenor of our Directory No. 59, d when the Holy Father passes away. This article says: "When the Holy Father passes away, solemn requiem services shall be held in our houses and every priest shall offer one holy Mass."

Wishing you all the feast of our Founding Father Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara and praying for his intercession for our Syro-Malabar Church and our Congregation,

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General



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