



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

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Circular No. 05

12 November 2020

Prior General's Circular **Anniversary of the Canonization**

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

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

In the context of the anniversary of the canonization of St. Chavara and St. Euphrasia, and the 150th anniversary of St. Chavara's entry into the heavenly abode, I wish to bring to your kind notice a few points in this regard.

Anniversary of the Canonization

The event of the canonization of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia on 23rd November, 2014 was a *kairotic* moment for our congregation. It led to the awareness that we need a renewal in our Congregation to be relevant in the contemporary times. "Sanctification of oneself and the salvation of all" was the conviction that led St. Chavara to dedicate himself to a life of prayer and apostolic life. We saw during the days before and after the canonization, a re-awakening in our congregation to get renewed and empowered after the exemplary life of our founding father St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara. Therefore, it was decided that we keep the remembrance of this day ever live and active in our congregation and observe it with due importance.

I do write this circular, hence, to remind our provinces and communities to observe the anniversary of the canonization of St. Kuriakose and St. Euphrasia in the most fitting manner keeping the restrictions and regulations of the COVID-19 situation in our places. It is also an opportunity to seek the intercession of these two saints of our Indian Carmelite family for the Divine Intervention to save the humanity from the troubled situation caused by the present pandemic.

Chavara Jubilee Year

The 150th anniversary of St. Chavara's entry into the heavenly abode was inaugurated on 3rd January 2020. The whole year was proposed as Jubilee year with various programmes at the general, provincial and local levels. This was to become an extraordinary event in the life of the congregation leading to renewal in our lives after the model of St. Chavara who was '*a man adorned with divine grace, vision and a man full of the Holy Spirit.*' At this moment, as the congregation launches its preparation for the Bicentennial celebration of the foundation of our congregation (1831-2031), it was an apt beginning.



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However, the pandemic situation due to COVID-19 made it impossible to continue with the already deliberated creative ideas and suggestions. Therefore, the General council has decided in its meeting held on 30th October, 2020 (GCA 12/103/2020) to extend the jubilee year to the coming year (2021) in order to have a fruitful implementation of those plans and programmes for the meaningful observance of 150th anniversary of St. Chavara's entry into the heavenly abode. We do plan it with the hope that the pandemic situation will get over soon.

Therefore, my request to Rev. Fr. Provincials with their respective councils, and heads of the houses and institutions to plan the execution of various proposals made in the context of the celebration of the Chavara Jubilee Year. These proposals which were planned already in the previous year, will be made available for your reference by the Evangelization and pastoral department. We will be grateful for communication from the respective places to the Generalate regarding the plans and programmes you wish to make so that we shall have a co-ordination of them from the Generalate.

Praying for the powerful intercession of St. Chavara and commending each and every member of our congregation to the loving protection of our Blessed Mother,

Yours fraternally in our Lord,

Fr. Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General

