



# 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. Paul Achandy CMI**  
**Prior General**

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers

We are completing the pilgrimage of 75 days in the Year of Mercy and we have another 275 days to reach its conclusion on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. Pope said in his 2015 Lenten Message: "How greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!" "Mercy is the willingness to enter into the chaos of another." (James Keenan SJ) According to Thomas Aquinas, mercy directed to our neighbours in need is the supreme virtue in human persons. CMIs will realize all what they aspire for if they are serious. CMIs, be careful what you wish, for it may come true.

- 1. I Donate My Organs:** Mr. Harish Nanjappa (23) was cut into half after a truck hit his motorcycle and ran over him on the Tumakuru Bengaluru road on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. He pleaded with those who took him to the hospital and the doctors to harvest organs and donate these to those in need. He died due to injuries and his organs were donated. Many CMIs have given in writing to donate their organs. Without a second thought all CMIs shall do it. In the eventuality of death, provincial and local superior shall facilitate the organ donation by which our members will continue to live through others.
- 2. I am a Good Samaritan:** Harish Nanjappa lay on the high road for a few minutes, pleading for help as vehicles passed by. We know that some of our departed members had gone through such a miserable experience. Let us be merciful Good Samaritan to save the life of our dear ones on road.
- 3. Mercy begins with just wages for our staff:** "A society that "does not pay a just wage", that "does not give work" to people and that "only looks to its balance books, that only seeks profit" is unjust and goes against God" (Pope Francis). "Never withhold just wages from laborers or make undue delay in paying them, because that is an offence that cries out to God for justice" (St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara). During the canonical visitation and auditing in the provinces, houses and institutions, clear guideline has been given on salary and all shall strictly adhere to it. The provincials and the provincial auditors shall make sure that we implement it in the spirit of justice and mercy. "He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered" (Proverb 21:13)
- 4. Tender heart for the differently abled:** Special Lympitcs Bharath Kerala State Athletic Meet 2016 was held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in LNCPE Thiruvananthapuram. 6000 differently abled children took part and it was a great event of mercy organized Rev. Fr. Roy Kannachira CMI. Smart cane for the blind was distributed in Chavara Cultral Centre, Kochi, and in Ramanathapuram diocese through the initiative of Rev. Fr. Wilson Moyalan, the provincial. St. Paul's Province Mysore opened a special school to offer free



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education to the differently abled at Jettihundi, Mysure. In this year of Mercy, every CMI centre shall sponsor at least one differently abled child for his or her education and welfare.

5. **Merciful deed with holy intentions:** *“All works done in the world should be directed towards the benefit of the soul.”* (St. Kuriakose elias Chavara). One of the CMI regents, during the recently held regents meet shared his experience in Akasaparavakal. Initially he found challenging to assist them for their natural calls and to give them bath. But later he offered everything as an act of mercy and transformed it into a prayer. Every act of mercy to the poor is gentle touch on Jesus in disguise. *“Nursing of the sick may be the most difficult, unpleasant, detestable and degrading act before follow men; but it is the most meritorious service before God. It is true that many saints reached the height of sanctity by nursing the sick”* (St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara)
6. **Enlarge the space for the poor in our classrooms:** In the Wikipedia on our congregation, the following words were written: *The congregation (in non-missionary territories) has come under exacting criticism of the Catholic laity and others alike for following capitalist business practices resulting in commercialized education and charging of exorbitant fees in their educational institutions, thus making these institutions unavailable for the poorer sections of the Catholic laity and others. This has been seen as a stark departure from the congregation's policy towards education at the time of its inception (see the section on other pioneering works) and has been criticized for being in contravention to Catholic spirit and principles.* It is a warning for all who charge exorbitant fees without any concern for the poor. All CMI schools shall give at least 10% seats to the economically and socially poor, especially the BPL. If even 10% poor children cannot be accommodated in any CMI school, it shall not be carried on. *“Do not insult the poor; neither should you vex them, because if God sees them weeping. He will surely wreak vengeance on you”* (St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara)
7. **Never fall in the Temptation for capitulation:** SNDP yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan was accused of accepting bribe for the appointment of teachers in colleges coming under the S N Trust. There is a tendency among our clever pragmatics to collect money through backdoors for development purposes from students and staff and they are never caught by superiors. We shall make sure that it will not happen in our institutions
8. **A home for the homeless.** During the Chavara Year our members made commendable service to the homeless by constructing almost 300 houses. Lay people are donating land to the homeless for building house. During this year of Mercy, every CMI community shall provide a house for the homeless and shall allocate money for one house while approving the budget for the Year 2016-17.



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**9. Mercy Day once a Week:** Every house shall have a special **Mercy Day** in week or month. It shall be a special day for the devotion to Divine Mercy and for sacrament of reconciliation and a day to feed the poor, visit the sick and to reach out to the peripheries.

Yes. The mission of Mercy has begun the momentum in CMI family. It is nothing new for CMIs, but has been our legacy. St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara initiated creative acts of mercy - midday meal, home for the sick and the dying and was an icon of forgiveness and mercy even to his enemies advising the members to take care of them even after his death. May his words -- "The day in which you did not do any good for others will not be counted in your life" -- inspire us in this Year of Mercy!

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