



Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers

Wish you all the blessings of the Feast of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, our beloved founder!

Our beloved founder dedicated our congregation and all its members to the Holy Family and clearly stated, "Glory of God and salvation of souls will prevail and the congregation will progress from day to day if:

- 1. We keep our trust in the Holy Family and let Jesus, Mary and Joseph reign in our hearts*
- 2. We diligently obey the rules, Constitutions and the orders of superiors.*
- 3. We love with all your heart Jesus present in the most Holy Eucharist.*
- 4. All the members of the congregation, especially the superiors treat each other with true and sincere charity."*

Our beloved founder has certain serious questions to CMI family:

- 1. Is there anyone in the world more fortunate than you?*
- 2. If it were our wish to live as we like, why did we choose this vocation?*
- 3. If you are ignorant of how to live up to your vocation, what is it that you know? What have you learnt so far?*
- 4. If we forsake the Lord through our negligence, what a great mistake it would be?*

Our beloved founder gives us four challenges:

1. *Let each one, according to each one's ability contribute and it will be as valuable before God as the widow's mite.*
2. *Without knowledge it will be impossible for us to see or understand the reality of the world and the Lord*
3. *Above all, learn the art of loving Jesus Christ. Stay constantly in His presence. Walk along with Him. Converse with him continuously.*
4. *Your duty is to engage yourselves in helping the faithful in spiritual matters and not to intervening in their temporal affairs.*

Let us aspire for a farewell after the example of our beloved founder:

“On 3 January 1871, in the morning at 7.30, amidst the tears of his spiritual children, comforted by the sacraments of the Church, and manifesting extraordinary signs of the love of God, offered his beautiful soul in the hands of the Lord God, whom he had been loving all through life “ (Chronicle of Mannanam)

What a blessing if we can also say like our founder, “By the grace of God, I dare say that with the help of Holy Family I had no occasion to lose the grace I received in baptism.”

Let us learn from our beloved founder and become authentic CMIs with Contemplative Spirit, Missionary Heart and Immaculate Living

Let us pray for God's blessings on our General Plenary Assembly to be held from January 4-8, 2019!

Fr. Paul Achandy CMI

Prior General