



CARMELITES OF MARY IMMACULATE

CMI PRIOR GENERAL'S HOUSE

Chavara Hills, P.B. No. 3105, Kakkanad P.O., Kochi 682 030, Kerala, India.

Phone: 0091-484-2881816, 2881810, Fax: 0091-484-2881811, Email: general.secretariat@cmi.in, Web: www.cmi.org.in



ST. KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA
1805-1871

REF: GC 13/ACT 93/2026

24 June 2026

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XXXIX ORDINARY GENERAL SYNAXIS Second Session (26 July – 01 August 2026)

“Fan into flame the gift of God that is within you” (2 Tim 1:6)

Dear CMI Confreres,

Prayerful greetings from the Prior General's House, Chavara Hills!

With gratitude to God and with deep fraternal affection, I am pleased to inform you that, as decided during the First Session, the Second Session of the XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis will be held from **04.00 p.m. on 26 July 2026 to 04.00 p.m. on 01 August 2026** at the Prior General's House, Chavara Hills, Kakkanad.

As we prepare to gather once again in the Lord's name, we are reminded of the words of the Psalmist: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity” (Ps 133:1). The General Synaxis is one of the most beautiful expressions of our communion as a Congregation. It manifests our shared responsibility for the charism entrusted to us and our common commitment to discern together the will of God for the CMI family.

Rekindling the Fire of the Founding Fathers

The **Bicentenary of our Congregation (1831–2031)** is a *kairos*—a privileged time of grace inviting us to renewal, conversion, and missionary reawakening. On 11 May 1831 at Mannanam, our founding fathers kindled a movement of holiness, fraternity, and mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was truly a spiritual movement that sought to transform persons, families, the Church, and society through a life deeply rooted in God. Today, we are called to re-found, renew and rekindle the spiritual movement with renewed vigour for our times. The prophet Jeremiah records God's invitation: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies, and walk in it” (Jer 6:16). To discern our future faithfully, we must revisit the original inspiration that animated our founders. Their lives were marked by deep interiority, radical trust in Divine Providence, evangelical simplicity, communion with the Church, and a missionary passion that reached the peripheries of society. The bicentenary journey therefore calls each one of us to personal and communal conversion.

The recent Apostolic Exhortation *Magnifica Humanitas* reminds consecrated persons that in a rapidly changing world marked by technological advancement and artificial intelligence, religious life must remain a luminous witness to the irreplaceable dignity of the human person, the primacy of relationships, and the transformative power of God's grace. Our mission today is not merely to adapt to new realities but to humanize them through the Gospel and to become signs of hope, fraternity, and communion.

Significance of the Second Session

We are living in an age shaped by unprecedented developments in artificial intelligence, digital culture, and global interconnectedness. While these realities offer new opportunities for evangelization and service, they also raise profound questions about identity, meaning, relationships, and human dignity. In this context, the Second Session of the General Synaxis becomes an important moment of ecclesial discernment. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are invited to look honestly at our



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strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and challenges, and to discern together the paths that the Spirit is opening before us.

As Pope Francis reminds consecrated persons, we are called not to self-preservation but to missionary boldness; not to comfortable maintenance but to prophetic witness. The Synaxis therefore seeks to provide a clear vision and practical roadmap for the years leading to our bicentenary, helping us to live our vows more authentically and to serve the Church with renewed evangelical fervor. Like the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, we come together to listen, pray, discern, and allow ourselves to be sent anew. "Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength" (Is 40:31).

After prayerful reflection, collective study, and extensive discussions on the *Instrumentum Laboris*, the First Session proposed the following orientations in draft under the common theme: "**Being Grace-Filled and Synodal for a Transformed World**"

1. **Renew and Nurture Our Interior Life:** Deepen our *Besrauma* experience—the CMI way of life—through integrated rhythm of prayer, reflection, and the pursuit of holiness.
2. **Journey Together in Fraternity:** Foster deeper fraternal communion by mutual trust, shared responsibility, accompaniment, and joyful community living.
3. **Serve with Compassion:** Embrace evangelical simplicity and become credible witnesses of God's love through solidarity with the poor, care for creation, promotion of justice, and accompaniment of those on the margins.
4. **Mission with Passion:** Go forth with missionary courage to the peripheries, reaching out to the scattered and bringing them hope and living presence of Christ.

The Synaxis will finalize and approve the Vision Statement, Resolutions and Action Plans, that will guide our Congregation in the years ahead. It will also deliberate on important policy matters, proposed amendments to our Constitutions and Directory, and the comprehensive Action Plan for the celebration of the Bicentenary. I warmly invite all delegates to come prepared with studied reflections, creative suggestions, and practical proposals. Let us approach the Synaxis with open minds, listening hearts, and a sincere desire to seek not our own preferences but God's will for our Congregation. The Church teaches that authentic discernment is always a communal process in which each member contributes humbly while remaining attentive to the movements of the Spirit. Your participation, prayer, and wisdom are therefore essential for the fruitfulness of this gathering.

Petitions

Any petitions intended for the General Synaxis should reach the Prior General on or before **20 July 2026**. Petitions may also be submitted by email. They will be reviewed by the Petition Committee and presented to the Synaxis for appropriate consideration.

Pray for the Gifts of the Spirit

The General Synaxis is fundamentally a journey of faith and discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us invoke daily the Spirit who inspired our founders and continues to lead the Congregation today. I invite every member and every community to accompany the Synaxis with earnest prayer.

United with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and in communion with all our departed confreres, let us implore God's blessings upon this important event. May the intercession of **St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, SG Canisius Thekkekara, SG Bruno Kaniarkath**, and all our confreres who have gone before us keep alive within us the flame of the CMI spirit and mission.



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Delegates of XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis – Second Session

A. Ex-Officio Members

1. Fr Paul Achandy CMI (Prior General)
2. Fr Benny Nalkara CMI (Vicar General & General Councillor for Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry)
3. Fr Benoy Elavunkal CMI (General Councillor for Education and Communication Media)
4. Fr Tom Arackal CMI (General Councillor for Social Apostolate and Healthcare)
5. Fr Joseph Ponmany CMI (General Councillor for Finance and Agriculture)
6. Fr Sheejo Attupuram CMI (General Auditor)
7. Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI (Former Prior General)
8. Fr Josey Thamarassery CMI (Former Vicar General & General Councillor for Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry)
9. Fr Paulson Paliakkara CMI (Former General Councillor for Finance and Agriculture)
10. Fr Babu Mattathil CMI (Former General Auditor)
11. Fr Tomy Kattampally CMI (Provincial, St Joseph's Province, Thiruvananthapuram)
12. Fr Santhosh Mathenkunnel CMI (Provincial, St Joseph Province, Kottayam)
13. Fr Joby Kochumuttam CMI (Provincial, Carmel Province, Muvattupuzha)
14. Fr Poullose Kidangen CMI (Provincial, Sacred Heart Province, Kochi)
15. Fr Jose Nandhikkara CMI (Provincial, Devamatha Province, Thrissur)
16. Fr Biju John Vellakada CMI (Provincial, St Thomas Province, Kozhikode)
17. Fr Johnson Valiyakulathil CMI (Provincial, Preshitha Province, Coimbatore)
18. Fr Joby Kunnath CMI (Provincial, St Paul Province, Mysuru)
19. Fr Jins Varacheril CMI (Provincial, Mary Matha Vice Province, Hyderabad)
20. Fr Binoy Checkonthayil CMI (Provincial, Mar Thoma Province, Chanda)
21. Fr Thomas Valavananickal, CMI (Provincial, Nirmal Province, Jagdalpur)
22. Fr Thomas Kollappilly CMI (Provincial, St Paul Province, Bhopal)
23. Fr Wilson Vettumanickal CMI (Provincial, St Xavier's Province, Rajkot)
24. Fr Biju Vadakkel CMI (Provincial, St John's Province, Bijnor)
25. Fr Martin Mallath CMI (Provincial, St Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar)

B. Members Elected from the Provinces

1. Thiruvananthapuram

26. Fr Jose Chennattussery CMI
27. Fr Justin Alukkal CMI
28. Fr Antony Edanad CMI
29. Fr Jose D. Poovattil CMI
30. Fr Sebastian Attichira CMI
31. Fr Sebastian Chamathara CMI
32. Fr Antony Elamthottam CMI

2. Kottayam

33. Fr Jose Panthaplamthottiyil CMI
34. Fr George Edayadiyil CMI
35. Fr Jais Vayalikunnel CMI
36. Fr Sebastian Elanjickal CMI
37. Fr Joy Philip Kakkanattu CMI
38. Fr Augustine Kochuvelikkakath CMI
39. Fr Abraham Vettiyanal CMI

3. Muvattupuzha

40. Fr Tomy Nambiaparambil CMI
41. Fr Martin Kootaplackal CMI
42. Fr Pratheesh Pulickal CMI
43. Fr Jeff Shawn Kaipettiyil CMI
44. Fr Sijan Unnukallel CMI

4. Kochi

45. Fr Johnson Vazhappilly CMI
46. Fr Roy Palatty CMI
47. Fr Mejo Gracevillla CMI
48. Fr Sebastian Edathikavil CMI
49. Fr Varghese Panthalookkaran CMI
50. Fr Prasanth Palakkappilly CMI

5. Thrissur

51. Fr Julius Arakkal CMI
52. Fr Lijo Brahmakulam CMI
53. Fr Walter Thelappilly CMI
54. Fr Francis Kurissery CMI



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- 55. Fr Davis Panadan CMI
- 56. Fr Joice Elavathingal CMI
- 57. Fr Davy Kavungal CMI
- 6. Kozhikode**
 - 58. Fr Francis Thonipara CMI
 - 59. Fr Thomas Thekkel CMI
 - 60. Fr Anto Nellamkuzhiyil CMI
 - 61. Fr Thomas Vattakkatt CMI
 - 62. Fr Sebastian Mullooparambil CMI
- 7. Coimbatore**
 - 63. Fr Anson Panengaden CMI
 - 64. Fr Prathap Thuruthumali CMI
 - 65. Fr Wilson Chakkyath CMI
 - 66. Fr Saju Chackalackal CMI
- 8. Mysuru**
 - 67. Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI
 - 68. Fr Jinto Inchikalayil CMI
 - 69. Fr Varghese Koluthara CMI
 - 70. Fr Augustine Paimpallil CMI
- 9. Hyderabad**
 - 71. Fr Sebastian Puthenparambil CMI
 - 72. Fr Joshy Pazhukkathara CMI
- 10. Chanda**
 - 73. Fr Benny Mukalel CMI
 - 74. Fr Meljo Parappuram CMI
 - 75. Fr Harish Puthenpurackal CMI
- 11. Jagdalpur**
 - 76. Fr Sebastian Alackapally CMI
 - 77. Fr Jenish Kollithadathil CMI
 - 78. Fr Alexander Maramattam CMI
- 12. Bhopal**
 - 79. Fr Kurian Kachappilly CMI
 - 80. Fr Anto Kanjirathinkal CMI
 - 81. Fr Abish Perumbully CMI
 - 82. Fr Jacob Peenickaparambil CMI
- 13. Rajkot**
 - 83. Fr Francis Ozhakal CMI
 - 84. Fr James Thayil CMI
 - 85. Fr Saji Koodakattu CMI
- 14. Bijnor**
 - 86. Fr Varghese Vithayathil CMI
 - 87. Fr Benny Thettayil CMI
 - 88. Fr Sebeesh Vettiyadan CMI
- 15. Bhavnagar**
 - 89. Fr Jacob Marangattu CMI
 - 90. Fr Francis Aykaraparampil CMI

C. Representative of the Brothers (Nominated by the General Council)

- 91. Bro. Joseph Muttanolil CMI

D. Special Invitee without Voting

- 92. Fr Davis Panakkal CMI (Procurator General, Rome)

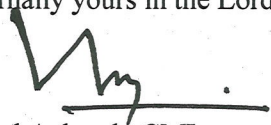
E. Nominated Delegates from the Missions Abroad without Voting (Nominated by the General Council)

- 93. Delegation Superior, Germany
- 94. Fr Lawrence Karangu Kinyua CMI (Coordinator General, Africa)
- 95. Fr Vipin Muriyankeril CMI (Coordinator General, South America)

Dear brothers, as we journey toward our bicentenary, let us remember that the future of the Congregation will not be shaped merely by plans, structures, or programmes, but by our fidelity to God's grace and our willingness to be transformed by the Spirit. May this Second Session of the General Synaxis become a true Pentecostal moment for our Congregation—a time of deeper communion, renewed conviction, and courageous missionary commitment.

Together let us pray that the Lord who began this good work in us through our founding fathers may bring it to fulfilment for the glory of God, the service of the Church, and the transformation of the world. "See, I am making all things new" (Rev 21:5).

Fraternally yours in the Lord,


Fr Paul Achandy CMI
Prior General




Fr Joseph Ponmany CMI
Secretary, General Council