



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

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19 April 2025

To
All Provincials,
All Provincial Councillors for Education and Communication
All the Heads of Educational Institutions under the Generalate

Sub: Foundation Day 2025 on May 11 and CMI Year of Education, regarding

Dear Reverend Father,

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

In preparation for the Bicentennial of our Congregation, the period from 11 May, 2025 to 10 May, 2026 will be observed as the CMI Year of Education. Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, our founder, initiated an education revolution in 19th century, by establishing a Sanskrit School at Mannanam in 1846. Recognizing education as the cornerstone of social transformation, he diligently took every step to promote it within society. Saint Chavara's pioneering efforts inspired the Congregation to embark on various educational endeavours. The initial seed he planted has flourished into a vast tree, continuously extending its branches to illuminate the path of learning and knowledge. As a significant and prominent apostolate of our Congregation, our educational endeavours aim at forming socially responsible individuals who are intellectually competent, spiritually mature, morally upright, psychologically integrated, physically healthy, secular in their thinking, and socially amiable who will champion the cause of justice, love, truth, and peace, with an attitude of compassion to the less privileged and are ever open to change and continuous growth.

The CMI Year of Education, commencing on 11 May, 2025, presents a fitting opportunity to reaffirm our commitment "to give an excellent and all-round formation to the students in our educational institutions" (CMI Constitutions § 75 (a)). I am pleased to share with you all, the various programs and plans formulated for the inauguration of the CMI Year of Education, along with a detailed action plan for the year. I earnestly request your wholehearted cooperation in translating these proposals and plans into action, ensuring that we all benefit from the CMI Year of Education and renew our dedication to the Apostolate of Education for the betterment of society.

Celebration of the 194th Foundation Day at Mannanam and Inauguration of the CMI Year of Education

- The solemn celebration of the 194th Foundation Day of our Congregation, combined with the official inauguration of the CMI Year of Education, will be held at Mannanam on 11 May, 2025.
- The Solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration will commence at 10:00 am, with Mar George Madathikandathil of the Eparchy of Kothamangalam as the main celebrant.
- All Provincials and Education Councillors are cordially invited to be part of this significant celebration.



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- Likewise, all our members involved in the apostolate of education across all provinces and our members of the educational institutions under the Generalate are expected to be present for the Holy Qurbana and the subsequent programs on this day.
- To ensure robust participation from our staff and students, the provinces of South India are requested to arrange for representation from students, staff members, and the PTA. The respective provincial councillors for Education will be responsible for coordinating this participation.
- A public gathering will be held at 02:00 pm on the same day, during which the official logo of the CMI Year of Education will be released. Archbishop Mar Thomas Tharayil of the Archeparchy of Changanassery, Hon. Minister V. N. Vasavan, and other distinguished leaders have graciously agreed to be the guests of the function, which is scheduled to conclude at 04:00 pm.
- The organizational details for this event will be communicated separately by the organizing committee.

Action Plan for the CMI Year of Education

A. General Level

1. **Conduct Context- and Need-Based Awareness Programs:** We will organize awareness programs tailored to the specific contexts and needs of staff, students, and parents. These may include:
 - Workshops or seminars focused on instilling human values in students.
 - Programs designed to equip children with coping mechanisms to address the impact of family discord.
 - Programs for the identification and prevention of various forms of drug abuse.
 - The music band "Men in Cassock" can develop a thematic awareness program incorporating songs and talks to educate students on pertinent challenges, including drug abuse. Schools and educational institutions within the congregation are encouraged to invite them for such sessions.
2. **Establish Resource Teams for Support and Guidance:** We will build teams of resource persons within provinces and institutions to empower students, staff, and parents in combating drug abuse and to offer ongoing guidance. Sessions are scheduled as follows:
 - @ PGH: May 08 - 10 (For CMI members in the education apostolate)
 - @ PGH: May 21-23
 - @ PGH: July 18 - 20
 - @ Bangalore: October 10-13, 2025
 - @ Bhopal: October 24-26, 2025



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3. **Launch Official Logo:** The official logo for the CMI Year of Education will be unveiled during the inaugural function.
4. **Promulgate CMI Education Policy:** The revised CMI Education Policy shall be promulgated this year itself.
5. **Enhance Quality in Educational Institutions:** We will organize workshops, in collaboration with CEDBEC, Christ University, to improve the quality of our educational institutions and to establish fundamental quality standards applicable across all our institutions.
6. **Plan for Seminary System Bicentennial:** As 2033 marks the bicentennial of the Seminary System introduced by our Founding Fathers at Mannanam, ecclesiastical institutions will develop programs in preparation for this significant event.

B. General Level and Province Level

7. **Form Motivational Resource Teams:** Resource teams from the congregation will be formed to conduct motivational programs in our schools and institutions at both the General and Province levels.
8. **Provide Financial Assistance to Meritorious Students:** We will explore and implement scholarship programs and other forms of financial aid to support academically promising Catholic students facing financial constraints at both the General and Province levels.
9. **Organize Seminars on CMI Education Vision:** Seminars and workshops will be conducted to deepen understanding and promote the unique spirit of the CMI Vision of Education.

C. General Level and Local Level

10. **Promote Existing Educational Publications:** We will actively promote our educational publications, including DREAMS, PALLIKUDAM, and the CMI Value Education textbooks.
11. **Facilitate Sharing of Best Practices:** Sessions will be organized for CMI educators to share and document exemplary practices in teaching, learning, and educational administration within our congregation.
12. **Implement Social Projects:** Specific social projects, such as the housing scheme, will be implemented this year. The Provincial Council will determine the number of houses each institution can sponsor, and this figure will be announced at the beginning of the CMI Year.

D. Province Level and Local Level

13. **Establish Counseling and Rehabilitation Facilities:** Facilities for counseling and rehabilitation for victims of drug abuse, along with other relevant resources, will be provided at the Province level.
14. **Highlight Institutional Social Projects:** The social projects undertaken by each educational institution shall be given due visibility during the CMI Year of Education.
15. **Mandatory Participation in Educational Workshops:** CMI members actively involved in the educational apostolate will be required to attend at least one workshop on pedagogies, educational innovations, or education management (beyond mandatory board requirements).



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16. **Upgrade School and Institutional Facilities:** Efforts will be made to upgrade facilities in schools and institutions to create a more conducive environment for both staff and students.
17. **Organize Social Sensitization Programs:** Social sensitization and social extension programs will be organized for staff and students in all our institutions this year. A qualified individual will be appointed in each school to effectively facilitate these programs.
18. **Conduct Institutional Quality Audits:** A team appointed by the General Department will conduct audits of our schools to assist provinces in evaluating the quality of their institutions.

E. Local Level

19. **Promote the *Pidiyari* System:** Following the example of St. Chavara, we will encourage the implementation of the *Pidiyari* System in all our institutions to support the poor and needy within the community.
20. **Foster Collaboration with Remote Schools:** Schools and other educational institutions will adopt and provide support to schools in remote areas through proactive collaboration.
21. **Organize North India School Picnic to Kerala:** School picnics for students from North India may be organized this year, to visit significant places in the life of St. Chavara and the CMI Congregation, as well as other places of interest in Kerala.
22. **Encourage Visits to Mannanam for Blessings:** Students from Kerala will be encouraged to visit Mannanam to receive the blessings of St. Chavara before their examinations.
23. **Display CMI Education Vision Statement:** The CMI Education Vision Statement will be prominently displayed in all our educational institutions.
24. **Conduct Local Community Briefing Sessions:** More briefing sessions will be held in local communities with all members to discuss the educational apostolate being carried out within each local community.

With your valuable and active involvement, let us make CMI Year of Education an occasion for a sincere assessment of our Apostolate of Education and to make every effort using this apostolate to serve the society and to form and equip the younger generation, instilling the Gospel values in them. May St Chavara be an inspiration and intercessor for this.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General



Fr Martin Mallathu CMI
Secretary, General Council