



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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Prior General's Circular Canonical Recognition of the Mortal Remains of the Servant of God Rev. Fr Canisius Thekkekkara CMI

Dear Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

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

As our beloved CMI Congregation prayerfully prepares for the celebration of the Bicentennial and for the forthcoming XXXIX General Synaxis, I am pleased to share with you a significant and grace-filled milestone in the Diocesan Phase of the Cause for the Canonisation of the Servant of God, Rev. Fr Canisius Thekkekkara, CMI, the 21st Prior General of our Congregation.


With the authorisation of His Eminence Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the solemn canonical recognition of the mortal remains of the Servant of God will take place on 25 March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. On this sacred occasion, Mar Pauly Kannookkadan, Bishop of Irinjalakuda, will preside over the canonical opening of the tomb and the examination of the mortal remains. His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, will also be present for this solemn moment.

The Servant of God, Fr Canisius Thekkekkara, is the second member of our Congregation—after our revered Founder and first Prior General, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara—to have his tomb opened for the canonical recognition of the mortal remains. Fr. Canisius cherished a deep filial devotion to St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, and in his life and witness we discern a beautiful continuity of the charism that animated our holy Founder.

As the Church now prepares to examine his mortal remains in accordance with canonical norms and to reinter them with due reverence, it is most fitting that we, as members of the same religious family, spiritually unite ourselves with this historic moment in the life of our Congregation. I therefore earnestly request that, on 25 March 2026, the day of the canonical recognition, all our communities offer special prayers to the Lord for the successful completion of the entire process leading to the recognition of the sanctity of the Servant of God, Fr Canisius Thekkekkara.

May this sacred event become a source of abundant blessings for our Congregation as we journey towards the Bicentennial and prepare for the fruitful celebration of the XXXIX General Synaxis. May it inspire in each of us a renewed zeal for holiness, a deeper fidelity to our charism, and a more generous dedication to the mission entrusted to our beloved CMI Congregation.

Yours fraternally in our Lord,


Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General

