



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

Prior General's Circular NOTIFICATION OF XXXIX ORDINARY GENERAL SYNAXIS 2026

REF: PG/532/2025
Circular No: 27

01 October 2025

- Reference:*
1. CMI Constitutions and Directory (C 171-186: 202-211, Directory, Articles 191-198; 258-259; 275-288
 2. Decision of the General Council GCA 98/1616/2025, dated 25 September, 2025

Reverend and Dear Fathers and Brothers,

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

In Consultation with the Major Superiors (27-29 September, 2025 at CMI Prior General's House, Kakkanad) and with the consent of the General Council (GCA 98/1616/2025, dated 25 September, 2025), I am happy to announce the schedule of the XXXIX General Synaxis along with the following guidelines for its effective and fruitful celebration.

1. Celebration of XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis

The Ordinary General Synaxis is the supreme authority of a religious Congregation, and its celebration is a blessed time for the Congregation. At a time when the whole Church has gone through a synodal process, the General Synaxis is the best expression of it, where the Holy Spirit actively becomes present in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of our Congregation. The XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis takes place as we prepare to celebrate the Bicentennial of our Congregation. It is an acceptable time (Kairos) to reaffirm our commitment to God the Father through Christ in his Church and to achieve a radical renewal of our consecrated life. The General Plenary Assembly in January 2025, the Provincial Plenary Assemblies, and the renewal program that has taken place in our Congregation are all aimed at facilitating the renewal of our consecrated life, which finds its culmination in this Ordinary General Synaxis.

It is natural that our human frailty and the ever-tempting attractions of our times cast shadows on our initial enthusiasm. Naturally, a spirit of compromise and an attitude to restrict ourselves to the comfort zones of life can creep into our routine life. Therefore, the Ordinary General Synaxis is a Pentecostal experience for the entire congregation, where we pray like the psalmist: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). It is an act of listening to the whispering of the Holy Spirit as a



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community, enabling us to be renewed in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here" (2 Cor 5:17).

The same Spirit which spoke to our founding fathers continues to speak to us. The Ordinary General Synaxis is a time to listen to this Spirit and to discern the right path in changed situations of our life, finding correct orientations to be relevant in serving God and His people. It is an occasion to make a periodical reflection on the charism of our Congregation, to take new steps and measures in the light of the evaluation of the past years, and to elect a new administration to animate our community for the next six years, facilitating our immediate preparations for the Bicentennial of our Congregation. I, therefore, wholeheartedly invite all our members to involve actively in the preparation and celebration of the XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis.

The XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis will be held during 15-21 March, 2026. The Synaxis commences with the Holy Qurbana.

Venue: CMI Prior General's House, Chavara Hills, Kakkanad

Date and Time: From 5.00 pm Sunday, 15 March to 4.00 pm Saturday, 21 March, 2026

2. Delegates to the General Synaxis

The delegates to the General Synaxis are both ex-officio and elected. The ex-officio delegates are the Prior General, General Councillors, General Auditor, and Provincials (C 172 a). The number of elected delegates to the General Synaxis shall be as per the CMI Directory Article 192 b and c. The Procurator General attends the General Synaxis without vote (D 192 e).

The Provincials shall send the list of elected delegates to the General Synaxis so as to reach the Prior General on or before 20 January, 2026.

3. Preparations for the General Synaxis

The celebration of an Ordinary General Synaxis is a significant moment in the life of the Congregation. Its goal is to protect the patrimony of the Congregation, to promote its continuing progress and renewal according to its charism and mission (suited to the needs of the times), to treat matters of major importance, to promulgate appropriate decrees, and to elect a new general government. To prepare for this important moment in the life of our Congregation, I request all members to reread the relevant sections of the CMI Constitutions and Directory on the Synaxes. I encourage that this review be held, wherever possible, in common, in local or zonal communities. I particularly enjoin on all that they participate in the study and discussions with seriousness, and present the



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observations and proposals which they, before the Lord, believe are necessary for the wellbeing of the Congregation. The General Synaxis is the responsibility of everyone, not just the delegates to Synaxis. It is a gathering of the whole Congregation in faith, hope, and great love as we commit ourselves to live with renewed zeal and enthusiasm the charism that we have inherited from our founding fathers.

4. Synaxis Preparation Committee

In order to assist the General Council in the preparation of the XXXIX Ordinary General Synaxis, a Synaxis Preparation Committee has been constituted (Ref: GCA 88/1330/2025, dated 09 January, 2025) with the following members:

1. Fr Prior General (President)
2. Fr Josey Thamarassery CMI (Convener)
3. Fr Francis Kurissery CMI
4. Fr Benny Nalkara CMI
5. Fr Jose Nandhikkara CMI
6. Fr Biju Vellakkada CMI
7. Fr Anson Panengadan CMI

The main task of the Synaxis Preparation Committee will be the preparation of the *Lineamenta* ("Guidelines") and *Instrumentum Laboris* ("Working Document") of the General Synaxis.

They shall be the tools for our personal and collective study and deliberation at different levels. The *Lineamenta* will be prepared incorporating the suggestions of the General Plenary Assembly and the Qualitative Survey that was conducted about our Religious Life in the Congregation by a team headed by Fr Sony Palathra CMI. The Provincials shall coordinate and monitor the study and discussion of the *Lineamenta* in their respective Provinces with the help of a Provincial Coordinating Committee. The committee shall then summarize the observations and suggestions and submit a report to the General Secretariat on or before 01 January, 2026. With the assistance of the Synaxis Preparation Committee, the responses will then be attentively analysed and integrated into the *Instrumentum Laboris*.

5. Committee for Proposing Amendments to the Constitution and Directory

A Committee has been constituted, in consultation with the Major Superiors and with the consent of the General Council (Ref: GCA 88/1329/2025, dated 09 January, 2025), to identify those provisions of the Constitutions and Directory which call for change or



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modifications along with new additions according to the changing context of our Religious Life and apostolates. The members of the committee are the following;

1. Fr Biju Vadakkal CMI (Convener)
2. Fr Jose Kuriedath CMI
3. Fr Saju Chackalackal CMI
4. Fr Santhosh Kotheril CMI
5. Fr Sebastian Payyappilly CMI

6. Petitions to the General Synaxis

All petitions to the General Synaxis, including individual/local/zonal responses to the Instrumentum Laboris, should reach the President of the General Synaxis on or before 06 March, 2026.

7. The Provincial Synaxes

1. The Provincials are requested to issue circulars regarding the constitution of the Provincial Synaxes and the election of delegates to the General/ Provincial Synaxes, observing the time schedule given below (Refer D 258).
2. Sample of Election Materials to be reached at the Generalate: **20 October, 2025**
3. Notification of Fr Provincial regarding the election of delegates to the General/Provincial Synaxes: **01 November, 2025**
4. Declaration of the list of delegates to the General/Provincial Synaxis: **08 January, 2026.**
5. The election of the panel for the Prior General shall be done as per the direction given in D 281.
6. The new priests to be ordained in 2025-26 shall not be included in the voters' list as they will be given patent of local ascription only in January, 2026.
7. The Provincials are requested to give clear and definite instructions regarding elections in the notification circular in accordance with D 258-288
8. The Provincial Synaxis shall be planned by the Provincial Council in such a way that a proper evaluation of our Religious Life and apostolates will be done in the Synaxis along with the planning for the future in the light of the thrusts proposed by the General Synaxis.
9. The delegates to the Provincial Synaxis shall be elected as per the provisions in D 262 c (ii): "The required number of votes to be marked in the three seniority-wise constituencies shall be in the ratio of 1:1:1 of the 75% of the vacancies of the total number of vacancies (after deducting the number of brother delegates to be



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elected). The remaining 25% shall be marked without considering the constituencies."

10. The following shall be the schedule for the First Session of the Provincial Synaxes for the evaluation and planning on the various aspects of religious life and apostolates in each Province, followed by the election of the Provincial, Councillors, and Auditor:

Name of the Province	Dates of Provincial Synaxis	Date of Election
St Joseph's Province TVM	07-11 April 2026	10 April 2026
Sacred Heart Province Kochi	07-11 April 2026	10 April 2026
Devamatha Province TSR	07-11 April 2026	10 April 2026
St Thomas Province KOZ	07-11 April 2026	10 April 2026
St Paul's Province MYS	07-11 April 2026	10 April 2026
St Joseph's Province KTM	08-12 April 2026	11 April 2026
Carmel Province MUV	08-12 April 2026	11 April 2026
Preshitha Province COI	08-12 April 2026	11 April 2026
Mar Thoma Province CHA	13-17 April 2026	16 April 2026
Nirmal Province JAG	13-17 April 2026	16 April 2026
St Paul's Province BHO	13-17 April 2026	16 April 2026
St Xavier's Province RAJ	13-17 April 2026	16 April 2026
St John's Province BIJ	13-17 April 2026	16 April 2026
St Chavara Vice Province BHA	14-18 April 2026	17 April 2026
Mary Matha Vice Province HYD	14-18 April 2026	17 April 2026

11. The Provincial Synaxis shall commence with the Divine Liturgy at 09 am on the first day and shall be concluded at 4 pm on the last day.
12. The election of the Provincial shall be preceded by a half-day prayer.
13. The Provincials are requested to send the following materials to the Prior General for information:
- Samples of the election materials described in D 260 (on or before 20 October, 2025).
 - List of delegates elected to the Provincial Synaxis along with the substitution list (on or before 20 January, 2026).



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8. Prayer for the Synaxis

Since the fruitfulness of the General Synaxis and Provincial Synaxes depends above all on the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I request you all to pray that all the participants be open and docile to the Spirit's inspirations. In addition to the personal prayer and penance each one will be doing for the success of the General Synaxis and Provincial Synaxes, a common prayer, sent along with this Circular, shall be recited from 1 November 2025 until the dissolution of the Synaxis in the place of the prayer after the examination of conscience at night. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, immaculately conceived, Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, our founder, and the patrons of our Congregation, may Almighty God grant that this General Synaxis and all our Provincial Synaxes be fruitful and effective!

Fraternally in the Lord,

Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI
Prior General



Fr Martin Mallathu CMI
Secretary, General Council

PREPRATION FOR THE BICENTENNIAL
OF THE CONGREGATION (1831-2031) AND
ORDINARY GENERAL & PROVINCIAL SYNAXES 2026
CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, before we retire for the night's rest, we come to praise and thank you, for all the blessings we have received from your bounty. Sincerely we repent of all our sins of omissions and commissions and we ask your forgiveness.

As we prepare ourselves for the Bicentennial of our Congregation and the Ordinary General and Provincial Synaxes make us docile and prompt to follow the footsteps of our founding fathers, in pursuing the spirit of Carmel, which consist in an ardent life of prayer and apostolic fervour.

Merciful Lord, send your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire all our members especially the Synaxes members during the days of Synaxes for a thorough evaluation of our life and activities in the true spirit of our priestly and religious consecration, leading to a radical renewal of life to suit the times. Bless our Congregation with Superiors after the mind and heart of the Good Shepherd.

Shower, O Lord, your gifts and blessings abundantly on our parents, friends and benefactors. May the suffering members of your mystical body find comfort and consolation in sharing in your redemptive suffering. Give eternal rest to all the departed members of our Congregation and those of our families.

Holy Mary, Immaculate Mother of Carmel, St Joseph our patron, St Thomas our father in faith and Saint Kuriakose Elias, our founder, we thank you for your special protection and intercession. May the prayers of all the saints, especially Prophet Elijah, Saint Theresa of Jesus, John of the Cross, The Little Flower, Guardian Angels and Holy Fathers of our Congregation be with us all through the days of the prepration for the Bicentennial and in a special way during the Ordinary General and Provincial Synaxes days, so that we may be open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the changes that are needed in our lives.

Loving Father, as we conclude this day and retire for night's rest we make this prayer to you. Grant us a peaceful night, protect us from every harm and enable us to welcome a beautiful dawn tomorrow.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always and forever. AMEN.

CMI Prior General's House
Chavara Hills, Thengode P.O.
Post Box No: 3105, Kakkanad, Pin 682 030
Ernakulam, Kerala, India

01 October 2025

*(To be recited from 01 November 2025
until the dissolution of the General Synaxis)*

**സഭയുടെ ദിശതാബ്ദി ഒരുക്കം (1831-2031)
സാധാരണ പൊതു - പ്രവിശ്യാ സംഘങ്ങൾ (2026)
ദിനാന്ത പ്രാർത്ഥന**

സർവ്വശക്തനായ ദൈവമേ, ഞങ്ങൾ അങ്ങയെ ആരാധിക്കുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ അങ്ങയെ സ്തുതിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങ് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നൽകിയ ദാനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രത്യേകം നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ നഷ്ടമാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ദിവ്യപ്രേരണകളെക്കുറിച്ചും, ഞങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുപോയ തെറ്റുകളെക്കുറിച്ചും മനസ്തപിച്ചു പൊറുതി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

കർമ്മല സഭാചൈതന്യം അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെയും അതിൽ നിന്നുളവാകുന്ന ഉജ്ജ്വലമായ പ്രേഷിതവൃത്തിയുടെയും മാർഗത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഭാപിതാക്കന്മാരെ അനുകരിക്കാനുള്ള കഴിവും സന്നദ്ധതയും, ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഭയുടെ ദിശതാബ്ദിക്കും പ്രത്യേകമായി സാധാരണ പൊതുസംഘത്തിനും, പ്രവിശ്യാ സംഘങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരുങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾ ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും കൂടുതലായി തന്നരുളേണമേ.

കാരുണ്യവാനായ ദൈവമേ, സന്യാസവൈദിക സമർപ്പണ ചൈതന്യത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ജീവിതത്തെ വിലയിരുത്തുവാനും കാലാനുസൃതമായ നവീകരണ പദ്ധതികൾ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുവാനും, ആത്മാവിന്റെ നിറവുള്ളവരായി, സഭയിലും സമൂഹത്തിലും മാറ്റത്തിന്റെ പ്രവാചകരാകുവാനും ഞങ്ങളെ എല്ലാവരെയും പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് സംഘാംഗങ്ങളെയും അങ്ങയുടെ പരിശുദ്ധാരുപിയാൽ പ്രചോദിപ്പിച്ച് നയിക്കണമേ. നല്ല ഇടയന്റെ കർമ്മധീരതയും ദീർഘവീക്ഷണവും നിർമ്മല മനസ്സാക്ഷിയുമുള്ള അധികാരികളെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഭക്ക് പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യണമേ.

ഞങ്ങളുടെ ബന്ധുമിത്രാദികളുടേയും ഉപകാരികളുടേയും മേൽ അങ്ങയുടെ വരദാനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി വർഷിക്കണമേ. അങ്ങയുടെ രക്ഷാകരമായ പീഡാനുഭവത്തിൽ പങ്കുപറ്റുന്ന രോഗികളേയും ആസന്നമരണരേയും കരുണാപൂർവ്വം കടാക്ഷിക്കണമേ. മരണം വഴി ഞങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വേർപിരിഞ്ഞുപോയ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളേയും സഭാംഗങ്ങളേയും നിത്യസൗഭാഗ്യം നൽകി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കണമേ.

ഞങ്ങളുടെ അമ്മയായ പരി. അമലോത്ഭവ കർമ്മല മറിയമേ, വി. യൗസേപ്പ് പിതാവേ, മാർ തോമാശ്ലീഹായേ, വി. കൂര്യാക്കോസ് ഏലിയായേ, നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രത്യേക സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥതക്കും ഞങ്ങൾ നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഭയുടെ മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥരായ വി. ഏലിയാ നിവ്യായേ, വി. അമ്മത്രേസ്യായേ, കുരിശിന്റെ വി. യോഹന്നാനേ, വി. കൊച്ചുത്രേസ്യായേ, സകല കാവൽ മാലാഖമാരേ, നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനാസഹായം, ദിശതാബ്ദിക്കായുള്ള ഒരുക്കത്തിന്റെയും, പ്രത്യേകമായി പൊതുസംഘത്തിന്റെയും, പ്രവിശ്യാ സംഘങ്ങളുടെയും, ഈ നാളുകളിൽ ധാരാളമായി ഞങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുമാറാകട്ടെ.

ദയാനിധിയായ ദൈവമേ, അനുഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ നിറഞ്ഞ ഈ ദിവസത്തിന്റെ അവസാനത്തിൽ ഉറങ്ങുവാൻ പോകുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിത ചൈതന്യത്തോടെ പുതിയ പ്രഭാതത്തിൽ ഉണർന്നെഴുന്നേൽക്കുവാനും, വരും വർഷങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതലായി ആത്മാവിന്റെ നിറവുള്ള വ്യക്തികളായി മാറുവാനും, പ്രേഷിതചൈതന്യത്തിലും ദൈവസ്നേഹതീക്ഷ്ണതയിലും, വളരുവാനും ഇടയാക്കണമേ.

നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവീശോമിശിഹായുടെ കൃപയും, പിതാവായ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹവും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ സഹവാസവും നാമെല്ലാവരോടും കൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ + ഇപ്പോഴും, എപ്പോഴും, എന്നേക്കും. ആമ്മേൻ.

സി.എം.ഐ പ്രിയോർ ജനറൽ ഹൗസ്
ചാവറ ഹിൽസ്, തെങ്ങോട് പി.ഒ.
പി.ബി. നമ്പർ 3105, കാക്കനാട്-682030
എറണാകുളം, കേരള, ഇന്ത്യ

01 ഒക്ടോബർ 2025

*(To be recited from 01 November 2025
until the dissolution of the General Synaxis)*