

Prayer Service on St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara

Oh Lord of Hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you (ps84:2) realizing the magnificent and majestic presence of the Lord of Hosts in the Holy Eucharist and experiencing the joy of being with you Lord, we are here around your Holy alter to offer our heartfelt homage and thanks. Lord you always await for each one of us with new package of blessings and graces. Today's gathering in your Eucharistic love unfolds among us the deep sentiments of love, joy and gratitude for the gift of our founder Father St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara whose creative, dynamic and spontaneous response to the will of God resulted in the foundation of CMI and CMC Congregations. So let us enkindle the flame of our love and brighten our committed life with the art of loving Jesus, to stay constantly in His presence, to walk along with Him and to converse with him continuously. Be still , because;

It is in the stillness of creation God said 'let it happen' and the world came into being.

In the stillness of Bethlehem THE WORD became flesh.

In the stillness of the Jordan Heaven opened and the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus.

In the stillness of the Jerusalem the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles.

The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the greatest stillness of our Lord in our midst. Experience this stillness in our hearts and in our whole being.

Bhajan.....

St. Chavara built up his life on the foundation stone that God was his loving Father and he was His beloved son. This foundation assisted him to have the foundation of religious congregations for men and women in Kerala. The merits of his Abba experience and rapt attention before the Eucharistic Lord brought abundance of blessings for the people of God of all the ages. Unless we build ground floor with strong foundation, we are unable to build huge and beautiful building with number of floors. Like St. Chavara our foundation should be strong on God's love and love for the whole humanity. If anyone is lacking among these two shake comes on the building of the mystical body of our Lord Jesus, the Catholic Church. The lived life of St.Chavara extends an inspiring invitation to all the people of God to be spiritually empowered, penetrate thoughts and plans with the mind of God thus our words, choices, actions and attitudes become reflection and proclamation of Gospel. Then the master piece of St. Chavara the **LORD IS MY PORTION AND CUP becomes life giving reality for us. Now proclaiming the greatness of Lord and confessing our nothingness let us glorify His name.**

Hymn.....

Symbols give inspiring messages to life. It can signify the life of the people. Jesus Himself used many symbols to bring about God's kingdom. Jesus said to Simon and Andrew that He will make them the fishers of men. It was not only Simon and Andrew called by Jesus He also called St.Chavara in his time and each one of us for today. St.Chavara became the dragnet of Jesus. Jesus compared the kingdom of God is like a net which is thrown into the sea and gather every kind of fish. The specialty of dragnet, this fishing method, the fisher man cannot be selective while catching the fish. The catch is mixed one.

when the net will be pulled out into the land all kinds of fish big and small would be enclosed within it. The fishers of Jesus draw all fishes in his net alike. But the fishers of this world have the tendency of sorting out. Obviously, fish that had commercial value were kept and put in containers. All other bad fishes are thrown back into the water. But St. Chavara was not selective, he embraced every kind of fish without cast, creed and colour for God. He lived for everyone in the society especially for voiceless and weaker sections. Grippled by God's love in JESUS, St.Chavara has aroused the enthusiasm and zeal for young and old of all times. He was tireless in his mission and fearless in the face of obstacles for the expansion of the kingdom of God in his life time. Even today his life remains a source of inspiration for all of us. Through his meditation let us also recapture our spirit and love for you oh, Lord and for the humanity.

Hymn.....

We shall now gather our prayers and aspirations through the intercession of St.Chavara , our response will be Lord may your kingdom come.

- Lord our savior makes all your people your own. Help us to seek out the lost, preserve the strong and give new hope to the down hearted. Make us more effective to use all the opportunities to build up your kingdom.
- Lord inspire more and more young men and women to surrender themselves to the light of God's love and to become the messengers of good news thus to expand your kingdom.
- We pray for all the missionaries who face difficulties and opposition in remote and isolated places. May they find their

strength and consolation in you holding you oh, Lord as their cup and portion.

- As our nation has various political, religious and cultural groups claiming communal harmony and community welfare we often see and witness party interests taking upper hand in many ways paving the way for disharmony in the society. St.Chavara worked for equality, respect and acceptance for one another. Fill us with true spirit of love and service.

Sharing.....

Hymn

Concluding prayer

Let us ask God's light to penetrate our life so that we may courageously proclaim the Gospel to every culture land and people. Christ prayed father may they all be one as we are one. Lord you chose your apostles and chosen ones from different walks of life that you had come here on earth for all peoples. Your son St.Chavara lived his committed life following his master.

Lord enlightens our prophetic mission thus we may carry it out with everlasting love and dedication spreading the message of salvation all around. Let us conclude this hour of prayer with a thanksgiving hymn.

Nirmal Jyoti province

Bina