

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers

Wish you God's grace and blessing during the days of our intense preparation to experience the joy of the Risen Lord. Lent is the blessed time to look in the mirror and see myself and look through the window and see my brethren and encounter the Lord within me and my brethren.

These are the days CMI's make intense tapas to realize the spirit of our identity: **Contemplative Spirit, Missionary Heart and Immaculate Living.**

Mere **performance** is an ***outdated term** even in the profession circles. **Work life balance and its balanced scorecard is what matters.**

"But we have, of our own will renounced our parents and our wealth to come hither. Now if we forsake the Lord through our negligence and our indolence what a great mistake it would be, what madness." (St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara).

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and ***make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*** (John 5:15). After He had sent them away, He went up on ***the mountain by Himself to pray.*** When evening came, He was there ***alone***. (Matthew 14:23)

One who has no time for the Lord has not learned the ***time management*** or not set his priority right. In CMI congregation, self-sanctification and salvation of others go together. Hence ***no member,*** even if people perceive us kings by worldly standards, is expected to ***work, sacrificing his prayer life.***

Let us learn from our ***founding fathers:*** "Oh God Almighty! We now do feel ashamed on thinking of the deeds that they came to perform. They used to pray continuously without a break, meditate, undertake long vigils and celebrate Holy Mass with such intense devotion that those who attended it were moved to tears. They went to all places on Sundays and feast days and shook those places with homilies and uninterrupted good counsels dispelling spiritual darkness and bringing Divine light. They used to go to all individually with much difficulty and humility and looked after the other works, receiving happily what was offered to them." (Fr. Kuriakose Elisha Porukara)

May the season of lent enable us to set our priorities right for renewal through reading, meditation and acts of love.

While we begin our preparation for the ***renewal program,*** let us pray for the true transformation of our life after the model of our founding fathers.

Every community will make a *karosuza* prayer during the time holy mass or night prayers for its effectiveness from 14th February till Christmas, 2018.

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Prior General