



MESSAGE FROM  
HON. PRANAB MUKHERJEE,  
THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF INDIA



*The canonization of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Saint Euphrasia by His Holiness Pope Francis on November 23, 2014 at Rome is an important event in the history of the Catholic Church in India.*

*Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara (1805-1871) was an embodiment of Christian spirituality and mysticism. He was a crusader of education for all irrespective of religion, caste and creed. While serving as the Vicar General of the Syrian Catholics, he opened the way for universal education in Kerala by insisting that all churches belonging to the Syrian Catholic Church should open schools attached to its churches. He also made unique contribution in the field of printing and mass media by establishing the first locally made press in Kerala at Mannanam in 1846. Saint Chavara pioneered the movement for monastic life within the Catholic Church by founding two religious congregations: the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI) which today has over 3000 members (including 1800 priests serving in various parts of the world) and Congregation of Mother of Carmel (CMC) which has around 6500 members. St. Chavara's legacy is being carried forward today by the members of CMC and CMI congregations.*

*St. Euphrasia (1877-1952), popularly known as Euphrasiamma was the spiritual daughter of St. Chavara and a dedicated nun who rose to sainthood from the religious congregation of CMC sisters. She found her fulfillment in a life of oneness with God. She became a model for prayer and was known as the Praying Mother because of her mystical and spiritual experiences. The lives and deeds of these Saints are a source of inspiration not only to the Christian community but to humanity as a whole. I convey my best wishes for the success of the celebrations to mark the canonization of these two saints. I also convey greetings to all members of the CMI and CMC. With St. Chavara and St. Euphrasia joining St. Alphonsa who was the first Indian to be declared a saint, the Catholic Church now has three saints from India reflecting the strength and contribution of the Indian Christian community to the faith worldwide.*

*Pranab*  
Pranab Mukherjee

