

## MOUNT CARMEL PROVINCE, BHOPAL

### PRAYER SERVICE - ST. CHAVARA

#### **Introduction**

In this beautiful evening, as the birds are flying back to their nests, as the people are moving towards their homes and as the starry night is ready to make its entrance, let us also come closer into the loving and living Trinitarian presence who is present amidst us here. How delightful and sweet your presence among us o Lord. God our loving Father we thank and praise you for this beautiful evening and for all the blessings of today. Jesus our beloved who Lord who emptied Himself and who is present in our midst to listen our heart's desire and feelings and who is thirsting to come in the depth of our hearts. O Holy Spirit our constant companion we adore you for being with us, for strengthening us in our weak moments and for inspiring us at each moment of our life. O Triune God, we adore You, we praise You and we thank You for dwelling in us. O Lord we believe that You are the only one who knows us very deeply and personally, who understands all our feelings and who loves us very perfectly we worship You. Let us surrender ourselves fully to Him and ask the grace to open our inner eyes to see Him. In this stillness of silence let us experience His unconditional love in our hearts and invite Him into our midst by singing a bhajan.

#### **Aaja mere Prabhu.....**

I will sing the glory of the Lord, who with His love attracts the weakest into His oblivion presence and allows them to enjoy the glory of human in the company of saints. What thanks o Lord can we render Thee for the precious gift of founder father St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara to us and for the Carmelite family. O Lord we thank You for all the graces and blessings we received from our founder father for the betterment of our Congregation and for the whole world.

Dear sisters in this ancient cradle of Christianity, great souls have risen at various times: among them St. Chavara is the first one to acknowledge as a holy

monk of extra ordinary sanctity. He was a man of prayer glowing with the spirit of deep faith in Jesus. Prayer made him enlightened and sensitive to the signs of times and a person who very actively and effectively read and responded to these signs, sometimes endangering his own life and his companions but empowered by prayer. St. Chavara was aware of the need of prayer. He was sure that he was called by Jesus because Jesus liked Him. He was sure that the Lord had a special mission for him. Being called by Jesus and faithful to his call he remained with Jesus that is to be with Jesus always. As our CMC Constitution says: - he was irresistibly drawn towards the Eucharistic Lord who received his ways to him. He was drawn power from the daily prayer especially the Eucharistic prayer. The power he got from prayer did not allow him to sit idle. He was led by the Spirit of God, as the Holy Spirit led the apostles from the place into different realms of actions. Once our founder father had written a letter to our pioneer sisters that- “offer up to God every pulls beat of vein, every winking of our eyes, every breath of ours, each little chirping of the birds, yes everything as our prayer, offer all these in union with the works of our Lord, who are the infinite merits.

St. Chavara’s entire life was consumed by the love of God and a spirit of prayer found very deep in him from childhood till his death, for prayer was to him “the daily food.” His long prayer life enabled him to walk always through the path of Jesus, and to hold on to the Jesus the truth.

Now let us pause for a while to introspect our life that are we walking on the path that our founder father has taught us?

**Silence .....**

**Hymn... (St. Chavara’s)**

St. Chavara built up his life on the foundation stone that God was his loving Father and he was His beloved son. His long hours of prayer were moments of experience of the Father - son relationship. He had an intimate relationship with His loving Father. He could see this presence of God which he himself

experienced in the depth of his heart, in the whole universe, in other human beings and in all life experience. From the heart of St. Chavara who experienced God's loving providential care throughout his life, rose songs of gratitude continuously. Now let us listen to this words:

**Reading: In the shadow of the most high. Page no. 38, the God experience**

**Song: Mera Ishwer mujhe kitna pyar karta hai...**

This holy and blessed spiritual master St. Chavara shed his light in every aspect of human life in Kerala. St. Chavara has not only given birth to, two religious congregation, the C.M.I. (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate) and C.M.C. (Congregation of the Mother of Carmel), which render humanitarian services in every field in different parts of the world. Such as care for the sick, education, socio - cultural programmes, Christian formation, orphanages, but also has given them the light and vision to see the signs of the times. Now let us thank and praise the Lord for He gave St. Chavara as our model father.

**Praise and Worship (5 minutes)**

Now let us prepare our hearts to listen the word of God from **Psalm 16**

**Reflection:** this Psalm is a kind of meditation - conversation prayer, a true orison touching life and its struggles closely. It begins with an appeal containing a choice already made. Then the meditation; others have chosen idols; this man chooses Yahweh. When this choice has been made, his happiness spreads out before his eyes in lively images. He enjoys a state of blessedness which presages the enjoyment of eternal beatitude.

When we turn back to the life of St. Chavara we can see that he made a complete dedication to his conscious and unconscious efforts to the service of God. For St. Chavara, God was everything that is why he said the Lord is my chosen portion and cup. He rendered his unfathomable and selfless service to the poor and the needy. Thus he chose his motto 'the Lord is my portion and

cup.’ Even during his great disaster and need he could uphold his decision Lord is my Chosen Portion.

St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara is a dynamic model today. Let us ask his intercession that we too may choose God as our Portion and Cup. Let us place all our prayers before the mercies of God through the powerful intercession of St. Chavara. Let our response shall be - Lord hear our Prayer.

### **Intercessory prayers...**

In St. Chavara’s devotion to Mary we see the development of his spirituality. He grew up as a servant of Mary. The servant became a ‘slave.’ We see that towards the end of his life the slave - Mother Relationship between Chavara and Mary transformed into a son - Mother relationship because of the self - surrender. Let us also consider Mary as our Mother and we are as her daughters and praise her with St. Chavara by singing a hymn to our Mother.

### **Marian Hymn**

**Conclusion:** Once again offering all our prayers and desires we lift up our hearts and minds to give you thanks for this day. We thank you Lord for being with us all throughout this hour and allowing us to experience your great love by giving St. Chavara a man of prayer as our founder father. Now by honouring St. Chavara, let us take his image in procession to our campus, institutions and our house and ask his intercession for us.

### **Hymn...**

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