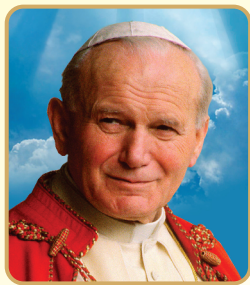




SAINTS CHAVARA AND EUPHRASIA IN THE WRITINGS OF EMINENT PERSONS

The real value of unique personalities comes to be realized by us often from what those who knew them personally or had studied them closely, have spoken or written. It is when these are collected and reproduced that they are perpetuated and handed down to posterity. The articles and personal comments on St. Chavara and St. Euphrasia incorporated in this Souvenir are authentic and have been reproduced to portray their multifaceted personalities. Some of these articles, of course, have already appeared in print. Many thanks to the eminent writers whose literary compositions find a place in the Souvenir. They are able to draw the attention of the readers to the multi-dimensional personalities of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal



ST. JOHN PAUL II DURING THE BEATIFICATION OF KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA, KOTTAYAM

8 FEBRUARY 1986

“*Father Kuriakose’s life, and the lives of these new Religious, were dedicated to the service of the Syro-Malabar Church. Under his leadership or inspiration, a good number of apostolic initiatives were undertaken: the establishment of seminaries for the education and formation of the clergy, the introduction of annual retreats, a publishing house for Catholic works, a house to care for the destitute and dying, schools for general education and programmes for the training of catechumens. He contributed to the Syro-Malabar liturgy and spread devotion to the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Family. In particular, he dedicated himself to encouraging and counselling Christian families, convinced as he was of the fundamental role of the family in the life of society and the Church. But no apostolic cause was dearer to the heart of this great man of faith than that of the unity and harmony within the Church. It was as if he had always before his mind the prayer of Jesus, on the night before his Sacrifice on the Cross: “That they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us” (Jn 17:21). Today the Church solemnly recalls with love and gratitude all his efforts to resist threats of disunity and to encourage the clergy and faithful to unity with the See of Peter and the universal Church. His success in this, as in all his many undertakings, was undoubtedly due to the intense charity and prayer which characterized his daily life, his close communion with Christ on earth.*”