

January 2025

## Editorial

Two years in the absence of the physical presence of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI. The vacuum created is difficult to be filled. His tomb and lively portrait at the entrance of CIMR is always a reminder of his spiritual presence. Yes, the spiritual presence of Fr. Felix is a living experience in the compound of CIMR. We are trying to continue the legacy left behind by Fr. Felix. From his heavenly abode Fr. Felix is sending heavenly blessings upon the children and guiding the activities. This issue of CIMR News Letter is dedicated to the memory of Fr. Felix, the founder of this organization and a guiding star for the lives of many and who worked tirelessly for a better living condition for the marginalized in the society.

Fr. Thomas Cheganariparambil MST

## Second Commemoration day of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI

The second commemoration day of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI was observed on Saturday 11 January 2025. It is two years since Fr. Felix left us for his eternal abode. In his spiritual presence we are continuing his legacy and our children experience him as his tomb and lively portrait is in front of them. The absence of his living presence is a great void which has affected the whole life of CIMR and we are trying to overcome this great gap.

The second death anniversary was observed with prayers and commemoration meeting. Holy Mass and special prayers at the tomb were offered at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Fr. Roy Mathew Vadakel, director of Asha Nilayam Special School, Ponkunnam and the Chairman of PAID celebrated the Holy Mass along with Fr. Thomas C. T and Fr. Tobin V. C. During the homily Fr. Roy Mathew Vadakel explained about the difficult social situations that Fr. Felix had to face when he started the work for the intellectually challenged children. The inspiration that Fr. Felix received from his mother was way forward for him to inspire and guide thousands of people in the society. Fr. Thomas C. T led the prayers at the tomb.







The commemoration meeting at 11:30 was an occasion to remember with gratitude the great services of Fr. Felix. His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose IAS participated as the chief guest of the programme. Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Deputy Mayor Shri P. K. Raju presided over the meeting and Rev. Sr. Celia FCC, the Mother Provincial of FCC Sanjoe Province Thuckalai participated as the special Guest. Fr. Thomas C.T, the Executive Director of CIMR and president of AKAMR welcomed the guests and the participants. Rev. Sr. Elise Mary, the Director of CIMR proposed the vote of thanks.

In his address, the chief guest, Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose was very rhetoric about his association with Fr. Felix and the inspiration that he received from him. He said that he came in contact with Fr. Felix at the age of seventeen. He said that he was inspired by Fr. Felix on several occasions and he learned many lessons from him which he still practices in his life. He mentioned several occasions in which he had interactions with Fr. Felix where he proved that nothing is impossible in life. He was successful in bringing out the best from the intellectually challenged children which many others thought was impossible. He said about Fr. Felix that his enthusiasm was infectious. His involvement was such that it inspired many. He always stood for justice and truth and he fought vehemently for that. He was a very good example for everyone to follow. "Many are called, few are chosen". Fr. Felix was one of the specially chosen person who accomplished the special call.

The Hon'ble Governor graciously announced an award, "Governor's Award of Excellence" to Rev. Sr. Elise Mary of CIMR for her outstanding works for the downtrodden intellectually challenged children. The award carries a citation and a cash prize of Rupees One lakh. The award will be given later.

Shri P. K. Raju, the Deputy Mayor fondly remembered Fr. Felix and he said that Fr. Felix was a very special person who loved the marginalized and worked for them. We are indebted to him who proved that serving the suffering society is our responsibility.

Sr. Celia FCC gratefully acknowledged the great services of Fr. Felix for the society. She said that Fr. Felix was a person who gave more importance to give than to take. He was a person who loved others and seeing God in the specially abled children he lived for them. He had a definite purpose of life and planned to accomplish that.

## Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Awards Presented

The second commemoration day of Fr. Felix was marked with presentation of two awards in honour of Fr. Felix. CIMR instituted two awards as a memorial of Fr. Felix so that his services are always remembered. The proposals for the awards were called for in June 2024. The selection committee appointed by CIMR scrutinized the proposals and suggested three each names from each category after thorough study. The first award "Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Award for the Best Institution Working for the Intellectually Challenged Children" was given to 'Asha Nilayam Special School' Ponkunnam. The award was received by its Director, Rev. Fr. Roy Mathew Vadakel from the Chief Guest Dr. C. V Ananda Bose. The award was given to them based on their meritorious services for the children and their contribution in the field of intellectual disability.

The second award "Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Award for Outstanding Individual Working for the Intellectually Challenged Children" was awarded to Sr. Mary Tom FCC from Assissi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode, Kanyakumari (Dt) Tamil Nadu for her committed services for the intellectually challenged children in the past 34 years. Sr. Mary Tom received the award from the hands of the Chief Guest.

Both the awards included a cash award of Rs. 50,000/-, memento and a citation. These two awards will be given every year on the commemoration day of Fr. Felix to selected institution and individual. The first award is sponsored by the family members of Fr. Felix and the second by the well wishers of CIMR.





## Christmas Celebration

Christmas was celebrated at CIMR on 19 December 2024. The students, staff and trainees participated in the celebrations with enthusiasm. Mrs. Shynimol, the special officer of Social Justice Department, Thiruvananthapuram district participated as the chief guest of the programme. She cut the Christmas cake along with the children and delivered the Christmas message. The students and trainees presented several cultural programmes.

Similarly Christmas was celebrated at Asha Kendram, Ernakulam on December 18, our school came alive with festive cheer as we celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm. The day was filled with joyful carols, dazzling decorations, and heartwarming performances that captured the spirit of the season. Students and teachers came together to spread love, joy, and the true essence of Christmas, making it a memorable occasion for everyone. December 12, six students and two teachers participated in a program titled "A Day to Remember" held at Aluva M.G. Hall. The event was organized by FISAT Engineering College in collaboration with the Stallions Group. It served as an engaging and memorable experience for all attendees, combining insightful activities and meaningful interactions. On December 14, ten of our talented students participated in a spirited carol singing competition held at YMCA Ernakulam. Organized by YMCA, the event was a joyful celebration of music and the holiday spirit, showcasing the melodious voices and vibrant enthusiasm of the participants. It was a delightful experience that filled the season with cheer and camaraderie.



## St. Teresa's College Visit

On December 19, BSc Psychology students from St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, visited Asha Kendram. Their visit was both enlightening and engaging, as they interacted with students and shared valuable insights from their field of study. The session fostered meaningful exchanges and left a positive impression on everyone involved.





## World Disability Day Celebration

On 3rd December World Disability Day was celebrated. CIMR celebrated the day with Social Justice Department at Women's College Trivandrum. All students, parents, staff and teacher trainees participated in the awareness rally held on 2nd December near Women's College. The teacher trainees presented a meaningful flash mob during the rally which was well appreciated. The students of DCMR participated in the various competitions held on 3rd December. The teacher trainees participated as volunteers and their services were appreciated by the authorities.

The Teacher trainees of CIMR organized world disability day at CIMR on 9th December. They put a beautiful cultural event including the participation of the students of DCMR. The trainees took initiative to honour the teachers and others who are working in this field at CIMR. They were given memento to thank them for their committed service for the children.

At Asha Kendram, Disability Day was celebrated on December 3. Disability Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Asha Kendram. The day featured a variety of group games and cultural programs, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere. Participants showcased their talents and shared moments of laughter and camaraderie, making the event truly special and memorable.

