



100th Birthday Greetings to Padma Bhushan Rev. Fr. Gabriel CMI

Padma Bhushan Rev. Fr. Gabriel was born on 11th December, 1914 in Manalur. He made his first profession on 24th November, 1933 and was ordained as a priest on 30th May, 1942. He entered the field of teaching in the Upper Primary School in Champakkulam. In 1943 he moved to teach the Aspirants in Mannanam. After passing Intermediate with First Rank in S.B. College, Changanachery and B.A. Honours with 2nd Rank from Presidency College, Madras, he started teaching in Sacred Hearts College, Thevara. It was while teaching in Thevara, during the course of a regular outing along the waters that his inquisitive eyes came to identify a new marine mollusc which eats into the platforms of the vessels, that came to be christened later by biologists as *Bankia Gabriele* after his name.

Rev. Fr. Gabriel served as the founder principal of Christ College in Irinjalakuda from 1956 to 1975. Christ College owes its existence and glory to Fr. Gabriel. Irinjalakuda, then, had no facility for higher education and the need was identified on time and the required popular support for creating an ideal college was acquired by him. Rev. Fr. Gabriel had shown great interest to identify and encourage talents in his students. He built up an institution of excellence with a true integration of academics, literature, arts, sports and games.

After his retirement from Christ College, he served as the provincial of Devamatha Province, Thrissur. It was during that time that Amala Cancer Hospital was established on public demand. With genuine participation of the people, he started the hospital in 1978 and today Amala is the Home for Total Healing and Nurturing Ground for quality medical professionals through varied courses such as MBBS, MD, MS, DM, B.Sc Nursing, General Nursing, other paramedical courses, Diploma courses in pharmacy, nursing and therapy in Ayurveda. Amala aims at the integration of multiple system of medicine viz., Allopathy, Ayurveda and Homeopathy on the same campus.

He was instrumental in establishing number of other institutions such as St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda, Carmel Higher Secondary School, Chalakudy, Bharat Matha School, Palakkad, Catholic Centre Irinjalakuda and Deepthi Cultural Centre, Calicut.

His selfless contributions to the Indian Society were recognized by the Government of India, and he was awarded the Padma Bhushan on 26th January, 2007. In spite of all these laurels and recognitions, he considers that thousands of children and youth - to whom he has been imparting knowledge – are his real achievement in life. “*My children*” he often says, “*are my biggest assets*”.

On the occasion of his 100th birthday, CMI family expresses its gratitude, appreciation and congratulations to Rev. Fr. Gabriel for his exemplary life and contribution to the humanity. Thanks giving mass will be held at 11.30 a.m. on 11th December in Amala Chapel. Birthday celebrations will be inaugurated by Shri Nikhil Kumar, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, at 3.30 p.m. on 11th December in a function held in Amala, presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, Prior General. Let us pray to the Lord to bless the senior most member of CMI family, a true *Karmayogi*, with a very long and peaceful life.

CMI Devamatha Province
Thrissur