

## Exhortation on Holy Eucharist

A great event- yes, a wonderful act, an extraordinary gift from God has been given here. Yes, the heaven itself is here in our midst. Leaving heaven, the abode of all prosperity, with his heavenly hosts the Eucharistic Lord has come to this poor convent, to this remote village, to this humble dwelling and amidst these sinners in order to be with us. He accepts our cordial reception with joy. We should welcome, honour and treat this divine guest, the Eucharistic Lord. The purpose of his coming is to bless us with his gifts and graces.

*F. V. Joseph*

### PRAYER

O! Holy Trinity, we thank you for choosing Venerable Fr. Joseph Vithayathil to be your faithful priest, Co-founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family, spiritual director of Blessed Mariam Thresia and a loving father to all. We believe that Fr. Vithayathil, a model for priests and a guide for the religious, is enjoying heavenly bliss. His devotion towards the Blessed Sacrament, and earnest pastoral concern and zeal in family apostolate have brought blessings on us. We pray that he may be raised to the honours of the altar in the Holy Catholic Church. We beseech you to grant us this special favor through the intercession of Venerable Fr. Joseph Vithayathil.

Amen.

3 Glory be to the Father.....

*Imprimatur:*

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Diocese of Irinjalakuda  
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*Please report any  
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**Venerable Fr Joseph Vithayathil.**

*Custodian of Holy Eucharist,  
Spiritual Director of Bl. Mariam Thresia,  
Co-founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family.*

- 1865 Born as second child of John and Anna of Vithayathil family, in Kongorpilly Village, Puthenpally parish, Ernakulam.
- 1881 Seminary training at Elthuruth and Puthenpally.
- 1894 Ordained priest at St Antony's church, Ollur by Bp. Adolf Medleycott, Trichur Diocese and was appointed assistant vicar there itself .
- 1894 Appointed Vicars in eight churches of the Diocese of Trichur where he proved himself as a parish priest par-excellence (1894-1902)
- 1902 Appointed Vicar at Puthenchira Parish. He was chosen as the spiritual director of Mariam Thresia. He guided her in the path of holiness and supported and encouraged the family apostolate ministry she started.
- 1913 Built an 'Enkanthabhavan' (solitary house for prayer) for Mariam Thresia.
- 1914 Witnessed the foundation of the Congregation of the Holy Family including the perpetual commitment of Mariam Thresia. He was appointed the chaplain of the Congregation.
- 1915 Re- constructed St. Mary' Church at Puthenchira, a monument of his architectural mind and caliber.
- 1922 Relieved from the responsibility of the Parish Priest and appointed the chaplain of the Holy Family Convent at Kuzhikkattussery. Lived there for 42 years in the Mother House of the Congregation
- 1926 Witnessed the early death of the Foundress of the Congregation Mother Mariam Thresia on 8 June 1926 at the age of 50 years. From that day onwards Fr. Joseph Vithayathil was at the realm of the Congregation and established many convents and also started schools attached to the convents and orphanages.
- 1942 Having prepared the Sisters to elect the Superior General and Council he handed over the reins of the administration into their hands and supported them in all their needs.
- 1948 This custodian of the Holy Eucharist initiated the 40 Hour Adoration in the chapel of the Mother House, which was an expression of his indescribable intimacy with the Eucharistic Lord and his deep thirst to inculcate the same in the children of God. This continues even today year by year.
- 1957 Entrusted all the Documents about Mother Mariam Thresia to Bishop George Alapatt of Trichur Diocese.
- 1964 Celebrated his Birth Centenary and the Golden Jubilee of the Congregation in the month of April. As he prayed and desired he died in the same date (8 June) of the demise of his spiritual daughter Blessed Mariam Thresia, on June 8 1964. The funeral was on 9<sup>th</sup> and his body was buried in the same chapel of the Mother House.