



# PRISON VOICE

APRIL 2020

Vol. XVIII

Issue 7

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹20/-

## Lockdown Within Lockdown





**PMI Varanasi Unit Awarded by UP Prison Department**



**Women's Day Celebration at Raigarh Prison, Chhattisgarh**



**Women's Day Celebration at Ambikapur Central Prison, Chhattisgarh**



**Tailoring Machine Distribution at Palai Jail, Kerala**



**PMI Volunteers Releasing Prisoners from Yerwada Central Prison, Pune (MH)**



**Women's Day Celebration at Bilaspur Prison, Chhattisgarh**



# Contents



## PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY



PMI Chairman .....	04
Editor's View .....	06
National Coordinator's Desk .....	07
Letter from Spain .....	09
Mask Production to Prevent Coronavirus .....	10
We are Servants .....	11
In Solidarity with Our Brethren .....	12
Blessings and Challenges .....	13
Women's Day .....	14
Looking Up in These Times of Lockdown .....	15
Report .....	16
Responding to His Call .....	17
New Challenge .....	18
You Make a Difference .....	19
Symposium on Death Penalty .....	20
Prison Quarters Ministry .....	21
I am Touched .....	22
They Need You .....	23
PMI: Voice of the Voiceless .....	24
We Depend on God's Providence .....	25
What Shall I Do For Them? .....	26

### Are You Willing?

"Help a Prisoner's Child  
Prevent a Potential  
Criminal"

80% of the children of  
prisoners are potential  
criminals unless somebody  
takes care of them. Prison  
Ministry India has begun  
a scheme to educate 1000  
children of prisoners:  
Kindly contribute  
Rs. 5,000/- for the education  
of a child.

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From PMI Chairman

## ROLE OF PRISON MINISTRY INDIA AMIDST COVID19 OUTBREAK



**Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva**  
PMI Chairman

### 1. Introduction

Corona outbreak devastates humanity. Mankind undergoes an unparalleled crisis. Covid19 epidemic paralyzed most of the countries in the world, even the superpowers. Science admits its limitations amidst the rapid spread of coronavirus. Lockdown reigns everywhere. Thousands succumb to death disastrously. The number of corona infected victims is augmenting alarmingly. Millions are quarantined in homes and shelters. Doctors, nurses and paramedical are fatigued. Are we undergoing a time like that of Noah (Gen 6-9)? Is the current situation like that of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18-19)? In this pandemic state, what shall we do as Prison Ministry India members?

### 2. Repent

All of us know that the ultimate goal of Prison Ministry India is the reformation and redemption of the lost, the sinners, the prisoners. In a broad sense, the goal of PMI is the renewal and redemption of humankind. Hence it is the duty of the PMI to redeem mankind by leading them to repentance and reformation. Covid19 invites us to intensify our endeavour of redeeming the lost with much vigour and vitality. For Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10). "The time has come.

The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mt 3:8). How shall we do this?

### 3. Pope Francis

One of the impacts of Covid19 is the lockdown and it seriously affected our brethren behind the bars. Pope Francis prayed for prisoners and their families who were unable to visit them because of the strict social-distancing measures. On 19 March 2020, he exhorted us at the beginning of his morning Mass, "Let us pray today for our brothers and sisters who are in prison. They suffer so much because of the uncertainty of what will happen inside the prison and thinking about their families".

### 4. Prayer and Fasting

Joining with the Holy Father we shall ask forgiveness of God for the sins of mankind. Let us participate as often as possible in Holy Masses and take part in Eucharistic Adorations and offer them for this intention. Let us recite rosaries, divine mercy chaplet and pray the way of the cross as often as possible with this intention. We shall do penance and



sacrifices for the remission of the sins of mankind. In a special way, we shall pray and fast for prisoners, prison officials and their families.

### **5. Mask and Sanitizer**

PMI volunteers are requested to provide masks and sanitisers to prisoners and if possible, provide tailoring machines to prisons to produce masks. Teach prisoners how to make sanitisers and provide them with raw materials. Already many of our volunteers have provided tailoring machines to prisons to produce masks. If any state or diocese or unit does not have sufficient fund for this, please let me know. The PMI national office would be happy to provide financial assistance. Please make your request through the state coordinator.

### **6. Social Distancing**

Social distancing is the rule of the time. Serve the people of God keeping the rule of the state. If you keep the rule, the rule will keep you safe. It is the time to stay at home, a time to return to God, a time to drink the Word of God, a time to recite the name of Jesus and a time to repent about our sins and do penance for the sins of humankind.

### **7. Prisoners' Release**

Many prisons are releasing prisoners to reduce overcrowding and thereby to maintain social distancing. Make use of this time to assist those who are released. See their need and be ready to express the caring and forgiving love of Jesus through

our charitable deeds. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25: 40).

### **8. Covid19 Pledge**

Thousands are dying of Covid19. God has blessed us in a special way by protecting us from the epidemy and is allowing us to continue to serve Him. As a sign of our gratefulness to the Lord, we shall pledge to live gracefully, leading a moderate life, pleasing God and serving the lost, the sinners, and prisoners. As a thanksgiving for saving us from the Covid19 epidemy, let us make a pledge that the rest of our lives we will dedicate 10% of our time, talent, energy and richness to the conversion and salvation of sinners.

### **9. Conclusion**

As Pope Francis stated during his Urbi et orbi benediction, we are caught up in a turbulent storm but Jesus will calm the tempest and peace will reign again. With great faith, let us pray, "Wake up Lord" (Mk 4:32). If Jesus is on our boat there will be no shipwreck. We have an anchor; by his cross, we have been saved. We have a rudder; by his cross, we have been redeemed. We have hope; by his cross, we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love.

## Lockdown Within Lockdown

“Having God in your boat does not mean that you will not face any storm, but it means no storm can sink your boat”; can this be our faith as the whole world is under stress due to a small virus named ‘Corona’? The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases have been confirmed in a large number of countries due to which the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11.03.2020 characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. As cases of COVID-19 proliferate, there is a pandemic of fear unfolding alongside the pandemic of coronavirus. This bio-war has not spared anyone from fear. People from far and near are equally worried of this dangerous virus. All religion, colour, caste, and creed are equal to this tiny virus. The fear of coronavirus persists in every human person. Our hearts feel for the people whom we have not seen and whom we have not heard, that is the effect created by corona.

The media has no other topic to discuss than COVID-19. A small virus has shaken the whole world. Parents are worried about their children and children about their parents. Leaders are worried about their people due to which complete lockdown has been declared in most countries. People are so afraid that every human being is seen with a mask. The whole world has become silent and still due to the attack of a tiny virus which is invisible to the human eye. In this moment of darkness and helplessness, the universe has learned to lean on God, to cry out to the Creator to save humanity whom He had created out of love. All of us are crying out to Him to sanctify humanity, to have mercy upon us.

When large numbers of the population locked themselves in, a few warriors dared to risk their lives and reached out to suffering



**Sr Lini Sheeja MSC**  
Chief Editor

humanity. The doctors and nurses have become heavenly angels who are risking their lives. The police officers are warriors who stand at the roads pleading to people to lock themselves in. The PMI volunteers continue to spend their time before the Blessed Sacrament pleading for the mercy of God. Groups of PMI volunteers reached out to prisoners' families by providing food grains and other necessities.

For most of us, it has become a prison experience as it has brought in a lot of restriction to our movements. For our brethren behind the bars, it has become a prison within a prison, lockdown within lockdown, restrictions within restrictions and shutdown within shutdown. The prisoners cannot have family visits at this point of time. Our volunteers are wholeheartedly assisting the prisoners and their families at this moment of crisis. The Supreme Court has ordered all states to consider releasing some prisoners on parole to reduce overcrowding in prisons. Thanks to the Supreme Court for its order in considering the well-being of our brethren behind the bars and the volunteers who worked for their release.

“Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5) is the assurance of our Resurrected Master as we are amidst the storm of Coronavirus. “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear” (Is 59:1).



## Innocent Prisoners

### Introduction

Have you ever thought of the plight of innocent prisoners? Millions of innocent prisoners are languishing in prisons all over the world. We celebrate Easter thanks to the sufferings of an innocent prisoner, Jesus Christ. The sufferings of innocent prisoners are very precious and invaluable. It is called unrighteous or dishonest wealth. Jesus exhorts us to make friends with this dishonest wealth and this is one of the narrow ways to enter heaven. "Make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes" (Lk 16:11). Let us remember and pray for our innocent brethren behind the bars so that we can make use of their sufferings to gain friends and thereby to secure eternal bliss.

### Innocent Prisoners

The Innocence Project, the Centre on Wrongful Convictions and experts in the field has estimated that between 2.3 % to 5 % of all US prisoners are innocent. With the number of incarcerated Americans being approximately 2.4 million, by that estimate as many as 120,000 people may be incarcerated as a result of wrongful conviction. If it is the case of America what would be the situation of other countries and the number of innocent prisoners worldwide?



**Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS**  
National Coordinator & Secretary to CBCI  
for Prison Ministry India

### Miscarriage of Justice

A miscarriage of justice occurs when a person is convicted and punished for a crime that he/she did not commit. The Scandinavian languages (viz. Danish, Norwegian and Swedish) and Finnish have a word, the Swedish variant of which is justitiemord, which literally translates as 'justice murder' or 'judicial murder'. In reality, a miscarriage of justice is a judicial murder.

### George Cardinal Pell

The latest example of miscarriage of justice and an innocent prisoner is George Cardinal Pell who was convicted for six years on charges of paedophilia. On 7 April 2020, the Australian high court acquitted him nullifying all cases against him after 404 days of imprisonment. The court said that there was a significant possibility that an innocent person had been convicted because the evidence did not establish guilt to the requisite standard of proof. In a written statement, His Eminence Cardinal Pell said that he felt no ill will towards his accuser and did not want his acquittal to add to the bitterness in the community.

### **Fr Benedict Onamkulam**

Fr Benedict Onamkulam (1929-2001), a diocesan priest of Changanassery Archdiocese was the accused in the famous Madatharuvy murder case in which Mariakutty, a widow and mother of 5 children was found dead in a tea garden near Madatharuvy. From circumstantial evidence, Fr Benedict was arrested and the Kollam district sessions court ordered him to undergo rigorous imprisonment of 5 years and to hang him till death. Later he was found innocent and acquitted by the high court. However, the ill repute of murder was an ineradicable misery for him. He underwent unfathomable agony as an innocent prisoner. During his last years, while he was resting in the priest home, the widow of a doctor and her family visited and confessed to him that Mariakutty died while undergoing an abortion and the estate owner was responsible for the child. Yet Fr Benedict kept it a secret until it was revealed by the family members of the doctor. On 3 January 2001, Fr Benedict was called for eternal life and was buried in the cemetery chapel for priests at St Mary's Church, Athirampuzha, Kerala.

### **Jesus, the Innocent Prisoner**

Pontius Pilate's initial investigations prompted him to decree, "I find no guilt in this man." After trying to abdicate responsibility to a thoroughly ambivalent Herod, he was forced to respond: "After examining him before you, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent

him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him" (Lk 23:15-16). Even the criminal on the cross next to Jesus witnessed stating, "This man has done nothing wrong", and then, we have the Roman centurion declaring "Certainly this man was innocent!" Jesus was executed on a cross, but it was not because there was the least shred of evidence against Jesus. He was completely innocent of wrongdoing. If Jesus died on the cross, it is only because he allowed it to happen – only because he chose to die. That is clear from the statement, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk 9:51). Jesus died for a purpose, freely of his own choosing. What was that purpose? Innocent Jesus died so that the guilty might go free. He has paid the price for our sins because he had no sin of his own.

### **Conclusion**

Jesus became an innocent prisoner because of the miscarriage of justice. Through his passion, death and resurrection he redeemed mankind; through his crucifixion, he regained the lost paradise. Every innocent prisoner has this task of participating in Jesus' paschal mysteries as well as in redeeming mankind. Through our prayer and penance let us strengthen our innocent brethren behind the bars to courageously undergo the present traumatic trials, which of course will lead to the glory of the resurrection. Wish all readers of Prison Voice the joy and peace of the Risen Lord.



Dear Dr Francis Kodiyan,

I am Fr Florencio Roselló, Director of the Penitentiary Ministry of the Episcopal Conference in Spain. Last November we met in Rome at the International Penitentiary Pastoral Meeting, convened by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. I am concerned about the coronavirus pandemic that we are experiencing worldwide, and I am concerned about how it is being lived in prisons in different countries of the world. They are in a very vulnerable and defenceless situation. I have read that in India they have also decreed the lockdown of the country. In the prisons of Spain everyone is living with a certain serenity. A 78-year-old prisoner has died of coronavirus. There are three more infected and 38 infected prison officials are quarantined. But the environment inside the prisons is calm and peaceful. There have been no more complications than usual in a closed environment such as prison.

My question is how is India handling this issue in prisons? How are the prisoners and officials affected due to Covid-19? How is the living environment, have there been riots as in many other countries? Have they been affected by these revolts? To what extent has the coronavirus altered the environment of your country's prisons? Well Dr Francis, I am making this consultation with many national leaders of this ministry in the different countries of the world because I am concerned about the issue. So, if you can answer me when you can, I would appreciate it.

**- P Florencio Rosello Avellanas, Mercedario**

Director del Departamento de Pastoral Penitenciaria de la CEE



***Financial Assistance for Reuniting with Families and Reintegration***

Yerwada, Pune, Maharashtra

## **Mask Production to Prevent Coronavirus Palai Sub-jail**

The Kerala DGP ordered the prison superintendents to make arrangements to produce masks for the prevention of coronavirus in prisons. When Mr P.A. Anish, the Palai Prison Superintendent received this message, he immediately rang up Fr Mathew Puthiyedath, the PMI director of Palai and requested help for the prisoners. For many decades, it has been the custom at Palai prison that whenever there was an urgent need for the prisoners, the prison officials would immediately approach the PMI director. PMI and Palai prison officers have such an excellent relationship.

### **Fr Mathew Puthiyedath**

Fr Mathew Puthiyedath, the PMI director of Palai diocese and director of ADARRT, a Deaddiction Centre of Palai diocese, is one of the pioneers of Jesus Fraternity. While he was doing his priestly studies at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary, he was an active member in the prison ministry prayer group. He played an active role in the All Kerala Prison Pilgrimage and served as the director of Snehashramam – a rehabilitation centre for released men prisoners at Vettukad, Thrissur, Kerala. Throughout his priestly life, he was fully immersed in prison ministry-related activities.



**Fr Mathew Puthiyedath**  
Coordinator, PMI Palai, Kerala

### **Mask Production in Palai Prison**

When Mr Anish, the Palai superintendent requested Fr Mathew regarding the possibilities of getting tailoring machines, he immediately contacted the Provincial Superior of the Sacred Heart Congregation of Palai. With the cooperation of their Social Service Society, on 18 March, Father Mathew provided tailoring machines to the prisoners. Within hours, they began to produce and distribute masks.

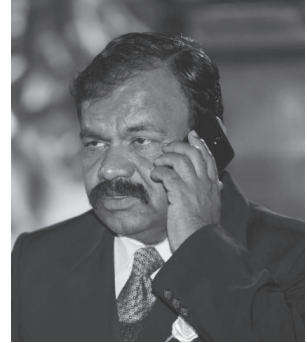
Then the DGP sent a message to produce more masks as they were in urgent need. Again, the superintendent approached Fr Mathew. He donated the tailoring machines which were in use in the ADARTT Deaddiction Centre. As a result, the prisoners could produce more masks and thereby thousands of people could be protected and prevented from contracting Covid19.





## We are Servants!

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me” (Mt 25:40). It was 21 March 2020, the day before the lockdown was announced on 22 Mar 2020. I was praying in the Cathedral chapel in the morning. I was praying regarding this coronavirus and it struck me, rather I was inspired during the adoration to the Blessed Sacrament that I should pray, taking the Cross around the city, reciting the Stations of the Cross. Immediately, I made a wooden cross and started reciting the Stations of the Cross, starting from St Anne’s Cathedral, Nashik Road and went around government hospitals, police stations, the police commissioner’s office, the municipal commissioner’s office, and all the churches including the CNI churches. I knelt down at the main entrance of all these structures and prayed each station. Seeing me kneeling, the staff at the gate first stopped me. Then when I said that I was praying for all of them, they allowed me. The police, the hospital staff and the others were very happy that someone was praying for them.



On 29 March 2020, with the help of a secular group “Life always finds a way group” formed with some friends to help the aged, the poor and the destitute, we distributed one month’s grocery to 17 blind families all over Nashik City. A friend and I went from house-to-house and delivered the grocery as it was lockdown and the blind families could not come to collect the same. It was a difficult task, but the smile and satisfaction of the beneficiaries was a reward in itself. The police personnel were very helpful and provided permission to go around with the bags of grocery. We travelled from one end of Nashik to the other end. On 1 April 2020, it being my birthday, I bought grocery for 11 poor families at Nashik Road, made packets and distributed them in their houses. I felt blessed on my birthday, as I could distribute the same instead of spending the money on the celebration.

- **Walter Kamble**, PMI Volunteer Nashik, Maharashtra

### ***Financial Assistance for Reuniting with Families and Reintegration***

Recently, Prison Ministry India’s Pune Centre supported the release of four inmates from Government of Maharashtra’s Beggars Home located at Yerwada in Pune. An amount of Rs 1000/- was given to each released inmate to help them return to their families and reintegrate into society.

- **Anthony Jacob**  
Volunteer PMI Pune

## ***In Solidarity with Our Brethren Behind the Bars***

During these 21 days of total lockdown, our thought goes out to our brethren behind the bars whether in India or the world. Normal life has suddenly come to a standstill. The whole of humanity is living in constant fear and uncertainty as to what awaits us next. The day-to-day death toll is fast rising and the coronavirus curve spiked high in a few weeks which is heart-breaking and alarming.

As PMI volunteers, our thought goes out to our brethren who have already experienced social distancing from the time they have been arrested. They are the most vulnerable section of society, who are much affected by the present world scenario. No visitors are allowed in prisons. People outside feel so much stress and pain, and they cry out of helplessness; then what about the plight of the prisoners? Whom do they turn to? There is already a lack of proper sanitation and other facilities coupled with overcrowding. We are taking so many precautionary measures to protect ourselves from the virus but who will be with our brothers and sisters unless we are with them during these days of the crisis.

Our one and only hope is Jesus our Saviour, like when Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived (Numbers 21:9). As PMI volunteers, during these crucial times, we are called to focus our gaze on our Saviour hanging on the cross, as our Holy Father Pope Francis has exposed the Miraculous



**Sr Jane Agnes Singh SJC**  
National Team Member

Cross in the Vatican, pleading to bring healing to the world. Like Moses, we are invited to be a mediator between suffering humanity and our incarcerated brethren.

We are fortunate both in the national office and Kolbe Home to have daily the Eucharistic Adoration, common rosary and chaplet of mercy, pleading for mercy, repenting for our personal sins and that of the whole world. May the Fountain of Mercy be shown to each one of us, particularly our suffering brethren and the world infected with the coronavirus. We are vaccinated by the most precious blood of the Lamb. Our 100% faith and hope are in our Master who will protect and heal us. Though we are physically isolated, our love reaches out to each of our brethren and the whole of broken humanity in union with our Pope Francis, joining to intercede for the world.

Today, at this moment of desperation and fear, let us embrace the Lord of hope who calmed the sea, wind and gave hope to the disciples who were fearful despite having Jesus in their boat. Jesus is in our boat and he is in control of every situation that we face. Let us not be afraid. Together with St Peter, let us cast all our worries unto him, for he cares for each of us.



## ***Times of Lockdown: Blessings and Challenges***

While those who enjoyed freedom are now confined to barracks, those who were otherwise behind bars seem to be the chosen of the Lord. I have been told, that to date there is not a single case of coronavirus infection in any of the jails, at least in Maharashtra. God protects the helpless. It is true that there is no possibility of social distancing as a safety measure in prisons; overcrowding is a permanent feature in most jails. Yet the authorities took the appropriate decision to shift the inmates from overcrowded jails to less crowded ones. Another good decision was to release 11,000 undertrials from jails in Maharashtra. God moves in ways beyond our understanding.

‘**Duc in altum**’, launch out into the deep, was the call given by Jesus to his disciples (Lk 5:4). This was reiterated by our National Coordinator Fr. Francis, who said, “It is the need of the hour.” And he led from the front. Together with PMI volunteers from Bengaluru, he reached out to the families of prisoners with groceries and basic necessities. And in various other cities as well we saw PMI volunteers walk the extra mile in loving service. Masks, sanitisers and thermometers were given to the children’s home in Mumbai and in the jail. God bless you Fr. Glasten and Mrs. Latha who organised this! Volunteers in Amravati led by Fr. Benjamin are on a daily basis, distributing food grains and packets of other requirements to deserving tribal people, senior citizens, widows etc. Mr. Walter Kamble and PMI volunteers



**Rowena Luis**

Coordinator, Dongri Children’s Home, Mumbai

from Nashik have also done likewise. Members from our Kalyan diocese went out regularly distributing cooked food packets to the homeless and migrants who had lost their jobs and livelihood. Thank you, Fr. Joby Kurian. And Pune PMI went beyond their call to take the steps for the release of undertrials on bail. Many male and female inmates were released through a court order from the Yerwada Central Jail. Well done, Pune PMI under Fr. Wilfred and Mr. Anthony Jacob! There are also volunteers from other cities who have done similar outreach activities.



## Women's Day

Ambikapur PMI, Chhattisgarh celebrated Women's Day on 7 March 2020 at Ambikapur Central Prison to empower women and bring hope to women who are behind bars along with their children. The students from Ursuline Convent were taken to the Central Prison to perform the programme. The programme started with a prayer, invoking the presence of God and asking the Lord to reign over their hearts, to remove their darkness and to bring rays of hope into their lives. The chief guests were welcomed after which a talk was given on the role of women in society and family. To our surprise, an excellent dance was presented by the inmates followed by a dance by the students from the Ursuline Convent with a Women's Day theme.

A jailor from the ladies' section proposed the vote of thanks to all the PMI volunteers, followed by a few words of appreciation by Sr Joy Panikulam, thanking the jailors for the constant support that the Prison Ministry India has been given.



**Sr Joy Panikulam HC**

Former State Coordinator, Chhattisgarh PMI

The women were indeed happy and they expressed their heartfelt thanks to the PMI volunteers for making this day a special one for them. We require nothing more than their happiness. The PMI Ambikapur unit was happy that we were able to make a difference in the lives of the ones who were behind the bars. The theme song sung by Sr Shephell motivated and encouraged the women to look at their life with hope. To commemorate the Women's Day at Ambikapur Central Prison we distributed petticoats to all the inmates, and also towels to all the female staff and dress for the children. We could see the double joy on their faces as they received the gifts packed for them. The programme came to a conclusion with the distribution of sweets for them.



## Looking Up in These Times of Lockdown

As the challenge of Coronavirus (COVID19) loom large over our country, overcrowding in jails pose a serious threat in the spread of the deadly virus. So on 20th March 2020, the Maharashtra Prisons Department announced that they were considering provisional bail for undertrials incarcerated for offences of a less serious nature. Inspired by John 10:10 “I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest”, the Prison Ministry India Pune team proactively contacted the Superintendent of Yerwada Jail to offer our assistance in this timely initiative.

From our conversation with them, we were given to understand that there are three types of bail being considered – personal bail, security bond and cash security. PMI offered to work primarily on the cash security cases. We were also informed about a woman needing personal bail. PMI quickly put out an appeal to the community for a guarantor and we are awaiting a response. Strengthened by St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, our team comprising Fr. Wilfred V. Fernandes, Mr. Anthony Jacob and our lawyer “put on the full armour of God” and forged ahead with their permission letter and “on government duty” permit given to by the authorities. These have been especially helpful for their movements in the city despite the strict lockdown conditions.



**Anthony Jacob**  
Volunteer PMI Pune

So far, through our PMI Pune’s efforts three men incarcerated for 2-3 years on robbery charges have been released on cash security. We are working on the cases of two ladies being held on economical offence charges (cheating) and hope to release them soon. An additional 17 cases are in the pipeline awaiting court approval. As well, our team has been trying to meet up with the concerned judges to request a reduction in some of the bond amounts so we can bail out more prisoners.

But that’s not all...our team was also able to fulfil a request from the Open Jail for 200 masks thanks to our benefactor Mr. Mathew Anthony. We also distributed toiletries which were donated by Good Shepherd Church to the inmates in the Open Jail. While we may be locked down, PMI Pune’s team continues to tirelessly serve those who are locked in.





## BEING APPRECIATED: ONE OF THE SIMPLEST AND MOST UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

On 26 January 2020, the Diocese of Varanasi was awarded a certificate for their dedicated service and hard work in the Central and District Jail of Varanasi. On this occasion Sr Meena SHM represented the Diocese of Varanasi to receive the award from the Uttar Pradesh Jail Department IG Mr K V Joshi at the Jail department in Lucknow. They thanked the Diocese of Varanasi for being a ray of hope and an encouragement to our brethren behind the bar.

It was a great joy to all the PMI volunteers of the Diocese of Varanasi. We, the PMI members, thank Most Rev Dr Eugene Joseph, Bishop of Varanasi for supporting and encouraging us to carry out this ministry in a better way.

- Fr Kasper  
Coordinator, Varanasi Unit, UP

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## WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT DISTRICT JAIL

“Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world”, says Hillary Clinton. On 7 March 2020, we had the opportunity to share the joy of International Women's Day by celebrating it in the district jail. There were 94 women and 4 children present. The cultural programme was presented by the women of Nagwa parish, Varanasi. All the volunteers of the PMI Varanasi denary were present on this occasion. It felt good to celebrate this day with them and make them feel worthy, to enforce the message that they are accepted by society. The inmates themselves presented well on this day and recognised their significance as women and mothers. On this occasion, Fr Manuel was the Chief Guest and Jailer Mr Pawan Trivedi was the Guest of Honour. They gave a beautiful message to the women that said, “If I am here today, it is because of my mother. If there were no mothers and no women, then there would be no World.” They upheld the value of women. It was a great pleasure to be with them. Fr Kasper, the coordinator of the diocese was present on this occasion and gave the inspiring message to the women to trust God. Srs Arpita, Alphonsa and Sarita SRA, and Srs Meena, Serena and Nirupama SHM were also present on the occasion of this lovely celebration.

- Sr M Alphonsa SRA  
Varanasi Unit UP

## Responding to His Call

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to show solidarity with the poor and suffering and experiencing his presence amidst the challenges and struggles of the present situation, we, the PMI North-east region have extended solidarity to our brethren behind the bars to make them feel that they are cared for and supported.



At this time of panic, fear and anxiety, realising the need and importance of safeguarding the health of oneself and others, we have provided 1400 masks, sanitisers, Dettol, and soaps for handwashing to the inmates of Central Prison Guwahati. It was the generous financial support of Rev Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara (FASCE India) MSFS and a few other well-wishers that helped us to make it possible. We appreciate and acknowledge their goodwill, constant support and the valuable services that they extended towards the PMI North-east region, especially at this moment of crisis in the world.



**Sr Jobina UFS**  
Coordinator, North East Region



**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”**

Experiencing the struggles and sensing the need of the time, the PMI unit in Mizoram reached out to the inmates of Horeb Retreat Home sponsoring ₹5000 as a small contribution towards their requirements at this moment of crisis.



## **Every Crisis Brings Us to a New Awakening**

We are faced with the worst ever global crisis in our lifetime. As I write these lines, so far, COVID-19 has affected about 199 countries. The rapid spread of the Coronavirus has left humankind feeling powerless in the face of the onslaught. We are aware of the large number of medical professionals reaching out to thousands of people – doctors, nurses, and even the policemen and policewomen –to help those who need assistance. In my small capacity as a volunteer of Prison Ministry India, I was engaged in attending calls from relatives of prisoners, the anxious parents and dear ones, about the welfare of their sons, daughters and life partners who are in judicial custody. Since we are unable to pay visits to the prison, we could get information from the prison staff as well as from the relatives of prisoners since the inmates are permitted to make calls to their dear ones. For security reasons, about 5000 inmates are locked in their barracks. The inmates miss the organized prayer services in the prison church, temples and mosque. Thus, they are deprived of the much-needed spiritual help and the opportunity to share their problems and needs with the regular volunteers of our ministry.

Being free from having to travel to prison daily, we are utilising our time with the families of prisoners who are in need. As the Supreme Court ordered all states to consider releasing of prisoners on parole and bail to avoid over-crowding in prisons, some had the privilege of getting released but since it happened after the lockdown, they had to walk miles and miles to reach their destination, due to



**Sr. Adele Korah SCCG**  
National Team Member

lack of conveyance. We were able to reach out to a few released prisoners when they contacted us.

The mother of a released prisoner asked us to help her to get provisions which they needed urgently for the family. We were able to contact the closest parish priest and he was kind enough to provide her with a lot of grains. As she had a bank account, we were able to send her some amount of money online too for her other expenses. Another released prisoner who had gone for a wedding celebration was stuck in a house far away from his residence. He requested financial assistance to return after the present season of lockdown comes to an end. Since he was able to send us his bank account number, we were able to send him some help online. Another released prisoner contacted us in dire need. He was working along with his wife; they were earning their livelihood by cooking food on the street and selling it. He explained to me that he was a trained lab technician, but since he could not get employment, he had to take up the present trade. We promised to help him and for the present, we sent them some money for meeting a month's expenses.

May this locked down situation turn to be a blessing in disguise, to help them to introspect and recognize the failings in their own life and turn to the Lord and Creator of the universe in repentance without losing hope in Divine Mercy and forgiveness.



# You Make a Difference

- Sr Lima CJ

This was my humble beginning – in 2018 in the ladies’ section of the Central Jail, Bengaluru. I was inspired by the two powerful love bombs Srs. Adel and Rose. Their sacrifice and love for the brothers and sisters in jail gave me the push to work in this new area. If they could do it, why cannot I do this noble work? This was a question that I kept asking myself. That dream became a reality. In the beginning, I was taking Spoken English classes for the women. I enjoyed being with them and I felt they too enjoyed it. In that freedom, some of them asked for extra time so that I could listen to them and thus began my mentoring work.

During this time, I also visited the gents’ section where I felt that I could use my God-given talent of listening and the use of counselling and various other therapies. In the beginning, Sr. Marina asked me to meet a person who belonged to the Hindi belt. Thus, began my mission in full swing.

Some of them have taken a complete U-turn and made the strong decision never to tread the old rotten paths. After the mentoring and various therapy sessions, one of them said, “It is God who brought me here. God did not exist for me. I was immersed in worldly ways. At this opportune time, God brought me here to see the unseen light and savour the sweetness of the everlasting love of God.” This particular person quenches his thirst for God by constantly reading the Word of God and prayer. He writes down the inspiration he receives and sends them to his wife and family. He also began to help others tread the right path. On the whole, I find that there is a complete change in them and they are inspired to pray and read the Word of God. I noticed that Christian brothers and sisters gain self-awareness and get close to God through prayer and

## Humble Beginning

Bible reading and our Hindu and Muslim brothers and sisters gain self-awareness and a desire to lead a good life.

The changes I see in them gives me a lot of joy and satisfaction. I do feel and experience that my contribution to lead my brothers and sisters in jail is only a drop of water in the ocean of God’s kingdom. **But that makes a difference.** After entering this ministry, the horizon of my prayer life has expanded. After the mentoring is over, I follow up with my prayers.

I conclude with this story. Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the beach to do his writing. He had the habit of walking on the beach in the morning and evening before he began his work. Early one morning as he was walking along the shore, a big storm arose and he found that the beach was littered with starfish. The old man noticed a small boy approaching at a distance. As the boy walked, he paused. As he grew close, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea.

As the boy came closer, the old man wished him and asked him, “What is it that you are doing?” The young boy paused, looked up, and replied, “I am throwing the starfish into the ocean, the tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can’t return to the sea by themselves. When the sun gets high, they will die unless I throw them back into the sea.” The old man replied, “But there must be thousands of starfish on this beach, I am afraid you can’t really make a difference.” The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean.

Then he turned, smiled and said, “**It made a difference to that starfish’.**”

**Make a Difference... Make a Difference... Make a Difference**

## **Symposium on Death Penalty**

**Sr Lini Sheeja MSC**  
National Secretary, PMI

“Society has a huge role to play in reforming a criminal, and therefore it is the responsibility of society to provide a conducive atmosphere for their reformation”, said former Supreme Court Judge Kurian Joseph at a symposium on *Death Penalty* organized by the Family Welfare Centre, Bengaluru Archdiocese in association with Prison Ministry of India at Palana Bhavan on 7 February 2020. The symposium dwelt at length on whether justice was served by the death penalty. Was it an effective deterrent? Was it retributive or discriminatory or even arbitrary? The event provided a legal, historical, human rights and Catholic perspective from authoritative, eminent speakers and legal luminaries.

In his presentation on the *Imposition of Capital Punishment*, Justice Kurian Joseph stated that many crimes result from situations where people come from utter poverty, maltreatment or deprivation of various kinds. “Crimes are a reflection of society’s failure in providing ample opportunities for an individual to be a better person. Social circumstances matter greatly, but so do people as individuals,” he stated.

Providing two perspectives, Justice Kurian referred to Hebrews 12:2 where Jesus is described as the “author and perfecter of our faith” and the Article 21 of Indian Constitution which reads: “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law.” Drawing parallels on values of life, he said that this right has been held to be the heart of the Constitution, the most organic and progressive provision in our Constitution and is the foundation of our laws.

In his inaugural address, Most Rev Dr Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bengaluru, referred to John 10:10 “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it

more abundantly.” The Archbishop recollected Pope Francis’ words on the death penalty that capital punishment is an offence against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person, which contradicts God’s plan for man and society and does not render justice to the victims, but rather fosters vengeance.

Former Tamilnadu High Court Judge, Hon Justice K. Chandru in his talk on the *Historical Perspective of Death Penalty* spoke on mob justice prevailing in the country. He opined that mob justice is unjust, unconstitutional and is against the very tenets of the Constitution. He affirmed that death penalty by encounters by uniformed forces and death by mob justice are therefore unlawful.

Rev Dr Christopher Vimalraj presented a power-point presentation on the *Catholic Perspective on Capital Punishment*. He asserted that as Catholics, we believe in a consistent ethic of life, from conception to natural death; the sanctity of the human person cannot be diminished. The first and foremost aspect of the Church’s teaching on the death penalty is the belief in the inherent dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God. Death penalty is not needed to maintain public safety; punishment must correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and conform to the dignity of the human person. Hence the death penalty stands in violation of the dignity of the human person.

A book entitled *Sound of Silence* by Sr Lini Sheeja MSC was released on the occasion. She serves as national secretary to Prison Ministry India and is the chief editor of *Prison Voice*. The book *Sound of Silence*, written with the intention to strengthen prisoners worldwide, offers voice to the voiceless, who participated in Jesus’ way of the cross and proclaims their message to mankind.

## Prison Quarters Ministry

- Sr Marina Purackal DSFS

Prison Quarters Ministry is one of the unique and precious services of Prison Ministry India. The prison quarters are situated near the Central Prison Bengaluru along with the prison police quarters. Quarters No C7, Block 1 has been entrusted to Prison Ministry India, where we have the name board: "Sisters, Prison Ministry India". Late Sr Carmelita of St Anne's of Chennai launched this valuable and most fruitful ministry 20 years ago. The prison authorities, moved by her enthusiasm and noticing the strenuous effort she had to take daily to visit the prison, offered her the facility to stay in the prison quarters. Sr Lilly Pereira FMM, Sr Adele Korah SCCG, Sr Joselia of St Anne's Chennai, Sr Josephine, Sr Sarjia, Sr Clarisa, Sr Fabiola from Fatima Sisters, Sr Celine, Sr Dennis etc. did this extraordinary ministry in the past.

In January 2016, providentially I met Sr Dennis who was doing the prison quarters ministry. When I learned that Sr Dennis was working in prison, I was delighted for I was searching for a person who knew about prison ministry. When I expressed my desire to do prison ministry, she told me to come and see the quarters as well as the prison. The very next morning, with much zeal I went to the quarters. Sr Fabiola was also staying in the quarters with Sr Dennis. She showed me the rooms and other facilities. Then we proceeded to the central prison. As she was a nurse, she did her service in the prison hospital. I was very happy to be there and I thanked God for the opportunity I got. I had a short tour of our prison and inmates.

### It was a Blessing

I talked to my provincial about it and she consented to my starting the prison ministry.

In March 2016, I had the chance to go to the women's barrack as there was a Women's Day celebration happening. I went to the quarters and from there we had to carry many things for the celebration. There were Fr Sebastian, Sr Rose, Sr Adele etc. I introduced myself to Fr Sebastian and he was very happy to have me there. I came back and shared my experience with my sisters. I was very happy to have the prison seal on my hand.

After having attended the PMI full timer's course in 2017, I pledged myself to do the ministry for one year. After the course, it was indeed a joy to have the ID card to enter prison. With that, I could go every day. Meanwhile, Sr Dennis was transferred from the prison quarters. I came to know that Sr Fabiola was remaining alone in the quarters. So, I asked for permission from my provincial to stay with her in the quarters. With her permission, the very next day, I moved to the quarters. Sr Fabiola welcomed me wholeheartedly. Together with her, I began visiting the prison and learned many things from her. She was very enthusiastic about the ministry. After the transfer of Sr Fabiola, I remained alone in the quarters and gradually prison became my home. I used to get up very early to spend time in prayer. I was very enthusiastic about doing each and everything. Time flew and each day went by. I used to find God's providence through different good people. I could help many to get the release from prison. When inmates ask for personal things, I provide them. I could practice the basic principles of PMI every day.



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**“An opportune word is like golden apples encased in silver” (Proverb 25:11)**

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- Sr Lissa Marattil DSFS

I am Sr. Lissa Marattil, DSFS. I am glad to say that I had enriching experiences during this one year of my service in Prison Ministry India. My experience with the prisoners has inspired me tremendously. When I reflect upon my journey over the last year as a member of PMI, working with brethren behind the bars, I had many cherished moments. During the prison visits along with the nuns, I would always witness the pain and joy, hope and hopelessness, sickness and good health, sad and happy moments of the prisoners. I found that the brethren behind the bars long for love, care, forgiveness and hope. We, all of us, need to love them, understand them, accept them and above all, never judge them. The moment we judge, they distance themselves from us. I firmly believe that when we accept them, we begin to see them as new beings who are willing to change and ready to open up to realities.

I had the opportunity to speak to them and inspire them to see the value of life. Sometimes I visited their families and tried to explain the need for forgiveness and acceptance. During my ministry with them, I realized that just helping them for their release is not enough; rather there is the need for regular follow-up. This is

a noble mission through which I could bring many souls to God. The time we spend with each person behind the bars is a precious moment for them. He/she does not have to be a Christian to talk or share with us. The respect and love they show us is priceless. Prisoners are the broken feathers of society; and as volunteers, it is our bounden duty to fetch them, reunite them with society and make them feel that they are important in our society. We, the volunteers, need to be grounded in God, for only God can teach us to love the unlovable, forgive the unforgivable and reach out to the unreachable.

They suffer a lot but PMI volunteers bring about radical changes in the lives of prisoners by their love and concern. They instil in the prisoners the idea of forgiveness of God and his merciful love. Let us be a ray of hope to them to change for the best, to live in love and to live with human dignity. I thank Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, the national coordinator for all the guidance and help rendered to me during my past one year in the Prison Ministry. My special thanks to my provincial, Sr Celine Kunnel and all my sisters, especially to Sr Marina, Sr Adele and Sr Rose for their support and encouragement. I extend my sincere appreciation to Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, the national secretary for her tireless service, great enthusiasm and insights. Thanks to the national office team for their accompaniment. Undoubtedly it is a truth; if our sisters come forward and take up the cause for the least, the last and the lost they can do wonders for the glory of God and the good of our brethren.

## They Need You

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone” is an apt saying by Ronald Reagan that I would like to begin with while sharing my experience with the Prison Ministry India. In the beginning, I did not have full knowledge of the functioning of PMI. But once I got involved, I learned a lot about the ministry and it has taught me the true meaning of forgiveness, repentance, and restoration. This experience in prison ministry has impacted different aspects of my life.

First of all, it had a great impact on my spiritual life. My prayer life has a new lease due to prison ministry. It was impossible to meet every inmate or say hi to them. Prison ministry offered unique, vital opportunities for personal spiritual growth. Because we were personally involved, even immersed, in the gospel basics: witnessing, Bible teaching, counselling, worship, and encouraging. In the aspect of ministry life, in this one year with prison ministry, I feel that I could touch the lives of some and could make a difference within them. I have come to understand deep down the awful nature and consequences of sin and the unique role of Christ in creating new creatures. Prison ministry shows us why indeed we are all brothers and sisters united in Christ.

In the aspect of social life, I really admire and am surprised by the number of volunteers who give their heart and soul to its fullness for the prison ministry. They sacrifice most of their time to help and serve the prisoners. This has kindled in me the spirit to work more for the last, the least and the lost. There is always a misconception that prison ministry is something like an NGO. But my ministry

It was a Treasure



- Fr Stanly Lourdu John MSC

here has changed my thinking and proved it is more professional and scientific in its approach. In every step that we take to serve the prisoners, a professional approach is seen. It is applicable from meeting the inmates in prison to their reintegration in society.

This one year has taught me several lessons which would surely help in my future ministry. First of all, never assume or presume anything while serving prisoners. There is no fixed way of dealing with the inmates because everyone is unique. Secondly, have a wider goal in one’s ministry. Spending time with the prisoners and empathetically helping them is not the final goal. There are many processes involved after that. Thirdly, judging people with one or two instances would be a failure in prison ministry. As we know, appearances are always deceptive. Fourthly, have specific and unambiguous roles and responsibilities. This ministry is not of ‘its and buts’, rather it is a ministry of clear vision and high goal. Finally, treat everyone equally. Whatever the mistake they have committed, whatever the background they are from, whatever their appearance, try to treat everyone with equality. This would surely help us to win the confidence of the inmates, which would make our ministry a bit more smooth-sailing and cool.

## *Prison Ministry India: Voice of the Voiceless*

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine” (Is 43:1). I have been sent into this world for a very special purpose. It was the will of the Almighty, and I was fortunate to work with the Prison Ministry India (PMI) national office. There were nine members from seven different congregations who were working together and putting our resources together to be effective disciples of the Master, who said, “I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Mat 25:39).

I was very apprehensive when I visited the Bangalore Central Prison, as it was the first time that I was visiting a big prison. Earlier, I had visited a couple of prisons and worked in a juvenile home in Yeravda, Pune. When we reached there, there was a sense of sadness and insecurity. We were not sure what to expect there, the situation behind those high walls. My heart skipped a beat when we saw them. There were two types of men and women; those who were smiling, and others who were gloomy. Gradually, we got acquainted with them. A handful of them kept aloof, filled with sadness and anxiety.

I came to know the unjust ways in which inmates were treated and those that ended up behind bars without committing any act of offence, but were unjustly accused and imprisoned. There were others who had committed the offence in a moment of anger or in self-defence, or for their own safety. By the time they realised their folly, it was too late, and they were behind bars. They weep and grieve in loneliness, anxiety, over the uncertainty of life and worry for their children and family that have been left on their own without any support. Each one



- Sr Mangal Shaharao SCC

had a heart-touching narrative. They would always look forward to the visits by the Prison Ministry volunteers who would bring some joy and ray of hope into their lives. The volunteers play the role of mediator among them, the families and authorities. The volunteers take the necessary measures and precautions, while visiting the families and bring reconciliation between them. The families face a lot of difficulty once a member of the family is in prison.

Making ourselves available to these brethren of ours, who are less fortunate and are regarded as useless human beings by the so-called righteous, is indeed a work graced upon us. The Lord gave us the grace to put aside our differences and come together and work for the betterment of the lost sheep of the Good Shepherd. We experience the tremendous power of the Lord in our undertaking, as He leads us through, providing the necessary spiritual, as well as, material assistance.

The children of some prisoners stay in Kolbe Home. Being with them was lots of fun; these children have taught me new lessons in life. With them no corrections work, but love and affection. Each one longs for love and affection. Dear children you will always be very dear and near to my heart.

I thank my Sister's in authority who allowed me to work with Prison Ministry India, as it was a time of grace and learning the reality of a prison, the prisoners and their families. May the Lord heal.



## **We Depend on God's Providence**

I am extremely glad to jolt down the beautiful experience of my regency at PMI National Office, Bengaluru. Regency is a part of formation, where the regent is allowed into the world with complete freedom and responsibility. Regency is a challenging adventure, so to say, it contains not just one feeling but a series of feelings with lots of good and bad experiences, with a lot of suffering and joyful moments, with freedom in responsibility, perseverance in convictions which strengthens the passion for Christ. Regency is a testing time for a regent when complete freedom is given coupled with responsibility. I feel I was tested just as gold with fire. A good mission was given to me at the PMI national office. The months passed very fast. The mission kept me busy with lots of activities.

Prison Ministry India serves our brothers and sisters behind the bars. It is an organization without any foreign funds, totally depending on God's providence. We collect funds by going to the churches in Bengaluru, tying banners, distributing brochures and collecting donations on Prison Ministry Sunday. Therefore, we were very cautious in spending money. In the first few months, I learnt many activities like praying regularly, conducting adorations, home management, going for shopping, cooking, driving the car, going to the banks to withdraw and deposit money, going to the post office to post letters and magazines, paying the electricity bill, editing videos for the prison ministry website, taking care of the prisoners' children at Kolbe Home and giving them dance and music practice and tuitions.

**I am Grateful**



**- Br Alphonse Velankanni OFM**

In the PMI national office though we are from different cultures, we focus on 1) Reach-out, 2) Release, 3) Reform, 4) Rehabilitation, 5) Reintegration and 6) Redemption of our brothers and sisters behind the bars. In fact, we pray together, work together, play together, and eat together as one family and there is a community spirit in everyone and everywhere. I found joy and satisfaction in my ministry. The Prison Ministry India enriched me, strengthened me for a better future in my vocational journey. This ministry taught me to be more compassionate and kinder towards inmates, to cope with reality, to accept both the good and bad. At the end of my regency, I realized that problems and difficulties come our way, not to shake us, not to break us, but to strengthen us and renew our spirit within. I am thankful to the almighty for giving me a chance to do my regency at the PMI national office and for being at my side in all the activities that I did in my regency. I extend my heartfelt thanks to my Provincial Fr Praveen D'Souza, my formator Fr John Seker, Fr Francis Kodyan the national coordinator and the prison ministry family for guiding me to become a mature person in all aspects of life.

## WHAT SHALL I DO FOR THEM?



- Bro John Kodackanal CMF

A missile from its launch to its destination undergoes different stages. At each stage, the engineers on the ground check and control it so that it reaches its final target. In the same way, priestly formation has different stages to arrive at the summit of priestly ordination. Every phase is an opportunity both for the authorities and the candidates to simultaneously check and control so that the candidate reaches the final destination.

I did my regency at the Prison Ministry India National Office, Bengaluru. It was obviously fertile ground for me to gain awareness of my abilities and limitations as well as to prune and polish myself through various experiences. Regency in PMI gave me many means for my spiritual nourishment through the daily Eucharistic celebration, community prayers, Eucharistic adoration, and all the other spiritual exercises. My pastoral experiences during regency were wonderful. I had ample opportunities to visit various prisons and prisoners. I fondly cherish my time with the Kolbe Home children and the daughters of Jeevodaya. They taught me many simple but far-reaching lessons. The first and the foremost recognition I received from these pastoral experiences was that in the Church there are many ministries for those who do not come to the church, for the least, the lost and the last. My perceptions regarding prisoners and poor people have changed. These two convictions left within me a single and powerful question, "What shall I do for them?"

I had the good opportunity to live one year along with different religious congregation members which was thrilling. I learned many good things from them as well as could share with them my Claretian charism. The opportunity to stay with Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, Fr Stanly MSC and Fr George Kalassery VC taught me many practical lessons to lead an exemplary religious life. I had time every day to spend with the children at Kolbe Home; playing with them and teaching them, which was a really good experience. PMI provided a good atmosphere for my intellectual growth through readings, writings and taking classes for the children. I received good practical experience in banking, posting, despatching, tax-paying, driving, office running, etc.

I was inspired by the lifestyle of the nuns in both Kolbe Home and Jeevodaya as well as the nuns who visit the prison every day, like Sr Adele, Sr Rose, Sr Marina, and Sr Liza who stay at the prison quarters. These experiences were quite enriching and enlightening. Regency at the PMI National office, Bengaluru was a gift of God, a gift through which I could learn many things for my future life. I thank everyone at the PMI national office. When I look back, I understand that it was Jesus who guided, helped, and strengthened me throughout these days. I thank God Almighty for the blessings and graces showered upon me during these days.

# *Farewell and Welcome*

**Heartfelt Appreciation and Gratitude to Father, Sisters and Brothers for Their Committed Service Rendered at the PMI National Office and Bangalore Central Prison. May the Risen Lord Continue to Bless You.**

**Fr Stanly Lourdu John MSC, Sr Marina Purackal DSFS, Sr Lissa Marattil DSFS, Sr Jane Agnes Singh SJC, Sr Mangal Shaharao SCC, Br Alphonse Velankanni OFM, Br John Kodackanal CMF**

**Hearty Welcome to Fr Benny Thomas Pachanal CRSP, the new PMI Assistant National Coordinator**



**Hearty Welcome to Fr George Kalassery VC, the Director of Van Thuan Home and RRDC, Carmelaram, Bengaluru**



**PMI Volunteers Giving 200 Lifebouy Soap to the Hubli Sub Jail Inmates in the Presence of Jail Superintendent Shri Ashok Bajentri. Hubli, Karnataka**



**Welcoming Mr Mark Heins to Van Thuan Home by Washing and Kissing His Feet**





**Women's Day Celebration, District Jail, Varanasi, UP**



**Food Distribution to Prisoners' Families, Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu**



**Mask Production and Distribution at Ponkunnam Jail, Kerala**



**Food Distribution by PMI Nashik, Maharashtra**



**Food Distribution by PMI National Office**



**Food Distribution at Kerala**