



PRISON VOICE

June 2021

Vol. XVIII

Issue 6

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹40/-

BODY BROKEN FOR THE LOST





Kolbe Boy Iswara's Drawing



Iswara's Father Chandra Visits Kolbe Home with a Gift



Kolbe Home Sisters Develop New Garden



Kolbe Kids at Work



Life in the Spirit Conference - Concluding Mass



PMI Volunteers Distributing Sanitizers at Aurangabad Prison



PMI Pune Volunteers Distribute Sanitizers to Yervada Prison



PMI Pune Volunteers doing Funeral Services to Prisoners

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PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY



Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood (Lk 22, 19-21).

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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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RESTRUCTURING LIVES - FROM CELL TO HOME

“Through wisdom, a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches” (Prov 24:3-4).

One of the Ruby Jubilee projects aims at house construction for released prisoners. The motive behind this scheme is to reduce homelessness while ensuring that inmates who are released from prisons are housed safely. Fr Francis Kodiyan, PMI National Coordinator has taken the initiative and set a goal to construct 40 houses for released prisoners in order to rebuild their lives and dreams for their bright future.

Dear volunteers, the moment ex-prisoners step off the prison, a daunting challenge stares them straight in their faces as to where to find a place to rest for the night. Very few prisoners have a loving family waiting for them to come home. As a result, many newly released prisoners end up in shelter homes. During the day they are forced onto the streets carrying their few belongings with them. Roaming around hopelessly may not do any good for the former prisoners. A safe place to live is essential for a successful re-entry into society. But most ex-prisoners have no money to pay rent. Helping newly released men and women find affordable housing is a very important part of re-entry ministry. Dear volunteers helping a reformed prisoner find suitable housing will have a huge impact on whether he/she will successfully re-enter the community as a law-abiding citizen. If each one of us tries to donate a brick we can build homes for them.

I think it is safe to say, considering the pandemic, that we are craving for healing and unity in ways we had not imagined possibly a



Sr Amala DC
Chief Editor

few months ago. Health care providers have been on the frontlines of our physical needs. If we are going to see ourselves as a whole, we must also not ignore our spiritual needs. Faith is the cornerstone and connection to complete health. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus can help restore us in this vital area of our spiritual wellbeing.

The historical origins of the devotion to the Sacred Heart and its doctrine go back to the dawn of Christianity. It was revealed to us by Jesus when he told us, in the only direct mandate he gave to imitate Him. He told us, “Learn from me that I am meek and humble of Heart” (Mt 11:29). The doctrinal foundation of the devotion to the Sacred Heart was revealed on Calvary when the Heart of Jesus was pierced by the soldier’s lance and we are told, “there flowed out blood and water” (Jn19:34) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated on June 11 this year and it always falls nineteen days after Pentecost. It reflects Jesus’ physical human heart as the image of his Divine love for humankind. The words of Jesus to Margret Mary Alacoque are: “My love reigns in suffering; it triumphs in humility and enjoins itself in unity.” Sacred Heart of Jesus belongs to all Christians as we are all baptized. This calls us to holiness and wholeness individually and as brothers and sisters in Christ. His Sacred heart is offered in love to heal our wounds. Take comfort in His most compassionate and loving heart. Wish you all a Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May love and compassion of the Sacred Heart flow through our lives!

PRISONERS' RESTORATION: PMI WAYS

Introduction

In an era of mass incarceration and prison overcrowding, a question arises how a prisoner can be restored to live a successful life after prolonged incarceration? Restoration is the transition from prison to reintegration into society after being incarcerated for a number of years. This shift from retribution and vengeance to a more human approach is the most difficult task for the prisoner. Restorative processes shall focus on physical, behavioural, emotional and restoration of dignity. To reduce recidivism, it is vital that we ensure effective and humane restoration of prisoners. This article briefly illustrates the various ways and means of reintegration used by Prison Ministry India.

Humane Restoration

Punishment is considered as a means of reducing the incidence of criminal behaviour either by deterring potential wrongdoers or by incarcerating and restraining their ability to perpetrate further crimes. With the evolution of prison reforms and prisoners' rights across the globe, the punitive reaction approach paved the way to a scientific societal approach to treat and cure prisoners. Treat prisoners like human beings, and they will act like human beings. Human rights organizations stress that prisoners should be provided with a



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

safe and humane environment and are free from victimization.

PMI Initiatives

Prison Ministry India gives much attention to the integral reintegration and human development of prisoners. Through legal aid, spiritual accompaniment, financial assistance, marriage, job and house settlement PMI volunteers make sure that the released prisoners are reintegrated properly and perfectly.

Reaching Out

8000 committed PMI volunteers reach out to the 1350 prisons and meet 4.6 lakhs prisoners all over India. Listening to their anxieties, anguishes and agonies they extend their helping hands to their integral reintegration.

Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated

PMI volunteers pray incessantly for the release, reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners all over the world



PRISONERS' RESTORATION

by participating in the Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated program.

Releasing Prisoners

Many prisoners remain in prisons even after their term of punishment due to their inability to pay fine and compensation to victims. One of the PMI Ruby Jubilee decisions is to release 400 prisoners with legal and financial support.

Rehabilitation

PMI has established Rehabilitation Centres for released men and women prisoners in many States. Those who have nowhere to go when they are released can go to these centres for their rehabilitation.

Homes for Prisoners' Children

PMI has many homes for prisoners' children, both for boys and girls. Those prisoners who have no place to keep their children while they are in prison can send their children to PMI Homes for children. During this PMI Ruby Jubilee Year, we launch four more homes for prisoners' children.

Prisoners Education Scholarships

Besides welcoming prisoners' children to homes meant for them, PMI also extends their helping hands to 400 children by providing them school fees.

Medical and Psychological Aid

PMI volunteers are concerned about providing medical and psychological

assistance to released prisoners by taking them to appropriate hospitals, psychiatric and de-addiction centres.

Job Settlement

After releasing prisoners PMI volunteers take keen interest in finding them suitable jobs according to their aptitude, studies and interest.

Marriage Settlement

PMI volunteers help released prisoners to redesign their lives by allowing them to undergo a reformation process of six months. They encourage them to be settled in marriage and assist them in whatever way possible to lead a successful married life.

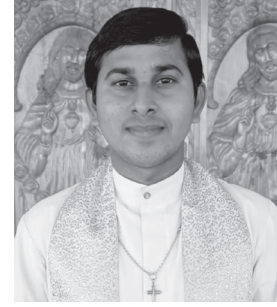
Housing Project

PMI volunteers assist those released prisoners who are homeless to have a plot of land and a house. In connection with the Ruby Jubilee, PMI decided to construct 40 houses for the released and reformed prisoners.

Follow-up Programs

PMI has regular follow-up programs for released, reformed, rehabilitated and reintegrated prisoners. We call them on regular basis to listen to them and motivate them. Integral restoration of released prisoners depends mainly on divine grace and on our humane approach of tender loving care. Like the good shepherd we need to search for them, find them, carry them on our shoulders and die for them so that they may have life, life in abundance.

HOLY EUCHARIST: A GREAT SACRIFICE OF THE CROSS



Fr Allam Sagar Manoj Kumar

What is the most precious gift that Jesus Christ gave to his Church? I do not mean the gift of the Holy Spirit. I have in mind things that we can see and touch. Many people will say, “The Bible.” The Bible is indeed an invaluable gift of God, but Jesus did not write a Bible for the Church nor did he commission his disciples to write one. The most precious gift that Jesus gave to his Church is that which we celebrate every day, the gift of his own body and blood in the form of bread and wine.

At this juncture, St Paul begins by telling the people of Corinth that the tradition of celebrating the Lord’s Supper is one that goes back to Jesus Christ himself. “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you” (1 Corinthians 11:23). St Paul did not personally receive this tradition from the Lord, since he was not one of the twelve apostles present at the Last Supper. He received the tradition from those who were Christians before him, after his conversion to the Christian faith. Now he is handing on to the Corinthians the same tradition that he himself received. The only difference is that whereas up till the time of St Paul the tradition was passed on by word of mouth, St Paul was the first to put it down in writing because he could not be there physically with the Corinthians.

What is the tradition that St Paul received and is now passing on? It is this: That

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

Indeed, if we clearly understand, there are three central mysteries to the Catholic faith. The first is Jesus Himself: God who became man and died for us. The second is the Trinity and the third is the Eucharist. The feast that we celebrate today, The Body and Blood of Christ is designed to heighten our awareness of the reality of Jesus present under the forms of bread and wine.

Among these three central mysteries, let us now deeply understand how the Eucharist is called as a great sacrifice. It is the offering of a victim by a priest to God alone, and the destruction of it in some way to acknowledge that He is the Creator of all things. Before the coming of Christ, sacrifices were offered to God in many different ways. The patriarchs and Jewish priests at the command of God offered fruits, wine,



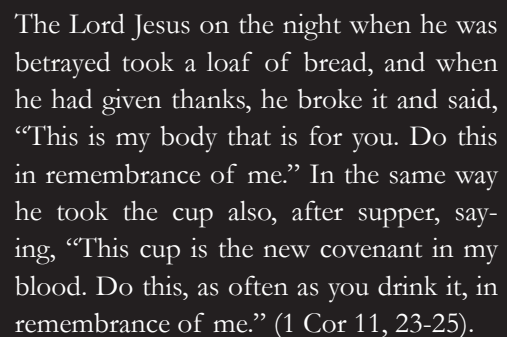
HOLY EUCHARIST

or animals as victims. Cain, for example, offered fruits; Abel offered some sheep of his flock; Melchizedek offered bread and wine. The destruction of these offerings removed them from man's use and thereby signified that God is the Supreme Lord and Master of the entire created universe and that man is wholly dependent upon Him for everything. Sacrifice, therefore, is the most perfect way for man to worship God. The Eucharist is not only a sacrament but also a sacrifice. In it Jesus, acting through the priest, makes present again in an unbloody manner the sacrifice which he offered once for all by shedding his blood on Calvary. In Holy Communion, by obeying Jesus' command to eat his flesh and drink his blood, the faithful are also united spiritually with Jesus himself, and they unite their own prayers, works and sufferings to his perfect sacrifice.

The principal priest in every Mass is Jesus Christ, who offers to His heavenly Father, through the ministry of His ordained priest, His body and blood which were sacrificed on the cross. The Mass is the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the cross. It is now in the New Law, the sacrifice that is acceptable to God. The same sacrifice of the cross because in the Mass the victim is the same, and the principal priest is the same, Jesus Christ. Christ, though invisible, is the principal minister, offering Himself in the Mass. The priest is the visible and secondary minister, offering Christ in the Mass. The

most important part of the Mass is the Consecration. In the Consecration bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ who then is really present on the altar.

The manner in which the sacrifice is offered is different. On the cross Christ physically shed His blood and was physically slain, while in the Mass there is neither physical shedding of blood nor physical death, because Christ can die no more. On the cross Christ gained merit and satisfied for us, while in the Mass He applies to us the merits and satisfaction of His death on the cross. On the cross Christ was offered in a bloody manner, while in the Mass He is offered in an unbloody manner. On the cross Christ alone offered Himself directly, while in the Mass He offers Himself through the priest, who is the secondary but true minister, dependent upon Christ. On the cross Christ suffered and died, while in the Mass He can no longer suffer or die. On the cross He paid the price of our redemption, while in the Mass He applies to us the merits of His Sacrifice on the cross.



The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Cor 11, 23-25).

Fr Stan Swamy SJ

Eight Months Incarcerated



Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

Who Incarcerated Fr Stan Swamy?

Fr Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest and a tribal rights activist based in Jharkhand, worked for over three decades on various issues of the Adivasi communities on land, forest and labour rights. This includes questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which stipulated setting up of a Tribes Advisory Council with members solely of the Adivasi community for their protection, well-being and development in the State. I scribbled an article under the title, “Fr Stan Swamy, Father of Adivasis” in the December issue of Prison Voice, narrating about his early days, Fr Stan as Father of Adivasis, as legend and hero, the indomitable spirit of Fr Swamy, hunting down a Samaritan, his arrest, his work as an oasis in the desert and concluded with PMI family being united with Fr Stan. It’s been 8 months Fr Stan Swamy is behind the bars and this article would take us through his days in prison and the voice of people towards him in solidarity.

Why is Fr Stan Incarcerated?

Officials of the National Investigation Authority (NIA), a federal agency to combat terrorist activities, arrested Fr Swamy on October 8, 2020, in Ranchi. They charged him for his alleged links with Maoist insurgents who were said to have been behind the violence in Bhima Koregaon village in Maharashtra State in January 2018, in which one person was killed and many

others injured. Fifteen other human rights activists too were implicated in the same case, under the rigid non-bailable provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. Realizing that his arrest was imminent, Fr Swamy had released a video explaining his commitment to the rights of the displaced and those deprived of their land, for which he had filed a case against Jharkhand State at the Jharkhand High Court.

Combatant for the Incarcerated?

Fr Stan Swamy moved to the high court seeking the release of 3,000 young men and women who have been languishing in prison after being branded as Maoists. He trekked to remote tribal villages to inform them of their rights. He told them how mines, dams and townships were being built without their consent, and of how they had been deprived of land, often with no compensation. He openly sympathised with a rebellion of tribal people, asserting their rights over their resources and common land. He regularly wrote articles on how big corporations were taking over tribal land for factories and mines. His associates say, it’s them that Fr Swamy has tirelessly fought for. “I’m ready to pay the price, whatever be it” says Fr Stan courageously after being a voice for the voiceless for decades. “Whatever happens to me, I would like to be with my own people in Ranchi”, said Fr Swamy in the Court

Life as Incarcerated

An 83 years old Fr Stan, suffering from Parkinson's had been asking for a sipper and straw to be able to drink water in jail. Fr Stan's letters from prison reveal his gentle humanity and compassion for fellow prisoners. In his letters he writes with courage and gratitude, "Dear friends, thank you so much for the solidarity and support by so many for me and my co-accused. I'm really grateful. My needs are limited. The Adivasis and the Society of Jesus have taught me to lead a simple life. Listening to the life narratives of the poor prisoners is my joy in Taloja prison. I see God in their pains and smiles. Many of such poor under-trials don't know what charges have been put on them, have not seen their charge-sheet and just remain in prison for years without any legal or other assistance. The 16 co-accused have not been able to meet each other as we are lodged in different circles within the same jail. But we will still sing in chorus. A caged bird can still sing".

Why Denial of Bail?

Lawyers for Fr Swamy had applied for his release on humanitarian grounds because the priest had been operated on twice for a hernia, suffers from debilitating Parkinson's disease and lumbar spondylosis, and has lost hearing in both ears since his arrest. Almost six months after he was first detained and arrested for allegedly inciting violence and conspiring to overthrow the Indian Government, Stan Swamy was again denied bail in Mumbai.

Health Deterioration as Incarcerated

He has survived a bout of cancer and three surgeries. His hands shake uncontrollably - doctors have not been able to make a diagnosis yet - and food is always served to him. He sips his favourite tea through a straw from a cup placed in front of him. Interacting with the court via video conference on May 19, Fr Swamy explained his health condition in Mumbai's Taloja Central Jail, where he has been lodged since October 9, 2020, a day after his arrest in Ranchi. He told the court, "Taloja Jail has brought me to a situation where I can neither write nor go for a walk by myself". Fr Xavier, after speaking to Fr Swamy on May 14, had said that Father Stan was suffering from a cough, fever and had a bad stomach. On 18 May 2021, in a note submitted to the Bombay HC, it was reported that Fr Stan was gravely ill in prison. The Maharashtra State court on May 21 offered him treatment in a government or private hospital in the state capital Mumbai. The bench said to Swamy, "Your general health is deteriorating, do you want to be admitted at JJ hospital...?" He replied, "No, I do not want to be. I would prefer to die here. I would prefer this (jail) rather than be admitted to the hospital."

PMI United with Fr Stan Swamy

Dear Fr Stan, we want to tell you that we are united with you in prayer. Jesus, the innocent prisoner, stood at the judgmental seat awaiting judgment. Pilate Said, "I find no guilt in this man." The Good thief on the cross said "this man has done nothing wrong". The Roman Centurion said "certainly this man was innocent!" May you find solace and comfort in Jesus, the hero of innocent prisoners!

Serial Killers' Redeemers

Ashok Kumar

A virtual meeting of Prison Ministry India' Special Task Forces – Innocent Prisoners Reformers and Serial Killers' Redeemers was held on 28 May 2021 from 10AM to 12 PM. Prior to the meeting Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr Dion Isaac from Hyderabad. Father gave a grace filled Gospel message stating that we should try to manifest God's true love in our services intended for the brethren behind the bars. The Meeting began with an opening prayer led by Lt Col Jennifer James from Chennai. Besides a spiritually powerful prayer, she delivered a short gospel message from the gospel of John and letter to the Ephesians, reminding the volunteers about the commandment of our Lord Jesus on feeding His sheep with the Word of God to bring salvation upon all humankind. Spreading the message of salvation is an important task of every believer in Christ.

Welcome

Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, PMI National Coordinator welcomed the participants. In his welcome address, he profusely acknowledged the services of all participants and the heads of the Special Task Forces appreciating their contributions for keeping the respective task forces activities alive through prayers and striving for its expansion. 78 members from all special Task forces attended the virtual meeting by logging on to Google meet.

Innocent Prisoners


The first talk was on the plight of "innocent prisoners" by Mr Noy Joseph and his wife Jovina from Bengaluru. They narrated an amazing testimony out of their life experience when they moved from Kerala to Kuwait with the dream of making a decent livelihood. Mr Noy was doing a good

business in Kuwait but his joy did not last long. After a few years of working sincerely, he was caught in a trap laid by his other colleagues out of jealousy and hatred which subjected him to severe police torture for many days. Unfortunately, Mr Noy couldn't prove himself innocent in the court as his lawyer too deceived him despite charging a hefty sum of Rs 10 lacs. Despite their innocence, they were subjected to heinous treatment by the police in Kuwait and faced injustice in the court. However, with the intervention of UN and the Indian embassy he was able to come back to Kerala. There too he encountered bad experiences as their family members and relatives didn't accept him which led him to think of the extreme step of suicide.

At this juncture, they said, as a last resort they turned to God. Until this time their faith in God was said to be peripheral as they were living merely as nominal Christians. The moment they turned to God for help, they met Fr Sabastian unexpectedly who could understand their mental turmoil and counseled them to strengthen their faith in God and turn away from suicidal thoughts. Presently, they are leading a peaceful life and able to stand on their own feet by running a restaurant, "Annas Kitchen" named after their daughter. Mr Noy and his wife both volunteered to join PMI to serve the Brethren behind bars. Their final message was that whoever reposes trust in the Lord Jesus Christ would get saved including innocent and incarcerated Brethren Behind Bars. They vouched that God alone is most trust worthy and powerful to empower us to gain victory over any torture caused by any kind of spirits of darkness

Serial Killers' Redeemers

Next talk was by Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, from Bellary, former PMI, National secretary on "Serial Killers" and presently heading "Serial Killers Redeemers" (SKR), one of the PMI Special Task Forces. Sister was able to bring out in detail thru power point presentation how serial killers come into existence by



the influence of various environmental and social factors. Further, she went on to explain the basis by which serial killers are divided into organized and unorganized serial killers. She had compiled data and statistics country wise of serial killers along with names of most serious and prominent ones, especially covering extensively our country. Sister tried to bring to our awareness the seriousness of the crime being committed across the world by serial killers and urged upon all to give proper attention to minimize and eradicate the crime thru prayers, fasting and by employing appropriate correctional methods.

Clarifications

Fr Francis Kodiyan opened the floor to the participants to elicit their responses on the talks of the day and invited suggestions if any to improve the efforts presently being made by respective Task forces. Taking the opportunity some of the participants, Lt Col. Jennifer James, Mr Walter Kamble, Sister Adele etc, responded appreciating God's doings in the lives of Mr Noy's family and suggested that their testimony can be used for raising hopes and fortifying the faith of innocent prisoners in Jesus Christ. Sister Lini Sheeja's presentation on "Serial Killers" and the data she presented were deeply appreciated by all.

Vote of Thanks

Vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Ashok Kumar from Vijayawada. First and foremost, he thanked the Lord Jesus Christ for successfully conducting the day's meeting spiritually and meaningfully. He thanked the Lord on behalf of every one for keeping all safe and healthy in these times of the present pandemic. It was followed by words of thanks and appreciation to every speaker of the day individually by recalling the central theme of their message and its importance. The meeting was concluded with the thanksgiving prayer by Mr Walter Kumble, Nashik, followed by Angelus.



Pentecost with Prisoners: Life in the Spirit Conference

Vinita J Britto

Prison Ministry India celebrated Pentecost with Prisoners and PMI volunteers on 22 May 2021. The Celebration consisted of 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration and a Life in the Spirit Conference from 10.00 to 12.30 in the morning. The theme was "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4). The goals of this celebration were: 1) Sanctification of Prisoners Worldwide, 2) Sanctification of PMI Volunteers and 3) Eradication of Covid19 from mankind. This is a brief report of the PMI Pentecost celebration.

Eucharistic Adoration


The Eucharistic Adoration began early morning at 12.00AM. Every PMI state unit, PMI Special Task Forces and PMI rehabilitation centres were given half an hour slot to pray for the purification of prisoners worldwide.

Life in the Spirit Conference

Sr Amala DC, PMI National Secretary anchored the Life in the Spirit Conference. Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, PMI Former National Secretary, led the opening prayer. Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, National Coordinator PMI welcomed the distinguished guests and participants. Fr Kodiyan stated that as at the first Pentecost the universal Church is eagerly waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a graceful occasion to sanctify PMI volunteers, prisoners worldwide and the whole mankind.

Holy Fire – Holy Spirit

Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, PMI Chairman, narrated the story of a little girl who visited



her grandmother on a beautiful Sunday morning. She walked in the flower garden and tried to open a flower bud with her own delicate hands but the petals were broken. She said I don't understand grandma, because when the flower is fully bloomed it is beautiful. Grandmother replied that it was because God works from inside out. This is what happens at Pentecost. The disciples in the upper room were waiting for Him. We are nothing without Him. He explained the 3 classic symbols of the Holy Spirit – Breath for Life; Fire for Power; and the Descending Dove for Peace. Let us, therefore, ask the Holy Spirit to work from within the prisoners' life. Sr Shony thanked Bishop Allwyn and introduced Most Rev Dr Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi.

Descending of the Holy Spirit

Most Rev Dr Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi thanked God for Prison Ministry India and the work with prisoners, both inside and outside the prison walls. Pentecost calls for the unity of the Church. As the united body of Christ every church is to stand before God and intercede for our nation. United Christian Prayer for India (UCPI) is a prayer movement for the country with the sound of hope, prayer and praise - one sound and one Hope. The Holy Spirit refers to bring order: "Veni Sancte Spiritus" Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love. The coming of the Holy Spirit caused construction and brought transformation. "All who believed were together and had all things in common" (Acts 2:44). Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and leads us into the mission of our calling. Prison Ministry India carries out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Matthew 25:36 "I was in prison and you visited me". Pope Francis in his Apostolic Discourse said that love will empower coldness! Keep the fire alive in your hearts and never allow it to diminish. Set your minds on the things above. When we set our eyes on Him, we

are better able to serve Him. Prison Ministry India flows from compassion. And service ultimately flows through the power of the Holy Spirit above to his precepts, promises and spiritual power. Mrs Antoinette Fernandez from Pune thanked Most Rev Dr Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi. Sr Lini welcomed Rev Dr Augustine Vallooran VC, Director of the Divine Retreat Centre.

Anointing of Holy Spirit

Rev Dr Augustine Vallooran VC stated that Prison Ministry is a blessed Ministry. He recalled the words of Jesus, "I was in Prison and you visited me". Together with the Psalmist he prayed: "Send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth – touch all those in prisons and the volunteers. May the face of the earth, truly be renewed in times of trouble, when everyone else has failed us. We pray, to welcome Jesus through his mercy – The Divine Mercy Chaplet". Sr Gracy Thomas thanked Fr Vallooran and welcomed Br Conrad Kitt, DRC & Mrs Falguni Hiren Mehta (DRC).

Inflaming of the Holy Spirit

Br Conrad Kitt DRC & Mrs Falguni Hiren Mehta DRC conducted the inflaming of the Holy Spirit service. The inflaming of the Holy Spirit began with Isaiah 61:1-2. "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

Conclusion

Fr Rajendra Kumar thanked Bro Conrad Kitts and Mrs Falguni Hiren Mehta. Mrs Rowena Luis, PMI Maharashtra State Secretary prayed for the sanctification of prisoners, anointing of volunteers and purification of the world.

PMI Pune Continues to Reachout and Can't be Locked in

Amira Peter

In April, the second wave of the pandemic took the state of Maharashtra by storm! The city of Pune was not spared either. Just as the summer temperatures soared, so did the number of people infected with COVID-19. Many lives were claimed as medical attention and hospital beds became inaccessible.

Amidst this grim scenario and a strict lockdown, the PMI Pune warriors were not to be deterred. We continued to be sensitive and available to the needs of our brethren behind bars. Our PMI Pune warriors were quick to respond to Covid protection requests for oxymeters, handwash, sanitiser liquid, sodium hydrochloride solution, masks etc. In this second wave, our support extended beyond the Yerwada (Pune) jails as far as Visapur jail (Ahmednagar District), about 100 kms out of the city.

PMI Pune also responded to requests for education fees, medical facilities and security deposits for release. The most touching and timely response was for our brother John Simon Dsouza (of Goa). John, an inmate of the Men's Jail passed away at Sasoon Hospital whilst under medical treatment. His body lay unclaimed in the hospital morgue for four days as neither family nor friends responded favourably. So, the court appointed the jail authorities to perform John's last rites as per his religious customs. The jail authorities confident that PMI would give Brother John a fitting farewell, contacted Anthony Jacob of PMI Pune who stepped in immediately. With the support of Mario of Ferns Undertakers and Fr S. A. Louis, Parish Priest of St Patrick's Parish, Brother John was laid to rest at the Christian Cemetary in Hadapsar in the presence of jail authorities, "for the Lord has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim freedom for the captives" Isaiah 61:1.

Death Row Prisoner's Journey to Redemption

Mrs Lili P Vaz

A criminal, a murderer, a bad guy am I,
Languishing on death row, condemned to die.
Despised by friends, forgotten by all,
Family hates me, not a letter, never a call.
As I gaze upon this stark prison-cell wall,
Memories of my past I sadly recall.
My family, my parents and siblings three,
Steeped in poverty, but happy and carefree.
Then my life changed drastically when the devil took over,
I gambled, I smoked hash, I was hardly ever sober.
A craving for wealth and luxuries crept in,
I turned to crime, thus began my life of sin.
Petty thefts, burglaries and robberies too,
Drug peddling and chain snatching just to mention a few.
The last straw came while wielding a knife,
Plunging it deep, I snuffed out a life.
For murder I was convicted, so here am I,
Wretched and miserable, waiting to die.
Angry and bitter, violent and hateful,
I had evolved into a monster, cruel and dreadful.
And then appeared this angel, a prison ministry volunteer,
Whose kindness and compassion bowled me right over.
Introduced me to God, our Father up above,
And taught me about His unconditional love.
This wonderful God who forgave all my transgressions,
And washed me clean through his great compassion.
As a death row convict, my future was bleak,
Lord to you I turn, your mercy I seek.
I was a sheep that had gone astray,
But you rescued my soul and showed me the right way.
My time is done, my death is near,
In your loving embrace I have nothing to fear.
Forgive me Father, I have sinned against you,
Remember me in your kingdom, Father please do.
With joy in my heart, I commend you my spirit,
I'm your child now my Lord, no longer a convict.
Praise you God, this sick heart you have healed,
You are my redeemer, my saviour, my shield.



Anson Thomas’ Battle against Human Trafficking

Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

Introduction

Brothels are crowded places. Sex workers wait outside to pick up customers and then rent an available bed. In 2005, with a state-wide ban on dance bars many dancing girls, who couldn’t find other means of income, moved to prostitution to survive, in Mumbai’s red-light districts, like Kamathipura. According to police, in 2005, there were 100,000 prostitutes working out of five-star hotels and brothels across Mumbai. Whether it’s a 10 years old girl or 50 years old woman, no customer who walks inside will ask, ‘how did you end up in this tragedy?’ They will have their sexual gratification and leave the room leaving deep scars in the girl’s/woman’s life. If anyone enters into their life to rescue them their life will be threatened. Here comes an altruistic fire-fighter Anson Thomas who risks his life to save another’s life. This article runs through an estimable work done by Mr Anson Thomas who battles against human trafficking, a selfless worker who placed himself in danger to save vulnerable women/children.

An Altruistic Fire-Fighter

Anson Thomas (54), a Keralite from Ranni in Pathanamthitta district, was born and brought up in the city of Mumbai, represented Mumbai in the National Hockey tournament, donning the role of the team’s Goalkeeper and later played for Indian Customs team as goalkeeper after joining the elite department. However, Anson is known among the traffickers, who bring girls from across the country to the red-


light area of Mumbai and Delhi, as one of the major hindrances or a wall to bump against as they move ahead in their crime. The reputed goalkeeper had already rescued more than 800 girls from the captivity of brothels in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Kolkata, Amsterdam, Australia, US and many parts of the world risking his life from goons and bouncers who used to guard these brothels in the last three decades. Now he is a retired officer from Mumbai Customs who works full-time tirelessly in rescuing these vulnerable women and children.

To be a Light in Darkness

Anson in his words says, “God has used me for the past 30 years in this noble mission and it’s the joy of risking my life to save the suppressed and rejected ones. “You are the light of the world” (Mt 5:4) and that’s where God took me in such places to shine in the darkness. Using my sports, I could go to ‘Kamathipura’ red light area in Mumbai with my Holy Bible in one hand and foot-ball in the other hand and play with those children who were born in brothel houses. Those women and children were wondering who is this guy showing love and concern to us. I started to take high profile cricket players and movie actors inside to show role models to these children. Today those children who would have turned as commercial sex workers turned as MBA holders, nurses, graduates, post graduates and many are married and settled in life.

National Level Hockey Player to Rescuer

Young girls are trapped in brothel houses and unable to come out. Going to brothel houses and seeing their miserable situation, Anson felt the call of risking his life for these children and women and started to rescue them from the dark cells of brothel houses. Anson saw them as his own sister, daughter and mother which made him restless and God blessed him with grace and strength to go and work over



there despite having to go through threats to his life and all types of problems. Every girl from brothel houses has got a story to tell us.

A young girl from Kerala had gone to Karnataka to do her nursing. After completing her studies, she could not get her certificate in the hand just because she could not afford to pay nursing fees Rs 25,000/-. This poor girl thought of earning this amount by working as home nurse and she went down to Bombay to a five-storied building consisting of 85 rooms thinking it to be a hospital as she was guided by someone. But that was a brothel house and she was there for 8 months. Anson Thomas got news that there is Keralite Christian girl and he managed to rescue this girl, kept her in a protective home. When she was tested she was diagnosed with HIV and Hepatitis, looking pale and thin. Anson Thomas carried her and got her admitted to a hospital. When doctors asked, he said that she is my sister. After a few months she passed away without responding to the treatment.

A young 9 years old child from Tamilnadu, standing at the bus stop was given some food to eat and she was drugged after which she was sold to a brothel house in Mumbai where transgenders are running the brothel. This 9-year-old child was pushed into prostitution till she was 12 years old and Anson Thomas rescued her. It didn't finish with that, rather when she grew older, he empowered her to rescue other children and women who are trapped into it. There are so many ways in which young girls are trapped into it through drugs, promises, marriages. We are in a darkened world where technology has grown so much and people go to any extent just for money.

Vision and Mission

In 2009, when he received CNN Real Heroes award for Women Empowerment from

Mukesh Ambani and other big personalities he made a statement that his vision and mission is to turn the whole red-light area into a green light area. In 2010, he resigned from his job and is now full-time into social commission work to reach out to these children and women in the red-light area.

Pledge to Protect Movie

Anson Thomas has decided to showcase his arduous journey against human trafficking on celluloid through a film titled, Pledge to Protect. The movie that is currently being filmed across different parts of the city, including some brothels, will have Anson as the lead actor alongside other prominent Bollywood names like Govind Namdeo, Sunil Pal and Ganesh Yadav. "The movie is based on real life incidents so it will be hard-hitting. It will appeal to a wide audience not only in India but also abroad and that's why I'm certain the film will do well," said Yadav.

Never Quit but Fight Hard

"When I look back at my journey across the dinghy brothels of our country, I can't believe I've done whatever I could. Collaborating with the police and other authorities to help rescue helpless sex workers is a thankless job. But being a sportsman, I learnt never to give up and to always fight hard even if the odds are stacked against you. I want to spread the message that human trafficking needs to stop. This modern-day slavery must end and that can only happen when each one of us pledges to protect our daughters, sisters and mothers," Thomas told mid-day.com recently. "Threats have become a way of life for me. I get abused and vilified every day, but I move on because I feel there has to be somebody who has to look after these kids, and that is me," he says. "No fear or humiliation or embarrassment will stop me."

Anti-Human Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB)

Ashok Kumar

Prison Ministry India's Special Task Force - Anti-human Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB) had a virtual meeting on 27 April 2021. The Meeting began with an opening prayer led by Mr Ashok Kumar from Vijayawada. There were 33 participants. Mrs Nirmala Menezes introduced the new members. Fr Francis Kodyan MCBS, PMI National Coordinator, welcomed the participants. He appreciated the volunteers of ATB and reiterated the purpose and mission of ATB.

Antihuman Trafficking

He informed that the efforts made to liberate the victims of human trafficking have been recognized as an emerging mission of the 21st century by our Pope Francis. Promoting such a ministry is one of the most needed tasks to save the innocent victims under captivity and heinous inhuman treatment. St Guiseppina Bakhita was declared as the patron saint of Anti-Human Trafficking because she underwent similar kind of torture and sufferings when she was sold at the age of seven. Pope Francis dedicated the feast of St Bakhita to the victims of human trafficking so as to have a special focus on human trafficked victims for their release from captivity and their rehabilitation in order to safeguard their right to life and human dignity. Fr Francis Kodyan stated that there are nearly 40 million victims


presently suffering under this heinous trade of human trafficking, mostly women and girl children.

Talitha Koum

Fr Kodyan talked about an organization named as "Talitha Koum," rooted in Mark's Gospel 5: 41, which means "little Girl arise," founded by Sr Astrella in December 2009 and is now headed by Sr Gabrielle. The organization's services are now spread across 75 countries consisting of nearly 600 nuns and 1100 women volunteers. There are nearly 79 congregations involved actively as part of Anti-human trafficking rescue services. The organization imparts special training to local volunteers to enable them to recognize any signs of suspected human Trafficking operations happening in their surrounding neighborhood.

Special Task Forces

Fr Michael Francis, designated as Chief Commandant of PMI Special Task Forces, read the names of forty Special Task Forces and urged on everyone the need for sustained and intense special prayers and fasting, as we are encountering areas of critical nature which have been in the control of invisible spirits of darkness. He cautioned that the system of operation of human trafficking is similar to a war field which is laid with land mines, hence we need to step carefully and cautiously with special prayers while we execute our mission of saving the victims. Fr Micheal informed the members about the new group, named as "Anointed



prisoners consolers” meant to pray for incarcerated priests and religious in various prisons across India and other countries. We need to pray for their release, reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration.

STF Methodology

Sr Lini Sheeja MSC former PMI National Secretary, spoke on the current activities of the PMI special task forces and said that the prayer should be our power house. We need to conduct night vigil worship prayers and a regular monthly meeting. In this regard, Sister suggested 51 days of spiritual warfare programs like 51 days of special Holy Masses, 51 days of reciting the Holy Rosary, reading Holy scriptures from the chapters of Romans and Galatians etc., Sr Lini confirmed that a few of Special Task forces had already initiated and completed the prayer programs.

Experience Sharing

The floor was left open for the participants to share their views and have a glimpse of the work they have been doing. Sr Dhamam from Delhi, shared the Anti-Human trafficking work she has been carrying out at Delhi and the manner in which they conduct rescue operations and send the victims to NGOs for rehabilitation. Sr Marcelline spoke about the rescue home run by her congregation at Vasai, Mumbai and the restrictions put on them to cater to girls only from Palghar district. Sr Philomena shared her visits to the red-light areas and her assistance to the NGOs in marketing the bags made by the rescued victims. Mrs Nirmala Menzes spoke about her experience in counseling and how

she rescued victims at Rescue Foundation, Kandivli, Mumbai and expressed the need for a rehabilitation home in Mumbai under the PMI flagship where these girls could get much better all-round development and become responsible and self-employed people.

Decisions

Fr Francis Kodiyan proposed the name of Mrs Nirmala Menezes to be one of the leaders to work in the forefront and be as a secretary for Anti Human trafficking Brigadiers’ Task force which she readily accepted. Later, Fr. Francis Kodiyan invited any of the volunteers to come forward to assist Mrs Nirmala in her new assignment, Ms Vanita Shetty, volunteered to do so and her name was confirmed. The Meeting decided that the ATB task force would conduct three-hour night adoration every Wednesday midnight i.e., Thursday early morning 12 AM to 3 AM. Monthly meetings would be conducted on second Thursday of every month at 7 PM. Sr Philomena volunteered to co-ordinate with International Justice Mission and arrange online training for the PMI warriors of AHTB. Fr Francis Kodiyan emphasized the need to strengthen our networking with other NGOs in the field and urged that a list be made of all the NGO’s working for this cause to try and build a strong liaison with them so as to get ourselves guided and trained for better handling of the task. The Meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Mrs Nirmala Menezes and final blessings by Fr Dion.



PMI Burning Bush Spiritual Banquet

Goretti Martins

We had our PMI Burning Bush program on the 4 June 2021 conducted by our Pilar Fr's (SFX) of Goa province under the leadership of the Rector Rev Fr Peter Fernandes. The program began with praise and worship by the PMI Pilar Theological college seminarians. Soon after the praise and worship, Sr Amala. DC, PMI National Secretary read out the day's program and our National coordinator Rev Fr Francis Kodiyan welcomed our guest speaker Rev Fr Franky Carvalho, Rev Fr Clancy Fernandes and the seminarians. He also thanked the Rector of the seminary Rev Fr Peter for his willingness to organize this program for the benefit of the PMI volunteers. He also extended a warm welcome to all the online participants.

Fr Franky spoke on the theme "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance (Lk 5:32) Fr spoke on the call of Levi and on the call of Zacchaeus. He focused on how Jesus never looks upon our weaknesses but rather goes a step forward to see the good in each of us. He also said that each of us is called to be the second Christ to our brothers and sisters behind bars. He stressed on how we need to see them through the eyes of Christ. After the talk Fr Clancy led us into the Eucharistic Adoration. The service ended with the final Eucharistic blessing by Fr Clancy. Brother Rajendra, PMI volunteer from Aurangabad proposed the vote of thanks and the banquet ended with the Angelus led by Sr Amala.



PMI Ruby Jubilee Housing Project

Sr Beena Thekkan SdP

Alphi Johnson

The basic needs of every individual are Food, Clothes and Shelter. To have one's own shelter is a dream for every person. Alphi Johnson (43) is one among those who really dreamt of having her own house. Alphi was an inmate of Snehashramam, Monvila, Trivandrum. She was an orphan girl and on completing 7 years of formation at Snehashramam she was married to Mr Johnson on 10-10-2012. Johnson is a fisherman by profession and they have an eight-year-old boy child who is studying in 3rd standard. They are living in a joint family but her husband is not looking after her and the child. She and her child survive from the meager income she gets from housekeeping work which is not regular.

Snehashramam

The Sisters of Snehashramam bought 1.5 cent of land in the year 2014 and with the financial support of a few benefactors and help from government, they began the construction of a small house in the year 2015. But due to insufficiency of fund it remained incomplete. She is still harassed and disturbed by her husband who is demanding to vacate from her present house.

PMI Ruby Jubilee Housing Project

Indeed, it is an urgent need for Alphi to complete the construction of this house and to shift as early possible to the new house. God's grace and the financial support of many generous people did help her complete part of it. It was at this point Rev Fr Francis Kodiyan the national coordinator of PMI announced the Housing Project to mark the celebration of Ruby Jubilee of PMI. An application was sent and it was accepted. With the support of PMI and the generous help of different benefactors the construction work was resumed and it is now on the verge of completion. I take this opportunity to voice the sentiments of gratitude on behalf of Alphi Johnson to Rev Fr Francis Kodiyan and PMI team and all the benefactors whose generous hearts paved the way for the accomplishment of the dream of Alphi Johnson.



Homes for the Homeless

Sr Fidelis HCM

Jeevodaya Ashram

Jeevodaya Ashram came into existence in line with the motto of our Holy Cross Congregation, “Need of the time is the will of God”, in the year 1995, on 22nd January, with the intention of giving life to women who are released from prisons, women caught up in the flesh trade and in any moral distress and the excluded, who are eighteen and above. “Be a Love Bomb, let it be exploded. Not to kill, but to heal the broken hearts”. This small sentence is the inspiration behind the birth of Jeevodaya. It stands for the noble cause of bringing peace, joy and hope into the lives of broken and wounded hearts, who live beyond all hopes of getting back into society. Jeevodaya welcomes such rejected and dejected women, the ‘nobody’ of society, giving them a chance to renew their life and be rehabilitated and come to the main stream of society.

Prison Ministry India

We have been engaged in this yeomen service for the past 26 years in this ministry. “God never said that the journey would be easy, but He said that the arrival would be worthwhile.” Prison Ministry is a radical Christian movement inspired by the life-style and mission of Jesus, well reflected in the Gospel narratives. The rehabilitation work

of this ministry is built on the conviction that there are no born criminals and all human beings are loved by God their creator and are capable of change through inner healing and genuine forgiveness which alone pave the way for bringing out the beauty out of their broken pieces. With the blessings and the grace of God we could be instrumental in giving new life to so many young women who are having a family of their own. Many of them live in rented houses but we could help only a small number among them to get free sites and build their own houses.

Home for Homeless

During those days we had visitors from the Generalate of our congregation. While we were discussing about our ministry, I briefed them about the marriage settlement of our first inmate and their need to have a house of their own. They were very much taken up by the ministry and gave me word to look into the matter on reaching back to the Generalate. After a few weeks I got the good news that they were sending some money to fulfil our request. With the help of the village leader, we could purchase a plot of land close to our Ashram which was enough for building two houses. We had one more inmate who was married and had a son, but no house of their own. Hence we built two houses adjacent to each other and both the families got settled. From then onwards they have been freed from paying house rent and could sleep peacefully in their homes.



Home for Released Prisoners

“Great things happen when God mixes with us. He works miracles and makes beautiful in His time. His ways are not our ways and He has a plan and purpose for every human being for her/his wellbeing”. To own a house in Bangalore for the poor and marginalized, especially in the villages, is very difficult. The wealthy and the strong buy the land meant for the poor with their money power, build small houses and rent them out. The poor continue to struggle to pay rent and to make ends meet with their meagre earnings from the small jobs they do. The rich become richer and the poor remain always poor. If only the rich in society open their eyes and come out of their self-interest and avarice, the world could become a better place to live for everyone. In our country we have enough wealth and resources for all to live but a small percentage of our people are amassing wealth for themselves depriving the less privileged of their rights and needs.

Ruby Jubilee Housing Project

The two families struggled to come up in life and they are doing well even though they have financial constraints. But they can sleep peacefully without getting worried about paying rent every month. If many people could come forward to help in this venture of PMI, in its Ruby Jubilee year, in constructing houses for the released prisoners or the rehabilitated members of our rehabilitation centres, it would be a boon for many.

Freedom in Christ!

Michelle Lopez

One day the prison gates shall unlock,
And I will be released.
Leaving the friends I made behind,
To pursue all my dreams.

As I anticipate a future for me,
I know I need a fresh start.
Will I be welcomed by my family and
friends?
Or will they ask me to depart.

Are there employment opportunities
Especially for a man like me?
Or will the life of crime drag me in?
Getting a job doesn't seem easy.

The fears of uncertainty grip my heart,
And I don't know where to go.
Suddenly I hear the voice of Christ,
– ‘Son take it slow’.

Hearing the comforting voice of Jesus,
All my fears began to fade.
He said; ‘Son, all your sins are forgiven,
Don't carry unwanted weight’.

I live no more in doubt and fear,
For I know that Jesus Christ is always
near.

When the enemy tries to discourage me,
I'll always remember, Christ has set me
free!



A Change of Heart in Prison

A Jesu Raja

Family Background

In Chennai lived a couple with four children. The father was a coolie worker earning daily wages and running the family. When the children started going to school, it became an additional burden to the family. Even though they were studying in government schools there were also expenses such as note books, school bags etc. Unfortunately, soon the father of the family met with an accident and died. The care of the family then fell squarely on the shoulders of the mother. She started working as a domestic worker. The children had to discontinue their studies and go for work. Samy the youngest son who was studying in 8th standard also discontinued and started helping his mother by going to work.

An Unexpected Event in Life

Samy was going for painting works with his friends and earning money to run the family along with his mother. He had by then picked up certain bad habits such as drinking, smoking and other habits, urged on by his friends. He was always with his friends and whatever he earned was spent for his expenses only and not shared with the family. One day he took his bicycle and went to a nearby teashop with his friend and was having tea and chatting. Near the Tea shop there was a TASMAC shop. They heard voice of fighting from the shop. Hearing the voices and overcome by fear, Samy ran away

leaving the bicycle there itself. He went to his house, had his meals and slept. Around one o'clock after midnight police men came to his house and picked him up from the house. The policemen charged Samy with the case of murder that took place in the TASMAC shop. Since his bicycle was there, he was accused as one of the culprits in the case. He was arrested and put in prison. He remembered the date of the event which took place as 8th June 1996. By luck he got bail. In the year 1999 he got a good and beautiful girl as his wife. He felt himself to be lucky and both of them shared their love with each other. She also loved him a lot. A baby girl was born to them in the year 2000.

Shock in Life

In the year 2001, five years after the incident of 1996, the Sessions court confirmed and charged Samy as the main accused and awarded him life imprisonment. It was a great shock for his family. But as usual the lawyers came and assured him not to worry as they would win the case in the High court. They promised that he would be released. After spending much money, he got bail and came out of prison. Believing the words of the advocates their life continued as usual. In the year 2004 a male baby was born in the family. In the year 2005 the High Court also confirmed the judgment of the session's court and he was sent back to prison.

Turning Point in Life

While Samy was in prison, the Prison Ministry India volunteers met him in person and consoled him. He started thinking of his life. Even though he did not commit any crime, his bicycle was the witness for his involvement in the crime. The dark cells of

the prison brought to light so many things which the broad lighted world could not teach him. Even though he was innocent in this particular case he started thinking of his past life. He felt guilty for what he had done. The volunteers explained to him about the Lord who always loves everyone. He began thinking of the Lord almighty who is all powerful and can do anything for him. He started loving others. He was also helpful to the prison department. He experienced the love and care of the Prison Ministry India volunteers who took care of his family. His wife got job and started earning to run his family. His children were sent to school. He stopped drinking and smoking. Even though he was in prison he was happy and believed that the Lord Almighty would unite him with his family soon.

The Miracle Happened

Time does not wait for anyone but keeps moving fast. Samy became a good man. His wife and children also said that he was a good husband and a good father. The prison life with the help of Prison Ministry India volunteers helped him to be a better person. Once when the volunteers came visiting the prison, he informed them about the release of a person below 18 years at the time of occurrence of the crime. He was only 17 years old when the incident took place. The volunteers collected the details about his date of birth with the help of his family members. The school transfer certificate also showed his date of birth as 10th September 1978. The incident happened as per the police records on 8th June 1996. He was found to be a minor at the time of the incident. The volunteers approached the Tamil Nadu Bishops legal

cell. Fr Xavier Arul Raj who was a senior advocate and the secretary in the Legal cell with his team made special efforts to initiate proceedings in the High Court of Madras. The headmaster of the school was called for the verification of his certificate. The volunteers convinced him and produced him before that court. To the surprise of all, the case was posted and the argument by the Advocate Fr Xavier Arul Raj was sufficient for the High court judge to release him. On 3rd August 2013 he came out of prison without spending even a penny this time. He said, "I spent so much money and was sent to prison. On the contrary now I have not spent any money and am released from prison".

Happy Life

Being released from prison was not the end of the story for Samy and the PMI volunteers. The volunteers got also a driver's job for Samy. He now goes regularly to work. His daughter is admitted in college for studies and his son is doing schooling. His wife and children are happy that her husband and their father is with them. Samy was overwhelmed and said, "I never thought that I would come out. It is because of the Prison Ministry India volunteers I am out of the dark cells of the prison. I am really grateful to the Lord for having released me from the clutches of the prison. My heartfelt thanks to Fr Xavier Arul Raj who argued for my release so that I was released without even spending a penny. When I spent all my money I was sent to prison. But when I did not spend any money, I was released. Glory and honour to the Almighty"!



Jesus' Heart for Prisoners

Nancy Misquith

On 11th June we celebrate one more beautiful feast of the year, which is that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart most obviously brings to mind the Passion of Christ on the Cross. The Heart of Jesus symbolizes God's boundless and passionate love for humankind. From the Heart of Jesus our heart yearns to know the genuine and unique meaning of our life and of our destiny. The pierced Heart of Jesus is a powerful reminder of the love relationship Jesus has with me. Hence, I have no choice but to reciprocate His genuine pure and sweet Love. His love is life-giving, full of compassion and understanding. Scriptures reveal to us that God's Heart cares for prisoners as He advocates Justice that restores. "He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth" (Is 42,4). Men and women in prison can struggle with feelings of isolation, sorrow and distress. The Holy Scripture is the ultimate source of encouragement and can give hope to those facing the challenges and consequences of crime and incarceration. Nothing provides hope other than the Living Word of God. Sharing our Bible with isolated prisoners can open the door to healing and offer them a new purpose to life.


Follow Jesus' Example?

God does not despise the broken; nor should we. Rather, we are to imitate the one who came to seek and save the lost, no matter what type of bonds enslave and cripple them. Jesus identifies very strongly with the weak, the helpless and the outcast.

He considers the way we treat them to be the way we treat Him. He wants us to identify with them as well, putting ourselves in their shoes and caring for them. All people are created in God's image and no life is beyond His reach. We must believe in second chances, and that prison must be a place of Reconciliation after their Release. We must be able to offer hope, encouragement and support to our incarcerated brothers and sisters in prison, so that on their release, their lives are fully transformed.

Coid19 Pandemic

During the past year and till date, we know that prisoners have been most vulnerable to the deadly covid virus. At this time, the State and the Country will do their job of ensuring that prisoners and others in detention centers will receive health care without discrimination on any ground. But we, on our part, as volunteers and more so, the soldiers of Christ, can help in simple yet effective ways to bring relief and satisfaction to them. We can provide them with basic amenities like masks, sanitizers, disinfectant soaps, hand towels etc. to help them in their personal hygiene; we can seek help from authorities for premature release of those prisoners suffering from incurable diseases or any critical ailments; if permitted by authorities, we offer counsel to prisoners on personal health care and hygiene, as of prime importance in the present time. The most important inexpensive yet precious gift we can offer prisoners is keeping them in our family prayer. Yes, we have been consecrated and commissioned into this beautiful ministry of our own accord and we are actually placing them all in the warmth and Love of the Most Precious Heart of Jesus.



Pentecost with Prisoners 24 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

Sr Amala DC

May 22, 2021 was an epoch-making day in the history of PMI because in conjunction with the Feast of Pentecost; and as a means of promoting the significance of the Blessed Sacrament in redeeming prisoners and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters behind the bars, the PMI National Office by the initiative of Fr Francis Kodiyan, PMI cofounder and National Coordinator conducted 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration that was live streamed from 22nd midnight to 23rd midnight. This 24 hours Eucharistic Adoration was well planned giving 30 minutes of time slots to each state, PMI Special Task Forces and PMI Rehabilitation Centers to pray for prisoners of the allotted countries. Prior to the Eucharistic Adoration, Fr Francis presided over the Holy Mass at the National Office for the success of the same.

The time we spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time we will spend on earth. Reiterating benefits of Eucharistic Adoration, St Mother Teresa of Kolkata said, “Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity!” “The spiritual

lives of our families are strengthened through our Holy Hour” asserted St Pope John Paul II. Each moment that we spend with Jesus will deepen our union with Him and make our souls everlastingly more glorious and beautiful and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth; and eternal reward in heaven. Spending time in adoration can be a sacrifice, but it’s a sacrifice that produces the most amazing fruits of love, peace, joy, focus and prosperity.

Yes, dear friends, the event was a great source of blessings and springboard of hope because of the great cooperation and genuine support received from all the PMI state coordinators and Special Task Forces. All the participants of the 39 slots had done their best to be punctual and to pray for the sanctification of humanity and eradication of Corona Virus from mankind. The 24 hours of the Eucharistic Adoration came to an end with Holy Mass presided over by Fr Francis Kodiyan and concelebrants Fr Sebastian Vechookkarot and Fr Rajendra along with the National office staff, Kolbe Staff and the esteemed online participants on 23rd midnight. We are extremely blessed to have such a strong, dedicated and faithful shepherd who is continuously guiding and leading the flocks during this pandemic that is none other than our dear Fr Francis Kodiyan. With Joy and happiness, I pen out.

PRISON MINISTRY INDIA PENTECOST WITH PRISONERS
24 HOURS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
22 MAY 12.00 AM TO 23 MAY 12.00AM

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends
of the earth” Acts 1:8*

Time	State, STF, Rehabilitation Centres	Indian Prisons	Prisons Worldwide
12.00 - 00.30am	Death Row Commandos - Lt Col Jennifer James	Andhra Pradesh - 4 Central Jails, 7 district jails and an Open prison	Afghanistan, Dominica, Liberia, Rwanda
00.30 - 01.00am	Volunteers Training Program 2021 - Dr Rosily Thomas	Andhra Pradesh -99 subjails and women prisons	Albania, Dominican Republic, Libya, Saint Lucia
01.00 - 01.30am	Antidrug Trafficking Warriors - Vinita Brito	Arunachal Pradesh - 2 District Jails	Algeria, Ecuador, Liechtenstein, St Kitts
01.30 - 02.00am	Marie Pushpan's Home - Sr Jini Joseph	Assam - 6 Central Jails, 22 District Jails	Andorra, Egypt, Lithuania, St Vincent
02.00 - 02.30am	Goa - Goretti Martins	Assam - 1 Sub Jail, 1 Open prison, & 1 Special Jail	Angola, El Salvador, Luxemburg, Samoa
02.30 - 03.00am	Prisoners Children Educators - Sanjay Paul	Bihar - 8 Central Jails, 31 District jails, 17 Subjails	Antigua, Barbuda, Eritrea, Madagascar
03.00 - 04.00am	Terrorists Saving Squad - Fr Michael Francis	Bihar - 1 Women Prions, 1 Open Prison, 1 Special subjail	Argentina, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Saudi Arabia
04.00 - 05.00am	Jeevodaya - Sr Clara	Chhattisgarh - 5 Central Jails, 11 District Jails, 12 subjails	Croatia, Lebanon, Maldives, United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Kiribati
05.00 - 05.30am	Uttar Pradesh - Fr Jesu Amirtham	Goa - 1 Central Jail, 1 Subjail for women	Austria, Ethiopia, Senegal, Mali, Serbia, Yemen
05.30 - 06.00am	Chhattisgarh - Sr Joy	Gujarat - 4 Central Jails, 7 District jails, 11 Subjails	Azerbaijan, Fiji, Malta, Seychelles, America
06.00 - 06.30am	Nashik - Walter Kample	Gujarat - 1 Women Jail, 2 Open Jails, 2 Special Subjails	Bahamas, Finland, Marshall Islands, Sierra Leone, Latvia

06.30 - 07.00am	Rajasthan - Fr Nobert	Haryana - 3 Central Jails, 16 District Jails.	Bahrain, France, Mauritania, Singapore, Uzbekistan
07.00 - 07.30am	Karnataka - Sr Therese	Himachal Pradesh - 2 Central Jails, 2 District jails, 8 Subjails, 1 borstel School, 1 Open prison	Bangladesh, Gabon, Mauritius, Slovakia, Zimbabwe
07.30 - 08.00am	Mizoram Fr Praveen Fernandes	Jammu and Kashmir - 2 Central Jails, 10 District jails, 2 Subjails	Barbados, Gambia, Mexico, Slovenia, Romania
08.00 - 08.30am	Punjab - Fr Sijith John	Jharkhand - 7 Central Jails, 15 District prisons, 5 Subjails, 1 open prison, 1 Borstel school	Belarus, Georgia, Macaronesia, Solomon Islands
08.30 - 09.00am	Delhi - Fr George Peter	Karnataka - 1 borstel school, 1 Open Prison, 2 Special prisons	Belgium, Germany, Moldova, Somalia
09.00 - 09.30am	Jharkhand - Sr Nivedita	Karnataka - 8 central Jails, 19 District prisons, 70 Subjails	Belize, Ghana, Monaco, South Africa
09.30 - 10.00am	Snehashramam, Tvm - Sr Beena	Kerala - 3 Central Jails, 11 District jails, 16 Subjails	Benin, Greece, Mongolia, South Korea
10.00 - 10.30am	Van Thuan Home - Fr Francis	Andaman & Nicobar Islands - I District prison, 3 Subjails, 1 Special Jail	Cuba, Vietnam, Nevis, Swaziland
10.30 - 11.00am	Kolbe Home - Sr Basil	Chandigarh - I Model Jail; Puducherry - 1 Central Jail, I Subjail, 2 Special jails	Grenadines, Uruguay, San Marino, Russia
11.30 - 12.00am	RRDC - Fr Rajendran	Dadra & Nagar Haveli - I Subjail; Lakshadweep - 4 Subjails; Daman & Diu - 2 Special Jails	Australia, Armenia, Djibouti, Principe
12.00 - 12.30am	Volunteers Training Centre - Fr Sebastian	Delhi - 9 Central jails, 1 District Jail, 1 Women Prison	Sao Tome, Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka
12.30 - 01.00pm	Telangana - Fr Dion	Kerala - 3 Women Jails, 1 Borstel School, 3 Open prison	Bhutan, Grenada, Montenegro, South Sudan

01.00 - 01.30pm	Madya Pradesh - Br Sunnilal MMB	Madya Pradesh - 10 central Jails, 40 District jails, 73 Subjails, 2 Open Prison	Bolivia, Guatemala, Morocco, Spain
01.30 - 02.00pm	Tamil Nadu - Fr Geo	Maharashtra - 28 District Jails, 100 Subjails, 1 Women Jail	Bosnia, Herzegovina, Guinea, Mozambique
02.00 - 02.30pm	Odisha - Fr Timothy	Maharashtra - 1 Borstel School, 13 Open Prisons, 1 Special Jail, 1 other Jail	Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar, Sudan, Malaysia
02.30 - 03.00pm	Bihar - Raymond	Manipur - 2 central Jails	Brazil, Guyana, Namibia, Surinam, Cyprus
03.00 - 03.30pm	Purgatory Souls Redeemers - Sr Lini Sheeja	Meghalaya - 2 District Jails	Brunei, Haiti, Nauru, Sweden, Kyrgyztan
03.30 - 04.00pm	Innocent Prisoners Redeemers - Sr Lini Sheeja	Mizoram - 1 Central Jail, 6 District Jails	Bulgaria, Honduras, Nepal, Switzerland, Portugal
04.00 - 04.30pm	Maharashtra - Fr Wilfred	Nagaland - 1 Central jail, 10 District Jails	Burkina Faso, Hungary, Netherlands, Syria, Venezuela
04.30 - 05.00pm	Central Region - Fr Wilfred	Odisha - 5 Central Jails, 9 District Jails, 73 Subjails, 1 Women prisons, 1 Open Prison, 2 Special Jails	Burundi, Iceland, New Zealand, Taiwan, Zambia
05.00 - 05.30pm	Assam - Sr Jobina	Punjab - 9 Central Jails, 7 District Jails, 7 Subjails	Cabo Verde, India, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Qatar
05.30 - 06.00pm	Shantinivas - Fr Binoy Mattew	Punjab - 1 Women Prison, 1 Borstel School, 1 open Prison	Cambodia, Indonesia, Niger, Tanzania, Czechia
06.00 - 06.30pm	Asha Sadan - Sr Celin	Rajasthan - 9 Central Jails, 24 District prisons, 60 Subjails	Cameroon, Iran, Nigeria, Thailand, Kuwait
06.30 - 07.00pm	Gujarat - Sr Fulmani	Rajasthan - 29 Open Prisons, 2 Women Prisons, 1 Borstel School, 1 Special Jail	Canada, Iraq, North Korea, Timor-Leste, Estonia

07.00 - 07.30pm	Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers - Nirmala	Sikkim - 1 Central jail, 1 District Jail	Central African Republic, Ireland, Norway, Togo, Lesotho
07.30 - 08.00pm	Odisha - Sr Shanthi HC	Tamil Nadu - 9 Central Jails, 9 District Jails, 96 Subjails	Chad, Israel, North Macedonia, Tongo, Denmark
08.00 - 08.30pm	Snehadeepam - Sr Beena	Tamil Nadu - 3 Women Prisons, 12 Borstel Schools, 3 Open Jails, 5 Special prisons	Chile, Italy, Oman, Trinidad, Tobago
08.30 - 09.00pm	Jharkhand - Fr Shyju	Telangana - 3 Central Jails, 7 District jails, 33 Subjails	China, Jamaica, Pakistan, Tunisia
09.00 - 09.30pm	Gandhinagar - Fr Dominic	Telangana - 1 Women prison, 1 Borstel School, 4 Special prisons, 1 Open Prison	Colombia, Japan, Palau, Turkey
09.30 - 10.00pm	Andhra Pradesh - Fr Pasala	Tripura - 1 Central Prison, 2 District Jails, 10 Subjails, 1 Women Prison	Comoros, Jordan, Palestine, Turkmenistan
10.00 - 10.30pm	Kerala - Fr Shaji Stephen	Uttar Pradesh - 9 Central jails, 57 District Jails, 2 Subjails, 1 Women prison, 2 Special jails	Congo, Kazakhstan, Panama, Tuvalu
10.30 - 11.00pm	Released Prisoners Squad - Sr Adele	Uttarakhand - 1 central Jail, 7 District Jails, 2 Subjails, 1 Open Prison	Republic of Congo, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Laos
11.00 - 11.30pm	Hired Killers Reformers - Fr Alexander Kureekkattil CMF	West Bengal - 7 central jails, 12 District Jails, 33 Subjails	Paraguay, Ukraine, Cote d'Ivoire, Peru
11.30 - 12.00am	National Office - Holy Mass	West Bengal -1 Women Jail, 2 Pen Prisons, 3 Special Jails	Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Kosovo, Vanuatu, Vatican City

**“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God?
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore, honour God with your bodies” (1 Cor 6,19-20).**



Prison Ministry India Kerala Volunteers Training Program Report

Rev Fr Shaji Stephen O de M

Jesus fraternity volunteers training program was held from May 10th to 15th between 9.30 am to 12. 30pm. Every day, the program began with Eucharistic Adoration, during which we prayed the Divine Mercy chaplet and the prayer for the Volunteers gathering which is used in Kerala. On the first day, the State Director Rev Fr Shaji Stephen O. de. M gave a warm welcome to everyone and invited Bishop Mar Jose Pulickal to inaugurate the program. Mar Jose Pulickal, the Chairman of Jesus Fraternity and Prison Ministry India gave the inaugural address. Every day we had two sessions each conducted by different Resource persons which were followed by sharing sessions. The first day, we had a session by Rev Fr Francis Kodyan (National Director and Co-founder of PMI) and the life sharing was done by Br Sunny Lal MMB from Madhya Pradesh. The program was concluded with angelus and the Blessing.

On the second day the classes were given by Rev Fr Varghese Karipperry (Co-founder of PMI) and Rev Sr Clare, the directress of Jeevodaya Ashram (Rehabilitation centre for women) Bangalore. The Sharing was given by Rev Sr Beena Thekken (Directress Sneathramam Monvila) and Rev Fr John Paul. C (Zonal Director of Kollam zone). The program was concluded with angelus and Blessing.

The third day began with Eucharistic Adoration and the sessions were handled by Prof. Rev Dr Maniyat Pauly and Mr O J Thomas (Viyur Central Jail Welfare Officer). The sharing session was conducted by Rev Fr Binoy CMF (Director, Ernakulam Zone) and Rev Fr Thomas Vazhakkala CMI (Director, Thrissur Zone). The program was concluded with angelus and Blessing.

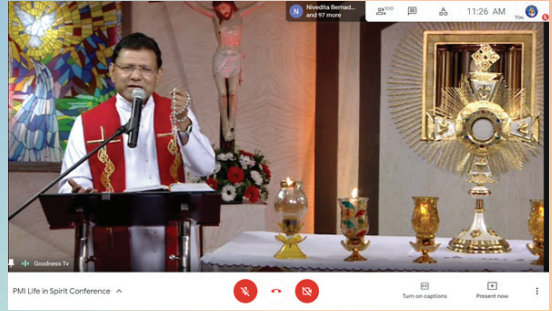
The Fourth day sessions were by Mr Jince (Artist) and Rev Sr Dayana CTC (Former national secretary). The sharing was done by Rev Fr Martin Thattil (Director, Palakkad Zone) and Mr Jose Paul (Jesus Fraternity Volunteer). The program was concluded with angelus and the customary Blessing.

The Classes on the the Fifth day were given by Rev Fr Manoj CMF (Former JF State Director) and Rev Fr Alexander Kureekkattil CMF (Former State Director). The Sharings were given by Rev Fr Siju SCJ (Assit. Director Sneathramam, Vettukad) and Mrs. Sheeba Jaison from Irinjalakkuda. The program was concluded with angelus and Blessing.

On the Six and final day the classes were given by Rev Fr Jacob Prasad (Bible Revision Member POC) on Fratelli Tutti and Rev Fr Joseph Mackoli (First Jesus Fraternity State director). For the concluding Session H. E. Bp. Thomas Mar Eusebius Vice Chairman Jesus Fraternity addressed the volunteers and KCBC Deputy Secretary Rev Fr Jacob G Palakkappilly gave the final message to the volunteers. Sr Jitha (State Secretary JF) thanked everyone and we concluded the program with a prayer



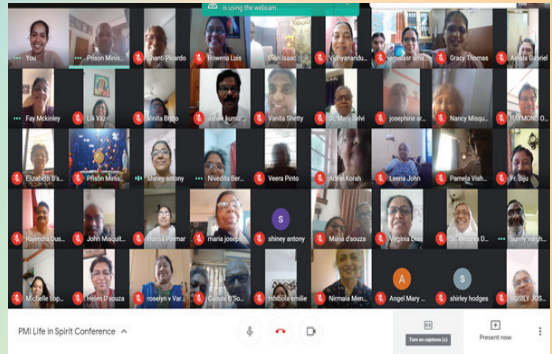
Anti-human Trafficking Brigadiers Meeting



Fr Augustine Vallooran VC Doing the Anointing of the Holy Spirit Prayer Service



PMI Kerala State Conference



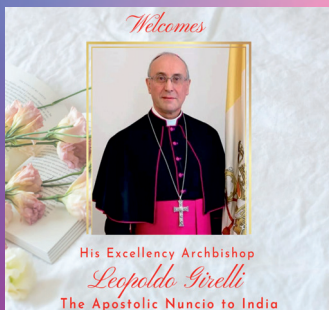
Life in the Spirit Conference



PMI Volunteers Distributing Sanitizers to Satara Prison



PMI Volunteers Distribute Sanitizers to Visapur Open Prison



PMI Welcomes the New Apostolic Nuncio to India



Sarath, the Youngest of Kolbe Home Plants Saplings

PMI COUNSELLOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

3 - 21 MAY, 2021



"In an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14