



# PRISON VOICE

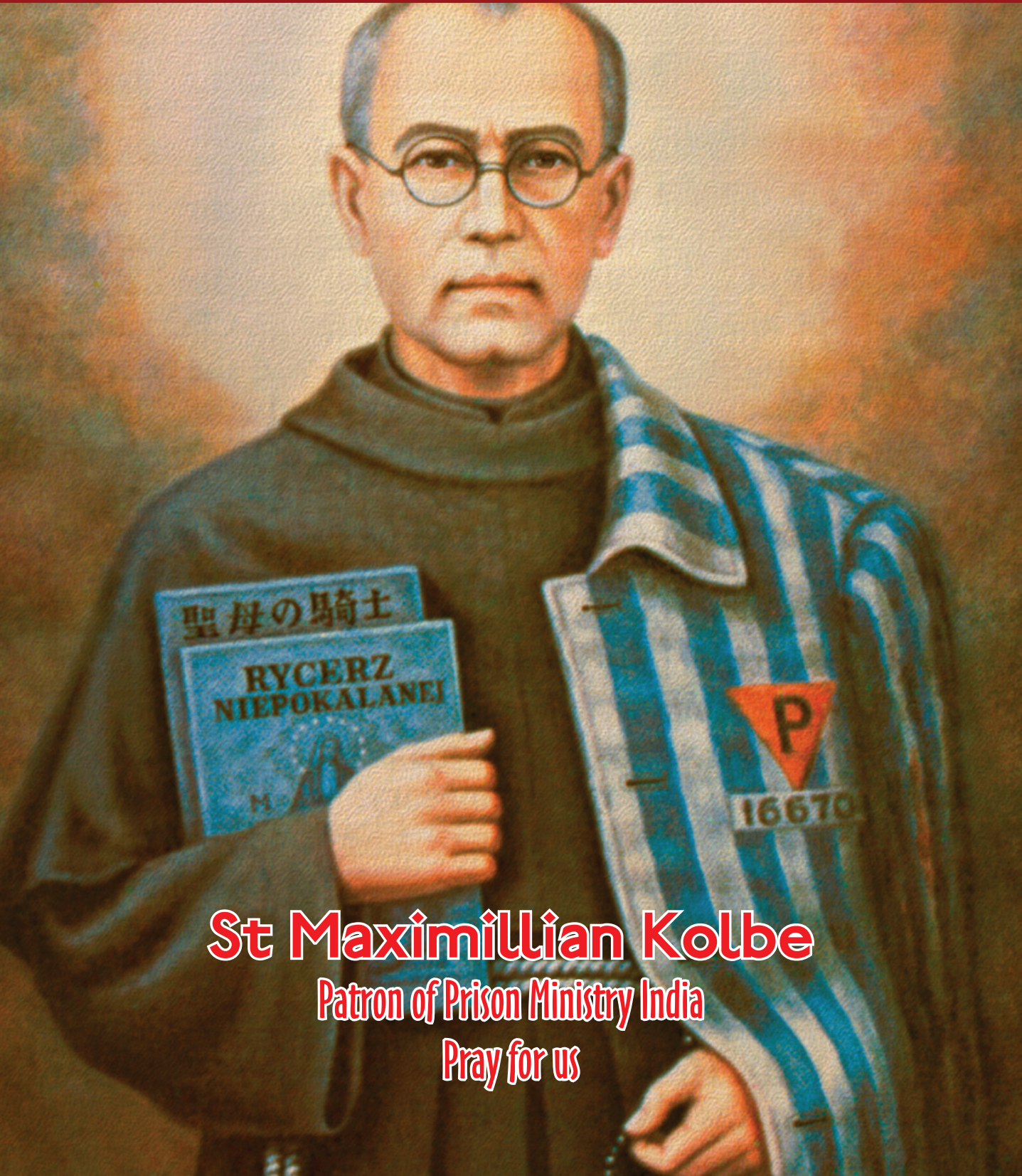
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NATIONAL MONTHLY

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**St Maximilian Kolbe**

**Patron of Prison Ministry India**

**Pray for us**



**With Immense Thanks and Highest Indebtedness PMI Bids Farewell to Sr Lini Sheeja MSC Who Served as PMI National Secretary and the Chief Editor of Prison Voice.**



**PMI National Office Distributes Provisions to Kolbe Home Children.**



**PMI Gwalior Unit Distributing Sanitizers and Masks to Gwalior Central Jail.**



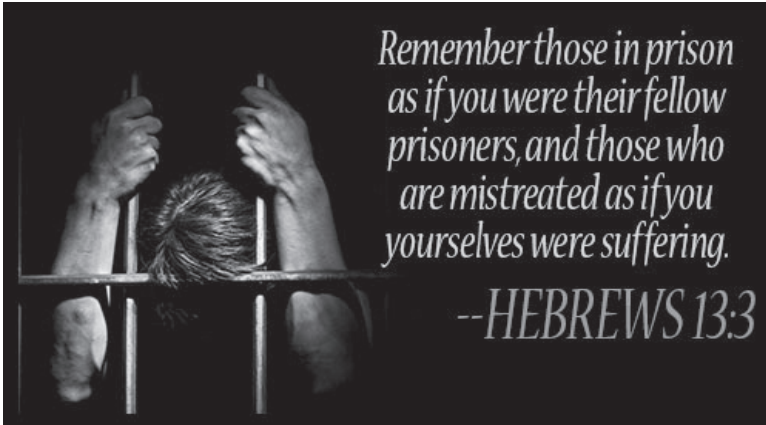
**Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy Distributing Masks to the Inmates of Jharpara Jail, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

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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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## PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY



**Sr Rosily SCC**  
Chief Editor

The Catholic Church in India celebrates Prison Ministry Sunday on every second Sunday of August. The Prison Ministry India (PMI) under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India takes initiative in celebrating this day by creating awareness that prisoners are our brethren created in the image and likeness of God and is to be treated humanely. Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman has written pastoral letter which is translated into all the major Indian languages and is expected to be readout in every parish. 2020 Prison Ministry Sunday theme *Reform to be Reintegrated* is taken from the message of Holy Father Pope Francis to prison chaplains worldwide on 8th November 2019. Prison ministry is an apostolate very close to the heart of Jesus who said "come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... for I was in prison you visited me". "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me" (Mt 25 34/40).

### The International Prisoners' Justice Day

The International Prisoners' Justice Day which we celebrate on 10th August invites prisoners worldwide to set aside a day to fast and pray manifesting solidarity with those who have died unjustly, victims of murder, suicide and neglect. Prisoners' Justice Day is meant to oppose prison violence, and to fight for freedom and equality.

### Maximillian Kolbe Day

On 14th August we celebrate the Feast of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of Prison Ministry India. In July 1941, three prisoners escaped from the Auschwitz concentration camp; as a result, the Deputy Commander of

Auschwitz ordered 10 men to be chosen to be starved to death in an underground bunker. When one of the selected men Franciszek Gajowniczek heard he was selected, he cried out "My wife! My children!" At this point, Kolbe volunteered to take his place, saying "I am a Catholic priest from Poland; I would like to take his place because he has a wife and children." Gajowniczek later said: "I could only thank him with my eyes. I was stunned and could hardly grasp what was going on. I was put back into my place without having had time to say anything to Maximilian Kolbe. I was saved. And I owe to him the fact that I could tell you all this. The news quickly spread all round the camp. It was the first and the last time that such an incident happened in the whole history of Auschwitz."

The deed and courage of Maximillian Kolbe spread around the Auschwitz prisoners, offering a rare glimpse of light and human dignity in the face of extreme cruelty. After the war, his reputation grew and he became symbolic of courageous dignity. Kolbe was beatified as Confessor of the Faith in 1971 and was canonized as a martyr by Pope John Paul II in 1981.

Let us remember, pray and support PMI volunteers and our brethren behind the bars in a special way in the month of August as we celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday, International Justice Day and the feast of St Maximillian Kolbe. Certainly, Saint Maximillian Kolbe will bless us abundantly in our endeavor to release, reform, rehabilitate, reintegrate and redeem our incarcerated brethren.

## Farewells and Arrivals

The Prison Ministry India national office witnessed many farewells and arrivals in the last few months. Sorrowful as well as joyful moments. There are no goodbyes in PMI. PMI has only entries and no exits. Wherever you are, you are an active member of PMI.

### Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, the PMI national secretary who brilliantly served as the chief editor of *Prison Voice* has left us for her higher studies in the Philippines. She took charge as PMI national secretary on 7 May 2018 and within a short span became the star of PMI and like Joan of Arc, courageously fought for the cause of the Lost, the prisoners. She administered the PMI national office efficiently and orchestrated the PMI programs systematically and meticulously. As the chief editor of *Prison Voice*, she brought not only name and fame to PMI but also many new brilliant volunteers and readers. We have seen the depth of Sr Lini's commitment during the last PMI National Convention in Guwahati and the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of PMI National Office on 19 November 2019 at St Joseph's Auditorium, Bengaluru. Recently Sr Lini proved her mettle again by superbly convening the Full-timers' Online Training Program and the PMI National Executive online meeting. On behalf of PMI Chairman, Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, all the PMI National Executive members, PMI volunteers all over India, and on behalf of prisoners worldwide, I extend to Sr Lini Sheeja MSC our highest appreciation and boundless gratefulness most cordially. May Jesus continue to bless her, be with her wherever she is sent and assist her to make history!

### From National Coordinator's Desk



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

### Sr Rosily Jose SCC

Since a year I have been praying and searching for a substitute for Sr Lini. "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (Is 6: 8). We searched in vain in many religious communities. On a sunny day in April, I received a telephone call from Sr Rosily Jose SCC telling, "Here am I. Send me!" (Is 6: 8). Inspired by Jesus who came to seek and save the lost she searched out PMI, obtained permission from her provincial, contacted me, visited the PMI national office and our institutions and decided to dedicate her time and talent to the prison ministry. Sr Rosily hails from Nellimattom parish of Kothamanglam diocese in Kerala and belongs to the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Angamaly Province. She did her BCom, LLB and DHCA and served as treasurer at Leonard hospital, Dindigul, provincial bursar, provincial councillor, and administrator at Leonard Hospital, Dindigul, Little Flower Mission Hospital, Punalur, Kerala and at St Mary's Hospital, Malur, Karnataka. Sr Rosily Jose SCC is the new chief editor of *Prison Voice*. She will also serve as the PMI treasurer and do the prison quarters' ministry in the Central Prison Bengaluru. A hearty welcome and prayerful best wish to Sr Rosily Jose SCC.



## From National Coordinator's Desk

### Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP

Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP, the PMI assistant national coordinator, will serve as the *Prison Voice* Associate Editor. I am sure that with his decades of experience in prison ministry and his service as the PMI Karnataka state coordinator, he will be able to contribute greatly to the printing, publishing, and spreading of PMI news worldwide.

### Fr Rajendrakumar

I am delighted to welcome Fr Rajendrakumar from Kurnool diocese, Andhra Pradesh. He will serve as PMI's interim secretary and circulation manager of *Prison Voice*. He is a precious gift from Most Rev Antony Poola, the bishop of Kurnool. PMI extends to Bishop Antony Poola our immense gratitude and indebtedness and welcomes Fr Rajendrakumar wholeheartedly.

### Sr Regina SOM

Sr Regina SOM has been serving as the PMI treasurer tirelessly for the last eight years. Though she resides in Hyderabad, she has always found time to come to the national office to do the accounts and present it to the national executive meeting. Because of her commitment and dedication, the PMI has never had any difficulty with the income tax department and other government agencies. Sr Regina, we are proud of you and gratefully acknowledge your prolonged and valuable service to PMI. On behalf of Most Rev Dr Allwyn D' Silva, the PMI Chairman, and the National Executive Body members, I extend to you our most warm thanks and highest appreciation. Please convey our gratitude and appreciation to your provincial superior and community members.

### Sr Lima CJ

Lord Jesus blessed us with another great gift in the person of Sr Lima CJ. She hails from

Ramapuram in the diocese of Palai, Kerala, belongs to the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) and was serving as the superior of her community in Bengaluru. She did her MA, B.Ed. and specialised in counselling and POCSO. She has been counselling the brethren behind the bars at Bengaluru Central Prison for the last few years. She will be serving primarily in our prison quarters together with Sr Rosily Jose SCC and secondarily as the PMI Volunteers' Training Program coordinator. PMI extends to her a most cordial welcome.

### Sr Marina and Sr Lissa DSFS

Sr Marina and Sr Lissa from the congregation of the Daughters of Saint Francis De Sales (DSFS) were rendering very precious service to the prisoners in Bengaluru Central Prison. Residing at the prison quarters they did marvellous deeds for our brethren behind the bars, especially for sick and destitute prisoners. Recently both of them returned to their congregation. PMI gratefully remembers them and their congregation and extends to both of them our prayerful best wishes. Let us pray for all our outgoing and incoming staff members and extend our wholehearted support to them.

### Prison Ministry Sunday

The Catholic Church celebrates Prison Ministry Sunday in the month of August and I wish all of you a fruitful celebration. Let our hearts be filled with thanks and praise for the uncountable blessings we receive every day and earnestly pray for the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. Let us rededicate ourselves for the cause of prisoners and their families.

### St Maximillian Kolbe Feast

The national office wishes all *Prison Voice* readers festal greetings of St Maximillian Kolbe, the patron saint of Prison Ministry India. May St Maximillian Kolbe intercede for all of us for the fruitfulness of our ministries for the lost, the least and the last.

## ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE: KNIGHT OF THE IMMACULATA

### Introduction

It is indeed very aptly said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” Their witness showed the world that there was something, or rather someone, whose love was greater than life itself. We remember with immense gratitude and love the famous martyr of Auschwitz (1941), Saint Maximilian Kolbe who worked mightily to conquer the world for Christ through Mary, desiring to save all the souls in the world till the End of Time! Saint Kolbe said, “Modern times are dominated by Satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be engaged by men, even the most clever. The Immaculata alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, assumed into Heaven, the Mother of God now requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands, effective instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spreading of God’s kingdom upon earth.”

### Martyr of Love

On 10 October 1982, Pope Saint John Paul II canonised Father Kolbe and declared him a martyr: A martyr of faith animated by love, “Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:12). This beautiful bible verse always comes to my mind whenever I think of St Maximilian Kolbe. It is not surprising that these were the opening words of the papal decree introducing his beatification. St Maximilian Kolbe was arrested in Poland in



**Fr Rajendrakumar**

February of 1941, and in May, he was sent to the Auschwitz death camp. As prisoner 16670, he eventually laid down his life for another prisoner on 14 August 1941, at the young age of 47.

### Transforming Prisoners

“Convinced that all men are somehow mysteriously linked in God so that what one suffers can be offered for another’s benefit, Kolbe tried mystically through his sufferings offered wholeheartedly to God, to turn Auschwitz inmates from savages into brothers.” The project of his life was to build a school for saints. When he was sent to Auschwitz, the setting changed, but his project did not. In that dark place, Saint Maximilian Kolbe led other condemned prisoners in prayers, in the Rosary and hymns.

### Martyrdom and Canonisation

As one of his companions recalls tenderly, “Father Maximilian was a man of profound and constant prayer. It was his custom to spend much time on his knees.” When a prisoner escaped late in July of 1941, ten men from his barracks were picked to suffer death by starvation as both punishment and deterrent. This holy priest readily offered to take the place of one of the men; Franciszek Gajowniczek who had let out a cry of pain

for his family. What followed were weeks of unimaginable horror, as the men suffered the pains of dehydration and starvation. But this holy man not only offered to be one of the suffering, but he also ministered to them. After three weeks there were only four prisoners left alive. It was on this day in 1941, the day before the holy mother Church celebrates the Assumption of St Maximilian's beloved MARY, the IMMACULATA, that Fr Kolbe and three fellow prisoners were killed with injections of carbolic acid. By the late 1940s, the cause for Fr. Kolbe's beatification had begun. He was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1971 and canonised by his fellow Pole, Pope John Paul II in 1982.

### **Mary, Mentor and Guide**

One night in Kolbe's childhood, Our Lady appeared to him in a dream holding a white crown and a red crown. Kolbe, later related, "She asked if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both." So, yes, St Maximilian had a normal childhood, but with this one exception, that was to define the course of his life.

### **Militia Immaculata**

"For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to suffer still more", said St Maximilian Kolbe. St Kolbe always wanted to be a soldier. Although he excelled in what we now call the STEM areas of study, he had a passionate interest in all things military. Complications caused him to abandon these plans and he entered the Franciscan novitiate late in 1910 and was ordained in 1918. He now waged a spiritual war. A new type of army was

founded, the Militia Immaculate, an army to convert sinners and bring all to love Mary Immaculate.

### **Niepokalano**

"Let us remember that Love lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving", - St Maximilian Kolbe. By the time Fr Kolbe was in his early thirties, he founded a religious house near Warsaw, Niepokalano – the City of the Immaculate. His evangelisation efforts expanded from here. Starting with a handful of friars, within a decade it grew to house nearly 1,000! He and a handful of his brothers travelled to Japan, where they opened another house in Nagasaki.

### **Franciszek Gajowniczek**

"Don't ever forget to Love." - St Maximilian Kolbe. The prisoner whom St Maximilian saved attended his canonisation. This extraordinary man in attendance was none other than Franciszek Gajowniczek. Though spared the torture of the starvation bunker, Gajowniczek had still suffered greatly. His sons did not live to see the day of his release. Those prisoners who had grown so fond of Fr Kolbe were particularly cruel to Gajowniczek, as they blamed him for the loss of their beloved friend and priest. But he received consolation in 1982, in St Peter's Square when the man who offered his life for his sake was declared a Saint.

### **Patron Saint for Prison Ministry**

The Saints were not superhuman, they were people who loved God in their hearts, and who shared this joy with others – Pope Francis. St Maximilian is the patron saint of families, prisoners, journalists, political prisoners, drug addicts and the pro-life movement. St John Paul II declared him to be "the patron saint of our difficult century."



## **Alcoholism and Drug Addiction**

### **What is Alcohol?**

The word alcohol is derived from the Arabian term, “al-kuhul” which means “finely divided spirit”. Alcohol is a clear, thin, highly volatile liquid with a harsh burning taste. It is a dependency producing substance. It is an undisputed fact that alcohol is a potent drug. This drug produces physical and psychological changes. The effects range from the feeling of well being experienced after one or two drinks to drunkenness, which is an acute effect of having too many drinks. Alcohol depresses that part of the brain, which controls inhibitions, and so the person feels relaxed. When blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is low, the drinker experiences a feeling of relaxation, tranquillity and a sense of well-being. When BAC is high, it depresses other areas of the central nervous system which results in severe problems. Alcohol is taken into the body through the mouth and on reaching the stomach much of the alcohol is directly absorbed in the bloodstream. Once in the bloodstream, it travels to all parts of the body and affects heart rate, blood pressure, appetite, gastric secretion, etc. Alcohol affects the brain causing a variety of reactions ranging from relaxation to unconsciousness and death. Alcohol also affects the liver and kidney.

### **Effects of Alcohol**

The most predominant short-term effect of alcohol is that it temporarily removes normal inhibitions. It also acts as a



**Fr Mathew Puthiyidath M.Sc (Psy)**  
Director, ADARRT, Pala

psychic anaesthetise, temporarily erasing painful feelings of anxiety, worry, tension, hopelessness and anger. If larger doses are ingested in a long period, a state of social and physical incompetence known as drunkenness or intoxication ensues. When alcohol is repeatedly taken over a long time, it proves disastrous, impairing both the length and quality of life. Excessive intake of alcohol over a long period leads to several physical damages like gastritis, ulcers, cardiomyopathy, polyneuritis, cirrhosis, pancreatitis, etc. This is because important organs of the body like the heart, liver and brain are affected. Over a long time, the consistently heavy drinker becomes physically and psychologically dependent on alcohol.

### **Who is an Alcoholic?**

An alcoholic is one whose drinking causes continuing problems in one or more areas of his life (family-relationship, financial position, occupation etc.) Despite these problems, he will keep drinking. An alcoholic will not be able to take note of his problems. He tries but never succeeds on a long-term basis. He develops a physical and psychological dependence on alcohol. He will not have any control over drinking and even if he stops drinking for a short



## Addicted Prisoners

duration, he will go back to obsessive drinking.

### Types of Alcoholics

Situational Drinker is the one who because of a catastrophe may take up heavy drinking for a short time as solace. Secondary Addict, who has not been a neurotic in early life but slips into pathological drinking. Primary Addict has been emotionally maladjusted since childhood. Their condition is largely one of immaturity. Social or Controlled Drinker is one who uses alcohol in keeping with social conventions. This means two things, first, he drinks because it is the socially approved thing to do, and second, his drinking does not result in intoxication.

### What is Alcoholism?

Alcoholism is a chronic illness, psychic, somatic or psychosomatic which manifests itself as a disorder of behaviour. It is characterised by the repeated drinking of alcoholic beverages, to an extent that exceeds customary, dietary use or compliance with the social customs of the community and that interferes with the drinker's health or social or economic functioning. Alcoholism, says psychiatrist Juliet Nathwani, "is a family disease". The alcoholic is afflicted, but the family is affected. True as that may be, there are ways of not coping with the trauma, but of rising above it to help the alcoholic recover and to weld the family into a happy unit once again. The effects on individuals may include mental and physical illness, family disruptions and even death. The society also carries the burden of increased crime and violence and loss of productivity by its citizens. Alcohol impairs the efficiency of thinking and psychomotor coordination, leading to deterioration in work and performance, conscious control

of behaviour is dissolved saying: "We drank for happiness and became unhappy, we drank for relaxation and got the shakes, we drank to erase problems and saw them multiply, we drank to cope with life and invited death".

### Definitions

The American Medical Association (1956) defines alcoholism as a significant impairment that is directly associated with persistent and excessive use of alcohol. Impairment may involve physiological, psychological or social dysfunction. The American Psychiatric Association (1968) defines alcoholism in terms of patients whose alcohol intake is great enough to damage their physical health or their personal or social functioning or when it becomes a prerequisite to normal functioning. Normal Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (1960) defines alcoholism as a disease in which there is impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with alcohol, continued use of alcohol in the face of adverse consequences and distorted thinking.

### Characteristics of Alcoholism

#### Primary Disease

Alcoholism was initially considered as a symptom of some psychological disorder. Now it has been understood that alcoholism per se is a disease, which causes mental, emotional and physical problems.

#### Progressive Disease

If it is not treated, the disease progresses from bad to worse. Sometimes there may be intermittent periods where one feels there is an improvement but over a while, the course of the disease will be only towards deterioration.



## Terminally Ill Disease

A person drinking excessively may die due to some medical complication like cirrhosis or pancreatitis. Thus, alcohol is the real agent behind the person's death.

## Treatable Disease

The disease cannot be cured, but it can be successfully arrested with the help of timely, appropriate and comprehensive treatment. Treatment aims at total abstinence from alcohol. Ingestion of a very small amount of alcohol will lead the person to obsessive drinking within a few days and he will lose control. In other words, an alcoholic can never go back to social drinking even if he remained sober for quite some years. Hence alcoholism is a permanent disease.

## Prisoners and Addiction

As a Prison Ministry volunteer, I used to visit prisoners and happened to know many of them were alcoholics or drug addicts. They indulged in criminal activities because of addiction. When they are in prison, they develop withdrawal features for which they require medicines. Without medicines, it will be difficult to manage prisoners. As a part of rehabilitation, many of the released prisoners are sent to various rehabilitation centres. They require medicines there too. Jesus Fraternity State Office Kerala refer released prisoners with addiction problems to ADARRT De-addiction centre for treatment. Many of them are leading a drug-free life. ADARRT – Alcohol and Drug Addicts Research Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre, Pala, Kerala, under the auspices of Diocese of Pala, is sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. We have been providing 31-days comprehensive deaddiction programme for the last 37 years. ADARRT was the first de-addiction centre in Kerala.



## PMI Pune Continues to Look Out During the Lock Down

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Savant (name changed) from Satara district was behind bars on charges of murder. On his release PMI Pune helped with his rehabilitation by organizing a job for him in Pune. But Savant was keen to return to his hometown and so quit this job seeking greener pastures there. Unfortunately, Savant was unable to cope with yet another lockdown in his life. Feeling overwhelmed, he attempted suicide. But, the Lord has other plans for him and Savant was rushed to Government Civil Hospital by his family. His brother contacted PMI for assistance with his hospitalization fees. Having recovered, a dejected Savant came to meet Fr Wilfred Fernandes at PMI Pune for counselling and guidance. With PMI's love and encouragement, Savant felt rejuvenated and strengthened to continue on this new lease of life. "Not everybody gets a second chance. But God has given me a third and fourth chance" he said to Anthony Jacob, a PMI volunteer who has been alongside Savant on his reformation journey. On 23rd July, PMI Pune handed over a cheque of Rs25,000/- for Savant to start a garment business. Our prayer warriors are fervently praying for his complete reintegration and reformation.

Meanwhile, in this month of July, PMI Pune continued to help the prisons officials combat COVID 19 with regular supplies of sanitisers, masks, pulse oxymeters, forehead infrared thermometers, face shields and hand gloves.

PMI Blessed

# BLESSED ENRICHETTA ALFIERI

**A Charity Nun, who Preached Gospel  
to Prisoners with her Life**



Sr Annie Zeena SOC

## Introduction

Maria Angela Domenica was born in Borgo Vercelli, Italy, on 23 February 1891, in a Christian family. She lived her first twenty years serenely, like all the girls of that time – confined to elementary studies, learning typically feminine jobs and attending the parish catechism. On 20 December 1911, she entered the Monastery of Santa Margherita in Vercelli, Italy, among the Sisters of Charity of Saint Jeanne-Antide Thouret. On 25 March 1913, she became a Sister of Charity and took the name of Sister Enrichetta.

## Prison Services

After recovering from a severe sickness, she was sent to the prison of St Victor in Milan on 24 May 1923. Despite never having had any contact with the painful world of prison, the new environment did not intimidate her, because she was prepared by her Mother Foundress, Saint Jeanne-Antide, who had served the prisoners in Bellevaux, France. Towards the end of 1939, Sister Enrichetta was appointed Superior of the Community of the Prison of St Victor. She became the unquestionable guide of nine nuns who, due to their prompt and tireless service seemed many more. Sister Enrichetta managed to educate the sisters in the awareness that the mission to the prisoners was a communitarian mission, so they would all feel responsible for the charity that must radiate in the whole prison through their action. In fact, they were everywhere: in the corridors, in the cells, in the laboratories. Some of these Sisters remember

her as such: exemplary in spiritual life and rich in humanity, serene in adversity, strong in sacrifice, joyful in suffering, in which she knew how to see a sign of the predilection of the Lord.

## Second World War

During the Second World War, the prison of St. Victor suffered Nazi-fascist domination. The prison population changed. Common criminals were replaced by political prisoners, the Jews, along with priests and nuns committed to collaborating with the Resistance. The Germans run the prison almost like a concentration camp. It became a place of interrogations, of physical and moral torture, of sentences and departures for the extermination camps. Sister Enrichetta, with her Sisters, was at the forefront of defending the victims, helping them, assisting them and supporting them, slipping into the corridors in the dark hours, entering the cells and encouraging clandestine encounters. She became a partisan messenger: carried messages inside and outside the prison.

## Arrest and Confinement

Her mission among the prisoners was marked by a courageous and creative charity that was expressed above all in those tragic years when St. Victor became a real hell. The dense network of solidarity woven with great prudence seemed to suddenly break on 23 September 1944, when Sister Enrichetta, strongly urged by a prisoner of Armenian origin, let herself be persuaded



**PMI Blessed**

to have a small note delivered to her family, to save the brothers wanted by the police. This message, given to a guardian, was then delivered to another trusted person to be taken to its destination. The note, however, was intercepted and the consequences were immediate: Sister Enrichetta was arrested and with her the two collaborators. The accusation was espionage, with the risk and almost certainty of being sentenced to execution or deportation to Germany. She wrote, "I should have been shot but my execution was changed into deportation to Germany through the intervention of His Excellency the Cardinal and other influential people".

**Women Prison Director**

As director of the women's section of the Prison, she became a prisoner herself, with the serial number 3209. In an isolation cell in the basement of the prison of St. Victor, Sister Enrichetta remembered that terrible moment, "An invocation to the Mother Mary gave me the strength I needed. I strained my ear; the silence was grave. With all my care, I began crumbling minutely the stuffing of notes that I was carrying in the bib of the dress. They were various communications from prisoners and relatives, questions and answers, requests and information from members of committee. Things very forbidden by the German Command, but of so much help and comfort to our poor brothers. Days passed in the basement of the prison with the fear of being deported. Fortunately, on 3 October, thanks again to the intervention of Cardinal Schuster, she was transferred to the internment camp at the Palazzolo Institute in Grumello del Monte, Bergamo, Italy. She wrote, "I was on vacation and had to take advantage for myself and for others. I had to pay a lot of debts, beg a lot of graces, do a little like Moses for those I had left in the struggle, for those who suffer, for those who die. I had to continue my apostolate of Sister of Charity, Italian and

Catholic, with prayer and forced renunciation of industriousness in the beloved field of my mission".

**Prayer for Prisoners**

She ardently prayed for his prisoners to the Lord: "How good you are Lord Jesus! I humble myself before You. I am so undeservingly the object of so much love. Only in eternity will I be able to thank you with dignity. Meanwhile, I make all the hearts of human mine: I offer them to you because you convert them and give you praise. I offer it to you for the peace of this poor world, torn and bloody, I offer it to you, together with my warm prayers, for my dear brother prisoners and deported in worse exile. You support them and comfort them, O Lord and merciful Father, forgive those who have done them much harm. "They do not know what they do"".

**Venerable and Blessed**

Because of a very serious illness of the liver and a suffering heart, after thirteen days of agony, she was ready to meet the Spouse. From her bed, which became an altar on which the victim was consumed, Sister Enrichetta, who had smiled at everyone, now smiled at death. After receiving the Sacraments, in which she participated with a full heart, she confided with edifying serenity, "I did not believe it was so sweet to die". It was at 3:00 pm on Friday, 23 November 1951. Defined as the Mother and the Angel of Saint Victor for her charismatic tenderness, she illuminated with her smile and warmed with the love of God, the universe of humanity that she met inside and outside the walls of the prison. For her work, after her death, she received numerous certificates and civil and religious awards in her memory. Pope Benedict XVI declared her as Venerable Servant of God on 19 December 2009. Sister Enrichetta was proclaimed Blessed on 26 June 2011 in Milan, in the Cathedral square.



## Covid-19 Pandemic Challenges & PMI Responses

**Rev Dr Francis Kodyan MCBS**

National Coordinator & Secretary to CBCI  
for Prison Ministry India

On 17th July 2020 the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development convened an international online meeting on the Covid19 pandemic challenges, its impact on prisoners and the Catholic Church's responses to it in the different countries. Rev Dr Francis Kodyan MCBS, the CBCI Secretary for Prison Ministry India and the PMI National coordinator presented a paper in it on the Responses of the Catholic Church in India to the Covid19 Pandemic challenges among Indian prisoners. This is a brief summary of the presentation.

### Indian Covid-19 Scenario

As on 16 July 2020, 8 am, India has 9,70,169 confirmed, 3,31,116 active, 6,13,735 recovered, and 24,929 deceased cases. The most affected cities and states in India are

Mumbai & Pune in Maharashtra, Chennai & Coimbatore in Tamilnadu, Bengaluru & Mysore in Karnataka, Ahmedabad & Surat in Gujarat and Delhi. The most affected groups of people are migrant labourers, daily workers, slum & colony dwellers, porters, taxi & auto drivers, medical and police personnel and prisoners & prostitutes.

### Overcrowding in Indian Prisons

According to the latest available statistics (2018) of National Crime Records Bureau India has 1339 prisons and a capacity of 3,96,223. But India has 4,66,084 prisoners which point to one of the severe problems in Indian prisons, overcrowding. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the occupancy rate of Indian prisons is at 117.6%, and in states such as Uttar Pradesh

and Sikkim, the occupancy rate is as high as 176.5% and 157.3% respectively.

### Covid-19 in Indian Prisons

Almost all the states have reported Covid-19 cases in prisons. Over 2000 prisoners and 1000 prison staff have already tested positive. More than 5 prisoners died due to Covid-19. Many PMI volunteers have been infected with the coronavirus.

### Measures Taken by the Indian Government for the Decongestion of Prisons

On 23 March 2020, the Indian Apex Court ordered decongestion of prisons. High-powered committees shall be established by the state governments to determine which classes of prisoners can be released on parole or interim bail.

### Releasing Prisoners

An advisory board shall be instituted to release undertrial prisoners and convicts for offences for which the prescribed punishment is up to 7 years or less, with or without fine.

### Isolation & Scanning

The government has asked the persons responsible to facilitate isolation wards, quarantines for new prisoners. Scanning possibilities shall be arranged for people at entry and exit points of prisons.

### Mask & Sanitisers

There shall be provisions for masks and sanitisers inside prison premises.

### Temporary Jails

A separate building shall be set apart for newcomers. Temporary jails shall be prepared for Covid-19 infected prisoners. For this purpose, many schools were converted into temporary prisons. In many places, the Catholic Church provided their schools for this.

### Video Conferencing

Court procedures shall be done only by

video conferencing. All conferences shall be done online.

### **Prison Ministry India Mission During Covid-19 Pandemic**

1. Spiritual Assistance
2. Medical Assistance
3. Psychological Assistance
4. Family Assistance
5. Educational Assistance
6. Rehabilitation Assistance

#### **1. Spiritual Assistance**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, PMI follows the St Therese of Lisieux Methodology. Imitating her action of reforming the triple murderer Pranzini, PMI volunteers intensified their spiritual exercises during the Covid-19 pandemic such as two Holy Masses every day, two hours of Eucharistic Adoration every day, chain fasting and prayer, doubling spiritual exercises such as the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.

#### **2. Medical Assistance**

PMI volunteers all over India distributed sanitisers, masks, oximeters, thermometers, tailoring machines to stitch masks, face shields and hand gloves in various prisons. They took special attention to hospitalise sick released prisoners and help released prisoners with emergency surgeries.

#### **3. Psychological Assistance**

During these days of the pandemic, PMI volunteers have been spending a lot of time in providing counselling & tele-counselling to prisoners' and their families. Many volunteers relaunched the traditional method of consoling prisoners by writing letters to them. Released prisoners with mental health problems were taken to mental health asylums.

#### **4. Family Assistance**

PMI volunteers in many states distributed provisions to prisoners' families and Kolbe

### **International Conference**

Home children regularly. They visited prisoners' families frequently and settled many family problems by leading them to forgiveness and reconciliation.

#### **5. Educational Assistance**

In many families, they provided mobile phones and TVs to children for online classes. Kolbe Home welcomed many children of prisoners who have no parents or relatives outside to take care of them. They also assist hundreds of prisoners' children in their education.

#### **6. Rehabilitation Assistance**

PMI does many types of assistance for the release, reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. The PMI group in charge of releasing prisoners work in collaboration with lawyers and release many prisoners with financial assistance. PMI's transportation department takes care of the released prisoners by taking them to their homes and other destinations, especially when there is a lockdown. Van Thuan Home welcomes released prisoners and their families who do not have homes to go to. Van Thuan Home also provides job opportunities to released prisoners and takes care of their rehabilitation. In some states, PMI volunteers accommodated released prisoners in various religious institutions.

#### **Conclusion**

As *Gaudium et Spes* states, Covid-19 pandemic provides ample opportunities to experience joy and hope, grief and anguish of the people of our time (GS1). As Pope Francis has invoked, Covid-19 pandemic is the right time to go to the peripheries and fringes of society, to empathise with the broken-hearted, to heal their wounds and to feed the hungry. The Indian Church represented by the Prison Ministry India stands with suffering people, especially with the suffering prisoners.

## Prisoners of War (POW)

**Lt Col Jennifer James (Retd)**  
Assistant National Coordinator



**Jennifer James**  
Lt Col Jennifer James (Retd)  
Paediatric Matron

“Prisoners of war” are combatants who have fallen into the hands of the enemy, or specific non-combatants to whom the status of prisoner of war is granted by international humanitarian law. The following categories of persons are prisoners of war: members of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, including members of militias or volunteer corps forming part of such armed forces; members of other militias or other volunteer corps that belong to a party to the conflict; civilians who accompany the armed forces provided they are authorised by the armed force they accompany; members of crews of the merchant marine and civilian aircraft of a party to the conflict who do not benefit from more favourable treatment under international law; participants in a levée en masse; and the military wounded, sick and shipwrecked who fall into the hands of an enemy.

### **Rights of War Prisoners**

Under the Third Geneva Convention, prisoners of war (POW) must be: Treated humanely with respect for their persons and their honour; able to inform their next of kin and the International Committee of the Red Cross of their capture; allowed to communicate regularly with relatives and receive packages; given adequate food, clothing, housing, and medical attention; paid for work done and not forced to do work that is dangerous, unhealthy, or degrading; released quickly after conflicts end; not compelled to give any information except for name, age, rank, and service number. Besides, if wounded or sick on the battlefield, the prisoner will receive help from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### **History of War Prisoners**

#### **The War against the Amalekites**

Two days later David and his men arrived back at Ziklag. The Amalekites had raided southern Judah and attacked Ziklag. They had burned down the town and captured all the women; they had not killed anyone but had taken everyone with them when they left. When David and his men arrived, they found that the town had been burned down and that their wives, sons, and daughters had been carried away. David and his men started crying and did not stop until they were completely exhausted. Even David’s two wives, Ahinoam and Abigail, had been taken away. David was now in great trouble, because his men were all very bitter about losing their children, and they were threatening to stone him; but the LORD his God gave him courage (1Sam 30)

#### **Jewish Prisoners**

Auschwitz, opened in 1940, was the largest of the Nazi concentration and death camps. Located in southern Poland, Auschwitz initially served as a detention centre for political prisoners. However, it evolved into a network of camps where Jewish people and other perceived enemies of the Nazi state were exterminated, often in gas chambers, or used as slave labour. Some prisoners were also subjected to barbaric medical experiments led by Josef Mengele (1911-79). During World War II (1939-45), more than 1 million people, by some accounts, lost their lives at Auschwitz. In January 1945, with the Soviet



army approaching, Nazi officials ordered the camp abandoned and sent an estimated 60,000 prisoners on a forced march to other locations. When the Soviets entered Auschwitz, they found thousands of emaciated detainees and piles of corpses left behind.

### **India's Missing Soldiers**

They are called "the missing 54" - Indian soldiers forgotten in the fog of past wars with Pakistan, and who appear to have slipped through the cracks of our troubled history. India believes the 54 soldiers went missing in action and are held in Pakistani prisons. But more than four decades after they disappeared, there is no clarity over their numbers and fate.

### **The Fortunate or Blessed One?**

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman VrC (born 21 June 1983) was an Indian Air Force fighter pilot who, during the 2019 India-Pakistan standoff, was held captive in Pakistan for 60 hours after his aircraft was shot down in an aerial dogfight. Pakistan released videos and images showing Varthaman being rescued from a violent mob of villagers by its soldiers, receiving first aid and being questioned while blindfolded. Despite a legal attempt to thwart it, Pakistan decided on 28 February 2019 to release him as a "gesture of peace" and he returned to India at Wagah on 1 March 2019. Varthaman was conferred the Vir Chakra gallantry award in August 2019. His distinctive style of moustache later became popular in India.

### **PMI Volunteers and POW**

What are we praying about during these days of the pandemic? What and how should be the prayer life of a child of God? In the previous edition (July 2020) we had seen about prayer being our 'Intercontinental Ballistic Missile'. The best way to have one's prayers answered, is to pray back to God, His words and promises. For example, for God to heal our land and forgive the sins of mankind which have reached as high as the heavens. "If they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing,

then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again (2 Chronicles 7:14). "First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth (1 Tim 2:1-4).

### **Spiritual Warfare**

St Paul does not give an option to the believers to fight the spiritual war. In his letter to Ephesians chapter 6 verse 11 says, "Put on the full armour of God." And verse 13 again emphasises the same. If we start getting ready with the armour when the day of evil comes, it may be too late. So, the Church (me and you), get ready, just as the Army soldier is ready at all times for the battle. He does not learn to use his gun and other arms during the battle, he is alert and ready at all times, keeps the equipment oiled at all times. Similarly, it is in the spiritual realm, we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit to conquer the enemy. Verse 12 describes the enemy: "For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age" (Eph 6: 10-17).

### **How to Pray?**

Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason, keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people (Eph 6, 18). There is much to pray about in this world. Let us rise above our selfish intentions and stand in the gap on behalf of our brethren behind the high walls where only the Holy Spirit can reach without any permission, without any hindrance and our prayers sent from down below will have the desired effect in the Heavens.

## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Juvenile Delinquency (JD) is unlawful conduct by minors between the age group of 10 and 18. This is a violation of the law committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult. In other words, JD is conduct by a juvenile characterised by antisocial behaviour that is subject to legal action. When a person deviates from the normal course of his/her social life, that person becomes a delinquent.

### Delinquent Acts

Offences committed by juveniles are not called “crimes” since they are not adults. Rather, crimes committed by minors are called “delinquent acts”. Delinquency or criminal behaviour by a juvenile implies conduct that does not conform to the legal or moral standards of society. The consequence of delinquent behaviour is that they can get jail time.

### Contributing Factors

Poor school attendance, poor educational standards, violence at home, violence in their social circles, peer pressure, socio-economic factors, substance abuse and lack of moral guidance are some of the major contributing factors of juvenile delinquency.

### Causes of Delinquent Behaviour

The causes for juvenile crime are usually found at each level of the social structure, including society as a whole, social institutions, social groups and organisations and interpersonal relations. Juveniles’ choice of delinquency is fostered by a wide range



**Sr Fidelis HCM**

of factors. Some of the most important are as follows.

### Theoretical Causes

In light of the study done by psychologists, it has been suggested that the child does any delinquent act because his mind tells him to do it. In other words, he does this because he wants to do it. These kinds of acts provide immense satisfaction to the offender and so they see nothing wrong in it.

### Social Disorganisation

As the joint family system is coming to an end, a new trend has evolved wherein both the parents are working and as a result, children are left neglected and such isolation leads to the child’s involvement in delinquent acts. Children who are abused and neglected are at high risk.

### Bad Company

One of the major reasons as to why children are entering into the world of crime is because of bad company. Children who are in bad company knowingly or unknowingly indulge in criminal activities. It is this bad company which motivates them to commit crime.

### External Causes

Some children have certain problems within their homes – like poverty, broken families,

single-parent families, separated families, frequent fights and lack of trust and confidence among the parents, the effect of TV, internet or other media, etc. – which may have led them to wrong society. Such cases are mostly seen with children who do not have anyone to look after them after they return from school or there is least or excess of discipline exercised on them by the elders of the family.

### **Neighbourhood**

If a child finds gamblers, quarrelling couples, or drunkards around him, then there is the chance that he/she would fall into such behaviour/habits and finally end up as a criminal. Use of mobile and internet in current society is another major cause that makes children deviate and join groups to make easy money through stealing two-wheelers, mobiles and gadgets for their own pleasure. Most of the delinquents are school dropouts and they are pleasure-seekers at the cost of someone else's life. Mahatma Gandhi's words strengthen us in this situation: "If every Saint has a past, then every criminal has a future".

### **Observation Home, Bengaluru**

As I was a regular visitor at the Observation Home in Bengaluru, what I noticed was that these children show no remorse, no shame, no repentance (except a rare few) after committing even murder, rape or caught under POCSO. Their families have no moral value system and, in such cases, how will they feel remorse? How can we inculcate the values of the society in these children at a young age? This could be done to some extent when they start schooling.

### **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000**

The JJ Act seeks to consolidate and modify the law relating to juveniles in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication of matters in the best interest of children. Section 9 to 12 of the JJ Act facilitates the government to establish Juvenile Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes and After Care Organisations for juveniles. For the betterment of the children, the JJ Act 2000, has introduced special trial process also.

### **Conclusion**

In recent years, children and their problems have been receiving the attention of both the government and society. But it has been seen that the problems are enormous and never-ending, thus resulting in inadequacy in all the measures taken till today. If these problems are not addressed soon then the growth of the children will be hampered leading to a dark future in our country. The social, economic and other factors which have been the root causes of Juvenile Delinquency need to be dealt with at the very initial stage. Every society must, therefore, devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up in a proper atmosphere, where they could receive adequate training, education and guidance so that they may be able to gain their rightful place in society when they grow up.

## SEX ABUSE AND SEX OFFENDERS IN PRISONS



**Sr Adele SCCG**

### Introduction

India is a dangerous place to be a woman, is a common feeling among the women folk of our country. This fear has crept in the minds of Indian women, because there were cases when men have raped eight-month-old babies as well as a 100-year-old woman. According to government data, nearly four women are raped every hour in this country. Realistically speaking, that means only about 90 women each day find the courage to report that they have been sexually violated. The real number - probably way higher - never gets captured as many rapes go unreported, buried under shame, confusion and fear.

### Sex offenders

Sex offenders and sex crimes, provoke a great deal of anxiety in our society, and over the past decade, law makers have passed a variety of social policies designed to protect the public from sexual victimization. A sex offender is a person who has committed a sex crime. What constitutes a sex crime differs by culture and legal jurisdiction. Some of the crimes which usually result in a mandatory sex-offender classification are: prostitution, sending or receiving obscene content in the form of SMS text messages (sexting), and relationship between young adults and teenagers resulting in corruption of a minor. If any sexual contact was made by the adult to the minor, then child molestation has occurred. Other serious offenses are sexual assault, statutory rape, bestiality, very cruel sexual behavior of men, child sexual abuse, incest, rape, and sexual imposition.

### Central Prison, Bengaluru

During my many years of Service in the Central Prison Bangalore, as a volunteer of Prison Ministry India, I have met thousands of persons who were arrested and brought in to the prison. About 70 percent of the inmates in the prison where I serve are undertrials. Good many undertrial prisoners who are from low economic strata of the society and are accused of sexual crimes, remain under custody for a long period within the prison, often for a number of years as they are unable to hire a good advocate to argue their case and to get themselves released from prison. Some of them were found in a gang where there were one or two persons who were in the list of persons who were found guilty by the police on a previous occasion or some in the gang were habitual sex offenders. Whether guilty or not they too have to bear the stigma of a prisoner who have committed sex crime. It is extremely difficult to get bail for those arrested for sex abuse, even if they are not guilty of the crime they are accused of. Even parole is not allowed for persons accused of sexual abuse of children and later they convicted.

### POCSO

There are many who are not guilty of the crime they are accused of and hence, they suffer the most. Prisoners arrested under the POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) are languishing in the prison for a long time, before they can get acquitted, because the case is considered non-bailable, and the accused have to incur a lot of expenses to get themselves acquitted. In



## Sex Offenders

2012 the POCSO Act was enacted to provide a robust legal framework for the protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process.

### **Kidnapping**

There are some prisoners who have committed grievous sexual crimes. I have met a few criminals who were guilty of sex crimes, arrested and proved guilty of the crime accused and were convicted. One of them when he was in military, assisted his friends to kidnap a girl and to be used by his friends to satisfy their sexual urges. He thought he would escape the police as he had attended the military training program on the same day. Yet the police succeeded in finding valid evidence to his crime. As it was found to be the rarest of the rarest crime, the court convicted him and sentenced him to capital punishment. His mother requested me to follow the mercy petition which she had sent to the President of India several years ago. I met him when he was an undertrial prisoner accused of sex crimes. But after conviction he was transferred to another prison.

### **False Accusations**

A prisoner who was a lecturer in a college, used to take tuition in English for the children of the neighboring houses. Along with the children of High School, their younger sisters too used to accompany their elder sisters. They used to play outside and the lecturer was engaged in the class giving total attention to his students. It so happened that one of the kids who was playing outside his house fell down and got hurt in the fall. The kid's mother heard the cry and without any further enquiry, accused the lecturer of having abused the child sexually and was arrested under POCSO case and was taken under judicial custody. The child's mother demanded a large amount to compromise the case and to release the client. Consequently, he spent more than two years behind the bars, though he was innocent of the crime

he was accused of. He had to spend a large sum of money to come out of the prison after having compromised the case.

### **God's Plan**

I have come across several such persons of noble character in the prison. They open themselves to be counseled in their pain and tension and receive help to come out of their depression with the assistance given by the volunteers of Prison Ministry India. Some of them open their hearts to accept God's plan with total resignation in response to God's Word. Rather than brooding over the past, they gradually learn to see the event with the eyes of faith and to accept things as they are. As they read the Word of God, they are enlightened. "Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, Yahweh declares, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and hope. When you call to me and come and pray to me, I shall listen to you. When you search for me you will find me, when you search wholeheartedly for me you shall find me, Yahweh declares (Jer 29,11).

### **Conclusion**

We, the members of Prison Ministry India, consider the inmates of a prison as our brothers and sisters and hence we reach out to them with compassion and help them in whatever way possible. The greatest longing of the brethren in the prison is to get released and to go out of the high walls of the prison. But before their release from prison the inmates are helped to get inner release from guilt feelings, depression, frustration, hatred, anxiety about their dear ones and their future. We give legal help for innocent prisoners and those who are reformed and assist them in their release, rehabilitation and reintegration in the society. I recall with gratitude to God who touched the hearts of many brothers and sisters and granted them the grace of repentance and thus transformed them through his unfailing grace.



## PMI National Executive Online Meeting 15 July 2020 Report

- Sr Lini Sheeja MSC  
National Secretary, PMI

The Prison Ministry India national executive online meeting was held on 15 July 2020 and all the members were present for it. The opening prayer was led by Sr Adele Korah, invoking the Holy Spirit and asking the guidance of the Trinitarian God. The agenda of the meeting was presented by Sr Lini Sheeja. Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, the national coordinator in his welcome address emphasized that PMI is an extension of Jesus' mission and meant only for the specially called as it's a gift from the God of the Lost.

### Presidential Address

Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman in his presidential address asked the members to keep four points in mind: 1) Discernment: Constantly discern the will of God as the Covid19 pandemic has been bringing lot of changes. 2) Conversion: While we strive to convert prisoners from their old ways of life to new ways of life, we ourselves need to undergo conversion by contemplating what is wrong in us, what Jesus would like us to do etc. 3) Walk with the prisoners: We are not walking before or behind the prisoners but along with them. 4) Accompany the families of prisoners: Along with the prisoner even their families are suffering. Let us think how we can help the families of the prisoners.

### Reports & Budget

Report of the national executive meeting held on 20 November 2019 was presented by Sr Lini Sheeja MSC the national secretary. After some clarifications, Fr Shaji Stephen proposed to pass the report and Fr Benny Pachanal seconded it. The PMI 2019-2020 audited financial report was presented by Sr Regina SOM, the national treasurer. After clarifications Fr Wilfred Fernandes proposed to pass the report and Mr Jesuraja seconded it. Mr Jesuraja presented the PMI budget for 2020-2021. Fr Immanuel Chempanayil proposed to pass the budget and Fr Wilfred Fernandes seconded it. Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, the national coordinator briefly summarized the activities of PMI National office through the powerpoint presentation. Most Rev Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman appreciated the national team for visiting many states and conducting various programs throughout India. He treasured the new types of ministries in PMI such as the special task force angels and encouraged the members to spread these ministries all over India.

### Blessings

Most Rev Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman blessed the newly constructed PMI Documentation Center, Van Thuan Home, and Volunteers Training Center in connection with the RRDC, Bengaluru. Fr Francis thanked all the members for their generous contribution for the completion of the five storied building. PMI Special Task Force

Angels was launched by Fr Sebastian Vadakumpadan, the former national coordinator by cutting the ribbon, blessing and words of appreciation. Fr Emmanuel Chembanayil, MP state coordinator released the full-timers online training program souvenir and extended best wishes for the full-timers/volunteers.

### **Regional Reports**

The PMI South regional report was presented by Fr Anthony Swamy, Central regional report was presented by Fr Wilfred Fernandes, Northeast regional report was presented by Sr Jobina and the North regional report was presented by Fr David Charles. Fr George Kalassery VC briefed the RRDC report, Fr Binoy Mathew CMF briefed the happenings of the PMI rehabilitation centers and Fr Josekutty Valiamangalam MST explained the PMI seminary units' deeds.

### **Benedictory Address**

In his benedictory address quoting St. Peter in the Acts of the Apostles "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3,6) Fr Varghese Karippery, the PMI cofounder exhorted the members that all our activities should ensure that we are doing the works of Jesus. We have to introduce Jesus to the prisoners through our activities. He congratulated the national team for doing everything with team spirit.

### **Farewell**

PMI National Executive Meeting gave farewell to Sr Lini Sheeja MSC and Sr Regina SOM. In his farewell speech Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS acknowledged and appreciated the great services rendered by Sr Lini Sheeja MSC as the PMI national secretary and Sr Regina SOM as the PMI national treasurer. He thanked them both and wished them prayerful best wishes in their future ministry. Bishop Allwyn said they both had been very efficient and gave a new spirit to the PMI office.

### **Appointments**

Fr Francis Kodiyan informed the following appointments:

Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP	PMI Assistant National Coordinator
Fr Rajendrakumar	PMI Interim National Secretary and Prison Voice Circulation Manager
Sr Lima CJ	PMI Volunteers' Training Program Coordinator and Prison Quarters Ministry
Sr Rosily Jose SCC	PMI Treasurer, Prison Quarters Ministry and Prison Voice Chief Editor
Sr Jemma George	PMI Suffering Bank Manager
Adv Titto	PMI Legal Cell Coordinator
Colonel Jennifer	PMI Special Task Force DRC Coordinator
Fr Michael Francis	PMI Special Task Force TSS Coordinator
Mr Ashok Kumar	PMI Special Task Force ATB Coordinator
Sr Adele Korah	Prisoners' Release Department Coordinator, Bglr



## Report

Mr Antony Jacob

Prisoners' Release Department Coordinator, Pune

Mrs Tess Jose Malekudiyil

PMI Education Department Coordinator

### Observations & Recommendations

Fr Emmanuel Chempanal said that as Fr Kodiyan had mentioned it would be nice to have a Bishop Chairman for every state. Fr Kodiyan told Fr Wilfred the central regional coordinator will look into it and Fr Wilfred agreed to it.

Fr Jose Valiamangalam MST expressed his desire to expand the seminary units in Northeast and Northern seminaries. Fr. Kodiyan told him to get in touch with Sr. Jobina and Fr. David Charles.

Mr Ashok Kumar wanted to know how to go about getting people and training people for Special Task Angels. Fr Kodiyan said Prison Voice through different articles explain this well.

Fr Shaji Stephen appreciated the way the National Executive Meeting was conducted and congratulated the National team. He suggested that during the Regional presentation shall consist the activities of all states of the region and not about only regional meeting. Fr Varghese Karippery recommended that we shall ask the prayer and fasting from the Novitiate Houses for the fruitfulness of PMI Ministries.

### Decisions

1. State Conferences: State-wise online conferences shall be arranged by every state within the next two months. Every unit in the state shall present the report, financial report and budget in the conference.
2. PMI Special Task Force - PMI volunteers are expected to join one of the special task forces. We are called to run the extramile. PMI is a faith filled ministry. It is impossible to transform the hardcore criminals but with prayer and fasting everything is possible.
3. Prayer and Fasting: Every PMI Unit shall have the list of chain of prayer, fasting and adoration. During this Covid19 pandemic we shall focus more on spiritual aspect. The prayer, fasting and Adoration list shall be published in WhatsApp group.
4. Online Program: Every month at least one online program shall be conducted from National Office. Please encourage members to join these programs.
5. Prison Ministry Sunday, 9th August 2020: Discuss with Bishops and arrange PMI Sunday celebration according to the convenience of the diocese. Organize competitions, prepare brochures, and try possibilities of new ways in raising funds. A part of collection should be sent to the National Office.
6. Documentation – Every state and Unit should ensure they have proper documentations. Please keep all your documents in your offices and forward a copy of them to the national office.

### Vote of Thanks

Fr Benny Pachanal CRPS, the assistant national coordinator proposed vote of thanks. Sr Lini Sheeja led the prayer for prisoners. With the final blessing of Bishop Allwyn D'Silva the meeting concluded.



## Vatican Issues Manual for Bishops on Handling Reports of Sexual Abuse of Minors

Bishops in India are ready to implement the instructions contained in the new *Vademecum* of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on procedures to be followed in cases of sexual abuse of minors committed by members of the clergy. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issued a manual to help bishops and dioceses follow Church procedure in respect to accusations of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric. The *Vademecum*, released July 16, is one of the last documents promised by the Vatican following its February 2019 abuse summit.

### Implementation

Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) told the UCA News agency, "We will implement the guidelines in accordance with our civil laws." "The Vatican has always been concerned about all forms of abuses including the [sexual abuse of children]," he said, adding that "The July 16 set of guidelines is nothing entirely new but is a follow-up of what it has already been doing."

### Zero Tolerance

Speaking to the UCA News Agency, Father Abraham Kavilpurayidathil, public relations

officer of the Eastern-rite Syro-Malabar Church based in Kerala, said all its dioceses have already formed safe environment committees for the proper execution of Vatican guidelines to deal with cases of sexual abuse. The committees, established on June 1, will look into allegations referring to Vatican guidelines in accordance with India's civil law. In February of this year, 192 bishops at the plenary of the CBCI in Bengaluru, affirmed that they will not tolerate any kind of sexual abuse.

Indian bishops say they are ready to implement the guidelines of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on sexual abuse in the Church.

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering"

Heb 13,3.

## **PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY AND ST MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020**

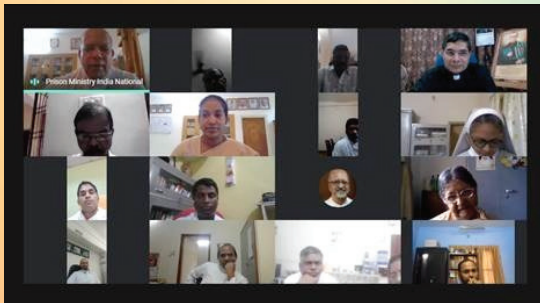
### **TEN COMMANDMENTS**

1. Begin Novena to Maximillian Kolbe on 6 August 2020 and conclude it solemnly on 14 August. The PMI national office will soon forward the Novena to Maximilian Kolbe. Read the life story of St Maximillian Kolbe and be inspired to recommit ourselves to the cause of prisoners.
2. Participate in online Mass with the intention of the sanctification of prisoners worldwide and PMI volunteers. Participate in the live online Holy Mass to be celebrated by Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI chairman on 9th and 14th August at 9 am. The link for both online Masses will be forwarded on the previous day.
3. Spent an hour every day in Eucharistic Adoration in reparation of the sins committed by PMI volunteers and brethren-behind-the-bars.
4. Organise Chain Prayer and Fasting in every PMI unit during the Novena days (6 -14 August) and kindly forward the list to the PMI national office for the records.
5. Recite with devotion the PMI Prayer for Prisoners every day, which we shall forward to you soon.
6. Forward PMI videos, documentaries and softcopies of literature to our parishioners, friends and relatives to foster Prison Ministry awareness.
7. Give names of known prisoners to PMI volunteers and ask them to pray for the prisoner(s) and write letters to them.
8. Forward PMI brochures to our parishioners, well-wishers, benefactors, friends and relatives and beg them to assist PMI in rehabilitating and reintegrating prisoners and educating their children. If needed, PMI national office shall forward to you the softcopy of brochures.
9. Pray specially for PMI full-time servers who work in the national/ regional/ state offices and the PMI rehabilitation centres and homes for prisoners' children.
10. Take membership in one of the PMI Special Task Forces such as Death Row Commandoes (DRC), Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB), Terrorists Saving Squad (TSS), Mafia Redeemers (MR), Serial Killers' Redeemers (SKR), Habituals' Saving Squadron (HSS), and encourage others to join these Special Task Forces. PPT and application forms will be forwarded to you from the national office. Please return the filled application forms to us.

Please add your proposals to this list and let us enthusiastically celebrate the 2020 Prison Ministry Sunday and St Maximillian Kolbe Day.



**Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS Presenting Paper on the International Online Conference on the Challenges of Covid 19 Pandemic and the Catholic Responses Convened by the Vatican Dicastery for the Integral Human Development presided over by His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson.**



**PMI National Executive Online Meeting Held on 15 July 2020**



**Mr Vijay KR Arora, the Buxar Central Prison Superintend Prior to his Transfer to Gaya Central Prison, Visiting Bishop Sebastian Kallupura.**



**PMI Pune Unit Distributing Sanitizers, Masks, Face Shields, Gloves, Pulse Oximeters, Infrared Thermometers to Central Prison, Yerwada, Pune.**



**Fr George Kavukat MST Giving Training in Organic Farming in Sindhudurg Jail, Maharashtra**



**PMI Extends Immense Gratitude and Highest Appreciation to Sr Regina SOM for Her Selfless Meritorious Service as PMI Treasurer for the Last 8 Years.**



**Fr Arogyaswamy celebrates Prison Ministry Sunday, Bihar.**



**Prison Ministry Sunday Celebration, Gujarat**

