



PRISON VOICE

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NATIONAL MONTHLY

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**PRAY FOR THE SOULS IN
PURGATORY**



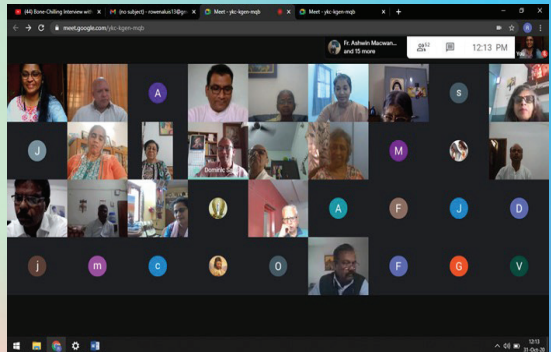
Bro Sunny Manilal MMB Distributes Provisions to the Neediest at Kokta, MP



Fr Sebastian Perunilam Distributes Growbags to Kottayam District Prison



PMI National Office Distributes Provisions to Kolbe Home Children



Special Task Forces Online Meeting



PMI Udupi Unit Distributes Toiletries to Udupi District Prison



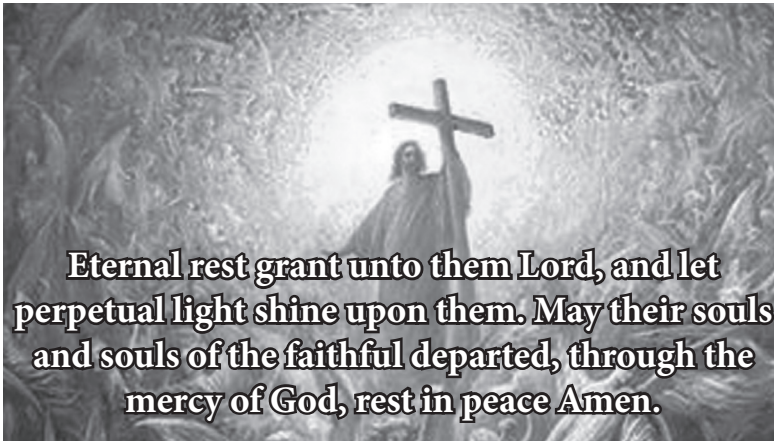
PMI Raigarh Unit Celebrates Diwali in Raigarh Prison

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PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY



Eternal rest grant unto them Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace Amen.

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Are You Willing?

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

80% of the children of
prisoners are potential
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PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED PRISONERS



Sr Rosily SCC
Chief Editor

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." 'Hope does not disappoint,' tells St Paul. Hope attracts us and gives meaning to life. Hope is a gift from God that draws us towards life, towards eternal joy. Hope is an anchor that we have on the other side. Pope Francis said in his homily on November 2nd, 2020 that one must ask the Lord for the gift of Christian hope. Pope Francis prayed for all the dead during the Holy Mass, including "the dead without face, without voice, and without name, so that God the Father may welcome them into eternal peace, where there is no longer either anxiety or pain. On All Souls' Day, Pope Francis reminded us that hope is a gift from God and the goal of hope is to go to Jesus. He approved indulgences through all of November for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the deceased and for those who piously visit a church or oratory and recite the "Our Father" and the "Creed" in commemoration of the deceased.

All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honouring the dead. According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of the three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice. The intermediate option

is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go.

Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven. The scriptural basis for this belief is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. Thus, made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin." Additional references are found in Zechariah, Sirach, and the Gospel of Matthew. Jewish tradition also reinforces this belief as well as the tradition and teaching of the Church, which has been affirmed throughout history. Consistent with these teachings and traditions, Catholics believe that through the prayers of the faithful on earth, the dead are cleansed of their sins so they may enter into heaven

Throughout the month of November, when the Church increases her efforts in honouring, remembering and praying for the dead, we PMI volunteers in a special way pray for the departed souls of prisoners all over the world. Contemplating on our brethren who died, it will do us good to look at cemeteries and repeat together with our Holy Father "I know that my Redeemer lives. This is the strength that gives us hope, a free gift. May the Lord give it to all of us". Let us pray for the departed souls of prisoners who have nobody to pray for and if possible, let us offer Holy Mass for the repose of their souls.

INCESSANT INTERCESSORY INVOCATION FOR THE INCARCERATED

Introduction

Covid-19 Pandemic was a blessing in disguise. God's children shall know the art of turning and transforming every crisis, problem and disaster into a blessing, a stepping stone for progress for the greater glory of God. Prison Ministry India volunteers shall be experts in transforming the troubled situations into blessings and this is exactly what PMI did during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. PMI made use of all the possibilities and opportunities to focus on the release, reformation, rehabilitation, reintegration and redemption of prisoners. During this pandemic PMI introduced many online programs such as training sessions for state coordinators, diocesan coordinators, retreat, counselling courses and so on. Above all PMI launched an online Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated worldwide.

II Resveglio – The Reawakening

On 13-19 September 2020 PMI organized an online retreat for its volunteers with the title *II Resveglio – The Reawakening*. Most Rev Peter Machado, the Archbishop of Bengaluru, Most Rev Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman, Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil, the auxiliary bishop of Thrissur who was with the pioneers of PMI at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary and the cofounders and pioneers of PMI preached the Word of God, celebrated Holy Mass and conducted Eucharistic adoration during

From National Coordinator's Desk



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

these retreat days. The retreat anchored on St Paul's teaching "Awake and arise, Christ will shine on you" (Eph 5,14) was very fruitful and many offshoots came out of it thanks to the works of the Holy Spirit.

Burning Bush Spiritual Banquet

One of the innovations that came out of the PMI online retreat was to have a follow up of the retreat. We organize a spiritual banquet with the title *Burning Bush* in the evening of every first Friday. On 2nd October 2020 Bishop Mar Jose Pulickal, the auxiliary bishop of Kanjirappally who was with the first PMI prayer group at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary inaugurated this first Burning Bush Spiritual Banquet. Fr Reji CMI of the Syromalabar parish at Bommanahalli, Bengaluru hosted the program. During our conversation Fr Reji mentioned about a series of Holy Masses offered by Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement for the renewal of world nations. He referred that he had a Holy Mass at 3 O' clock in the morning for Senegal. This sharing sparked in me the vision to organize intercessory prayer and celebrate Holy Mass for the sanctification of prisoners worldwide.



From National Coordinator's Desk

Daily Intercessory Prayer, Mumbai

On 9th October 2020 while contemplating on the renewal of prisoners worldwide Mrs Rowena Luis from Mumbai rang and asked me to share a few minutes with the PMI intercessory pray group members in Mumbai. This group daily spends half an hour from 03.30 to 04.00PM in intercessory prayer for prisoners. I told them that no other PMI group prays daily like them and it's really inspiring. Stirred by this intercessory prayer group, PMI thought of introducing the 24 hours intercessory prayer for the sanctification of prisoners worldwide.

Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated

I consulted this inspiration with Most Rev Allwyn D'Silva, PMI Chairman. He confirmed that it is from the Lord and granted permission to proceed with this insight. I shared this concept of having an intercessory prayer for prisoners worldwide with Mr Daryl Gandhi who is our technical expert. Immediately he came forward with his family and installed zoom meet app for the intercessory prayer spending money from his own pocket. Within no time everything was settled to have an incessant intercessory invocation for the incarcerated worldwide. We shared the link of the zoom meet through WhatsApp and many began to join in the meeting from different parts of the world. We arranged half an hour slot to every individual or group. It was easy for our volunteers to spend half an hour in interceding for our incarcerated brethren.

Sanctify the World by Sanctifying Myself

Glorifying Jesus who came to proclaim liberty to captives and trusting fully in him,

PMI launched the online International Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated at the newly constructed RRDC chapel, Bengaluru on 9th October 2020. PMI volunteers pray online half an hour each for 24 hours of the day, 7 days of the week and 365 days of the year for the renewal, reintegration and redemption of prisoners worldwide. We do this either by celebrating Holy Mass, or reading the Word of God, or reciting Rosary, or Divine Mercy Chaplet or Way of the Cross or praising and worshipping the Lord by singing hymns. Those who are interested to participate in this mission of sanctifying the incarcerated worldwide are welcome. Please register your name with your WhatsApp number and email address mentioning your preferable prayer time.

Zoom Meet

Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated reminds us of Jesus parable highlighting the need to always pray and not give up (Lk 18,1). St Paul in his second letter to Thessalonians also instructs to pray incessantly (2 Thess 5,17). Through this initiative PMI introduces a possibility to pray continuously for the repentance, reconciliation, reformation, rehabilitation, reintegration and redemption of prisoners. To join this new venture of PMI log on to the link below: [https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/83089593521?pwd=STBSdzNSWG04TkUwZnZ4T0pUUFh0Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83089593521?pwd=STBSdzNSWG04TkUwZnZ4T0pUUFh0Zz09). For further information contact PMI National office at 52 Thomas Layout, Sarjapura Road, Carmelaram PO, Bengaluru 560 035, Karnataka, India; 9447710488, 9666834174, 9880022209, frandiyan@live.in, koduru2012@gmail.com, linimsc@gmail.com.

PURGATORY SOULS REDEEMERS (PSR)

Introduction

The feast of All Saints is celebrated on 1 November and the following day is celebrated as 'All Souls Day' (2 November) and this is the day where all the people visit the cemeteries of their dead relatives. Christian tradition says that the life after death is divided into three states; (1) Hell – The place where the people those who rejected God (2) Heaven – For those who in friendship with God (3) Purgatory – A place of purification. This article runs through the role of the PMI volunteers in rescuing the souls from the prisons and the purgatory through their prayers and mortifications. Prison is a type of hell in which our brethren behind the bars go through lot of suffering and purgatory is a place where the souls go through sanctification. The eightfold path for prisoners' transformation is (1) Reachout (2) Repentance (3) Reconciliation (4) Reformation (5) Rehabilitation (6) Reclamation (7) Release (8) Redemption. The ultimate goal of PMI is to redeem the lost, to heal the sick and to bring back the astray.

Biblical Foundation

The God of the universe, the Creator is holy and He wants the creatures to be holy. 'Instead, as He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct. For it is written, "You shall be holy, for I'm holy" (1Peter 1:15-16). "A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel in it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray" (Isaiah 35:8). The highway Prophet Isaiah mentions is the Holy Way and no unclean can travel on it. To travel on this Holy Way we are called to lead the life to perfect holiness. "People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in



Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

the lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:26-27). If we are not holy, we cannot see God. With the same eyes with which we have sinned we cannot see God. Those who cannot enter need to undergo the purification. Through sacrifices, mortifications we purify ourselves here on earth and God also gives chances for our earthly purification by the tribulations and struggles that we go through.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Paragraph 1030 says, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after their death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven". God himself has permitted the Purgatory for the purification of the souls and this is different from the place of eternal damnation.

Teachings of Jesus

"Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Mathew 12:32). Jesus clearly says there is a possibility in the age to come and the other age means, an age after death. "I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter. This doesn't speak on the mortal sins, but rather every careless word that we speak" (Mathew 12:36). There is a hint on purification, a small punishment of cleansing is mentioned. Just for a careless word you need not go to hell,



Purgatory Souls Redeemers

but there is an account we have to give and a purification one has to go through.

PMI Mission of Redemption

In Maccabees 12:38-45, we read and reflect that Judas and his army purified themselves according to the custom, and kept the Sabbath there. Every PMI volunteer is called to purify oneself as Judas and army first purified themselves. As they wanted to bury the bodies of the fallen men, they found sacred tokens of the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. And it became clear to all that this was the reason these men had fallen. These are some idol worship, the idols of Jamnia which they had inside the tunic, and they were the people who were killed in battle. The reason was very clear for the others, why these soldiers had fallen. They were defeated in the battle, because they did not believe in the true God, rather they believed in the pagan God. We had already heard, if anything unholy God will turn away from us.

And they turned to supplication, praying that the sin that had been committed might wholly blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened as the result of the sin of those who had fallen. Judas, the noble man who was holy asked the people to keep themselves free from sin. He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the Resurrection. Judas, knew these people who are dead should be resurrected one day. Therefore we will offer Holy Mass for them.

Sin offering is the Old Testament Holy Mass, Eucharistic Celebration. Therefore we must celebrate Holy Eucharist for the dead people. The Holy Bible clearly teaches us to pray for

the dead. To make atonement for the dead, to offer Holy Mass for the dead. Let those who are in Purgatory be saved by the sacrifices and penance that we do here on earth. Job prayed for his sons and daughters, he used to get up early morning and go to offer Sin Offering, so that his children would be saved. We are obliged to pray for the departed souls. Until we are made perfect, we will be purified. Whether here on earth or the life after the earth. There are so many families who are not praying for the departed souls. So, here PMI plays vital role to pray for them. By praying for them we can reduce their afflictions and pain. Let us do sacrifices and penance on behalf of them. And they will be saved.

Prayer of St Gertrude

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen

40 Days Program

Purgatory Souls Redeemers (PMI volunteers) have started 40 days program for the souls in purgatory.

- 40 Holy Masses and Communion
- 40 Chapters of the Gospel: Luke and Mark
- 40 Creed
- 40 Rosaries
- 40 Divine Mercy Rosaries
- 40 Mortifications
- 40 Times - Psalm 130
- 40 Times - Prayer of Sr Gertrude for the Souls in Purgatory
- 4000 Glory be to the Father
- 4000 Thank you Jesus



The Hope March

Fr Maverick Fernandes

Understanding Purgatory

Eastern Orthodox people reject the term purgatory. But acknowledge an intermediate state after death and offers prayer for the dead. Protestants reject purgatory as an unbiblical belief. Some Protestant churches, however, teach about the existence of an intermediate state. Purgatory is seldom mentioned in Anglican descriptions. Although many Anglicans believe in a continuing process of growth and development after death. Martin Luther held that since purgatory has no place in Scripture, we any way must not allow it; for it darkens and undervalues the grace, benefits, and merits of our blessed, sweet Saviour Christ Jesus. Gehenna is a place of purification where, according to Jewish traditions, most sinners spend up to a year before release. Islam holds a concept similar to that of purgatory in Christianity. Barzakh is thought to be a realm between paradise (Jannah) and hell (Jahannam).

Purgatory As Mysterious

1. No scientific evidence nor reliable observations.
2. A state of being rather than a location.
3. Relation to Hell - fire and suffering of Hell are tailor-made for purification.
4. Why purification must come about through punishment and suffering?
5. Why people have to spend time and energy to hunt and punish them on earth for sins if there is purgatory?

Christianity

Catechism of the Catholic Church states “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. the tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire: As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come. This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: “Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.” From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead: Let us help and commemorate them. If Job’s sons were purified by their father’s sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died



Purgatory

and to offer our prayers for them” (CCC 1030-1032; See also 1054-1055).

Truths About Purgatory

Purgatory Exists: It provides a final purification of those who die in friendship with God but who haven't fully broken their attachment to sin or atoned for wrongs done in this life. It isn't merely a punishment: God desires to save us not just from hell but from sin, from being anything less than the men and women he created us to be. Purgatory is a merciful gift and a testimony to God's love. It is not physical pain: The soul is separated from its body, so it can only suffer spiritually, not physically. The primary pain endured by those in purgatory is the loss of the sight of God. Souls in purgatory experience joy and pain. Every soul in purgatory is bound for glory so the time they spend in purgatory is marked not only by suffering, but also by joy. Our prayers for the dead matter eternally. The prayers we pray for our loved ones throughout the entirety of our lives play a part in helping them enter into heaven. The holy souls intercede for us. We have such great intercessors in the holy souls. They want to help ensure that we understand the malice of sin and the importance of conforming our lives to God's will, so that we can go straight to heaven when we die.

Rooted in Scriptures

But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore, he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin (2 Maccabees 12,45). “If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Cor 3,15). “But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written

in the Lamb's book of life” (Rev 21,27). Purgatory was not an invention of the medieval Church. Belief in a purgative state after death is as old as the Church itself.

Experience of St Teresa of Avila

Eighteen or twenty years ago a nun died in the house I was in. She had always been sick, and been a very good servant of God, devoted to her choir duties and most virtuous. I thought certainly she would not enter purgatory, because the illnesses she suffered were many, and that she would have a surplus of merits. Four hours after her death, while reciting the hours of the Office before her burial, I understood she departed from purgatory and went to Heaven. Another friar of our Order, a truly very good friar, was seriously ill; while I was at Mass, I became recollected and saw that he was dead and that he ascended into heaven without entering purgatory. He had died at the hour I saw him, according to what I learned later. I was amazed that he hadn't entered purgatory. I understood that since he had been a friar who had observed his vows well, the Bulls of the Order about not entering purgatory were beneficial to him.

Conclusion

Purgatory is an important dogma that supports the biblical call to perfection. It is a state of existence of joyful pain. We have to speak often of this reality not only on All Souls Day and at funerals. We should frequently urge Masses and prayers for the Holy Souls where such efforts are always rewarded. Spiritual exercises, meditations on purgatory can help us to live a grace-filled life here on earth. Eternal rest grant unto them Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace Amen.



Cardinal Francois-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan



Sr Rosily Jose SCC

Introduction


The canonization process of Cardinal Van Thuan is going on under the guidance of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development where he was president from 1998 until his death in 2002. Cardinal Thuan spent 13 years in Vietnam prison under the communist government. His life has become an example and inspiration of faith and holiness to people worldwide. Isolation, darkness, and brutality saturated his prison life. In one afternoon, he went from being an archbishop to a mere prisoner. Instead of viewing his life as useless, he chose to see his imprisonment as Christ's gift to him.

Family

Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan was born on April 17, 1928, in Phu Cam, in the Archdiocese of Hue, Thua Thien Province, Vietnam. His family has 8 children, 3 boys and 5 girls. He was the eldest. His father, Nguyen Van Am, died July 1, 1993, in Sydney, Australia. His mother is Mrs Elisabeth Ngo Dinh Thi Hiep, the daughter of Ngo Dinh Kha. She was the younger sister of Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc and President Ngo Dinh Diem. She died on January 28, 2005, in Sydney, Australia, aged 102.

Priest

Supported by Bishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, in 1939, Van Thuan entered the An Ninh Minor Seminary in his early teens, and followed his studies in philosophy and theology at Phu Xuan Major Seminary. He was ordained



priest on June 11, 1953 by Bishop Urrutia. The young priest was assigned to St. Francis parish to help with the transition from a French majority in that parish to a Vietnamese one. After a few months at St. Francis parish, Bishop Urrutia appointed him chaplain of the Pellerin Institute, the Central Hospital, and the provincial prisons.

Bishop

In early 1954, he had to go to Hue for treatment. After he became well, he became the assistant father of Francis Xavier's parish in Hue. In 1956, he went to Rome to study Canon law at the Pontifical University of Urbaniana. His Doctoral thesis was "Military Chaplaincy in the World". He returned to Phu Xuan Junior Seminary as professor in Hue. In 1964, he was appointed vicar general of the Diocese of Hue. On July 5, 1957, Pope Pius XII established the diocese of Nha Trang and on May 4, 1967, the Holy See appointed Father Nguyen Van Thuan as the first Vietnamese bishop of this diocese.

Archbishop

In April 1975, when Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh asked the Holy Roman Delegate in Vietnam, Henri Lemaitre, to request the Holy See to send Bishop Nguyen Van Thuan as the Archbishop of Saigon in the hope that his wisdom would lead the Vietnamese Church to overcome the impending difficulties. On April 23, 1975, the Holy See appointed him Archbishop of Vadesitana, and on April 24, 1975, appointed him Coadjutor Archbishop of the Diocese of Sai Gon with the power of succession. The hand-over ceremony was held in Nha Trang on May 7, 1975. On 8 May 1975, he

returned to Saigon to take up his new job. Unbelievably, this appointment brought him tragic consequences, but also raised him to important positions in the Church later. On June 27, 1975, the Saigon-Gia Dinh City Military Commission announced its decision not to allow Archbishop Nguyen Van Thuan to operate in his new post. On July 1, 1975, the Military Commission sent him a written request to return to his residence prior to April 30, 1975.

Incarceration

On August 15, 1975, the police arrested him in Nha Trang, but he did not return to the Nha Trang Bishopric, so he was put under house arrest at Cay Vong Parish, Dien Son Commune, Dien Khanh District, Khanh Hoa Province. Shortly after, he was detained in Phu Khanh prison, Nha Trang. On November 29, 1976, a police car approached Phu Khanh prison to take him to the Thu Duc prison. On December 1, 1976, he and other political prisoners were detained in the South, taken down Truong Xuan ship to the North. In the North, he was detained for nine years in various detention centers, and was placed under house arrest for three years. In his first year in prison (1976), he wrote "Road of Hope." This book is considered his spiritual testament to all Vietnamese Catholics in Vietnam and abroad.

President, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

On November 21, 1988, he was freed and appointed at the residence of the Archbishop of Hanoi. On March 27, 1989, he was expelled from Vietnam and he went to Rome. On November 21, 1994,

he was appointed by the Holy See as Vice-President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. This was the first time a Vietnamese chaplain had been appointed to an important post at the Vatican. In 1998, he was appointed president of this Pontifical Council. He declared: "I dream of a Church that is a witness of hope and love, by concrete actions, as when we see the Pope accepting all people: the Orthodox, Anglicans, Calvin, Lutheran in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the communion of the Spirit lived in prayer and humility".

Lenten Retreat to Curia

During Lent 2000, he received a special invitation from Pope John Paul II to preach the Lenten Retreat to the Curia, at the beginning of the third millennium. When the Holy Father received him in private audience after the retreat, giving him a chalice, Cardinal Thuan said: "24 years ago I said Mass with three drops of wine and one drop of water in the palm of my hand, I never would have thought that today the Holy Father would give me a gilt chalice. Our Lord is great indeed and so is his love".

Conclusion

God called Cardinal Thuan home on September 16, 2002 in Rome. In his 2007 Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, referred to Thuan's *Prayers of Hope*, saying: "During thirteen years in jail, in a situation of seemingly utter hopelessness, the fact that he could listen and speak to God became for him an increasing power of hope, which enabled him, after his release, to become for people all over the world a witness to hope - to that great hope which does not wane even in the nights of solitude".



Jesus Dismissed the Dismas Case


Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

Introduction

St Dismas also known as the “Good Thief” or “Penitent Thief” was crucified beside Jesus. The good thief on the Cross repented and he was redeemed. He said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus told him, “This day you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:42-43) and this is the day-to-day redemption story of our brethren behind the bars. While everyone mocked Jesus, the good thief called out to Jesus to redeem him and asked Jesus to remember him when He comes to His Kingdom. He understood that the Kingdom of Jesus is not of this world. It’s the Kingdom of God where peace, mercy and compassion reign. The good thief cried out to Jesus and it was a step of conversion away from sin. He is the patron saint of those condemned to death. The story of a good thief is a conversion story at the last minute.

The Repentant Thief

The gospels tell us that there were two criminals crucified on either side of Christ - one is humbled before the Cross of Christ and the other mocks Jesus. The one who believed in the redemptive act of Jesus is transformed into a “good thief”. Luke’s Gospel tells us, “One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, ‘Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? We are punished justly; for we are getting what our deeds deserve; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise’” (Luke 23: 39-43). From this



we can conclude that at some point after St Dismas “reviled him” and before he asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom, he repented. What beautiful humility St Dismas displayed, and what astounding mercy Jesus gave.

Sad Ending and Graceful Rising

Crucifixion was usually intended to provide a death that was particularly slow, painful, gruesome, humiliating, and public, using whatever means were most expedient for that goal. The good thief suffers on the cross. The capital punishment is given to him. He never opted to be on the cross. He was compelled to be there and it was completely against his will. He suffers on the cross physically, psychologically and emotionally. He too was removed of his garments, laid on the cross, pierced his hands and feet with the nails. Although he suffers to the maximum, he is strengthened, because next to him hangs Jesus, the innocent one, the saviour of the lost. A sad and pathetic ending in the eyes of men, but how happy and glorious he is in God’s sight!

One Touch; One Look; One Word

The Good Thief realized and recognized the love of God. He too suffered externally like his companion on the cross. But internally he was receptive to the grace. He asked nothing except to remember him. He cried out to the God in whose palms our names are written. He cried out to the God who came down to redeem us by shedding His blood for us. He knew, if Jesus remembers him, he will be forgiven of all his sins. One glance at Jesus healed many. One word of Jesus comforted many. With one touch of Jesus people received graces in abundance of what they deserve. The good thief accepted the cross knowing he deserved the punishment as he exclaimed to his companion on the death bed, “For us it is justice, for we are



Dismas Case

receiving what our deeds deserved; but this man has done nothing wrong” (Lk. 23, 41). He humbly asked, ‘remember me’. Although everyone knows about him and his crimes committed, he acknowledges publicly and says ‘we are receiving what our deeds deserve’. He could have tried to feign innocence, but he did not. He doesn’t excuse himself; rather he accepts what is placed on him. He gazes at Jesus who did nothing, except good. He understood the strength of the Good God who has the capacity to remember him. God does not keep a record of our sins. He must have learnt that He is the one who had forgiven the woman caught in adultery. So, when all those who are gathered there felt that the time of Jesus was over, he feels strongly that his life is going to begin and there he can be remembered. Everyone mocked at Him thinking He is nothing; but the repentant thief pleads for mercy believing He is everything. He sees Jesus as someone different, unique and holy who remains silent while the crowd jeered at Him.

Earth Gives Up; Heaven Makes it

The penitent thief looks down and sees the mother of Jesus and His beloved disciple. He also notices that the other disciples have abandoned Him. The teachers of the law and the learned remain silent; but the rejected one believes. Humanity thought of ending the life of the good thief, but God uplifts him with the small prayer he makes. When earth gives up, heaven makes it. When the others mocked Jesus as a handicapped, the broken one believes Jesus is the Saviour. When many others longed for the earthly kingdom, the repentant thief longs for the heavenly kingdom which is eternal. His public confession echoes in Heaven. When he cried out to Jesus, he gets cleansed. He has no other motivation than to be saved. For him, the earth becomes a zero and Jesus becomes

the hero. The poor thief becomes the model for the ones who want to be redeemed. Leaving all that the world had offered he clings on to the heavenly inheritance. He does not ask for greater things although Jesus has the power to do anything on earth and heaven. The only favour he asked for was to remember him. “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me” (Is 49:15-16). Did these words echo in the ears of the repentant thief? When all his relatives and friends had abandoned him, he looks on the cross knowing that God will never forget him.

Redeemed Sinner

Bidding adieu to the earth, the repentant thief holds on to God to reach heaven. He gazes at God who is beyond all earthly judges. He loves the God who responds and redeems immediately as He says that the good thief will be with Him in paradise today itself. Our God never delays; He waits eagerly for our repentance. As the Father of the Prodigal Son waited for the return of his Son, our Jesus waits for our return. The moment the Prodigal Son returned; his Father embraced him. The moment the good thief repented; angels surrounded him. The tragedy of the good thief turns into a blessing. Jesus redeemed him through the trouble and from the trouble. Jesus proves on His Cross that He is the friend of the sinners and the rejected. He calms the disturbed by entering into his troubled life and redeems immediately. Earth wanted to bring disgrace, but heaven brings grace; grace upon grace. God didn’t look at the past; He never asked for any evidence; He never asked for any witness; He never asked for His family background to know whether anyone from his family is a believer. He treats everyone as unique. Every soul is unique before the God of mercy.



Death Row Commandoes (DRC)

Lt Col Jennifer James

Introduction


A death sentence is a legal process where a person is put to death by the state as a punishment of a crime committed by him/her. The actual process of killing a person in lieu of this is called execution. Crimes that can result in a death penalty are known as capital crimes or offenses. In India, section 368 of the Criminal Procedure Code gives the power to High Courts on the matters of confirmation of a death sentence and is normally given for offences like murder, waging war against state, rape and also in cases cited as Rarest of Rarest Cases.

Recent Death Executions in India

November 21, 2012, Mohammad Ajmal Amir Kasab the only terrorist survived the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks was hanged in Pune's Yerwada Jail. February 9, 2013, Mohammed Afzal Guru, a convict in the 2001 Parliament attack case, was hanged inside Delhi's Tihar jail. July 30, 2015, Yakub Memon, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blast case, was hanged at a jail in Nagpur, in Maharashtra. Mar 20, 2020, 4 Nirbhaya convicts hanged in Tihar jail for the gangrape crime committed in 2012.

Indian Convicts on Death Row

As of December 31, 2019, India had 378 prisoners on death row. Death sentence was given for the Warangal mass murderer to Sanjay Kumar Yadav of Bihar on 28 October 2020. A criminal court in Qatar has sentenced four Keralites - Ashfeer, Anees, Rashid Kuniyil and Shammas from Kerala to death for killing a Yemeni gold trader in June, 2020. Nimisha Priya was sentenced to



death in Yemen for murder, the execution of the sentence has been stayed till further orders. Kulbhushan Jadhav imprisoned in a Pakistan jail since Mar 2016, death sentence stayed by International Court of Justice in May 2017. On 12 February 2020, a Mahila court in Tirunelveli has sentenced C Vasantha Kumar and M Rajesh to capital punishment for a murder committed in 2008. Kattavellai alias Devakar is awarded death penalty by Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, in a twin murder case. Manoharan was sentenced to death for crimes in 2010 at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Capital punishment was given to Santhosh Kumar in a crime committed in Mar 2019- Coimbatore.

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“I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:36, 40). When Jesus was berated for eating with tax collectors and sinners, he answered that “it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17).

Sinner to Son

Back in the day, tax collectors had fallen into their own category of contempt - set apart, it seems from the rest of the sinners. They were considered corrupt, treacherous... criminal. Yet Jesus went to them, spent time with them, shared a friendly meal with them. He did not overlook what they had done or what they had become. But in the moral “sickness” of their sin, He offered them the healing of His forgiveness, His salvation, and even His friendship. One of those hated tax collectors was Zacchaeus, a corrupt man who had grown rich by cheating



Death Row Commandoes


others. When he climbed a tree to see what this Jesus was all about, the Lord invited Himself to dinner with Zacchaeus - again, to the irritation of the more “righteous” people in the crowd. But that loving invitation brought this corrupt tax collector to repentance and transformation - ready to make amends for his crimes. And then Jesus made an announcement to the crowd. “This man, too, is a son of Abraham” (Luke 19:9). This man that the others had considered an outcast was to be restored as a brother.

Jesus’ Example

God does not despise the broken; nor should we. Rather, we are to imitate the One who came to seek and to save the lost - as we once were - no matter what type of bonds enslave and cripple them. Jesus identifies 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.

Share Freedom Behind Bars

God seeks to set prisoners free - not always from their physical prison, but certainly from their imprisonment by sin, ignorance, rebellion, and foolish choices. Jesus identified Himself as the source of this freedom. As this is an important part of God’s work, it is an important part of the Church’s work as well. “The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him [Jesus]. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:17-19)



Refinement and Transformation

Society may intend prison to be a place of punishment, but God can use it as a place of refinement and transformation. He does not give up on those in prison, but pursues them in love. “The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people.” (Psalm 69:33)

Why Intercession?

St Therese of Lisieux had prayed for the conversion of the notorious and unrepentant killer Henri Pranzini in 1887 and was able to read in the newspaper of his last-minute grab for a crucifix as he approached the scaffold. He kissed the wounds of Jesus three times before being guillotined.

Death Row Commandoes Plan

- Allot each commando a sentenced prisoner to pray individually for.
- Regular meetings with the volunteers to pray & share experiences.
- Plan to write letters to the condemned if direct visits not feasible.
- Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the lost.
- Eucharistic contemplation, adoration and voluntary sacrifices.
- Offer Holy Mass for their transformation.

Conclusion

No matter what you’ve done, there is no sin beyond the reach of God’s grace, once you have accepted Christ’s offer of forgiveness. The PMI volunteers have to carry this message of forgiveness along with them to the death row convicts to save them from eternal damnation. “God is the ultimate salvage artist. He loves to restore things to their original condition-and make them even better.” Randy Alcorn



PMI Counsellor Training Program (CTP)

Fr Ferdinand Franco SAC

Prison Ministry India national office together with Anugraha Counselling Institute organized two weeks Counsellor Training Program from 11-24 October 2020 for PMI volunteers and 60 of them participated in it. On 11 October 2020 at the inaugural session, after being welcomed by Dr Francis Kodyan MCBS, PMI national coordinator Most Rev Dr Allwyn D' Silva addressed the participants and wished them best wishes for the forthcoming program. It was two weeks program with 25 sessions by different specialised professors and it made a great impact on PMI volunteers.

The Counsellor Training Program conducted opened in us a new understanding of whole process of Counselling. The Explanation of the Nano Skill Model of counselling, classes on Neuro Linguistic Programming, New Behaviour Generator, Healing Inner Child, Visual Kinaesthetic Disassociation Therapy, Managing Fear and Anger, Genogram, different kinds of personality disorders, mood disorders, conflict management, strokes, ego states etc. indeed have brought new way looking at one's own personality and the people we meet especially those are confined within the four walls of prison. Vague ideas of counselling existed in some of us which were cleared by systematic and logical presentation of the concepts of

counselling. The course did instil in us a kind of self-awareness and a confidence that there is possibility in us to open to change what we can and created a tranquillity to accept what we can't and taught us also how to be empathetic and where to place boundaries in our relationships.

No two people understand the same language and acts in the same way. But then it was happy to hear that a warm smile and good gestures, eye contacts, words that are used to greet like 'glad to meet', introducing each other etc. indeed play great roles in creating a bond between the client and the counsellor. One of the important aspects of successful counselling that we learnt from this course is that the client should have a deep confidence in the counsellor to pour out his/her anxieties and struggles. It is indeed a new insight for all of us as we engage ourselves in this noble ministry, a ministry for the lost. We meet different types of people hail from different culture and background. These thoughts will be light in our path to understand and listen to them.

The pre-conceived definition of counselling that existed already in us is replaced with the new definition of counselling. It beckons us to go beyond a causal conversation with the client. It invites us to create a conducive space for the client for an intimate sharing. By inviting all of us to develop empathetic attitude towards the client, it warns us to be conscious of the clients with whom we deal and the purpose of the meeting, to avoid further complications.

Counsellor Training Program

Brief and systematic narration of Personality, Anxiety and Mood disorders threw light upon us to see expression of such disorders in others in a scientific and objective way. An awareness is created in us not to judge such people on the basis of external appearances. It also created in us to have an empathetic attitude towards them than a sympathetic approach. In empathy we relate with an intimacy with a boundary, where as in sympathy we approach them with pity feeling. In sympathy we participate in their pain and suffering but by showing sympathy we become advisers. I vehemently believe, we as the volunteers of Prison Ministry India, we need to imbibe this true spirit of empathy for the success of the mission in the prisons.

Process and techniques of counselling offered by Prison Ministry India and Anugraha brought new insights about the human relations. Human relation in Prison Ministry denotes to our relation with prisoners. Here the clients are always prisoners. We are invited to become an instrument to help the client to discover the problem and solutions. Through this, the counsellor develops an interpersonal relationship that creates a confidence in the client to share everything to the counsellor. All that we have learned will be indeed a great help for us to have a sound analysis of the people we meet in the prisons, which is important for them to recognise his/her own emotional and behavioural problems. Recognition of the problems brings changes in the prisoners and success of the counselling or the help that we render is based on this changes.

It was indeed a fruitful time to travel inward to our own self, to discover dimensions and traits of our own personality. There is a realisation that these teachings not only handy in helping others to lead a better life but they also help each of us to recognise our own struggles and concerns and correct them. The participants are indeed delighted and grateful for having received this opportunity which invited us to be the people down to the earth with the eyes of mercy and heart of compassion as we the PMI volunteers reach out to the broken beings behind the bars. Heartfelt gratitude to all the professors who were guiding us throughout the training program, enlightened us with their own respective subjects. Special thanks to Dr Francis Kodyan MCBS for foreseeing the need of the time and organising this course for the PMI volunteers and to Sr Lini Sheeja MSC for timely updating with information and her quick response of every query of each participant.

“I saw my guardian angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but to no avail, for themselves; only we can come to their aid. The flames, which were burning them, did not touch me at all. My guardian angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God.” – St. Maria Faustina Kowalska




Jail Reforms : A Brief History

Adv KK Paulose

Biblical Foundation

Moses sat to judge the people. He told his father-in-law Jethro, that when people came to him for justice, he gave judgment according to “God’s commands and laws”. His father-in-law encouraged him and asked him to depute more people, who are God-fearing and good along with him for expediting justice. He advised Moses: “It is right for you, to represent the people as well and God will be with you. You should teach them God’s commands and explain to them how they should live and what they should do” (Ex 18: 13-27). Court system was evolving through generations of God’s chosen people. “If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.” (Num 35:30). In Deuteronomy 17:6-7, we also find the trust of evidence depending upon more witnesses. “Two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. St Paul also has stressed the testimony of witnesses (Cf. 2 Cor 13:1). To improve the functioning of the jail system in India, we have to bring in more and more reformation therein so as to rehabilitate offenders, alleged offenders, and hardcore criminals to show them the proper way and the real life in God. When every member of the Prison ministry says to every prisoner, “May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace”; and with zeal and enthusiasm when the members ‘break into’



the barracks of prisons, there will indeed be Christian spirit pervading the hearts and minds of the prisoners.

Historical Foundation

The history of jail reforms has gone a long way ever since the appointment of a famous Committee by British on 2nd January 1836 and of which Lord Macaulay was a member. The Committee, in their report, exposed the corruption of the subordinate establishment and the laxity of discipline in the jails. It was a landmark report, they made during 1836-38. Another committee was constituted to enquire into the management of jail prisons. In the year 1877, this committee comprising of officials actually engaged in jail work. In 1888-89, the Government of India appointed a further Committee to examine all about the jail administration. They suggested some valuable proposals with regard to safety and protection of prisoners and their management. But in the jail reform realm, the first ever comprehensive study was undertaken by the All India Jail Committee headed by Sir Alexander Cardew during 1919-1920. Rehabilitation of offenders was first brought up by that committee. The Committee visited a number of prisons in other countries and really studied how they were functioning. They suggested to appoint trained staff in the jails for the management of prisons and prisoners and also separation of executive, custodial, ministerial, and technical staff for prison service. It also recommended separate jail for various categories of prisoners and also undertrials, the need for proper space in barracks toward safety and protection of the life of prisoners.

After independence Pakwasa Committee was constituted by Indian Govt in 1949



Jail Reforms

and as per that committee report, Govt. accepted the system of utilizing prisoners as labour. In 1951, our Govt. obtained the service of an expert on correctional work, Dr W.C. Reckless from U.N and his team made a study on prison administration and gave suggestions for policy reforms. It is he who underpinned the necessity for transforming jails into reformation centres. Further, he asked to renew old jail manuals. And the Eighth Conference of the Inspector Generals of Prisons supported his suggestions and recommended Govt. to formulate jail reforms accordingly.

Jail Manual

As per the present jail manual, the prisons' administration will ensure separation of the following categories of prisoners (a) women (b) young offenders (c) under-trials (d) detainee (e) high-risk offenders (f) transgenders (g) convicts (h) civil prisoners (i) and prisoners with special needs. As per the manual the Inspector General (Prisons) will explore the possibility of decongesting the prisons by introducing the innovative and ingenious methods viz. Bunk Beds, multistorey buildings etc. Also provided single room accommodation for prisoners needing privacy for pursuing studies etc. on the basis of continuing good conduct subject to the order of Deputy Inspector General of jails.

Correctional Wing

As far as the important provision of 'correctional wing, that will be headed by a Deputy Inspector General rank officer under the overall supervision of Inspector General, assisted by Resident Medical Officer, Superintendent- Headquarter and Chief Welfare Officer. This wing will

also be assisted by Non-Governmental Organizations who are engaged in rehabilitation/ skilling of the inmates. The Resident Medical Officer, Welfare Officer and other officers in the correction wing may be appointed from other department(s) and institution(s) on deputation/ transfer/ transfer on deputation. The Superintendent shall perform duties such as inquiry into prison-offences and breaches of discipline, and to punish all those who are found guilty of having committed any such prison offence or breach of discipline and to enforcing the provisions of the Act, rules, regulations, order and directions made or issued there under; and also to ensure that all equipments including electronic gadgets like CCTV, computers. The Superintendent shall, at all times, exercise a vigilant supervision and control over all money and property of whatever kind received by him or by any subordinate officer, or at any time in his charge or in the charge of any subordinate officer, for or on account of the Government.

High-Risk Offenders

All high-risk offenders can be punished by the Superintendent in case of breach of discipline and security of prison in the manner set forth in Prison Discipline Manual. To ensure safety of women prisoners and guard them against any form of exploitation, separate women's jail is made. The jail manual strictly says that under-trial prisoners shall be kept completely separated from convicted prisoners, even when their number is small, Habitual offenders shall be separated from casual prisoners. So much said and done but still a lot of reformation needed in the jail, for the jail, to disperse human rights to the convicts.




PMI Special Task Forces Meeting

Fr Michael Francis

The PMI Special Task Force organized a meeting for its members on Saturday 31st October 2020 live on google meet. The meeting began with the Holy Mass offered by Fr Michael Francis (Diocese of Aurangabad). The Holy Mass was offered for the intentions of the Special Task Forces. Many members attended the mass devoutly and prayed for the sanctification and redemption of the lost sheep. Mrs Rowena Luis (Archdiocese of Bombay) prayerfully led us in praise and worship and did the opening prayer invoking God's blessing upon all the participants.

Rev Dr. Francis Kodyan MCBS, the mastermind behind the establishment of Special Task Forces gave a brief introduction on the PMI Special Task Forces and explained its purpose, mission, spirituality and methodology. Duc in Altum, a phrase used by Jesus in Luke 5:4 where Jesus instructs Simon Peter to "put out into deep water" was the biblical foundation for the PMI Special Task Forces. Fr Francis was inspired to launch this mission on 12th December 2019 while waiting at the Tihar Jail, Delhi for the Christmas program. PMI Special Task Forces was inaugurated on 22nd December, 2019 at Aradhanakunj, Bengaluru together Sr Adele Korah (SCCGS), Sr Rose Alexander (SCCGS), and Sr Lini Sheeja (MSC). As this is a spiritual warfare, we need to make use of spiritual weapons. Eucharistic Celebration, Eucharistic Adoration and Eucharistic Contemplation are the most important



spiritual weapons for the sanctification of the lost sheep.

Purgatory Souls Redeemers (PSR)

Sr Lini Sheeja (MSC) Bellary, the leader of PSR in her presentation gave us a gist of the inspiration behind launching PSR. Sr. Lini was very much taken up by the new insight that Rev. Dr. Francis received that there is a largest prison beyond the earthly prison and that is Purgatory. She said that there are three places for us – the Heaven, where the souls of all those who loved God and their neighbor enter, the Hell, where the souls of all those who rejected God enter to suffer for eternity, and the Purgatory, where the souls are purified and redeemed. PSR's are the passionate redeemers of souls who through the holy mass, prayer, fasting, mortification and 40 days program give themselves tirelessly for the purification of the souls in purgatory.

Death Row Commandoes (DRC)

Lt. Col. Jennifer James, Chennai leads the task of praying for the sanctification of death row prisoners. In her presentation she briefly introduced the meaning of death penalty, i.e. 'A death sentence is a legal process where a person is put to death by the state as a punishment of a crime committed by him'. Further the data of those who were executed in recent past and those awaiting execution was presented. DRC are inspired by the call of Jesus "it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mk. 2:17). The example of Jesus showing mercy and uplifting the dignity of sinners like the tax collectors and Zacchaeus and bringing them to repentance and transformation was

projected. So, we as followers of Jesus are called to imitate him very closely and set prisoners free from their imprisonment by sin, ignorance, rebellion and foolish choices. It is a great mystery how God can use prisons as a place of refinement and transformation. As St. Therese of Lisieux prayed for the conversion of hard-hearted sinners so also the DRC prays and intercedes for the repentance and conversion of death row prisoners. Thus, through Holy Mass, Eucharistic contemplation, adoration and voluntary sacrifices this great task can be achieved by each DRC.

Prisoners' Releasing Team (PRT)

Sr Adele Korah SCCGS, Bangalore has already been working on prisoners' release since long time in PMI. In her presentation, sister strongly proclaims that we are the light of Christ and every prisoner is God's loving child. As the head of PRT, sister believes that God's merciful love can transform the lives of prisoners. With this attitude PRT rein kindles the hope in the prisoners. There are many innocent prisoners who are suffering for no fault of theirs. Those who are guilty, also suffer from inner bondage, stigma, loneliness, guilt, shame, frustration and fear. They are lonely because they are in isolation and have no one to listen to. It is to these that a loving and forgiving God is presented by the PRT. PRT are the bridges to unite prisoners and God by making the prisoners to accept oneself and the situation they are in. Help and support is provided to every prisoner who is ready to forgive others and also ask pardon from those whom they have harmed.

Terrorists Saving Squad (TSS)

Fr. Michael Francis, Aurangabad who represents the TSS began his presentation with the introduction, definition and history of terrorism. Data stated by Statista Research Department was shown where in 2018 alone there were 8000 terrorist attacks causing the loss of 33000 innocent lives. How to stop terrorism is a challenging question. Wisdom of Jesus was presented as the only way to stop terrorism, "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5:44). The conversion of Saul to Paul is the best example the wonders Jesus can do. Pope Francis too in his interview to Los Angeles Times on 28th April, 2017 said, "There is no justification for violence." Thus, PMI suggests Reformation Warfare Strategies, i.e. "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19,26). To do this impossible mission 40 days program is proposed.

Most Rev Allwin D'Silva, PMI Chairman and the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Bombay congratulated the organizers and the participants for convening this meeting. In his message Bishop gave the example of St. Paul who said that he was in prison for the glory of God. Thus, we also should do everything for the greater glory of God. Bishop concluded his message with his blessings.

Rev Dr Francis Kodyan introduced a new book Warriors of Prison Ministry India illustrating the amazing deeds of the pioneers of PMI and the book was released by Most Rev Allwin D'Silva. Fr Dominic Savio from Gandhinagar Archdiocese proposed vote of thanks and beautifully summarized the whole program. The meeting concluded with a prayer for prisoners and angelus by Mr Ashok Kumar from Vijayawada.

Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated - Program

TIMING	NAMES OF COUNTRIES	NAMES OF INTERCESSORS	NAMES OF STATE PRISONS
1200 - 0030	Afghanistan, Dominica, Liberia, Rwanda	Amala Gabriel, Delson Varghese	Andhra Pradesh - 4 central jails, 7 district jails
0030 - 0100	Albania, Dominican Republic, Libya, Saint Lucia	Amala Gabriel, Delson Varghese	Andhra Pradesh - 99 sub-jails, a women's jail and an open jail.
0100 - 0130	Algeria, Ecuador, Liechtenstein, St Kitts & Nevis	Prakash, Eunice Fernandes, Sr Justina, Delson, Sr Gertrude	Arunachal Pradesh - 2 district jails.
0130 - 0200	Andorra, Egypt, Lithuania, St Vincent & Grenadines	Prakash, Karina Menard, Delson Varghese, Sr Gertrude	Assam - 6 central jails, 22 district jails.
0200 - 0230	Angola, El Salvador, Luxemborg, Samoa	Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, Bibian Rodriques	Assam - 1 sub-jail, an open jail and a special jail.
0230 - 0300	Antigua & Barbuda, Eritrea, Madagascar, San Marino	Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, Bibian Rodriques	Bihar - 8 central jails, 31 district, 17 sub-jails.
0300 - 0330	Argentina, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Saudi Arabia	Holy Mass - Fr Michael Francis, Maria Fernandes, Sr Anisha SD	Bihar - 1 women's jail, 1 open jail, 1 special jail.
0330 - 0400	Armenia, Estonia, Malyasia, Sao Tome & Principe	Fr Michael, Nelson Misquith, Maria Fernandes, Sr Anisha SD	Chhattisgarh - 5 central, 11 district, 12 sub-jails.
0400 - 0430	Australia, Swaziland, Maldives, Senegal	Angel Mary, Maria Fernandes, Sr Cecily, Carlton Rebeiro	Goa - 1 central jail, 1 sub-jail for women
0430 - 0500	Austria, Ethiopia, Mali, Serbia	Sr Cecily FSM, Carlton Rebeiro, Sr Anisha SD, Maria Fernandes	Gujarat - 4 central prisons, 7 district, 11 sub-jails.
0500 - 0530	Azerbaijan, Fiji, Malta, Seychelles	Phiona D'silva, Maria Fernandes	Gujarat - 1 women's jail, 2 open, 2 special jails.
0530 - 0600	Bahamas, Finland, Marshall Islands, Sierra Leone	Walter Kamble, Josephine Fernandes	Haryana - 3 central prisons, 16 district jails.
0600 - 0630	Bahrain, France, Mauritania, Singapore	Fr John Areekal, Florence	Himachal Pradesh - 2 central jail, 2 district, 8 sub, 1 borstal school, 1 open jail
0630 - 0700	Bangladesh, Gabon, Mauritius, Slovakia	Holy Mass - National Office, Rowena Luis	Jammu and Kashmir - 2 central prisons, 10 district jails, 2 sub-jails
0700 - 0730	Barbados, Gambia, Mexico, Slovenia	Vineetha Britto, Flavia Barros	Jharkhand - 7 central prison, 15 district, 5 sub, 1 borstal school, 1 open jail.
0730 - 0800	Belarus, Georgia, Macronesia, Solomon Islands	Fr Norbert Silveira, Philomena Lobe, Flavia Barros	Karnataka - 8 central, 19 district, 70 sub-jails.
0800 - 0830	Belgium, Germany, Moldova, Somalia	Sr Lixeax Theresa, Walli De Lima, Lucio Rego, Lata Appachan	Karnataka - 1 borstal school, 1 open jails, 2 special jails
0830 - 0900	Belize, Ghana, Monaco, South Africa	Michelle Lopez, Teresa Rozario	Kerala - 3 central, 11 district, 16 sub-jails
0900 - 0930	Benin, Greece, Mongolia, South Korea	Eucharist - Fr Dion Isaac Mrs Fatima Mary, Sr Lily	Kerala - 3 women's jails, 1 borstal school, 3 open jail
0930 - 1000	Bhutan, Grenada, Montenegro, South Sudan	Mrs Fatima Mary, Deepa, Nirmala Menezes	Madhya Pradesh - 10 central jails, 40 district, 73 sub-jails and two open jail.
1000 - 1030	Bolivia, Guatemala, Morocco, Spain	Oswald D'Cunha, Sr Piola, Bro John	Maharashtra - 28 district jails, 100 sub-jails, 1 women's jail,
1030 - 1100	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Guinea, Mozambique, Sri Lanka	John Misquitta	Maharashtra - 1 borstal school, 13 open jails, 1 special jail and 1 other jail.
1100 - 1130	Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Mayanmar, Sudan	Lt Col Jennifer James, John Misquitta	Manipur - 2 central jails
1130 - 1200	Brazil, Guyana, Namibia, Surinam	Lily Vaz, John Misquitta	Meghalaya - 2 district jails.

Intercessory Prayer

TIMING	NAMES OF COUNTRIES	NAMES OF INTERCESSORS	NAMES OF STATE PRISONS
1200 - 1230	Brunei, Haiti, Nauru, Sweden	Snehashram Tvm,	Mizoram - 1 central jail, 6 district jails.
1230 - 1300	Bulgaria, Honduras, Nepal, Switzerland	Snehashram Tvm, Fr Dion Isaac & Hydrebad team	Nagaland - 1 central jail, 10 district jails
1300 - 1330	Burkina Faso, Hungary, Netherlands, Syria	Maria Fernandes, Goretti	Odisha - 5 central jails, 9 district, 73 sub, 1 women's, 1 open, 2 special jails
1330 - 1400	Burundi, Iceland, New Zealand, Taiwan	Fr Ashwin Macwan, Sr Esmeralda	Punjab - 9 central jails, 7 district jails, 7 sub-jails,
1400 - 1430	Cabo Verde, India, Nicaragua, Tajikistan	Jennifer D'sa, Sandra	Punjab - 1 women's jail, a borstal school, 1 open jail
1430 - 1500	Cambodia, Indonesia, Niger, Tanzania	Sushma Xavier, Michael Martins, Sylvia Vaz, Luoisia Cord	Rajasthan - 9 central jails, 24 district jails, 60 sub-jails,
1500 - 1530	Cameroon, Iran, Nigeria, Thailand	Jeevodaya, Lilly Jose, Sr Maria D'souza	Rajasthan - 2 women's jail, 1 borstal school, 29 open jails and a special jail
1530 - 1600	Canada, Iraq, North Korea, Timor-Leste	Josephine A, Sr Lidwin, Lilly Jose, Mateldaes Rozario	Sikkim - 1 central jail, 1 district jail.
1600 - 1630	Central African Republic, Ireland, Norway, Togo	Veronica D'lima, Sr Lidwin, Sr Marceline, Salomena Xavier	Tamil Nadu - 9 central jails, 9 district jails, 96 sub-jails,
1630 - 1700	Chad, Israel, North Macedonia, Togo	Antoneta, Sr Maria Aro	Tamil Nadu - 3 women's jails, 12 borstal schools, 3 open jails, 5 special jails
1700 - 1730	Chile, Italy, Oman, Trinidad & Tbago	Christine David, Felix David	Telengana - 3 central jail, 7 district jails, 33 sub-jails,
1730 - 1800	China, Jamaica, Pakistan, Tunisia	Veera Davies, Evez Fernandes, Angela Lobo	Telengana - 1 women's jail, 1 borstal school, 1 open jail, 4 special jails.
1800 - 1830	Colombia, Japan, Palau, Turkey	Sr Diana CTC, Vanita Shetty, Dr. Rosily Thomas, Angela Lobo	Tripura - 1 central jail, 2 district jails and 10 sub-jails. One women's jail
1830 - 1900	Comoros, Jordan, Palestine, Turkmenistan	Kolbe Home	Uttar Pradesh - 9 central jails, 57 district, 2 sub, 1 women's jail, 2 special jails
1900 - 1930	Democratic of Congo, Kazakhstan, Panama, Tuvalu	National Office, Esmeralda+E56	Uttarakhand - 1 central jail, 7 district jails, 2 sub-jails and an open jail.
1930 - 2000	Republic of Congo, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Uganda	Holy Mass - Nat Office, Valarian, Maria, Ashley, Genevieve Pagi	West Bengal - 7 central jails, 12 district jails, 33 sub-jails,
2000 - 2030	Costa Rica, Kiribati, Paraguay, Ukraine	Sharon Pereira, Faye Mckinley	West Bengal - 1 women's jails, 2 open jails and 3 special jails
2030 - 2100	Cote d'Ivoire, Kosovo, Peru, United Arab Emirates	Peter and Maria D'souza, Rosy Ribeiro	Andaman and Nicobar Islands has 1 district jail, 3 sub-jails and a special jail.
2100 - 2130	Croatia, Venezuela, Kuwait, Philippines, UK	Sr Rosily, Nancy Misquith, Sr Beena, Ula D'souza	Chandigarh - 1 model jail
2130 - 2200	Cuba, Vietnam, Kyrgyztan, Poland, Uruguay	Alyster Fialho, Sr Mercy Joseph	Dadra and Nagar Haveli - 1 sub-jail
2200 -2230	Cyprus, Yemen, Laos, Portugal, America	Rowena Luis, Loretta Gonsalves, Jessie D'souza, Odelia Aguir	Daman and Diu - 2 special jails,
2230 - 2300	Czechia, Zambia, Latvia, Qatar, Uzbekistan	Agnes Sequeira, John Misquitta, Denise Roberts	Delhi - 9 central jails, 1 district jail and 1 women's jail
2300 - 2330	Denmark, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Romania, Vanuatu	Delson Varghese, Ezilda, Joyce D'costa, Denise Roberts	Lakshadweep - 4 sub-jails
2330 - 0000	Djibouti, Lesotho, Russia, Vatican City	Marjorie Correa, Delson Varghese	Puducherry - 1 central jail, 1 sub-jail, 2 special jails

St Francis of Assisi's Prison Experience

St Francis born in Assisi, Italy in 1181 was renowned for his drinking and partying in his youth. After fighting in a battle between Assisi and Perugia he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison awaiting his father's payment and during this time he began receiving visions from God and thus prison became the place of his God experience. It is the locked door of the cell opened the door of God's will to Francis. Earthly prison led him to become the prisoner of Christ.

“Darkness of the cell revealed him the radiant light of Christ.

Emptiness of the cell unveiled him the fullness of Christ

Loneliness of the cell enabled him to experience the company of Christ

Solitude of the cell opened his ears to the voice of Christ.”

After his release from prison Francis abandoned his life of luxury and embraced Christ the poor. Challenging the society with his poverty was a crime in the eyes of his father Peter Bernadone. He was imprisoned by his father. Though his earthly father confined him to a cell his heavenly Father freed him from earthly passion and possession. Thus, Francis was free to embrace Christ as his only possession on earth. Francis as a prisoner experienced hatred injury, doubt, despair, darkness, rejection and sadness but his God experience in the cell enabled him to become



Sr Cecily FSM

an instrument of love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy and here Francis a prisoner transformed to a man of peace to the world.

Today St Francis is an inspiration to all of us especially to me a Franciscan to take up this prison ministry to help the prisoners to find blessings in moments of darkness and trials as they experience injustice, discrimination, loneliness, guilt, non-forgiveness. Let the life example of St Francis the man of all ages be a source to reach out to the prisoners, as we live out the prayer for peace by St Francis.

Lord make me an instrument of peace
where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy

O divine master grant that I may not so
much seek
To be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.



Missile Prayer

Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS

A missile is a guided airborne ranged weapon capable of self-propelled flight by a rocket motor. Missiles have four system components: targeting/guidance system, flight system, engine and warhead. Missile prayer is one of the spiritual weapons of Prison Ministry India to use against the evil powers like individuals, institutions, movements, and sects who purposely and continuously work against us and hinder our mission of redeeming the lost for the greater glory of God.

The Most Holy Trinity

The principle behind this prayer is the firm faith and absolute trust in the Trinitarian God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who is the Almighty, the Absolute, Infinite and Supreme power, the alpha and Omega, the omnipotence, the omniscience, and the omnipresence. Before Him all other powers become nothing. This prayer is biblically anchored on the great commission of Jesus Christ “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28, 19) and St Paul’s apostolic blessing “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, (2 Cor 13:14, 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, Eph 4:4-6, 1 Pt 1:2 and Rev 1:4-5).

Missile Prayer

With firm faith and absolute trust in the Most Holy Trinity we pray hundred times “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen”. Our intention/ target is to bless the one who endeavors our destruction and hinders our mission in redeeming the lost. We do this visualizing and blessing the individuals or institutions or movements and offering them to the Triune God. The power of the Triune God subdues and transforms them. When the obstacles are removed PMI volunteers would be able to proceed with doing the will of God for the greater glory of God.

PMI members developed this prayer out of their experiences in prison ministry, especially in prison pilgrimage. Many people purposely attempted to obstruct our mission. For instance, though we had all permissions to visit the prison some officers will say excuses such as we have no sufficient staff, come tomorrow and so on to avoid us. We do this prayer before and during our mission in prisons especially when we know that some create unreasonable obstacles for our mission. This prayer functions also as a protective cover around us from the evil spirits and satanic influences. In our nothingness and inabilities, we call upon the Triune God, our Commander in chief to intervene and assist us by calling upon His names. We have experienced unbelievable victories with this super dynamic prayer. This is the prayer of the poor in spirit, for we have nobody else to depend except the Holy Trinity. We are his children doing His mission and He comes to assist us immediately.



PMI Dexco Unit Convenes Prayer Meeting at St John's Cathedral, Gwalior



Newly Constructed RRDC & Van Thuan Home, Bengaluru



Incessant Intercessory Invocation Chapel at RRDC, Bengaluru



PMI Gwalior Unit Celebrates Verbum 2020



Burning Bush Spiritual Banquet, Goa



**PRISON MINISTRY INDIA together with
ANUGRAHA COUNSELLING INSTITUTE, DINDIGUL
COUNSELLING TRAINING COURSE
12th October 2020 - 30th October 2020**

