



# PRISON VOICE

December 2020

Vol. XVIII

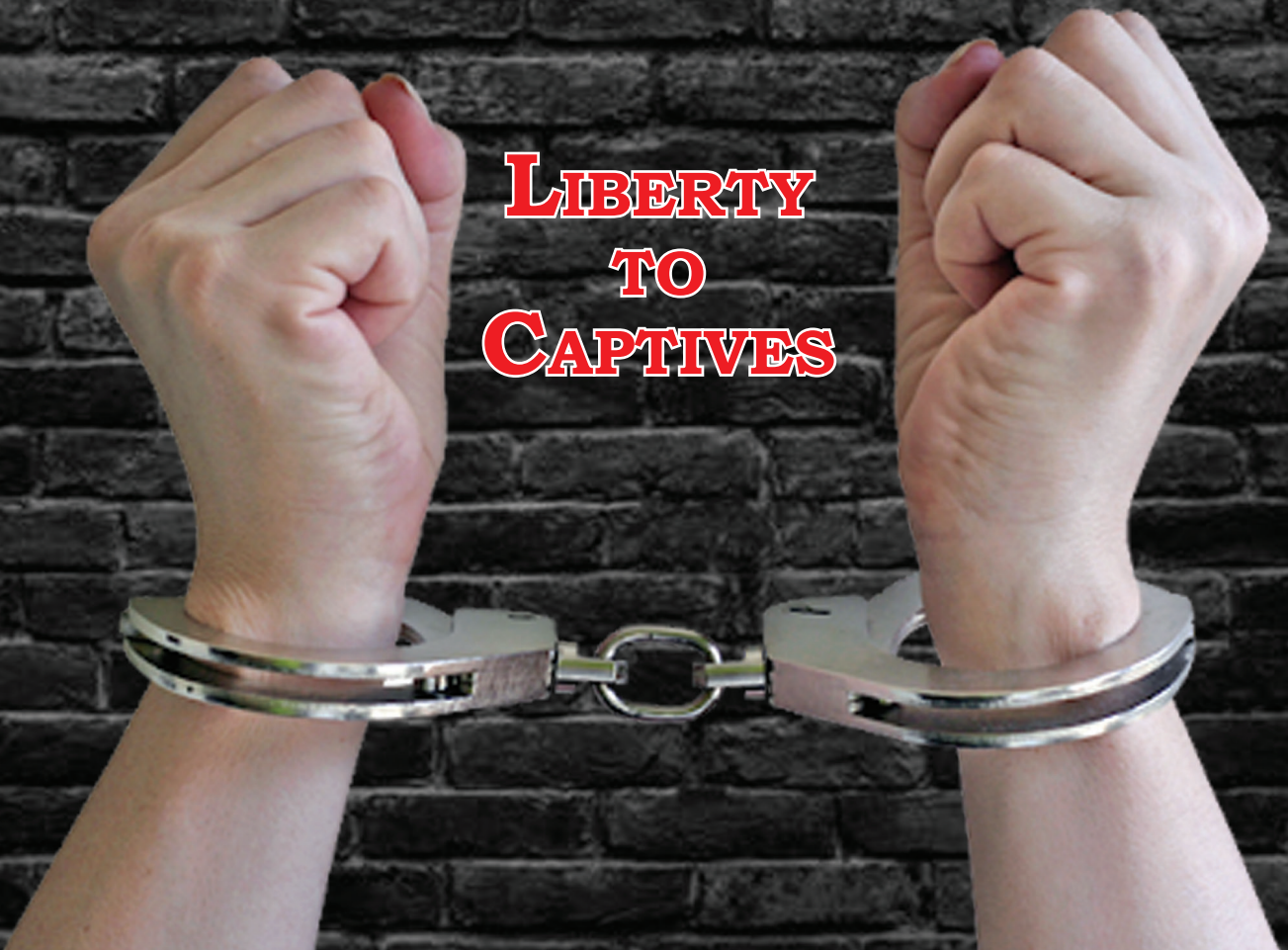
Issue 4

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹40/-



**LIBERTY  
TO  
CAPTIVES**







**PMI Thiruvananthapuram Zonal Gathering**



**Capacitating Training Program PMI Buxar**



**Distribution of Provisions by Bro Sunny Manilal MMB, Bhopal**



**Medical Camp by PMI Volunteers at Joherganj Subjail**



**Sr Dolly Maria from PMI Aluva Unit, Kerala Distributes Tabs to Aluva Sub Jail**



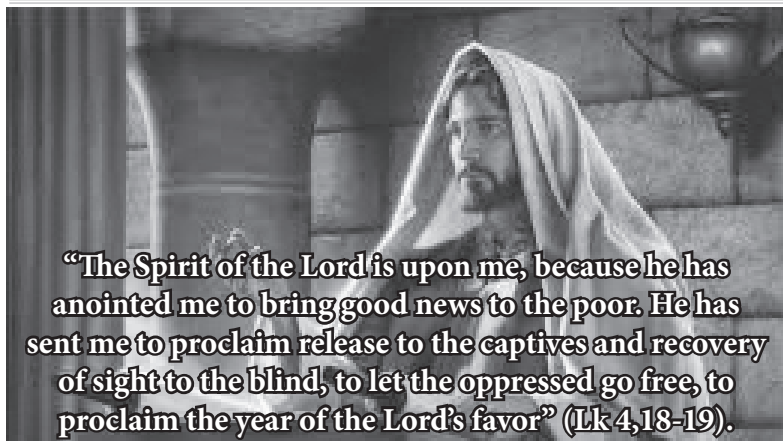
**Sr Marina from St Cecilia School of Music Visits Juvenile Home, Pune**

# Contents



## PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY



**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4,18-19).**

Editor’s View.....	04
National Coordinator’s Desk.....	05
Christmas Gift.....	07
Holy Family.....	09
Juvenile Home, PMI Pune.....	10
Fr Stan Swamy.....	11
Father Pierluigi Maccalli.....	13
Innocent Prisoners’ Redeemers.....	15
IPR: Inaugural Program.....	17
Maharashtra State Executive Body Meeting.....	18
PMI Sagar Unit Report.....	19
PMI Special Task Forces.....	19
At the Footsteps of My Master.....	21
Ten Most Dangerous Gangs.....	23
Jail Life: From St Paul To MK Gandhi.....	25
The Mystery of Incarnation.....	26

### Are You Willing?

“Help a Prisoner’s Child  
Prevent a Potential  
Criminal”

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

#### BANK DETAILS:

A/c Name : Prison Ministry India  
Bank : South Indian Bank  
Branch : Sarjapur Road  
A/C No : 0416053000001419  
IFSC Code : SIBL0000518

#### Patron

Most Rev Dr Allwyn D’Silva

#### Managing Editor

Rev Dr Francis Kodian MCBS

#### Chief Editor

Sr Rosily SCC

#### Associate Editors

Rev Dr Arogyanathan MMI  
Sr Amala DC

#### Circulation Managers

Fr Benny Thomas Pachanal CRSP  
Fr Rajendra Kumar

#### Editorial Board

Fr G J Anthonysamy  
Fr Wilfred Fernandes  
Fr David MSC  
Sr Jobina UFS

#### Magazine Staff

Ms Teena Antony, PhD  
Sr Basil SCS  
Sr Joanna SCS  
Sr Cecily FSM

#### Graphics and Layout

Dinto Tom K T

#### Printing

Sevasadan Printing Press  
Koramangala, Bengaluru

#### Prison Ministry India

**52, Thomas Layout  
Sarjapur Road  
Carmelaram  
Bangalore-560 035  
Karnataka, India**

☎ **09447710488  
9880022209**

#### Email

prisonvoice123@gmail.com  
nationalpmi2015@gmail.com

#### Website

www.prisonministryindia.org





## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Celebrations of Christmas in churches and families this year will be tempered by the physical distancing and other restrictions brought on by our concern to protect each other from the Covid19 pandemic. People will grieve for the dead around the world. The pandemic has everywhere torn the social fabric, causing massive unemployment and even hunger, rending our connections to each other, revealing and exacerbating inequalities, raising havoc and dissent. Violence and war continue, destroying the livelihoods of people with increasing numbers of refugees and migrants and killing so many men, women and children.

However, even under these circumstances, we Christians can glimpse in “the birth of the child Jesus in a desolate village at the margins of the Roman empire, the fragile beginnings of our own redemption”. As people of hope, we glimpse in the birth of Jesus God’s ‘yes’ to life, and the birth of new possibility, new life triumphing over death and despair. The Incarnation is God’s decisive ‘yes’ to humanity and creation, in a world of pain and death; the event of Christmas allows us to find consolation, lift our heads in hope, and glimpse in deep faith the triumph of life and love in the birth of Jesus. This is good news of great joy for all people.

As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. The purpose of Jesus’ birth is evident in his proclamation in the synagogue of Nazareth, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4,18-19).



**Sr Rosily SCC**  
Chief Editor

As PMI volunteers let us make use of the Christmas season to enthusiastically continue the mission of Jesus to release, reform, rehabilitate, reintegrate and redeem captives. Our crib is prison where we find Jesus and together with the wise kings from the East let us offer gifts of prayer, sacrifices and other items to child Jesus in our prisons. Let us sing to them together with the angels “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Lk 2, 14).

Holy Father, Pope Francis states that the Christmas message is all about a child who came to tell us that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters. Without Jesus’ gift of fraternity, what we do to build a more just world would be soulless and empty. Jesus revealed God’s face through a human face. The variety and differences we experience are a source of richness like the variety of colored tiles in the hands of a mosaic artist. God, who is our parent binds us together and is the foundation and strength of our fraternity.

During this time of pandemic let us pray that the Child in the manger might watch over all the children of the world, every frail, vulnerable, discarded persons and our brethren behind the bars and we may receive peace and consolation through the birth of the Savior.

**Wish you all dear PMI family members, a silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope, the gift of love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness. May all these be yours at Christmas and through the New Year 2021.**





**From National Coordinator's Desk**

## **PMI RUBY JUBILEE**



### **Love Bomb Explosion**

It was 8th December 1981. The Sun was at the Western hemisphere. Seminarians at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Kottayam were playing. Bro Varghese Karipperry and Bro Francis Kodiyan MCBS were at the phone cabin discussing as to how to become love bombs. "Be a love bomb. Let it be exploded. Not to kill but to heal the broken hearted". The decision to become love bombs led them to the Most Holy Eucharist. The Most Holy Eucharist led them to the people in the peripheries such as prisoners, beggars, and so on. Their prayer group Jesus Fraternity later became Prison Ministry India under CBCI with 20 rehabilitation centres for the released prisoners and homes for prisoners' children. Recently PMI launched its research, documentation and volunteers training centre in Bengaluru.

### **PMI Ruby Jubilee**

On 8th December 2020 PMI enters into its Ruby Jubilee and we invite all of you to join with us to praise and thank God for the amazing deeds which the Lord has done for the lost, the least and the last. "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen" (Rev 7:12).



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

### **Ruby Jubilee Retreat**

On 4-5-6 December 2020 we organise a retreat for PMI volunteers as a preparation for the Ruby Jubilee. This Advent Retreat, together with the Burning Bush spiritual banquet of December, will be done under the leadership of PMI Goa. The retreat begins everyday with Rosary at 05.30 in the evening followed by talks and Eucharistic adoration and ends at 8PM.

### **Ruby Jubilee Inauguration**

Most Rev Peter Machado, the Archbishop of Bengaluru inaugurated the PMI Ruby Jubilee on 9th December 2020. His Grace also blessed the new RRDC Chapel and lunched the Ruby Jubilee Scholarship program for prisoners' children. Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, the Bishop of Mandya presided over the inaugural meeting and launched the Ruby Jubilee Housing Project. Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman and Very Rev Fr Varghese Karipperry, the PMI cofounder conveyed jubilee messages.





## **From National Coordinator's Desk**

### **Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated**

In preparation for the PMI Ruby Jubilee, on 9th October 2020 we launched the Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated worldwide. With this we extended our ministry to the whole world by interceding 24 hours of the day, 7 days of the week and 365 days of the year for the renewal and redemption of prisoners worldwide.

### **4 New Kolbe Homes**

In commemoration of the Ruby Jubilee PMI shall launch 4 more Kolbe Homes for prisoners' children.

### **40 Houses for the Released Prisoners**

To celebrate the PMI Ruby Jubilee, we thought of assisting 40 released and reformed prisoners by providing them small house plots and assisting them in constructing a house for their family settlement.

### **40 Special Task Forces (STF)**

To commemorate the PMI Ruby Jubilee PMI establishes 40 Special Task Forces (STF) such as Terrorists Saving Squad (TSS), Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB), etc. Each STF will have 40 prayer warriors. Each STF warrior will have a 40 days program with 40 Holy Masses, 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration and so on.

### **40 Kolbe Home Children**

To commemorate the PMI Ruby Jubilee, Kolbe Home will welcome 40 prisoners' children to undergo special training and education.

### **400 Prisoners' Children**

During this year of the PMI Ruby Jubilee we will extend our distant educational scholarship to 400 children.

### **400 Released Prisoners**

To memorialise the PMI Ruby Jubilee, we will endeavour to release 400 prisoners from prisons all over India.

### **4000 New PMI Volunteers**

During this Jubilee Year PMI shall strive to have 4000 more new volunteers

### **Unit Level Ruby Jubilee Celebrations**

All PMI Units may prepare a Jubilee Program like the above one and shall strive their level best to implement them for the greater glory of God.

### **Two Copper Coins**

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on (Lk 21, 1-4). PMI would highly appreciate your valuable collaboration in the realisation of the jubilee ventures and initiatives for the lost. Like the poor widow's offering your contribution whatever it is will highly be appreciated.

### **Merry Christmas, Blessed Jubilee and Happy New Year**

PMI wishes all our volunteers a Merry Christmas, Blessed Jubilee and a Happy New Year. May the Child Jesus in the Manger who came to seek and save the lost enlighten us to make use of this Covid19 pandemic season to release, reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate incarcerated.



# Christmas Gift

The three Wise Kings came to visit the Babe of Bethlehem, in the Manger. We all know the Gifts they came with; Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. I found it a bit strange that these gifts should be given to an infant. What use were these to a newly born baby? What can a child do with Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

## Gift of Myrrh

A little knowledge of Myrrh. This is an oil that is extracted from the Commiphora Tree, specific to ancient Egypt. How was Myrrh got? The tree had to be cut and wounded and be allowed to bleed, and that what came out of it was the oil. This oil has healing properties and it would heal all types of swellings, inflammation and wounds on the body. Just as the wounded and bleeding tree gave out the healing oil, we too are likewise required to give our pain, sorrow, and hurts to God. The Myrrh in us, is a reality of our life. We cannot celebrate Christmas with the myrrh inside of us. That tree which is a source of being wounded has now become the source of healing. We know that Jesus is the Wounded Healer. He was wounded and broken but He became the Source of our Healing. His Body and His Blood are our source of Life and Eternity. He Himself bore our sins in His Body on the Cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed (1Pt 2:24).

We too are called to be wounded healers as Jesus. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you" (1Pt.4:12). During the season of Advent bring your suffering bit by bit to the Lord for His Healing. Make your



**Nancy Misquith**

suffering salvific. Suffering is a part and parcel of our lives. The myrrh that I hold close to me, I need to surrender to God. When I offer the myrrh of pain, negativity, sadness, bitterness, the same myrrh acts as healing agent. Myrrh is used to kill bacteria. Are you struggling with anger, violence, pornography? Anything that is wrong. There is nothing that is impossible to God. Now we know what a treasured gift the wise King offered to Jesus.

## Gift of Frankincense

The second Wise King offered the Child Jesus "Frankincense." The process of getting Frankincense is the same as that of the process to secure myrrh. Frankincense is a medicinal herb that heals Arthritis, Rheumatic Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and other bone related diseases, chronic diarrhea and others. It is a blood thinner. It also improves asthma. Frankincense is used far more than Myrrh, and is always used as an Incense offered for Worship. In the Scriptures we often see that Incense was meant for holy things.

Frankincense was used as a holy offering to the Lord. "And make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy; and you shall beat some of it into powder, and put part of it before the covenant in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you; it shall be for you most



## Christmas Gift

holy. When you make incense according to this composition, you shall not make it for yourselves; it shall be regarded by you as holy to the Lord. Whoever makes any like it to use as perfume shall be cut off from the people” (Ex 30:35-38). Frankincense shall not be used as sin offering. Frankincense was always connected to Holiness. That what is pure is Burnt and offered. Frankincense is the purest quality incense which symbolizes the purest quality of prayer. Just as Frankincense in worship is the purest quality of incense, we too are asked to offer the purest quality of prayer. Our prayer should be absolutely unstained, without blemish before God.

Is our prayer lined and flavored with worldly attributes? Is our prayer made with deception, bitterness in our heart, anger, ill-will, jealousy? Do we retrace our steps from God or do we trust Him with complete surrender to His Holy Will? Let this gift of Frankincense offered to the babe in the Manger remind us that just like the Frankincense being the purest form of Incense, our prayer should be of the purest kind and genuine, to be offered to our God who is Chaste and Pure.

### Gift of Gold

The Third King offered Gold to the Babe of Bethlehem. Gold is one of the costliest and highly recommended metal in the world today. We in India love the Yellow Metal. Women especially love to adorn themselves with Gold Ornaments. We take care to preserve our gold. A woman wears her Gold jewelry with so much precaution knowing its value. Now, to procure gold from the Gold Mines is one of the toughest jobs. Gold is not very easily discovered and the

miners go through lots of painful processes of digging, searching and its various stages. Multiple processes are required to procure the finest and purest of gold. Even after this metal is procured, it has to go through many refining stages to get to its finest, hence the miners have to go through the same processes again and again to reach its final purity.

This gift of Gold offered to the Babe in Manger, compares to our heart. We cannot afford to offer a heart where our legs are on 2 boats. “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Mt 6:24). How can we ever give a heart not worthy of our God? We need to permit our hearts to be purified and refined, as God cannot receive a stained heart. We must live according to the Law of the Lord. We need to live by the Ordinances of the Lord. “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see” (Rev 3:18). We need to desire that Purification that our God wants of us. And I will put this third into the fire, refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, “They are my people”; and they will say, “The Lord is our God” (Zac 13:9).

In conclusion, we understand that the Gifts of Myrrh, Frankincense and Gold that were offered by the three Wise Kings to the Babe of Bethlehem, were indeed the most befitting gifts offered to the Holy of Holies, for the Salvation of the world. May we all have a Grace filled Advent Season and a Joyous Christmas.





---


## **HOLY FAMILY: ROOTED IN THE STORMS OF LIFE**

---

**Fr Allam Sagar Manoj Kumar**

If you plant a tree in an exposed place it becomes very vulnerable. It is at the mercy of every wind that blows. If it survives at all, it will be in a twisted or disfigured form. If you want a tree to grow to its full potential, you must plant it in a more sheltered place and also not in isolation. Rather you must plant some other trees with it. It is of vital importance to get the space between those trees and they must be close enough to be able to provide shelter and protection for one another. Yet they must not be so close that they will stifle one another. They must be planted far enough apart to ensure that each has room to grow to its full potential.

It is not good for a tree to be alone; nor is it good for us to be alone. For our integral growth and for our mental health, we need ties of love and friendship with other human beings. God has made us not for an isolated life but for living in community. We are not complete in ourselves. We need other people in order to become what God intended us to be. This is where the family comes in. Trees planted in the form of a little grove is a good image of the family. In an ideal family there is both closeness and space. The closeness means the members are able to provide support for one another; the space ensures that they do not stifle one another. Each member has the closeness, intimacy, and warmth that he or she needs, yet also has the space to grow to his or her potential. This is a great challenge: How to achieve closeness without stifling or dominating one another.



In the family we learn to form relationship with others, something that is vitally important for us. Inability to relate is a great handicap and great sadness. Without close relationships we are at the mercy of cold winds of anguish and loneliness. In the little community of the family we learn to bond with others. Here we make room for others in our lives. Here we learn to share with one another, and become responsible to and for one another. It is within the family that a child learns to use the word 'we' for the first time. Without the word 'we' there would be no community, no sharing, and togetherness.

On the other hand, being so close to one another involves risk. We have of course the possibility of helping and healing one another but we also have the possibility of hindering and hurting one another. Sometimes people keep their best behaviour for outside the home and their worst for inside the home. They are angels outside it and devils inside.

Harmony in the family can be achieved only by practice of virtues St. Paul talks about: kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, mutual forgiveness, and above all, love (Col.3:12). These are the virtues which build and foster community. But they are not easy virtues to practice with consistency. In our society the family is under a lot of pressure. The family is very fragile today. For instance, today four out of ten children are born out of marriage. One in five is brought up in a one-parent family. Almost four in ten marriages end in divorce. There is another tendency to push the elderly and the weak to the margins. In our strength it is easy to forget those who are weak and elderly



## Holy Family

people. There is a saying: 'One mother can take care of ten children, but ten children cannot take care of one mother.' Under God, we owe everything to our parents.

Indeed, the family is built on bonds of commitment, fidelity and self sacrifice. Here Holy Family serves as a model. In the Holy Family we see exemplified the primary obligation of parents which is to love and care for the children. Mary and Joseph sacrificed their own life for the sake of child Jesus. They uprooted themselves and went in exile. The Holy Family did not have it easy. As homeless refugees, the Holy Family shared the fate of the many oppressed families in our world today. But because of their deep faith in God, and love for one another, they stayed together and came through it. It was by living in a community of love with Mary and Joseph at Nazareth that Jesus was able to grow in wisdom and in favour with God and people (Lk.2:52).

We need to understand clearly that there is no such thing as a perfect family. Every family goes through rough times. Every family has to make sacrifices like Holy Family. Wherever human beings live under one roof, misunderstandings and conflicts occur. All of us are wounded by sin. What is important is how we deal with these problems, and how we resolve these conflicts with holy anointing of the Spirit.

My dear faithful in Jesus Christ, in the community of family we have a place, we have bonds, we have an identity and we have roots. Even if the family knows hardships, this is not necessarily bad. Hardships can be channels of grace. Trees that grow on hard ground, have firmer roots, and thus are better equipped to meet the inevitable storms.

## Children's Day - Juvenile Home, PMI Pune

---

**Sr Marina Gulati**

Every one lives for himself and herself but the beauty of life is when we live for others, these thoughts always inspires me to go forward and meet our brothers and sisters behind the bars. As every year our Music school visits the juvenile home on the occasions of Children's day so also this year in spite of the present crisis around us we still went forward to visit the Juvenile home in Pune with one of the sisters of my community, Fr Wilfred and Mr Anthony Jacob. Though a bit fear within that we are exposing ourselves to the danger around but at the same time the thought within that God's grace is bigger than the danger of the virus dispelled the fear of the present crisis and of course the tenet of PMI is always at hand to do the visits in different jails in all the situations. The program began with a small Bhajan in the form of opening prayers and then the message on the occasion of Children's day was delivered to the juveniles and they were given a small reflection how they can be the future of the Country and few of them responded to be the future of the country in their own way. We played Anthakshri with them for some time and then we distributed the snacks to them. It was a happy experience to boost them for something brighter for their future.



# Fr Stan Swamy: Father of Adivasis



**Sr Lini Sheeja MSC**

## Introduction

Fr Stan Swamy, the oldest person to be accused of terrorism in India, is a Jesuit priest and a tribal rights activist based in Jharkhand. He has devoted his life to the uplift of tribals ever since he moved to Jharkhand in 1991. He has worked for over three decades, fighting for the land, forest and labour rights of the Adivasi communities in the state. This includes questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which stipulated setting up of a Tribes Advisory Council with members solely of the Adivasi community for their protection, well-being and development in the state.

## Early Days

Born in 1937 in Trichi, Tamil Nadu, Father Swamy joined the Jesuit order after completing his schooling at St Joseph's High School, Trichi. He opted for Bihar as a place to work and study in as it was home to India's poorest. The move was in tune with the philosophy of Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order: "In the service of the most deprived, the most threatened." The son of a farmer father and homemaker mother from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, he led a school for training leaders of marginalised communities in Bangalore for more than a decade. "For Stan, people were more important than anything else."

## Father of Adivasis

Father Stan Swamy has extensively worked in Jharkhand for the rights of the Adivasis. His contribution for the empowerment of the exploited Adivasis is commendable. It is well known that Father Swamy has always been at loggerheads with the government over tribal rights and has long been a thorn in its side. One of the major campaigns he was associated with was the Jharkhand Organization Against Uranium Radiation (JOAR), a campaign against Uranium Corporation India Limited in 1996. The campaign successfully stopped the construction of a tailings dam in Chaibasa which, if constructed, would lead to the displacement of adivasis in Jadugoda's Chatikocha area. After vociferously raising these issues, he moved to work with the displaced people of Bukaro, Santhal Parganas and Koderma and has continued to work for them. He identified himself with Adivasi people and stood up with them in their struggle for a life of dignity. His silent and steady work with a humble and polite attitude made him dear to a lot of people he worked with. Father Swamy was questioning the state on non-implementation of several tribal welfare measures and was perhaps singularly responsible for educating and empowering Adivasis on these issues.

### **A Legend and a Hero**

In a more tolerant time, Father Stan Swamy would have been commended for the work he does. A nation that should be proud of his contribution has instead arrested the 83-year-old Jesuit priest on false charges so that an agenda can be fulfilled. Father Swamy has spent 60 years living and working with the most marginalised tribal communities in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt. A social worker, activist and educator, his story is what legends are made of.

### **The Indomitable Spirit of Fr Swamy**

Despite his deteriorating health, Father Swamy never missed an opportunity to speak up for tribal people. He has survived a bout of cancer and three surgeries. His hands shake uncontrollably - doctors have not been able to make a diagnosis yet - and food is always served to him. He sips his favourite tea through a straw from a cup placed in front of him. A few years ago, he participated in a march to protest against a spate of lynchings, trying to hold a placard with his shaking hands. "Such is his spirit and commitment," said Siraj Dutta, a local activist.

### **The Arrest of Fr Stan**

Ever since August 2018, the police were at his door, questioning and harassing him, according to his associates. Finally, on October 8, 2020, the NIA arrested him, accusing him of links to banned Maoist groups, and brought him to Mumbai. Fr Swamy's name was included in the NIA's 10,000-page charge sheet along with 15

activists reportedly involved in the Elgar Parishad/Bhima Koregaon incident. Fr Swamy has denied any involvement in the violence, saying that he has never been to Bhima Koregaon nor attended the Elgar Parishad, a gathering of Dalit rights activists and community members. The NIA claims that it found letters on Father Swamy's computer written by him to Rona Wilson, another accused, plotting a conspiracy to cause unrest. Father Swamy said the letters were planted and completely untrue. Father Swamy has been kept in NIA custody at Mumbai's Taloja jail.

### **PMI Family Stands United with Fr Stan**

Prison Ministry India volunteers dedicate their time and spiritual energy for the incarcerated and their families. PMI had launched the online International Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated at the newly constructed RRDC chapel, Bengaluru on 9 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 each one of our brethren behind bars. Dear Fr Stan, we want to tell you that we are united with you in prayers. Jesus, who was innocent, stood at the judgment seat awaiting the verdict. Pilate Said, "I find no guilt in this man." Good thief on the cross said "this man has done nothing wrong". Roman Centurion said "certainly this man was innocent!" Jesus who was blameless died so that the guilty might go free. We are sure, the hardships and the tribulations that you go through behind bars is for the well-being of the people for whom you had dedicated your life. May you find solace and comfort in Jesus, the hero of the innocent prisoners.



## Fr. Pierluigi Maccalli : Abduction and Release

---

**Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS**

### Abduction

Father Pier Luigi Maccalli, a 59-year-old native of Crema, Italy is a member of the Society of African Missions (SMA). He was serving in a parish in Bomoanga, Niger, in the archdiocese of Niamey. On 17th September 2018 militant extremists from Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin, a branch of al-Qaida, kidnapped him. His fate was unknown for nearly two years until a 23-second, proof-of-life video was released by the terrorist group in April 2019.

### Release

Maccalli was released on 6 October 2020 as part of prisoner swap mediated by the Mali government. Three other hostages were also freed: Sophie Petronin, a 75-year-old French humanitarian worker kidnapped in northern Mali in December 2016; Nicola Chiacchio, an Italian tourist kidnapped in Mali on February 4, 2019; and Soumaila Cisse, 70, a Malian politician kidnapped in March while campaigning for a seat in the National Assembly. Recalling his abduction and two-year captivity, Maccalli told, "tears were my bread for many days and were my prayer when I didn't know what to say." Recalling a rabbinical story that said God counted the number of women's tears, the priest said he began counting his own tears and would pray,

"Lord, perhaps you may also count the tears of men. I offer them to you in prayer to not only water the arid land of the mission but also the arid land of hearts that feel hatred causing war and violence."

Fr Antonio Porcellato, Superior General of the Society for Africa Missions, after the release of Father Pier Luigi Maccalli commented that the release of Father Pier Luigi Maccalli is the most precious gift for World Mission Day which we celebrate on October 18. He said, "The joy of our great family of the Society of African Missions is immense. Our gratitude to God is even greater. Our joy joins the joy of Maccalli's family, of our confrere Fr. Walter, Pier Luigi's brother and of the many people involved, who prayed with us and dedicated part of their lives to the thought of Father Pier Luigi, especially the entire Diocese of Crema, and the Archdiocese of Niamey". Father Porcellato invited everyone to pray "for other people who are still in the hands of their kidnappers. Let us pray for the numerous victims of this blind and senseless violence."

### Sister Gloria Narvaez

We remain concerned about the courageous Columbian religious sister Sr Gloria Narvaez Argoti who was abducted by jihadist groups in Mali over three years and eight months ago. The most recent news of Sister Gloria dates back to a video of September 2018, in which the French hostage Sophie Pétronin is also seen. In the 2018 video, Sr Gloria is seen saying that she is "packing her things



every day” while awaiting her release. Since then there has been no trace of her. In the most recent report published by ACN International on Religious Freedom Worldwide, which covers the period from June 2016 to June 2018, the security situation in Mali is described as “still very unstable” and it is noted that several Islamist terrorist groups are operating or seeking to extend their influence in the country, among them are the self-proclaimed “Islamic State” or “Al Qaeda in the Maghreb” (AQIM).

### **Pope Francis**

On November 9 2020 Pope Francis met with Father Pierluigi Maccalli, a month after his release. “It was a very, very beautiful meeting. I was very emotional, especially when telling the pope what I had lived through,” told Father Maccalli.

Pope answered, ‘We supported you, but you supported the church.’ Accompanied by several people, including Father Antonio Porcellato, Superior General of the Society of African Missions, Maccalli said that during the meeting, he was moved not only by the pope’s words but also by one of the pope’s gestures. “When we greeted each other, I shook his hand,” he said, “and he kissed my hands. I didn’t expect that.” Meeting the pope felt like the “embrace of a father, this father who I carry with me in prayer every day.” “I never would have thought that a missionary who goes to the peripheries of the world, would one day find himself in front of the pope who sustains the universal church,” Maccalli said.

Archbishop Protase Rugambwa, secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said the release of Father Maccalli is a great sign of hope for us, for Africa and for the universal church. This is a sign and vibrant witness that the grace of Christ works and restores hope in situations marked by violence, conflict and pandemic. The release shows us that the grace of Christ is stronger than any difficulty and that we always must trust in him. Bishop Daniele Gianotti of Crema in a statement said that he wants to read his liberation as a sign of trust and encouragement for all those men and women who witness to the Gospel of Jesus in the most exposed and difficult situations. This is a promising sign of hope for all others who are prisoners because of their faith and their struggle for truth, justice and reconciliation.

### **PMI’s Role in Releasing the Abducted**

PMI has a significant role to play in releasing the abducted missionaries. We do this first and foremost by prayer and fasting and secondly, we extend our assistance to the governmental and ecclesiastical agencies who are engaged in liberating the kidnapped. PMI is proud of assisting in the release of Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB from the clutches of ISIS in Yemen. Let us continue to join hands in liberating the abducted people especially for the release of Sr Gloria Narvaez. PMI has a special task force known as Terrorist Saving Squad under the captainship of Fr Michael Francis, Aurangabad and I hope this group will do the follow up of this mission.



## Innocent Prisoners' Redeemers (IPR)

**Sr Lini Sheeja MSC**

### Introduction

Innocent prisoners are persons who are accused of a crime which, in the result of subsequent investigation, proves erroneous; persons who are in fact innocent but have been wrongly convicted by a court of law. A miscarriage of justice, also known as a failure of justice, occurs when a person is convicted and punished for a crime that he/she did not commit. In some instances, a wrongful conviction is not overturned for several decades, or until after the innocent person has been executed, released from custody, or has died. According to a recent survey, an estimated 10,000 persons are wrongly convicted of serious crimes each year.

- Causes of Wrong Convictions
- Eyewitness misidentification.
- False confessions or admissions.
- Government misconduct.
- Inadequate defense.
- Informants (e.g., jailhouse snitches)
- Unvalidated or improper forensic science.

### Why the Innocents Behind the Bars?

‘God says we are precious, we are important, why then such problems? If God cares for us so much then why do we face troubles?’ These are some of the questions often time raised by our brethren behind the bars. Many

a times it’s hard to convince the brethren why they are behind the bars.

### Released the Robber and Killed the Redeemer

We know what Jesus went through in His life. Jesus, who was innocent, stood at the judgment seat awaiting the verdict. In spite of being the only Son of God, the only begotten Son, He was crucified by His enemies here on earth. He said to the woman caught in adultery, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way...?” (Jn 8:1) But He was falsely condemned. All those who witnessed the miracles performed by Jesus shouted at the top of their voices Crucify Him. They crucified the innocent God. Jesus went through complete abandonment by his own people; even the disciples who were with Him for three years abandoned Him. When Pontius Pilate stood before an enormous crowd and announced he will let one prisoner go, the crowd had the power to choose...robber or redeemer but they chose the robber and killed the redeemer. Jesus faced injustice; He went through the sufferings patiently and silently. Jesus had gone through everything before us. Even though Jesus went through this agony He never doubted God, never abandoned His faith. Pilate Said, “I find no guilt in this man.” Good thief on the Cross said “this man has done nothing wrong”. Roman Centurion said “certainly this man was innocent!” Jesus, the innocent died so that the guilty might go free. That’s the reason Jesus is the hero of the innocent prisoners.

### Innocent Sufferings

The sufferings of innocent prisoners are indescribable. It is not only the innocent prisoners who endure the misery during the trial and imprisonment; together with them it is also their families who suffer profoundly. The innocent prisoners go through tremendous emotional, mental, psychological and physical pain by being condemned for the crime that they have not committed. They are labeled as convicts although they are innocent. Some of them try to end their lives behind the bars as they are named as prisoner. Their hearts get pierced by arrows of accusations. Unwarranted allegations are made against the innocent people. It takes lifetime to digest and accept the fact that they were prisoners even after their release. Many times it takes years to prove that they have been innocent. At times, due to financial constraints they are unable to come out at the earliest. They experience bitterness, loneliness, rejection which gradually fills their hearts with vengeance and a resolution to take revenge.

### We Pray, God Redeems

As Innocent Prisoners Redeemers the powerful message that we convey to the innocent brethren behind the bars is that "You are not alone". A unique way that we can reach out to them is through our Prayers. Through the 'Prayer' we can redeem these innocent prisoners. 40 Innocent Prisoners Redeemers (IPR) join hands for a cause. We pray and God redeems. Our innocent brethren behind the bars often times think

that God is silent as they endure years of punishment. As IPR, we fight for them through this Spiritual Warfare. There is a saying "When you kneel down before God, He stands up for you. And when He stands up for you no one can stand against you." Through this spiritual warfare of ours, God will fight for our innocent brethren behind the bars. When God fights that will be the greatest warfare. No human can win. People of God pray with Fire. Let us, the Innocent Prisoners Redeemers, be the people of fire for the innocent ones behind the bars.

### Prayer for Innocent Prisoners

Lord Jesus, the innocent, we pray for all our innocent brethren behind the bars. Heal their wounds and take control of their mind and will. Be their comfort as they suffer condemnation and unwarranted allegations. Give them your grace to carry the cross that is placed on their shoulders. Jesus, heal their scars as they are the victims of injustice and restore hope in them. Grant courage and forgiveness to their families and heal their inner wounds. Give wisdom and discernment to lawmakers and to those who judge. Instill prudence and patience in those who guard. Make PMI volunteers bearers of your light amidst the dark cells of prisons. May our innocent brethren know that they are not alone.

### 40 Days Program by IPR

Holy Masses and Communion, 40 Chapters of the Gospel: Luke and Mark, 40 Creed, 40 Rosaries, 40 Divine Mercy Rosaries, 40 Mortifications, 4000 Glory be to the Father, 4000 Thank you Jesus, 40 Times Psalm 17, and 40 Times Prayer for Innocent Prisoners.



## **Innocent Prisoners' Redeemers (IPR) Inaugural Program**



**Sr Heather Aranha FC**

Prison Ministry India launched its next Special Task Force known as Innocent Prisoners' Redeemers (IPR). Its inaugural program was convened online on 22 November 2020. 40 prayer warriors took part in it. The meeting began at 4pm with a hymn to the Holy Spirit by Sr Lini MSC. Mrs Fatima from Bengaluru read out the Scripture passage on the arrest of Jesus (Lk 22:47-53) followed by an opening prayer by Sr Heather Aranha FC, Mumbai and invoked God's presence and blessings on the inaugural session.

Sr Lini Sheeja MSC thanked all forty prayer warriors of IPR for being part of this group to dedicate their time and prayer in forty days Spiritual Warfare. She did thank Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS the Love Bomb of Prison Ministry India for all guidance and prayerful support. Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan, PMI Cofounder and the National Coordinator threw light on the birth, development and mission of PMI enlightening the participants. It was a journey down the memory lane to the foundation of Prison Ministry India.

Sr Lini MSC in her presentation said that we follow the condemned innocent God who was convicted and crucified. Jesus is the hero of the Innocent Prisoners. The Innocent Prisoners experience tremendous mental and emotional torture. They are behind bars for a crime they have not committed, but labeled as criminals. It takes years to prove one's innocence. In the meantime, they

face loneliness and rejection from family members and society. The powerful message that we can give the Innocent Prisoners is, 'You are not alone, we are with you' and support them with our prayer. For forty days the prayer warriors join hands in prayer, and storm heaven for them before the Blessed Sacrament and with Mother Mary.

The participants then introduced themselves. It was a matter of immense joy to know that a group of 40 powerful intercessors go down on their knees for a cause, a noble cause of the liberation of the innocent prisoners who are also condemned like Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. All were thrilled to receive the forty days prayer program along with a special prayer for the innocent prisoners formulated by Sr Lini. Psalm 17 included in the prayer program is a supplication of an innocent person and this puts the prayer warriors in the shoes of our innocent brethren behind bars.

Mrs Rosali Thomas, Mumbai thanked Fr Francis Kodiyan, Sr Lini and the participants. The participants too spontaneously thanked Sr Lini for the great effort put in to coordinate this group and the meeting. The members left the meeting feeling enriched and committed to the task entrusted.

## Maharashtra State Executive Body Meeting

“O how good and wonderful it is when brothers and sisters come together, for there the Lord has commanded his blessings” Ps 133. And sure, we experienced blessings galore. On Saturday 14th November, while children and the country celebrated the Children’s Day, the Maharashtra State Prison Ministry India Executive Body celebrated God’s goodness and good things at our meeting via Zoom. Prayers and greetings followed by discussions and decisions was the result of coming together once again to follow up on previous meetings through the lockdown period.

The long pending plan of a rehabilitation home for children of prisoners and other children was the most urgent and important point on the agenda. The boarding house at Sindhudurg which was inspected and approved of by the Executive body earlier this year is slowly and surely happening for this purpose. Permissions from Bishop Allwyn of Sindhudurg have been smoothly going forward through Fr. Wilfred Fernandes our State Coordinator. We pray fervently, as we seek your prayer for this project to materialize with the lifting of the lockdown.

We are blessed with many programs, spiritual, formative, skill development, etc, that are available for the benefit of volunteers all over the country. In this context, another



**Rowena Luis**

praiseworthy point that emerged was that many of the present executive members as well as PMI Maharashtra volunteers are actively involved with various initiatives at the National level. Fr. Michael Francis with an immense prayer backing is leading the entire Special Task Forces, a team of different groups of PMI Prayer Warriors praying for different needs. Anthony Jacob leads the Prisoners releasing group and Rowena Luis along with the Dongri Unit volunteers, leads the team of Anti-human trafficking Brigadiers, of the STF team.

Intercession Warriors are being raised in every Unit and Diocese. Mumbai under Fr. Glasten has a daily time of praise, petitions, worship and word at 3pm with a faithful fellowship of increasing intercessors. Intercessory prayer is one of the many blessings of the lockdown for us in Maharashtra and I believe in all of Prison Ministry India as well.

The Maharashtra Executive team will continue to meet on the third Saturday of every month. May the banner of God’s love and protection continue to be raised as a standard over our state and its prison ministry works.

## PMI Sagar Unit : Report

Fr Sinto Varghese Maliekkal  
PMI Sagar Unit

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

During this lockdown though we have limited access to 12 sub-jails and one central jail under Sagar unit our volunteers could meet some prisoners. From the meetings we could learn that it is the prisoners who are badly affected by COVID-19 pandemic as they are totally isolated. So many people are kept together with minimum facilities and they are more vulnerable to get affected by the deadly virus. So officials have been trying to safeguard the prisoners by making rules more stringent, thereby making their life more miserable. Many of them are not even able to meet their family members and because of social distancing they are unable to come together for any gatherings and recreations and forced to spend much time in cells. Outsiders and Social workers are denied access to jails. Many are suffering from various sicknesses and depression.

In order to ease their tension and worries we thought of arranging some programs in Sagar central Jail. We introduced an innovative idea of making ‘Diwali diya’ from cow dung. We gave special training to women prisoners and they were very happy to do it. We also found local marketing to sell their product. We could get good response from public. We also conducted rangoli competitions in the jails. We are making and marketing ‘pappad’ with the help of prisoners in collaboration with diocesan social work unit MVSS under the brand name ‘mamatha’. Medical camps were conducted in the Goharganj subjail of Raisen District. Let God work miracles to wipe away this deadly virus and bring back normalcy.

## PMI SPECIAL TASK FORCES



Fr Michael Francis

The 3rd PMI Special Task Forces meeting was conducted on Saturday, 28th Nov, 2020. The meeting began with the Eucharistic Celebration by Fr Dion Isaac from the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. The sisters and staff of St Mary’s Centenary Junior College, Secundrabad, had organized beautiful liturgy under the guidance of Fr Dion. Mrs Charmine Edwin in the opening prayer invoked God’s blessings upon the organizers and the participants to have a meaningful presentation and discussion to make good decisions. Fr Michael Francis welcomed the organizers and the participants with his graceful words.

### Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB)

Mrs Rowena Luis and Mr Ashok Kumar in their presentation described human trafficking as the modern-day slave trade where the solicitation, transportation and exploitation of human takes place by means



of deception, coercion and violence. Human trafficking is a worldwide problem and one of the largest growing illegal trades in the world, more prominent in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Millions of children, men and women are easy victims of human trafficking due to poverty, lack of economic opportunities, growth of global commercial sex industry and global demand for slave labor, child labor and child soldiers. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report a total 3,47,524 people in India have been reported as “missing” in 2018, of which 2,23,621 are women.


Personalities like Mr. Kailash Satyarthi founder of Bachpan Bacho Andolan and Ms. Seema Dhaka a police constable from Delhi have their contribution in saving many children. In 2018, Anti Trafficking Bill was passed in the parliament to curb the evil of human trafficking. In the Bible there are incidences (Lev 25:39-42, Lev 25:43, Col 4:1, Eph 6:8-9) where God shows his care and concern for the slaves and speaks against their abusers. Even kidnapping and slavery is condemned in the Bible (Ex 21:16, Deut 24:7, Rom 13:8-10). There is an evil force behind this great evil, thus in this spiritual warfare against the evil forces the antihuman trafficking brigadiers need to empower themselves with full armor of God (Eph 6:10-18). Pope Francis declared St Josephine Bakhita has the patron saint of human trafficking victims. Thus, along with St Josephine and the prayer methodology of St Therese of Lisieux, the antihuman trafficking brigadiers are praying at the foot of the cross for the victims, traffickers and

the rescuers. Apart from praying, there is also a great need to create awareness about human trafficking and working with likeminded organizations involved in rescue operations of the victims.

### **Innocent Prisoners Redeemers (IPR)**

Sr. Lini Sheeja MSC, defined innocent prisoner as a person convicted and punished for a crime not committed. Few causes like misidentification by eye witnesses, false confession and admission of crime by persons and government misconduct leads to innocents persons being labeled as prisoners. USA has more wrongful convictions than any other country in the world, i.e. from 1989 to 2017, 2001 persons were convicted for the crime which they never committed and later on were released for lack of evidence. These innocent prisoners look for answers to their many questions that trouble them. It takes years for many to prove their innocence. Fr. Stan Swami is the latest example. Innocent Prisoners Redeemers follow condemned innocent God. Jesus himself suffered poverty, rejection, loneliness, abandonment and finally suffered death on the cross. He died so that the guilty might go free. Finally raised by the heavenly Father, Jesus redeemed the least and the lost. Jesus always trusted his heavenly Father and never doubted. He stood firm in faith always. Thus, Jesus is the hero of the innocent prisoners.

Like Jesus many innocent prisoners suffer along with their own family and dear ones. Some are even abandoned by their own family. Surrounded by miseries and



rejection they feel lonely. Knowing the fact that they are innocent, some suffer silently and some contemplate on taking revenge to prove their innocence. The stigma of being accused leads to shame and guilt and many end up with no hope left. Thus, many think of ending their life journey by committing suicide. Innocent Prisoners Redeemers consoling message to all the innocent prisoners is that, 'you are not alone...we are with you! Prayer is the best way to reach out to all the innocent prisoners because God alone knows their heart. With 40 new members enrolled to follow 40 days program, we believe and pray and God redeems.

Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan, the moderator of the meeting highlighted the United Nations' Manual on Antihuman Trafficking, Indian government's guidelines for Antihuman Trafficking Cell, Vatican document on the Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking by the dicastery for Integral Human Development. This document was published also by Reformative Exploration in its issue of January 2020. Adding to Innocent Prisoners Redeemers presentation father said that in America alone there are 1,20,000 innocent prisoners. The number is alarming and thus there is an urgent need to have more volunteers to pray and do concrete service. In honor of PMI Ruby Jubilee, father introduced 40 Special Task Forces and invited all to join. Sr Shony Varghese SAP thanked each and everyone in a special way and appreciated the effort taken by all. The meeting concluded with angelus by Sr Fulmani LDFX



## At the Footsteps of My Master

---

**Sr Mary Selvi SAL**  
Vijayawada

### Introduction

"I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Mt 25:36). Being inspired by these words of Jesus Christ, our founder Fr Wilhelm Meyer did ordinary things in an extraordinary way and reached out to the poor and the needy for love of the Lord. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" is what invited me to jump into the darkness with deep faith and moved by the Spirit to reach out to the sick and those who were in dire need of my Lord. While serving the sick in the hospitals, the Lord asked me to reach out to the prisoners who are on the periphery, the broken and rejected ones by the society.

### Encounter with Repentant Sinner

During my prison visits every day I witnessed the tears of repentance of our brethren behind bars. One day while I was breaking the Word to them, I read the passage "The time has come; the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News" (Mk 1:15) and suddenly a man who was in the crowd came to me and fell on my knees whose eyes were filled with repentant tears. After finishing my preaching and prayer I sat with him and gave my listening ear to him. He started to pour out his heart and listening to his poignant story I was moved with pain and empathy.

He narrated his past with tears rolling down his cheeks and repentance in his heart,



## Footsteps of My Master

holding my legs he said, “Sister please forgive me, for I’m a sinner. I had badly beaten my wife. I am a bus conductor and my wife is a singer. I loved her very much and we had a happy family life. As the days passed, she started to come home late which I didn’t like. I had to do the entire household work after returning from work and I found that she was least bothered about it. I was a bit possessive of her and there arose a fear of losing her. She took various appointments in her profession and got involved completely. I underwent a lot of stress and I had no one to share with. Lot of anger and stress began to mount in my mind.

### The Final Straw

One day as usual I returned from duty and I didn’t find her. After one hour of my returning she came home. I was so furious, and with bottled up anger and stress I hit her hard on the head. She collapsed and immediately started bleeding. I was in a dilemma and didn’t understand what to do at that moment. But I immediately took her to the hospital and spoke to the doctors. Later I went and surrendered myself to police. I was thrown behind bars”. Having explained this, he fell on his knees and wept bitterly.

### Moments of Tears

He asked me to visit her in the hospital. He felt so sorry for the mistake he had committed in a fit of fury. He confessed to the Lord saying, “I have sinned by inflicting pain on my wife.” He also asked the Lord to save her life by healing her. He asked me to make an arrangement to meet her to ask her pardon and expressed his desire to be reunited with her. He also asked to visit her in the hospital and to pray over her. He had no way of getting any news about her as he was behind bars and no one was there to visit him.

After listening to his story, I immediately rushed to the hospital. I went by foot to the hospital which was three kilometres away from the jail. I met the doctor and enquired about her and to my shock the doctor informed that the beating was so severe that her brain is damaged and she is not herself now. Doctor took me to her; I prayed over her and left the place with tears.

### Mission to Redeem

I went on in my mission to save this soul who was in prison by talking to him, encouraging him, giving him hope in starting life afresh by giving him the Word of God to strengthen him in this situation. I also visited his wife daily in the hospital. Prayed for her and gradually she started regaining her health. After a few months she was discharged from the hospital safe and sound and he too was released from the jail. Both of them met together and asked forgiveness from each other. Now they are a happy family praising God for all the situations they have experienced. “Mighty God who is victorious in saving the world is victorious in saving my family too”, said both the husband and wife after experiencing the redeeming and healing power of the Lord.

### Conclusion

As the prodigal son repented and turned back to his father who is merciful, the PMI volunteers can bring transformations in the lives of our brethren behind bars through the prayers and continuous visits to the prisons. They are the people who are dumped together and are like the lost sheep who lack guidance. Let us reach out to them with love in one hand and Word of God in the other and they will experience miracles in their lives through our encounter. Let us be the instruments in God’s hand to guide our brethren to take a U-TURN in their lives. I thank the Lord for taking me to the dark prison cells to proclaim His liberty.





---

# Ten Most Dangerous Gangs

---

**Sr Rosily Jose SCC**

The term gang often has a negative connotation. A gang can be an organization of cold-blooded people who indulge in robbery, extortion, intimidation, vandalism, assault, drug, trafficking, bribing and blackmailing politicians, running prostitutions and gambling operations, stabbings, shootings, open murders and massacres. This article briefly illustrates the 10 largest and most dangerous gangs that operate in the world as measured by their size, notoriety, and their level of violence and terrorism.

## 1. Mara Salvatrucha

This is also known as MS-13, an international criminal gang originated in California in 1980. With a motto 'Kill, Rape and Control', MS-13 is today the most dangerous and ruthless gang in the world. Having more than 70000 members, this gang is involved virtually in every type of criminal activity imaginable and is especially notorious for human trafficking and prostitution. The members of MS-13, usually dressed up in blue & white, distinguish themselves with their own sign language tattoos all over the face and body.

## 2. Latin Kings

The Latin Kings gang's location is Chicago, a Hispanic street gang, made up with male and female members. The gang was founded in 1940s with a positive purpose of preserving Hispanic culture and promoting education in US but gradually grew to become one of the most violent and inhuman gangs with an estimated 43000 members across the country. The history of this gang is written in blood that includes the theft of military ordnance, consorting with a notorious terrorists' group and a high school riot over a coca-cola poster. The Latin Kings



use different logos and also share unique codes as a way of communication among the members and always dressed up in black and gold color.

## 3. Aryan Brotherhood

Location is California, and Aryan Brotherhood also known as 'Brand' and 'AB' is a prison gang and an organized criminal group in US. Founded in 1964, it is today the largest, deadliest and the most violent prison gang in the world with an estimated 20000 members inside the prisons and on the street. We can assume their level of brutality with their motto 'Blood In, Blood Out'. According to a study, AB is responsible for 21% of murders across the country. As a crime syndicate, the Brand participates in every illegal activity one can imagine and is probably unaware of the term 'mercy' and knows only bloodshed.

## 4. Los Zetas

Founded in Mexico 1990, this Mexican criminal syndicate has made headlines often with its cruel and ruthless acts. That's why it has reached 4th rank in terror world in such a short period of time. Being the most powerful drug cartels in the world, 50% of their revenue comes from drug trafficking only and the rest 50% is made up through their brutal tactics like beheadings, tortures, slaughters, protection rackets, extortion, and kidnappings. Their terror is so dreadful that even US government considers them the most technologically advanced, ruthless, violent and dangerous cartel operating in Mexico.

## 5. 18th Street Gang

This is known as 'Barrio 18' and 'Marra-18' and is a multi-ethnic criminal organization which found its roots in Los Angeles in 1960 and expanded all over US, majorly in Central America and Mexico. Having around 65000 members from different



## Most Dangerous Gangs

countries across its territory, the gang has its hand in a number of fierce criminal activities among them murder for hire, drug sells, prostitution, extortion and kidnapping are the major ones. The 18th Street Gangsters identify each other with the number 18 on their clothing. This gang is considered to be the most merciless youth gangs of America.

### 6. Bloods

The second largest and the most dangerous gang in Los Angeles, Bloods was founded in 1972 as a direct competitor to the Crips. The group has also female members who are called 'Bloodettes'. Having approximately 25000 members, the Bloods recognize themselves with color red. They wear red dresses, red hat and carry a red-bandas. In addition to their primary unique color, they also use significant hand signs, language, graffiti, jewelry and symbols to identify each other. The group, more famous for its rivalry with Crips, is known for its brutal acts. As they call themselves The Bloods, they really play with blood.

### 7. Yakuza

This one is Japan's largest mafia organization which runs many organized crime groups in the country. This group which emerged just after World War II, has today around 1,02,000 members engaging themselves in construction, real estate, fraud, blackmailing and extortion. Apart from their illegal money-making activities, they have a large presence in Japanese media, enterprises and politics too. This mafia group is very strict when it comes to loyalty. Yakuza gangsters are well-known for their peculiar tattoos and chopped off little finger. A chopped-off finger is often a sign of penance which a member has to pay when he in some way fails in his loyalty.

### 8. Crips

In late 1960s, this African-American gang emerged in Los Angeles as a small gang

called the 'Baby Avenues' and came out as 'Crips' becoming one of the most violent and unlawful gang in the world today. Considered as the largest association of street gangs in US, Crips is estimated to have around 30000-35000 members. Blue is primary color of this gang. All the Crips members wear blue clothes and also carry blue-bandas. The group known for its extreme astringent rivalry with 'Bloods Gangs', is mainly involved in brutal murders, drug dealing, robbery, and street snatching.

### 9. Camorra

This is an Italian mafia group founded in 1417 in Italy, Camorra. It is the largest and most violent mafia group in Italy having more than 100 clans and approximately 7000 members. Camorra is a secret criminal society that finances itself through cigarette smuggling, people smuggling, kidnapping, prostitution, illegal gambling, blackmailing, racketeering, and of course murders. Unlike other gangs, they also run many legitimate businesses throughout Italy.

### 10. Cosa Nostra

The 'Cosa Nostra' is the largest Sicilian mafia in the world which found its roots in New York's lower east with Italian mafia Giuseppe's immigration to US. The Italian word Cosa Nostra means 'Our thing' in English. This mafia group is considered to be the largest cocaine smuggler in Europe with having approximately 25000 members. This gang was considered to be the most powerful, dangerous and organized criminal group engaged in drug trafficking, killing, labor racketeering, gasoline bootlegging, and stock market manipulation.

### Conclusion

The most violent and dangerous gangs across the world don't know the language of love and peace. They only know the bloodshed, murders, screams, and violence. It is the duty of PMI volunteers to inject in them humanness, compassion and redemption.



---

## *Jail Life: From St Paul To MK Gandhi*


---

**Adv KK Paulose**

It was on 13th April 1944 in the prison of Ahmadnagar Fort, during a new moon day, while “a shimmering crescent in the darkening sky, greeted us on our arrival here” Nehru started writing of his discovery of India, “Just after the Deepavali, the festival of light”. Shashi Tharoor, M.P. from Kerala in his book, *An Era of Darkness* stated, “Nehru spent 3262 days (nearly 10 years of life) during 1922-1945 in eight terms of imprisonment in British jails. When British Prime Minister Winston Churchill asked him, how he felt so little rancour for his jailers and tormentors, Nehru replied, “never to hate-and never to fear”.

### **Jesus**

When we look at the rear-view mirror, we find in the New Testament, from birth to death the life of Jesus Christ was moving on in an open jail, through out, worse than the solitary confinement of jail, with a difference, he established a kingdom for each and every person without any kind of bias to enter into. It is in the biblical history, which we are all aware of. But the point in question is that Jesus Christ established the kingdom by surrendering his life to a crowd with false witnesses and the ruling authority of Rome found the death of one is better than obtaining the support of a huge crowd's/Jews backing for the sake of ruling (and the same principle is adopted by many of our rulers). On the other hand, the one who was killed without



reason could establish his kingdom on and with the everlasting principle of love that he trumpeted. So, that the perpetrators of cold-blooded crime got a short life and the latter could establish an empire on which the sun never sets, the Christianity.

### **St Paul**

Among the disciples of Christ, St. Paul was famous for his eloquence. On one occasion, when he was arrested and brought before the governor, Antonius Felix, charged St Paul a trouble maker but the former denied the charge. According to Acts: 24, the governor ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. When St Paul spoke about faith in Christ Jesus and his discourse on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, the governor was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” (Acts 24:24-25). The ruler was thinking only of temporal life. St Paul had put forth his strong argumentation: “If the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them”.

### **MK Gandhi**

Upon quit India movement, Gandhi was arrested and produced before the Judge. When judge asked whether he had committed the offence alleged against him, he said, “yes, my lord, so that you may award the highest punishment for me, as I will do the same offence again and again against the British if I am released now. Judge, said, “Wonderful, Mr. Gandhi, you are awarded 6 years jail”. People who fought fearlessly for

the people always were bold enough to face trial. Jail for political reasons with selfish ends is quite a different aspect.

### **Nelson Mandela**

Nelson Mandela, the South African leader for opposing apartheid, on charges of high treason, was given a life sentence, which he began serving in the maximum-security prison on South Africa's Robben Island. During the twenty-seven years that Mandela spent in prison, his example of quiet suffering was just one of many pressures on South Africa's apartheid government. Public discussion of Mandela was held illegal, and he was allowed few visitors. That is a good example of how a tyrannical Govt. could oppress anyone seeking human rights for his people, like anyone under colonial rule or fascist rule. The president of South Africa, finally agreed to release him on Feb. 11, 1990. On April 27, 1994, the first free elections held to all South African citizens. The ANC won over sixty-two percent of the popular vote, and Mandela was elected president.

### **Pope Francis**

His Holiness Pope Francis has in his 'Apostolic Exhortation' against crime and injustice being perpetrated by powerful economic interests states that the church must stand with these peoples in their struggle to the need for a radical, missionary renewal of the church, towards development of a specific ecclesial culture that is distinctively with a greater role for the laity and especially for women. In this regard, let us give whole hearted support for the sisters also who is a force to be reckoned with in the Prison Ministry.

## *The Mystery of Incarnation*

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2,1-10).*





**Hearty Welcome to Sr Amala DC,  
the PMI New National Secretary**



**Fr John Pual Distributes  
Indoorgames Equipments to  
Kollam Jail**



**PMI Ambikapur Unit Distributes  
Clothes to Ambikapur Central Jail**



**PMI Jashpur Unit Distributes Clothes to  
Jashpur Prison, Chhattisgarh**



**PMI Pune Distributes Torches and  
Dresses to Yerwada District Prison,  
Pune**



**PMI Raigarh Celebrates Deepawali  
With Raigarh Prisoners,  
Chhattisgarh**



## PMI RUBY JUBILEE INAUGURAL CELEBRATION 1981-2021

9th December 2020, RRDC, Bengaluru

*Be A Love Bomb*



**Blessing of RRDC Chapel by Most Rev Dr Peter Machado**



**Jeevodaya Girls' Dance During PMI Ruby Jubilee Inauguration**



**Kolbe Home Children's Dance During PMI Ruby Jubilee Celebration**



**Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath Inaugurates the PMI Ruby Jubilee Housing Project**



**Most Rev Dr Peter Machado Inaugurates PMI Ruby Jubilee Scholarship Program**



**PMI Ruby Jubilee Dance by Premodaya Children**