



PRISON VOICE

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Issue 11

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹20/-



PMI Special Task

Force Angels



Distribution of COVID Safety Equipment at Women Central Jail, Pune



Financial Help for Released Prisoner - PMI Pune



Hearty Welcome to Fr Rajendra Kumar from Kurnool Diocese to the National Office as an Interim National Secretary



Hearty Welcome to Sr Rosily SCC as PMI National Treasurer and Prison Quarters Ministry, Bengaluru



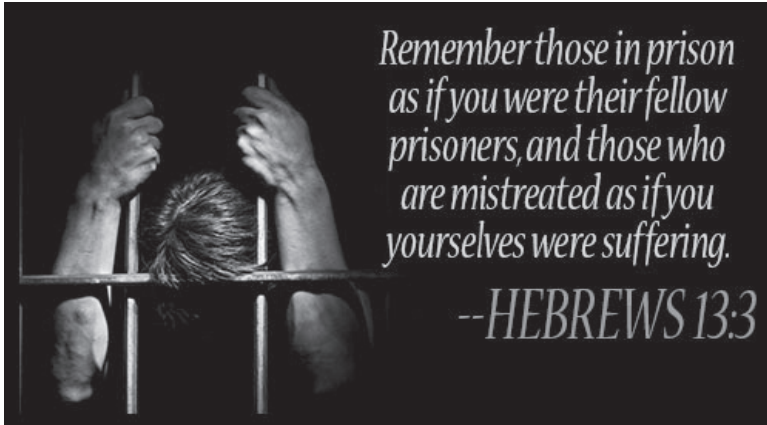
Hearty Welcome to Sr Lima CJ as the Volunteers Training Program Coordinator and Prison Quarters Ministry, Bengaluru

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Are You Willing?

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

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

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PRISON MINISTRY: A MINISTRY TO REGAIN THE LOST



Sr Lini Sheeja MSC
Chief Editor

God called Moses because he heard the cry of the Israelites, for the Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt” (Exo 3: 9-10). Today, the Prison Ministry India volunteers are called, for the God of the Lost have heard the cry of the lost ones behind the bars. The same God who called Moses continues to call his earnest lovers to join hands with him to reach out to the broken ones in our society. Call to prison ministry is a passionate adventure where one needs to put one’s complete trust in the Lord and die for the ones whom one is called to serve.

Having Christ as the core of our being, with the conviction that we are called into this ministry, with a heart-filled concern for the lost ones and courage in our hearts, come what may, we, the PMI volunteers, commit ourselves to this ministry. This issue runs through the types of prisoners and the key roles of the volunteers of Prison Ministry India. On 22 December 2019, the PMI national office launched ‘Special Task Force Angels’ to which volunteers were invited to offer their prayers and mortifications for the cause. All over the world, there are 20,000 death-row prisoners. PMI has a great role to play in their reformation and redemption as we fast and pray for those who live in the death-rows and those who commit their

lives for this particular cause are ‘Death-Row Commandoes’.

The number of terrorists and terrorist groups is rapidly progressing and almost every day a new terrorist group emerges. The Islamic State (IS), Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Taliban and so on do heinous crimes like killing innocents, raping women and demolishing Christian monuments and cities. The more alarming situation is that there is always a huge queue of youngsters ready to join them. As PMI has a vital role to play in their salvation, we have formed a squad known as, ‘Terrorists Saving Squad’ who will spend more hours praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament and pray for them. There are innumerable gangs who do smuggling, drug trafficking, human trafficking, hawala, money laundering and all sorts of illegal atrocities. Jesus calls his people today to become, ‘Mafia Redeemers’ to work towards the transformation of these people.

To bring about changes in society, we need committed and like-minded people to come together. As you go through this issue page-by-page, listen with the Spirit of the Lord to know your call in the redemption act for Jesus. We draw inspiration from Jesus who said, ‘I have come to seek the sinners and not the righteous’ and live for him by redeeming souls for him. We surrender the suffering humanity, the last ones of our society to God, do our best and God does the rest.

Serial Killers: Roots and Fruits

Theodore Robert Bundy

Theodore Robert Bundy (1946-1989) was an American serial killer who kidnapped, raped and murdered numerous young women and girls during the 1970s. After more than a decade of denial, before his execution in 1989, he confessed that he committed 30 homicides between 1974 and 1978. Bundy, America's most infamous serial killer, the horribly depraved sex slayer of adolescent girls, was no wild-eyed madman and no hunched gargoyle. He was a handsome, talented, charismatic, and articulate young man, an honours graduate for whom a bright future was predicted. What then turned Bundy into the monster he became, a demon in the guise of an ordinary man? The enigma behind this personality, the root causes of his misbehaviour, the traits of his abnormal psychology, the drives that made him an infamous serial killer shall be the raw material for the PMI warriors to formulate theories for the reformation and redemption of such serial killers.

Serial Killers

There are thousands of serial killers like Bundy. According to contemporary research, serial killers are those who murder three or more people over more than a month. They are driven by certain abnormal psychological drives, often to gratify their uncontrollable sexual urges, monetary gains, revenge and hatred. Dr Harold Shipman (1946-2004), a British doctor, is the most prolific serial killer in modern history, who killed more than 250

From National Coordinator's Desk



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

people. Watch the blockbuster movie *Se7en* about a serial murderer who engineers to kill his victims in accordance with the seven deadly sins - lust, greed, gluttony, sloth, pride, anger, and envy. The Oscar-winning movie *Silence of the Lambs* would further illustrate the personality traits and disorders of serial killers.

Sociopaths or Psychopaths

Ann Rule, in her biographical book on Theodore Bundy, *The Stranger Beside Me*, described him as "a sadistic sociopath who took pleasure from another human's pain and the control he had over his victims, to the point of death, and even after". Bundy called himself "the most cold-hearted son of a bitch you'll ever meet." Attorney Polly Nelson, a member of his last defence team, wrote Bundy was "the very definition of heartless evil." Scholars opine that serial killers are either psychopaths or sociopaths who are people with antisocial personality disorders (ASPD) who manifest extreme antisocial attitudes and behaviour. Often, they cannot understand others' feelings and break, make impulsive decisions without feeling guilty and may use mind games to control friends, family members, co-workers,



From National Coordinator's Desk

and even strangers. They are people without a moral compass and cannot feel emotions like love, compassion and empathy. The condition of sociopathy could be acquired or the person may be born with it. Dealing with such individuals is very dangerous due to their inherent lack of emotions and their incapacity to love and be loved. There is a common perception that a sociopath is a serial killer. Yes, all serial killers are sociopaths, but not all sociopaths are killers and sexual predators.

Reformation of Serial Killers

Most of the research scholars view that it is medically impossible to cure serial killers for their brains form differently before birth or after birth due to certain damages. Even if they become normal it would be purely cosmetic. Hence, we need to conclude that serial killers are sick people who are not aware that they are sick. People with antisocial personality disorders are to be considered as patients and are to be treated by keeping them away from the public. To reform and redeem them we need assistance from psychologists, psychiatrists, councillors and spiritually enlightened people. Let PMI understand this challenge and be prepared both spiritually and professionally.

Serial Killers' Reformers (SKR)

PMI is called to do impossible tasks such as the reformation of serial killers. With Jesus everything is possible. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4: 13). "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). Transformation of serial killers is neither an easy task nor an impossible mission. It

is spiritual warfare, reformation warfare. A warfare between God and Satan, good and evil, virtue and sin. To do this impossible mission we propose a 40 days program. First of all, we should have a clear picture of our intention, that is, the reformation and redemption of a serial killer. We do what is possible from our part and then we ask the assistance of others especially those who lead profound spiritual life such as contemplatives, those who do perpetual adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist, consecrated people, priests, seminarians, and intercessory prayer group members.

40-Days Program

40 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

Conclusion

Father God sent his only begotten Son to the world so that mankind may have life, life in abundance, that no one may perish but have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (Jn 3: 16). Let us be part of this redeeming mission of Jesus by saving daily the lost sheep and thereby experiencing heavenly joy. "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance (Lk 16:7).

“REFORM TO REINTEGRATE”

PRISON MINISTRY
SUNDAY



PRISON
MINISTRY
INDIA

9 August 2020

PASTORAL LETTER

*This Pastoral Letter to be read out either on 9th August 2020
or on any convenient Sunday as decided by the Bishop*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Mathew Albin born and brought up in a Catholic fishermen family was 7 years old when his father was brutally murdered at sea. Hearing the terrible news, he rushed towards the shore and wept bitterly lying on his father's lifeless body. He grew lonely in the malicious world of treachery and became a street boy, wandering through the streets crying for food and craving for love. The street gangs dragged him into the world of crimes and cruelties and in course of time Albin became a notorious criminal, a hired killer much in demand, a threat to society and a challenge to the police department. However, by the providence of God he was miraculously rescued and transformed through the intervention of Fr George Kuttickal MCBS one of the pioneers of Prison Ministry India. For more than two decades Mathew Albin has been serving as the director of Shantibhavan a home for the aged, mental patients, wandering beggars and the abused. With the motto of helping, healing and caring Albin takes care

of more than 100 destitute. PMI could narrate thousands of similar stories of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of hardcore criminals. Today when the Catholic Church celebrates the Prison Ministry Sunday let us remember and pray for prisoners all over the world especially the 4.5 lakhs of languishing in the 1412 Indian prisons, their families, victims, the officers and the volunteers who serve them.

Pope Francis

On November 7-8, 2019 Pope Francis convened an international conference of worldwide prison chaplains on Integral Human Development and Catholic Prison Pastoral Care at the Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development chaired by His Eminence Peter Cardinal Turkson. During this conference Pope Francis urged those who take care of prisoners to change their outlook and approach in treating prisoners. He asked us to offer prisoners better opportunities for reformation, development and reintegration. For real social reintegration

begins by guaranteeing opportunities for development, education, decent work, access to healthcare, as well as generating public spaces for civic participation. If they are prevented from regaining the full exercise of their dignity, they will once again be exposed to the dangers of violence, insecurity, and desperation. Those prisoners, who already served their sentences for the evil committed, should not be subjected to a new social punishment with rejection and indifference. Such aversion exposes them to falling back on the same mistakes and coming back to prison.

Reform to Reintegrate

Anchoring on Pope Francis' invocation to reform and reintegrate prisoners, Prison Ministry India which works under the justice, peace and development commission of the CBCI has taken this year's Prison Ministry Sunday theme as Reform to Reintegrate. At the very outset I would like to remind you dear brothers and sisters, one of the significant teachings of Jesus, "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny" (Mt 5, 22-23). Experience teaches us that it is better not enter into prison. Prevention is better than cure.

Eightfold Path for Prisoners' Reformation

Through the last 34 years of service to prisoners PMI developed an eightfold path to reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate prisoners. This reformation methodology begins with outreach. PMI has more than 8000 volunteers who outreach the 1412 prisons in India. You

are also welcome to do prison ministry in your area. Very humbly may I remind the parish priests, trustees, religious and pious association members to take care of prisoners, their victims and families. For Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk 19, 10). PMI endeavors to release the deserving prisoners through legal assistance, facilitating premature release, and providing financial assistance to the needy.

Repentance and Reconciliation

The paramount task of PMI is to lead prisoners to repentance, reconciliation and reformation. As we know the most fundamental teaching of Jesus was to repent. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Mt 3, 2). "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18, 3). As St John the Baptist preached "Bear fruit worthy of repentance" Mt 3, 8). True repentance leads to reconciliation with God, society, family and self. Here comes the relevance of Jesus' teaching: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift" (Mt 5, 23-24). Repentance and reconciliation are acts of grace and a spiritual warfare therefore I kindly request your valuable prayer and fasting for the fruitfulness of the PMI reformatory ventures. "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Lk 1, 37).

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

You may know that PMI has many homes to rehabilitate the released prisoners, both for men, women, children and juveniles. If you know some released prisoners who need special attention you can approach the directors of PMI

rehabilitation centers. PMI also has many homes for prisoners' children both for boys and girls in different states and are always ready to welcome more children in need. Your recommendations in this regard will highly be appreciated. I take this opportunity to extend my most warm thanks and highest appreciation to those priests, brothers and religious who serve at these homes and all those who collaborate with them spiritually and financially. PMI also assist the released prisoners with their reintegration. We facilitate them with job, marriage, family settlements, and even assisting them in constructing their houses. Like Mathew Albin thousands of released prisoners have been reintegrated into the main stream of society and I earnestly ask you to continue your prayer and support so that this challenging mission may continue to liberate and reintegrate many more.

Redemption

Reformation and reintegration reach its summit with redemption. The ultimate goal of PMI is the redemption of the lost. Jesus came not merely to seek and liberate prisoners from their bondages and dungeons but to save them. The story of the good thief illustrates this very well. The moment the good thief, Saint Dismas said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Lk 23, 42-43). The fundamental goal of our life is to return to God, return to paradise. Prison ministry is the best and surest way to realize this goal. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25, 34-40).

Conclusion

Through the celebration of Prison Ministry Sunday, the Church declares that prisoners are our brothers and sisters and she is ready to provide them a second chance if they are ready to repent, reconcile and renew themselves. Dear brethren behind the bars, we love you, we are with you, we pray for you and we are ready to do whatever is possible for your reformation and reintegration. Dear brothers and sisters, prison visits are equivalent to visiting Jesus for he said, "I was in prison and you visited me" (Mt 25, 36). During these Covid19 pandemic days we pray for you in a special way. Your continued financial support for the prison ministry will highly be appreciated. PMI does the ministry trusting in the divine providence and does not promote foreign projects. Begging is the style of PMI. Our volunteers will stand outside the church with buckets expecting your collaboration. In case you need bank details, please find it in the brochure. Along with my brother bishops, I express my sincere gratitude to the dioceses, major superiors and well-wishers for your generous contributions towards this ministry and I am sure Jesus who came in search of the lost will bless you abundantly. I acknowledge and appreciate the PMI volunteers for their profound commitment in reforming and reintegrating prisoners, which all of us know, is one of the most challenging tasks. May Saint Maximilian Kolbe the patron of PMI intercede for the fruitfulness of the ministry and may Mary our blessed mother be always there to protect you.



Bishop Allwyn D'Silva
Chairman, Prison Ministry India

Human Being Capable to Change

Introduction

The execution of the convicts in the 2012 Delhi gangrape case a few days before the country went into lockdown re-ignited the conversation on the death penalty. As four people were hanged, society heaved a sigh of relief. The public was reassured that justice had been served at last – the “collective conscience” was satisfied.

Death Penalty

In the last few years, the discussion on the death penalty has intensified in the context of child rape. Introducing the death penalty as a punishment for offences leads to a false sense of comfort among the public about the efficacy of the criminal justice system. This comfort stems from a very myopic sense of crimes and criminals where, in the popular narrative, the perpetrator is reduced to the criminal act in question. This reduction helps the public to conveniently ignore the societal forces which contribute/lead to criminal actions. The demonizing of perpetrators by the media and the public prevents a deeper analysis into the circumstances of the perpetrator as well as the society which he is a part of. This is particularly true in cases of sexual violence where we view extreme punishments like the death penalty as a solution to a grave and complex issue which requires carefully thought out and holistic solutions.

In this context, it becomes important to analyse the law on death penalty – in particular, the framework within which judges award the death sentence. The



Justice Kurian Joseph
Retired Judge of the Supreme Court

constitutionality of the death penalty was upheld by the Supreme Court in *Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab*. The Supreme Court also developed a framework for sentencing, to guide judges in choosing between life imprisonment and death sentence resulting in the ‘rarest of rare’ framework. As part of this, the Court held that aggravating and mitigating circumstances regarding the crime and criminal need to be considered in imposing the death penalty. The Court also held the probability of reformation as part of the framework. For awarding the death penalty, *Bachan Singh* sets the threshold of threshold of “rarest of rare cases when the alternative option is unquestionably foreclosed”. However, the judicial application of the rarest of rare doctrine is fraught with inconsistencies which has been acknowledged by the Supreme Court in its decisions.

Reformation of Death Row Prisoners

The idea of reformation is an important one and ties in with the Catholic opposition to the death penalty. The opposition is rooted in the idea that we cannot foreclose the possibility of reform for any human being. The decision that a person is beyond reform and the consequent state-sanctioned taking away of life is against the very belief that every human being is capable of change and must be provided that opportunity.

Our conception of reformation cannot be divorced from the harsh reality of the prison system in India – particularly for death row convicts. The Death Penalty India Report, 2016, through interviews with death-row prisoners and their families, documents the socio-economic profile of these prisoners in India. It also traces the accounts of the prisoners’ experiences with the criminal justice system, legal representation, their life on death-row and the experience of their family members. The Report highlights that life in prison is very difficult for prisoners sentenced to death due to limited opportunities for human interaction and prison conditions. The Report documents the accounts of prisoners who were denied educational and work opportunities in prison which consequently deprived them of a meaningful chance at reformation. The denial of work or educational opportunities which occupy their time coupled with the uncertainty of the final outcome of their case only compounds to the precariousness of the situation of a death-row prisoner.

Families of Death Row Prisoners

Often missing from the conversations on the death penalty is a discussion on its impact on the families of death-row prisoners. The public discourse surrounding a crime is so focused on demonizing the perpetrator of the crime that there is hardly any engagement on the harsh challenges faced by the families of the person accused and consequently convicted of the crime. The Death Penalty India Report, through interviews with the family members of death row convicts, notes that families start facing stigma and ostracism right from the time of arrest. The Report records instances of families who were forced to move out of houses, leave/denied jobs which only lead to further impoverishment for the economically vulnerable families. The media narrative (local and national)

surrounding these cases also contributes to the harassment faced by the families. The concerns regarding the impact of media narrative fuelled by investigating agencies were highlighted in *Chhannu Lal Verma v. State of Chhattisgarh*, where it was noted that “the society’s perspective is generally formed by the emotionally charged narratives”. The opinion also highlighted concerns regarding the trend of investigating agencies to present their version of the case in a manner which can obstruct the course of justice. It is essential to remember that not only do these emotionally charged narratives hinder justice in the criminal justice system, they also have very traumatic consequences for the family members of the convict.

The accounts of the lives of prisoners on death row and their families are valuable because they expose the harsh and real consequences of a punishment which is not only irreversible but is also applied in an inconsistent manner. While the judicial acknowledgement of these inconsistencies and errors is a small step in the right direction, it does not take away from the fact that these errors cause irreparable damage to human life.

Conclusion

The death penalty, as a form of punishment, is much more than the act of extinguishing life. The agony of oscillating between life and death, the complete deprivation of a chance at reform, the harsh impact on the family members are a reminder that this punishment degrades human life in various ways. As we debate death penalty in our statute book, we must ask ourselves – does the death penalty satisfy the collective conscience only because it absolves our conscience of assuming any responsibility for the societal forces which lead to/compound criminal conduct?

Just One Mistake

Augustine (name changed) is a Catholic convent-educated boy. He was married at a young age. Accepting the challenge of a rival, “If you have guts, come to my area”, he went into the area and a fight ensued. In a fit of rage, he grabbed the knife from his rival and stabbed him. The victim died instantaneously. Augustine was taken into custody and sentenced to life, leaving behind his wife and two children. Having time to ponder over his life, he regretted his actions and wished to reform. He misses his family dearly and longs to be reunited with them and start a new life.

First-time offenders like Augustine realise they have made a mistake. If given the opportunity, they are willing to take responsibility for those mistakes and are not likely to re-offend. Depending on the severity, judges are far likelier to impose lenient sentences on first-time offenders out of sympathy for a person who has made an error in judgement. Moreover, first-time offenders have a strong incentive to keep their record clean and abide by the terms of their sentence and/or probation.

On the flip side, there is Amritesh (name changed). Orphaned at eight, Amritesh was raised by his grandparents. He completed his MBA but also became an expert hacker.



Marisa Athaide

PMI Pune

His craze for quick money got him involved in cyber-crime. He was arrested and has now been languishing in jail for the past ten months over a meagre amount. Unlike Augustine, Amritesh is still lured by the thrill and benefits of quick money. He has plans to return to his world of cyber-crime upon his release.

Over time, various studies have shown that criminal behaviour is driven by two basic factors - individual attributes (both physical and psychological) and the socio-economic environment. Poverty, parental neglect, low self-esteem, substance (alcohol/drug) abuse, greed, anger, jealousy, revenge and pride are some of the key reasons why people break the law. Usually, a combination of all these factors drives a person to commit a crime.

Some are at greater risk of becoming first-time offenders because of the circumstances into which they are born, beautifully described in the words of Pope Francis, “They haven’t had the opportunities that I have had, of not doing something stupid and ending up in prison”.

A person's first criminal conviction is a bleak moment, leaving a lasting impression on their mind. For the person convicted, this is a time of stress and worry over what comes next. A first-time offence can occur at almost any age, from a juvenile to an adult.

Prison Ministry India has a dual role to play in society – prevention of crime and caring for the brethren behind bars. In letter 2 Peter 3:9 we learn, “The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish”. Gospel of John 10:10 also tells us, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Prison Ministry reaches out to the vulnerable segments in society, especially children and youth through its shelters for destitute children and by organising programs and educational support for children and youth. Our in-prison outreach programs of agape love are helping brethren behind bars come to terms with their situation and ignite in them the desire for positive change. The foundation and driving force behind all our work is the ministry of prayer. By fervent intercessory prayer and fasting, PMI volunteers pray for the brethren behind bars, their families, victims, prison officials, and for the protection of volunteers. In this way, we carry each other's burdens and fulfil the law of Christ.

2 Pet 3:9: The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Looking Out Despite Being Locked Down



Anthony Jacob
PMI Pune

PMI Team Pune has been reaching out to the brethren behind bars all through lockdown. In these times, their needs have primarily been for COVID-safety equipment like hand sanitisers, liquid soaps, pulse oximeters, forehead infrared thermometers, masks and gloves.

In the month of June & early July, we responded to several requests from the different jails. We began the month by serving the temporary jail that was established for new arrivals. We also responded to requests for safety equipment from the Central Jails, Men and Women's Open Jails, Observation Home for boys and the Beggars Homes.

In appreciation of our prompt and helpful service despite the lockdown, we were awarded certificates of appreciation by the temporary jail for men and the Open jail for women. In promotion of our special relationship with the jail officials, our team of Fr. Wilfred V. Fernandes and Anthony Jacob made a celebratory visit to the Men's Open Jail on the occasion of the birthday of the Deputy Superintendent, Mr Chandra Mani Indurkar.

They are Not Aware What They are Doing

To begin with I am reminded of a true story of how a school-going child became a habitual offender. He was in the ninth standard when he had to run away from home because of his alcoholic father. It happened that as the parent was reaching home under the influence of alcohol a neighbour told him that his son had robbed a coconut from his compound which was a lie. It was so clear that the neighbour did this to destroy the life of the child and obstruct his education. The child's father came into the house, took a flat metal spatula, made it hot in the fire and placed it on the palm of his son, accusing him of a crime which he had not committed. The boy ran away from home that very night and never returned.

His parents also did not go in search of him. Finally, the boy became a criminal and a habitual offender. After about 20 years, he met a priest who helped him and was able to come out of the habit of committing crime. It was for the first time that he met a person who was genuinely interested in him. He co-operated with the priest, went for rehabilitation and underwent counselling, prayer and meditation. He began to climb up the ladder of peace, joy and good behaviour. Today, he lives a wonderful life together with his wife and children. He experienced true joy and love that came from God alone.

Habitual offenders are persons who commit a crime more than once or different crimes several times. S/he is a person who is convicted at least three times because of his/her criminal behaviour. S/he is also considered dangerous to society. There are



Sr Jemma George DHM
Former National Secretary

certain categories of habitual offenders. For example, some people only rob vehicles, others money, others gold and so on. Today people are interested in possessing expensive electronic gadgets: mobile phones, laptop, I-pad. Many others are involved in cybercrime.

Let us look at how individuals become habitual offenders. One of the most important causes is drug abuse/substance abuse and alcoholism. The number of persons using drugs and alcohol is increasing day-by-day. Thousands of children are under the influence of drugs such as petrol, spirit and white ink. I have come across a huge number of people using drugs. Due to substance abuse and alcoholism, the chances of bringing down crime rate is very difficult. We need to realise the crimes they commit are not purposely done but they are affected by the drug or alcohol. They are not fully aware of what they are doing. They need prayer, counselling, and meditation. And they need to attend alcoholic anonymous and narcotics anonymous sessions. When they are in prison, they get influenced by other habitual offenders. Their punishment depends on the

type of crime as well as the number of times they have committed the offence. Today substance is available even within the prison walls and therefore becoming cured of this habit/disease becomes rather difficult.

Children who have alcoholic parents are potential habitual offenders. They often see their father and mother fighting. Such category of children either run away from home or get into wrong company leading to committing different types of crimes for their survival. Alcoholic husbands may be one of the worst categories of habitual offenders because they abuse their wives day in and day out, yet get away with it. Most of them attack the women verbally and physically. The women suffer silently all their life. It could be 360 days x 20yrs, 25yrs, 30yrs and it goes on. We met a man in prison who was accused of abuse by his wife. They were married for 20 yrs. They have three children of which the eldest son was already into bad company and crime. We were able to release the man after speaking to the wife. Regular visits to their home and counselling improved the husband-wife relationship tremendously. We hope and pray that the family stay peacefully hereafter.

‘Poverty causes crime and crime causes poverty’ said Krasner. Poverty and crime are linked to some extent. Poverty also means no job, no food, shelter and so on. Such a condition leads to individuals getting into simple crimes and later become hardcore criminals. Poverty is the parent of crime, said Aristotle. In certain countries, violence leads to poverty, especially some areas in Africa, India and so on. Today’s electronic world also leads to crime. Because there is tremendous competition among the young, who want to possess very expensive gadgets

which they cannot afford to buy. The only way to satisfy the desire is to rob someone.

Another cause for the increase in the number of habitual offenders in society is social media. Cybercrime is on the rise everywhere. So many people all over the world are cheated which in turn lead to further problems in families and society. There are other causes like unwanted children on the street. If they are not guided from their childhood, many become hardcore offenders. We pray that many more people will come forward to help such children get educated and assist their development. Mentally ill persons walking about in the society can create a menace to individuals. We see such cases even in jails. They need to be looked after in an asylum and treated with love and compassion. We see this happening in homes run by the Prison Ministry and many other centres everywhere.

Finally, I would conclude by saying that crime existed from the time God created mankind. But we, human beings created in the image and likeness of God, need to learn to share our wealth and possession with everyone in the world. Greed among a small percentage of people has created such horrible conditions in the world. Once a person at Tihar jail told us that he was happy to be there because through Vipassana meditation and prayers he has experienced God and His merciful love. Counselling, reading good books, prayer, meditation, understanding and kind dealings help these individuals to become better human beings. Just as Jesus saved the thief on the cross, let us pray that the Good God show mercy to all those suffering justly or unjustly in the world.

Leave Aside Your Traditional Ministries

Introduction

A trafficker is a person who is engaged in the illegal transportation of people from one country or area to another, typically for the purpose of forced labour or sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is a human rights violation that involves the practice of holding another person in compelled service by force, fraud, or coercion. Human traffickers lure their victims by using charm, lies and deception, promising a better life and opportunities to make money. The intention is not romantic but monetary gain. The victim may be sold off or used for labour or sexual exploitation.

Common Age and the Ones Most at Risk

According to Enrile, anyone can fall victim to human trafficking. However, vulnerable populations who have little social and legal protection is the most at risk. The majority of victims are women—70 per cent—and risk for women may be heightened further in areas where extreme gender discrimination prevails. The average age of an identified victim of trafficking is 26 years old (at the time of assistance), and half of those identified are between 18 and 34 years old. The average age of victims identified in 2015–2016 was 29 years old, with male victims being, on average, older than female victims.



Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP
Assistant National Coordinator

Why do People do Human Trafficking?

Traffickers recruit, harbour, transport, provide and/or obtain people for the purpose of compelling labour and/or commercial sexual exploitation. They use force, fraud or coercion to exact work and profit from others. Fraudulent brokers, corrupt officials and family members who knowingly do any of the above are identified as traffickers. Those who hear about the practices of human traffickers often express outrage, disbelief, disgust, anger and even confusion. “How could someone do this to another human being?” Traffickers might compare themselves to other traffickers in order to dissociate themselves from the most brutal manifestations of human trafficking. Noi, an elderly lady who trafficked Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar to Thailand, claims that what she did was charity since the Rohingya Muslims she either smuggled or trafficked were fleeing ethnic cleansing. Furthermore, she distinguished herself as someone more ethical than others since she “didn’t mistreat the refugees.”

Traffickers distort situations by framing them under more acceptable terms. For example, Japan is currently facing a labour shortage. To fill these vacant positions, the

government offers an internship program that brings in foreign workers to the country. These internships are legal and advertised as opportunities to hone transferrable skills. However, in some instances, workers are trapped in debt bondage and forced to take roles that do not require skilled labour. The word “internships” masks these programs from their true nature—indentured servitude. Political instability, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict and natural disasters may increase trafficking. The destabilisation and displacement of populations increase their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse through trafficking and forced labour.

Blame Shifting

In blame-shifting, traffickers such as factory managers might defend themselves by accusing people outside of their control as forcing them to traffic others. Blame shifting arguments might start with the following: “The company owner will shut down our factory if we don’t produce the daily quota. So, I hire children from rural areas to operate dangerous machinery and lock them in the factory so that they keep working. I can’t fight the company because it’s too powerful, and I can’t adopt more ethical policies because that would lower productivity, close down the factory and I’d be out of a job. It’s really the rich company owner that enslaves these children. Not me.”

Dehumanisation

Dehumanisation strips people of their identity, identifies them as “the other” and makes it so that they are viewed as inferior and deserving of exploitation. Socially accepted norms (e.g., caste systems, gender-based violence) make the dehumanisation

process easier, if not automatic. Human trafficking thrives in societies where certain groups of people are already marginalised and abused and where perpetrators go unpunished because they are not perceived to have committed a wrong-doing against a person.

When You Think of a Human Trafficking Victim, What Comes to Mind?

A young woman, who has been kidnapped, drugged and bound as she is transported across borders? Some traffickers may hold their victims captive, expose them to large amounts of alcohol or drugs and keep them chained up. Yet, this is not the norm. Psychological manipulation tactics are critical to traffickers’ success. While traffickers sometimes do use violence, outright aggression can attract unwanted attention. Coercion, manipulation and psychological abuse are often more powerful weapons than physical violence.

Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers (ATB)

Human trafficking, the second-largest criminal enterprise in the world, is the most barbaric crime and postmodern slavery. Studies reveal that more than 40 million people are victims of trafficking and it is a 40 billion annual business. Convinced of the pathetic plight of millions of men, women and children who are trafficked and enslaved, on 20 January 2019, Pope Francis invited the faithful to pray for those responsible for human trafficking and its victims. He invited religious and lay volunteers to leave aside traditional ministries and to become Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers.

Now that She is No More, What is the Use of Having ++++ Money? +++++



Sr Inigo SSA
Dwarka, New Delhi

I think that criminals are not born, but made. Society puts some people in such a situation that they take to crime just to survive, to support their family, to retaliate against a society that has not been just to them or to challenge the luxurious life that some people live while exploiting legally, the helpless poor. They feel abandoned by society and justified in taking revenge, often in minor ways. They feel cheated by the economic and socio-political structures of a community that gives birth to so many poor people and continues to oppress and suppress them. Life in an unequal society challenges any value systems proposed by the dominant group. They grow up in families and circumstances in which the laws seem oppressive and discriminatory. Life for them is a continuing challenge. It holds little meaning for them. They are non-conformists. So, the question we have to ask is not 'Why Crimes are increasing?', but rather 'What is the kind of society we are living in which gives rise to more crimes?'

A True-Life Experience of a Teacher

A couple of years ago, as I finished my talk about the Prison Ministry in a school in New Delhi, a teacher came up to me and shared a very poignant experience. She was a regular visitor to a shrine in that area. She used to go there in her car; and, for a month, she used to regularly notice a particular sight unfolding in front of the shrine. A shabbily dressed young boy, about 12 years old, used to approach her every time she was leaving the shrine, with garlands in hand, and would pester her to buy one. But she loathed his

sight and deliberately avoided him. She considered him a drifter and a petty thief. During the summer vacation, she had to go out of station for a month. After the holidays, she resumed her routine of visiting the shrine. But the boy was nowhere to be seen. Curious, she started to look for him, but could not spot him anywhere near the shrine.

A few days later, she saw the boy sitting under a tree near the church. He had a few garlands with him but seemed apathetic about selling them. She asked him, "Why do you look so upset and forlorn? Earlier, you used to pester me to buy a garland. What happened? Why are you looking so miserable?" With tears welling up in his eyes, the boy said: "I was desperately in need of money then. My sister, the one younger to me, was diagnosed with blood cancer; and I was frantically trying to raise money for her treatment." "Don't you need money now?" she quipped. Unable to control himself, the boy broke down. In a faltering voice, he continued, "Now that she is no more, what is the use of having money?" Saying this, he moved away. "I was mortified to stand before him," said the teacher with tears rolling down her face. "I never imagined that the children on the streets could be from such wretched backgrounds. And so, I deliberately avoided them. It never occurred to me to reach out to them. But now I feel I should do something to mitigate their



Crimes on Increase

misery. How can I get involved in this noble ministry?"

Why Do People Commit Crimes?

- There is less tolerance among people for those who have a problem and do not know what to do. Some are not educated and so, have no job opportunities. Some come from broken families and have neither self-discipline nor scruples. There was no one to discipline them. Parents, family and society have distanced them. They have no clue as to what is right and wrong. These constitute 5–10% of those in jail.
- Another set of people are poor and unemployed due to illiteracy. They seek financial security through some criminal activity like cheating and stealing. They are also subject to peer pressure to do something daring. Many want a high standard of living. As human beings, we all have our desires and expectations. If they don't get what they want, they rob or snatch things.
- There is yet another set of people in prison who are wrongly confined, under suspicion or false charges, though they are innocent. They are subjected to the rigours of prison life due to miscarriage of justice caused by the apathy and negligence of law enforcement officers. Some may not even know the reasons for their detention. Such prisoners find it difficult to adjust to the exactitudes of prison. They find life inside prison appalling and intimidating. Finally, they are forced to join some gang and commit more crimes.

How Can We Help Prisoners to Transform Themselves?

- A crime is perpetrated on the spur of the moment. Something must have

induced the person to commit that criminal act. Often the mind plays a major role in determining the behaviour of a criminal. A prison sentence should aim at refining the mind-set.

- The definition of a prisoner as a lawbreaker and a malicious element in society, who deserves to be punished, has to change.
- Attitudinal change in criminal behaviour can be achieved through personal interactions. Listening and counselling can be very effective in weaning them away from crime.
- Opportunities should be provided to get spiritual and value-based education.
- Jobs should be made available and they should be paid well so that their financial security will prevent them from thinking of committing new crimes.

Let me conclude with the observations of Pope Francis. "The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person... The Church works with determination for its abolition worldwide." Let his observation assist in intensifying our conviction to stand up for life and oppose everything, including the death penalty, that harms and destroys life! But is there anyone who truly cares for them? Is there anyone responsible for their welfare? What is the milieu of their lives? What about their family, their kith and kin? What is their future? And finally, who can help them and how? The questions are numerous; but the answers, if any, no one seems to know!



Reaching the Unreached

Terrorists Saving Squad

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective. Terrorism has been practised by political organizations, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and police.

What Does it Aim to Achieve?

Terrorism involves the use or threat of violence and seeks to create fear, not just within the direct victims but among a wide audience. The aim, thus, being to achieve political goals, when direct military victory is not possible. This has led some social scientists to refer to guerrilla warfare as the “weapon of the weak” and terrorism as the “weapon of the weakest.”

Reasons to Join Terror Outfits

1. Poverty & limited job opportunities
2. Religious Extremism
3. Recognition from their peers and communities
4. Militants seek to avenge the deaths of friends and relatives
5. Health insurance and benefits paid to their families should they be killed in battle
6. Forced to join.



Jennifer James
Lt Col Jennifer James (Retd)
Paediatric Matron

Consequences Faced by Families

The families of the terrorists, who may be innocent, are at the receiving end of the displeasure and violence by government and police officials.

Ostracization by the community, in schools, at the workplace, in markets etc. maybe a common occurrence in their lives.

Behind the Bars

Mostly hard-core criminals & terrorists are kept away from ordinary criminals. They serve their sentences in the innermost corners of prisons, in solitary confinement, under high-security areas.

It may not be possible for NGOs (PMI) to reach such prisoners within the high walls. But no doubt we can reach out to them in prayer.

PMI Volunteers Support

A Special Task Force of Angels (Terrorists Saving Squad) is under the listing of PMI national office. Probably for the first time, a group of like-minded people join together to redeem this category of prisoners with their prayers and mortifications, “Reaching the Unreached” in the true sense.

Prayer

Prayer is like that intercontinental ballistic missile. With it, we can assail Satan's strongholds anywhere, even in the heavenliest. As the late Adrian Rogers spoke about this missile thus:

1. It can be fired from any spot, at any time, day or night.
2. It travels silently, undetected.
3. It travels swiftly—at the speed of thought.
4. It hits the target every time.
5. It can be fired with delayed detonation. After the missile lands, it can explode 50 years later, or 100 years later. Two thousand years ago, Jesus prayed for me the great high priestly prayer. In John 17: 6-24, Jesus prayed for those who would believe in him through the words of the apostles. And his prayer is being answered today, for you and me.
6. The devil has no defence against it.

There is no anti-prayer missile. The devil cannot shoot it down.

This kind of prayer is unstoppable. The devil cannot stop me from praying. He cannot keep my prayers from being heard. And he cannot keep God from answering.

Conclusion

The one major reason Christ came to this earth was to give mankind his peace. If only people and nations would be sensitive to 'sin' and 'The One' who can redeem them, the world would be a much better place to live. Jesus assures it saying, "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).

Prison Ministry India
State/Diocesan Directors' Online Training Program
3-18 August 2020

18 July 2020

Dear PMI Volunteers,

Prayerful Greetings from PMI National Office, Bengaluru! Hope you keep safe during these days of Covid19 pandemic. We pray for your safety and health during the Holy Mass and Eucharistic adoration. The PMI National Executive Meeting held 15th July 2020 presided over by Most Rev Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman decided to convene an online training program for state/diocesan directors. The course will commence on 3 August 2020 and will conclude on 18 August 2020. The conference will begin everyday at 10AM and will be over at 12PM. On 18th August, there will be an exam and valedictory function in which the participants will be awarded with certificates.

Those who would like to participate in the course are kindly requested to register their names with Sr Lima CJ, the PMI Volunteers Training Program Coordinator (8281860445, nationalpmi2015@gmail.com) before 28th July 2020. Only the first 40 registrations will be considered. Thanks very much for your valuable cooperation, and please pray for the success of the program.

Wishing you every best wish to combat the corona pandemic and with assurance of prayers,

Yours in Jesus who came to seek and save the Lost,

Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS
 PMI National Coordinator

Sr Lima CJ
 PMI Volunteers Training
 Program Coordinator

PMI's Online Training Program: Huge Impact



- Sr Lini Sheeja MSC
National Secretary, PMI

Introduction

During this time of novel coronavirus pandemic, the theme of PMI was 'Lockdown shall not lock us down', and it was decided to have an online training program for full-timers/volunteers. The volunteers benefitted immensely from it under the guidance of Fr Francis Kodyian MCBS, the national coordinator and secretary to CBCI for Prison Ministry India and Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, the national secretary. Prison Ministry India (PMI) on Monday, 15 June launched an online initiative to train full-time volunteers on its 'Reform to Reintegrate' program. Held over Google Meet, the participants were trained online for over two weeks on topics ranging from the background and overview of Prison Ministry India (PMI) to visiting prisons and developing skills for interacting with prisoners and their families.

Inaugural Function

On 15 June 2020, the Prison Ministry India Full-timers' Course 2020 was inaugurated with 60 participants from all over India. Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva-PMI Chairman, Rev Dr Francis Kodyian MCBS, Rev Fr Varghese Karippery, the cofounders of PMI and Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, PMI national secretary were the dignitaries of the inaugural function. In the opening prayer, Sr. Lini Sheeja MSC invoked the Trinitarian God and sought the Lord to bestow His blessings on all PMI volunteers and the brethren behind the bars after which Dr Francis Kodyian extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants.

Topics and Resource Persons

PMI: General Introduction - Rev Dr Francis Kodyian MCBS
PMI: A Ministry to Regain the Lost - Sr Lini Sheeja MSC
PMI: Biblical Foundations - Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva
PMI: A Historical Introspection - Rev Dr Francis Kodyian
PMI: Spiritual Perspectives - Rev Dr Francis Kodyian

Types of Prisons and Prisoners - Sr Clara, Directress Jeevodaya
Human Rights and Prisoners' Rights - Rev Dr P.D. Mathew
Best Practices of PMI - Sr Lini Sheeja MSC
Life experience and stages of transformation – Mr Alex
Prisoners' Reformation Trajectory - Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS
Ministries Outside the Prison - Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP
Ministries Inside the Prison - Sr Adele SCCG
Jeevodaya – Rehabilitation Centre for Released Women Prisoners - Sr Fidelis
Kolbe Home – A Home for Prisoners' Children - Sr Gertrude SCS
Van Thuan Home – A Home for Released Men Prisoners - Fr George Kalassery VC
Snehashramam - A Home for Released Women Prisoners - Sr Beena
PMI State Level Ministry - Fr Shaji Stephen
PMI Diocese level Ministry - Mrs Veera
PMI Parish Level Ministry - Fr Wilfred Fernandes
PMI Seminary Level Ministry - Fr Joseph Mackolil
Prisoners' Counselling Skills - Fr Subash CRSP
PMI Special Task Force Angels - Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS
Role & Expectations from NGOs like PMI for the upliftment of prisoners - Shri Sunil Ramanand (IPS), IG of Prisons, Maharashtra
PMI South Region activities - Fr G J Antony Swamy
PMI Central Region activities - Fr Wilfred Fernandes
PMI North East Region activities - Sr Jobina
A Role of Laity in PMI - Mr Jesuraja

Personal Sharing of the Volunteers

On 28 June 2020 at 4 pm the participants logged into Google Meet to share their rich experience of being members of the prison ministry family. Many shared their call within a call in PMI. They surprised each other with their life experiences and their contributions to the brethren behind the bars. The new volunteers were overwhelmed and inspired by the narratives of the old volunteers and their lived experiences. The newcomers promised their commitment and dedication to the ministry.

Valedictory Function

Dr Francis Kodiyan, secretary to CBCI for Prison Ministry India welcomed the dignitaries and the participants after which Most Rev Dr Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bengaluru in his valedictory address said that since it was the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, missionaries of Christ, our valedictory function could not have been held on a more fitting day. Bringing in the context of the current times, he said that COVID 19

had made us all aware of what it was like to be a prisoner; to experience isolation and a desperate desire to be connected to the outside world. His Lordship proceeded to add that pioneers like Fr Francis Kodiyan had created a welcoming heart amongst the volunteers of PMI. He applauded PMI for all their work and effort in reaching out to the least of our brethren. With words of encouragement, he referred to the Prison Ministry as a pastoral ministry – a ministry designed to reach out to all. Like Jesus, we also visit prisoners, their families and even the victims. We do good work sometimes by providing the smallest of solutions. He added that he was very proud that PMI was based in Bengaluru and was always happy to support this ministry. Finally, on this feast of Saints Peter and Paul he imparted their special blessings upon us all! Most Rev Dr Peter Machado then released and blessed the Souvenir that was designed for this program.

Next, Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, PMI Chairman, Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai in his presidential address, addressed the group, highly appreciating Fr Francis and Sr Lini for organising the first-ever online training program for PMI. His Lordship also thanked Bishop Machado for gracing this function with his presence as it reaffirmed the support and cooperation of the local church. Bishop Allwyn went on to appreciate the online platform for training as it had increased participation due to convenience for the participants. While face-to-face in-person interaction was not possible, we did have some meaningful one-to-one interaction. He added that the training program was very topical and would be extremely helpful in developing the skills of the volunteers, equipping them to serve in this ministry of love. He was pleased to note that the role and power of prayer had been rightly given a very important emphasis in this Ministry. He also applauded the experienced volunteers for attending this program and sharing their testimonies and learning with the rest of the group. In conclusion, His Lordship blessed this group of Full-Timers and wished us all the very best as we begin our mission in our areas.

This was followed by the Awarding of Participants' Certificates. Bishop Allwyn had a kind and encouraging word for each participant as his/her certificate was being presented.

Fr Benny Pachanal CRSP, assistant national coordinator then released a beautiful collage of all the participants and speakers of this program prepared by Juliet. Sr Lini Sheeja, the national secretary concluded the valedictory function with the proposing of the vote of thanks for the dignitaries, resource persons and all the participants.

“Tell Me and I Forget, Teach Me and I May Remember, Involve Me and I Learn.”

“I feel truly blessed to be part of this ministry...By being available in this noble ministry I feel closer to the God of the lost, it gives me much satisfaction and happiness”

- Anthony Jacob, Maharashtra

“I got an opportunity to learn the working of PMI as I was an intern few months back. ... All good-hearted people are serving the common cause, best wishes to everyone”

- Anupama, Bangalore

“...What really touched me was the ‘Christ-like’ attitude of the team members, all of them. ...A Ministry of Jesus, to save the lost...”

- Daisy Mathew, Trivandrum

“A very enriching experience. The speakers were very informative and gave us a very good insight into all sections of the PMI...”

- Ezilda Saldanha, Goa

“The course gives a newcomer a very good idea about the history of the PMI.... It will take away the wrong impression that convicts deserve to be looked down upon....”

- Gerard Delaney, Goa

Congratulations! It is a Beautiful process.... Today we are in this Ministry striving to work more harder than before for better tomorrow”

- Joyce D’Costa, Mumbai

“Special thanks to all the resource persons for their valuable sessions. Each conference and training program has something new and valuable for us. So glad we could avail of this online opportunity.”

- Libby Nicholas, Pune

“...A big thank you to all the resource persons for sharing their knowledge and experience, inspiring us in our journey. ...I got to learn so many new things and understand so many new and fresh perspectives.”

- Sushma Xavier, Gujrat

Love Suffers for the Love

Sr Larina

Principal, St Theresa's Higher Secondary School
Neyyantinkara

Jesus had broken himself for humanity. He shed each drop of blood for the redemption of the people. Genuine love is expressed in suffering. Love suffers everything for the sake of love. Suffering brings down God's blessings in abundance. It is the time of blessings. The one who fears suffering will find it difficult to enter Heaven because Jesus himself has said in the Bible, "Enter through the narrow door." The passion of Christ is a good model to imitate. Jesus had gone through different kinds of sufferings - mental, spiritual and physical.

Jesus had the intention to suffer. That was for the redemption of humanity from the slavery of sin and death. He suffered with love for humanity. Jesus gave immense value for suffering because unless a grain of wheat falls onto the ground and dies, it remains the same; but if it dies, it brings forth abundant fruit. In the same way, suffering brings forth many new births. Suffering offers Heaven. Suffering costs oneself. Though it appears painful, it is simultaneously graceful.

Suffering purifies oneself and the other. It pours out tears of repentance. It is a time

of healing for the body, mind and soul. It is a medicine in itself. It is like the word of God which has two piercing edges. One is to pierce oneself and the other to pierce others. Through my suffering, I bring repentance to myself and to others who are around me. Suffering is a precious pearl which God preserves. Through suffering, Heaven attains countless souls. God appreciates a suffering soul because his Son had redeemed the world through his passion and death. Suffer a little and gain a treasure. Even a pinch of pain brings forth endless blessings on earth. Suffering is not a curse. It's a blessing. Suffering with an intention will rain down blessings because suffering needs goodwill and sacrifice. Suffering with complaints will not do any good, rather it is a waste of good opportunities. Suffer with love, for God will shower down measureless blessings. Suffering with a forgiving heart pulls down a shower of grace. Suffering allows sharing grace. It is a beautiful path to pass grace upon grace.

Suffering opens the door of Heaven to pour down mercy on suffering humanity. Without suffering, life is lost. Everyone in this world has to undergo some suffering or the other. It is a virtue which pleases God the most. Hence let us choose the path of suffering and gain Heaven because Jesus, our spouse and many martyrs and saints had willingly accepted this way of life to accumulate countless souls for God and His Kingdom.



Most Rev Dr Stephen Antony Pillai, Bishop of Tuticorin Visits the Family of Jeyaraj and Fenix



PMI National Office Reaches Out with Groceries to Kolbe Home Children

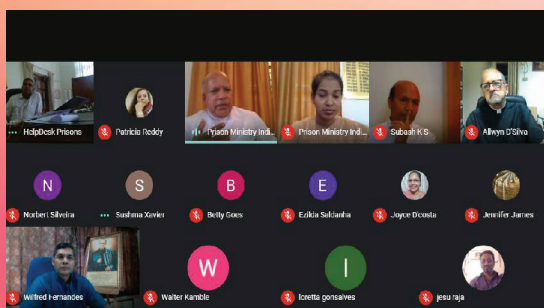


PMI Pune Volunteers Applauded for the Service During the Lockdown by the Yerwada Temporary Prison Jailors

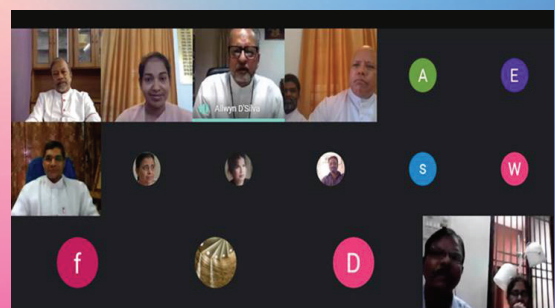


World Anti-narcotics Day Celebrations at ADARRT Pala with SMYM Diocese of Pala & with Madhya Virutha Janakeeya Munnani at Civil Station Pala





**Shri Sunil Ramanand (IPS),
IG of Prisons, Maharashtra
Addressing the Volunteers/Full-
Timers 2020**



**Valedictory Function of
Full-Timers/Volunteers 2020
Online Training Program.**