

REFORM TO REINTEGRATE



For nothing is impossible with God.

PMI State/Diocesan Coordinators
Online Training Program

SOUVENIR

Editorial Board

The Editorial Board thanks Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, the PMI National Coordinator for giving each one of us an opportunity to share our experience of the State/Diocesan Coordinators' Online Training Program 2020.

We also thank each contributor for the articles submitted which manifest itself the beauty and richness of this Souvenir. This Souvenir is the culmination of the efforts of the Organizers, the Trainers and each Participant.

We hope you enjoy reading these experiences and learnings and will rededicate yourself to the reachout, release, reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of our brethren behind the bars. Thank you.



Prof. Vincent Aerathu



Rowena Luis



Simon Philip



Daryl Gandhi

Table of Contents

- Prisons Can Be the Places of Transformation - Bishop Allwyn D'Silva - Page 5
- Prison Ministry India is a Saga of Divine Providence - Rev. Dr. Francis Kodiyan MCBS - Page 6
- Section - Our Participants Speak (Lord You have Touched my Heart) - Page 8
- Discover Jesus in Prison - Fr .Pramod Kumar Dugal (Tillapara, Guwahaiti) - Page 9
 - Chain Fasting and Prayer - Sr. Suchita CMC (Jagdalpur) - Page 9
 - You Have Touched Me and I am Grown - Sr. Maria Jacintha Michael Csjb (Ambikapur CG) - Page 10
 - PMI Parish Unit - Mrs. Pragati Chouri (Kalyan, Mumbai) - Page 11
 - Self-Actualization - Vilaneinuo Agnes (Kohima, Nagaland) - Page 11
 - Enjoyed PMI Online Training Program - Sr. Fulmani (Gujarat) - Page 12
 - I am Proud to be Part of Prison Ministry India - Prof. Marthakutty Vincent (Muvattupuzha, Kerala) - Page 13
 - Mindset of Jesus - Mhalenuo (Kohima, Nagaland) - Page 13
 - Long Live PMI - Fr. Praveen Fernandes (Mizoram State Co-ordinator) - Page 14
 - Special Task Force Angels - Sr. Jobina Varghese (PMI North-East Co-ordinator, Assam) - Page 14
 - To Seek and Save the Lost - Sr. Shony (Ahmedabad) - Page 15
 - PMI: A Heavenly Ministry - Fr. Michael Francis (Co-ordinator Aurangabad Diocese) - Page 16
 - Be a Love Bomb - Sr. Noel Theresa C.M.C - Page 17
 - Inspiration - Fr. Pasala Lahastraya (Andhra Pradesh State Co-ordinator) - Page 18
 - A Call to Deeper Commitment - Fr. Dion Isaac (Co-ordinator, Hyderabad, Telangana) - Page 18
 - Highly Charged Love Bombs in Tihar Jail - Sr. Kokila SChSA - Page 19
 - Covid-19 and Prison Ministry - Simon Philip (Vadodara) - Page 20
 - Disappointment Overcome - Adv. Grace Saxena (Delhi) - Page 22
 - PMI Family Fellowship - Sr. Shanti, Berhampur, Odisha - Page 24
 - I am Blessed - Teresa Rozario (Kalyan, Mumbai) - Page 24
 - Longing to be set free - Fr. P. A. Aruldoss (South Arcot Multipurpose Social Service Society) - Page 25
 - The Goodness of Chain Fasting - Christiana (Kohima) - Page 26
 - PMI and Its Spirituality - Sr. Shibi Philip, CCV (Rajkot, Gujarat) - Page 27

Table of Contents

- An International Touch to PMI - David Fernandes (State Co-ordinator, Goa) - Page 28
- Soldiers of the Good Shepherd - Chrispin, Christ The King Parish (Kohima, Nagaland) - Page 29
- A Valuable Lesson In Counselling - Magdaline (Kohima) - Page 30
- Champions of Courage... Come - Rowena Luis (Co-ordinator, Dongri Unit, Mumbai) - Page 31
- Counselling and Prayers - Mrs Lilli Jose (Gandhinagar) - Page 32
- Prison Ministry is the Love of Jesus - Sr. Anita C.M.C. (Raipur.) - Page 33
- Faith Can Move Mountains - Villy Rosy (Nagaland) - Page 34
- Not Caught—Fr. Ashwin Macwan sdb (Gujarat) - Page 35
- A Positive Reflection Each Day - Fr. S. Sudhakar (Diocesan Director, Kurnool Diocese) - Page 36
- Corona - A Poem by Sr. Gertrude - Page 37

Section—Day-Wise Session Overview - Pages 38 to 59

Training Snapshots - Pages 60 to 61

Faculty Members and Participants Collage - Page 62

Hymn to St. Maximillian Kolbe - Sr. Gertrude—Page 63

Prayer for Prisoners - Page 64

Prisons Can Be the Places of Transformation

BISHOP ALLWYN D'SILVA

My Dear Friends,

Thousands of men and women are caught in a destructive cycle of crime and incarceration. Without knowing God's hope or experiencing Christ's love, the story repeats over and over, shattering families and harming communities. But the cycle can be broken. Prison can be a hopeless place for thousands of prisoners in India. But it can also be a place of transformation.



This has been one of the objectives of the just concluded Training programme for volunteers in the Prison Ministry. This course was well planned by Fr Francis and Sr Lima and a host of other people. I congratulate them. I also congratulate the participants who spent their precious time learning about Prison Ministry and gaining the skills. May God bless you.

Prisoners' families along with their loved ones are also affected. During this pandemic it may be difficult to visit the prisoners but we can also touch the lives of the family members. We can help strengthen family bonds, support children with an incarcerated parent, and prepare families for their loved ones' homecoming.

Once again, Congratulations and may the Spirit strengthen you.

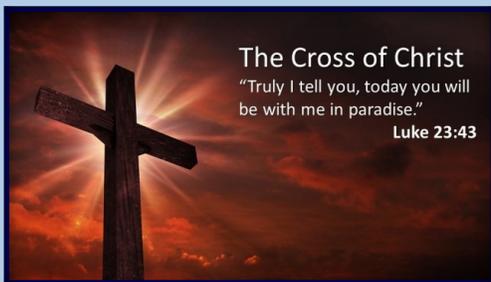
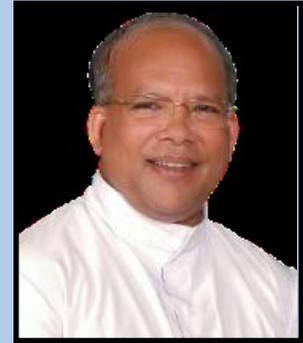
Bishop Allwyn D'Silva

Chairman, Prison Ministry India

Prison Ministry India is a Saga of Divine Providence

REV DR FRANCIS KODIYAN MCBS

Prison Ministry India (PMI) is a saga of divine providence and divine mercy. It's a stream receiving divine providence from the Mount of Calvary and flowing divine mercy to the lost, the least and the last. This eternal saga was inaugurated by Father God by sending his only begotten son to redeem us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3,16). Jesus did this redeeming mission of saving the lost by sacrificing himself on the cross and even unto the last moment of his death. "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk 23,43).



To continue this eternal saga of divine providence and divine mercy in 1986 Jesus established Prison Ministry India by making use of two seminarians at St Thomas Apostolic seminary, Kottayam, Br Varghese Karipperry and Br Francis Kodyan MCBS. Today Jesus out of his unconditional love for you and for the lost calls

you to be a member of PMI to continue this epic of divine providence and to flow this divine mercy to the worldwide lost. This call within the call is a sign of Lord's special love for you and at the same time it's a unique and great task. By this special personal vocation, you are blessed and anointed to outreach to the 1412 prisons in India and to lead them to

repentance and reconciliation. It's the mission of PMI to release them from their various bondages, to reform, rehabilitate,

To continue this eternal saga of divine providence and divine mercy in 1986 Jesus established Prison Ministry India by making use of two seminarians at St Thomas Apostolic seminary, Kottayam, Br Varghese Karipery and Br Francis Kodiyan MCBS. Today Jesus out of his unconditional love for you and for the lost calls you to be a member of PMI to continue this epic of divine providence and to flow this divine mercy to the world-wide lost. This call within the call is a sign of Lord's special love for you and at the same time it's a unique and great task. By this special personal vocation, you are blessed and anointed to outreach to the 1412 prisons in India and to lead them to repentance and reconciliation. It's the mission of PMI to release them from their various bondages, to reform, rehabilitate, reintegrate them to the main stream of society and finally to redeem them. We do this not merely by our prayer, fasting and good deeds but by the spiritual assistance of millions of others in collaboration with the Church and her personnel and institutions and above all by the power of the precious blood of Jesus.

PMI Diocesan Coordinators' training program 2020 proves that distance does not matter when doing the work of God. My heartiest congratulations and prayerful best wishes to all of you who toiled tirelessly towards contributing with articles and the realization of the souvenir. May Jesus who came to seek and save the lost bless all of you abundantly and protect you from all viruses. Remember "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (Lk 15,10).

Rev Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS

**Cofounder, PMI National Coordinator and Secretary to CBCI for
Prison Ministry India**

Our Participants Speak

Lord You Have Touched My Heart

Discover Jesus in Prison

Fr .Pramod Kumar Digal (Tillapara, Guwahati)

I am grateful to the organizers who arranged this program. Listening to the talks of the resource persons I came to know more deeply on the realities of our brethren who are behind bars. The talk given by Fr. Brian Gowans was indeed inspiring. As Father mentioned that our visits to our brethren behind bars should help them , to see the good that is in them rather than to project our own difficulties and problems. We must be realistic. When we visit our brethren, we have to keep in mind that we are going to discover Jesus there. As the scripture says, **I was in prison and you visited me.** As a whole the program was well organized. It's for the first time that I'm engaged in this ministry. I had no deeper knowledge about this ministry. But this training program helped me to know many new things and I believe it will help me to do better in my ministry.



Chain Fasting and Prayer

Sr. Suchita CMC (Jagdapur)

This PMI training program was very inspiring and very prayerful. Yes, very spiritual. What I liked most was the chain fasting and prayers which was arranged in such a beautiful way that all of us could take part in it. I learnt so many things in this PMI training program. I was very deeply touched by this word, I should be a Love-Bomb to my brethren around, especially those who are in the prison. It has helped me so much, because all these classes and sharing classes were based on the Biblical Word, "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, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Lk 4:18).

You Have Touched Me and I am Grown

Sr. Maria Jacintha Michael Csjb (Ambikapur CG)

Prison Ministry is the Ministry of Jesus. He was the first one to proclaim and actualize this wonderful mission. He walked what He talked. (Lk 4/18-19) The seminar on Prison Ministry training program opened up my inner eyes to see pains and struggles of my own brethren behind the bars. The service that I do is a service to Christ (Mt 25/40). This service could be possible to the persons whoever experienced the intervention of Christ in their personal life. I feel, it is a call with in a call (St Mother Teresa). I gained more spiritual energy, guidance and support to be more committed to PMI - Jesus Ministry. This great opportunity provided me to have tremendous ideas, knowledge, rules and methods of Prison Ministry. This is what was the motivational channel in my life during this lockdown period (Covid-19). There are few things which I cherish the most from the PMI seminar are as follows: The vision and mission and spirituality of PMI; Fundamental rights of the prisoners; Duties of the PMI volunteers; Skills and rules of the volunteers; Experiences of various persons in PMI. Prison is not the place of punishment rather supposed to be the place of treatment/hospital. Anybody who has the heart of Jesus can cure them by lending listening ears, time, sacrifice, understating, and counseling and by praying.



***“The service is I
do is a service to
Christ.”
(Matthew 25:40)***

PMI Parish Unit

Mrs. Pragati Chouri (Kalyan, Mumbai)

After joining PMI training, I learnt how I would interact with the brothers and sisters in the prison. I liked the session in which experiences were shared with us trainees. The counselling session by Sr Lima was excellent and I look forward to having those sessions again. I also liked how Fr Wilfred explained us the importance of having a Parish level unit for PMI. He also explained us the steps and ideas for the implementation of the same which was very helpful. I do hope and pray I can be of help in my own parish to help with Prison Ministry.



Self-Actualization

Vilaneinuo Agnes (Kohima, Nagaland)

The PMI Diocesan Online Training Program has been a wonderful journey in my life. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn so many new things from the most experienced and highly qualified members of PMI. Through this training I learn that every human being in this entire universe deserves a second chance and the chance for self-actualization. The one thing I liked about the course is the humbleness of our fathers and sisters. After joining PMI training, it has definitely changed my whole perspective towards other people. It helped me to understand more about the good and also the bad deeds of people. And how I can help be a channel of God's love to those in prisons.



Enjoyed PMI Online Training Program

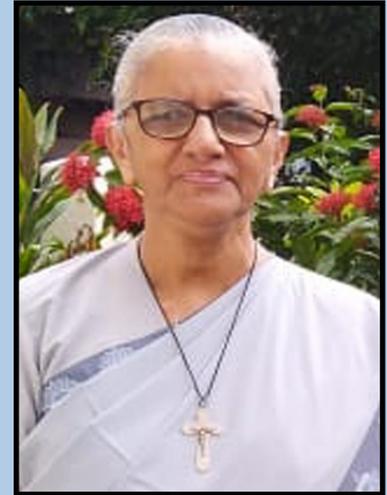
Sr. Fulmani (Gujarat)

This is very important and special information about PMI which I am sharing. How it started, who are the founders? In the beginning how much they suffered how they were travelling and how they heard the voice of God. I like the main functions of PMI both inside and outside the prisons: providing free legal aid, conducting medical camps, job-oriented training program inside the prison, vocational training, counselling, value education, awareness program, marriage settlement, helping the children. Four basic principles of PMI prayer are

1. Prayer is our Power House,
2. Inconvenience is our convenience,
3. God's providence is our Bank
4. Begging is our lifestyle.

The '3R' theory of Release, Renewal and Rehabilitation, the Emblem of PMI, the Flag of PMI, the colour, the globe, the broken chain, the open hands, the Dove, three colours of the India flag in the hands are very inspiring.

Fr Brian's talk and experience were very useful for us. The two testimonies were wonderful. Though it was online training program we enjoyed the chain prayer & fasting. Fr Francis Kodiyan and his team worked very hard. Sr Lima spoke about counselling steps and this is very useful for us. Fr P. D. Matthew gave basic knowledge of legal aid background. We enjoyed our exam with so many questions & answers. Really, we enjoyed the online training program.



I am Proud to be Part of Prison Ministry India

Prof. Marthakutty Vincent (Muvattupuzha, Kerala)

If I were to say something about the course, I should say it was a different experience. Though I used to remember those in prisons, I was not aware of the service rendered by the selfless PMI volunteers. I highly appreciate the service and firmly believe that Lord Jesus will bless us all. I am happy that I am now part of this ministry and I look ahead that good things will happen.



Mindset of Jesus

Mhalenuo (Kohima, Nagaland)

I liked the PMI online course very much. One important thing that I learnt is that: Prisoners are not criminals but they are patients who needed to be treated with Love and Care. The things I liked about the course was that: Everyone in the training seem to have the mindset of Jesus. They think like Jesus and work like Jesus. This training helped me grow as a PMI volunteer as: It helps me in building a positive mind set towards the prisoners. It helps me in counselling and listening to their situations. It helps me in believing in the possibility of change.



“Prisoners are patients who need to be treated with Love and Care”

Long Live PMI

Fr. Praveen Fernandes (Mizoram State Co-ordinator)

It was my great privilege to have attended the PMI online training program. It was so unique. Even though there were many hurdles during the course, the program came out so successful. The hard work and the dedication of the National Team speaks so clearly of this program. Usually we spend a lot of time and resources to attend a training program, traveling etc. This whole course came like a home delivery. Thanks to Fr. Francis for his deep thinking to help the coordinators. The talks were so enlightening and the experience of many volunteers as well as inmates made the course so remarkable. I personally benefitted a lot by this course. A deep concept is instilled in me as what PMI is. It has evoked deep love for the ministry and all those who suffer behind the bars. My mind-set towards the cruel inmates has changed that they are in need of God's compassion. Long live PMI.



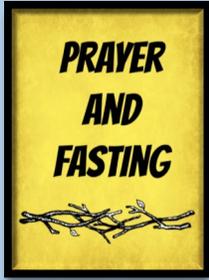
Special Task Force Angels

Sr. Jobina Varghese (PMI North-East Co-ordinator, Assam)

Renew a prisoner today and better the world. I am delighted to quote the most inspiring message from the program, that Jesus is the founder of Prison Ministry who himself was a prisoner. He was an innocent prisoner. He invites every one of us to meet him in the prison, when he said, "When I was in prison, you came to visit me". I am proud to be a



member of Prison Ministry India and glad to acknowledge the opportunity I received in taking part in the online training programme. It was an enriching experience for me where I gained the information and knowledge, especially on prisoner's rights and the PMI Special Task Force Angels. The sharing of the experiences of the different speakers was an eye opener for me. It was really an encouragement and inspiration for me to carry out my little activities with prayer and fasting for the brethren behind bars, without expecting anything in return. I appreciate and admire the National team for organising the programme systematically, with a lot of input sessions and rich experiences. The chain prayer and fasting is really a strong pillar of Prison Ministry India. May the Lord continue to bless us all in reaching out to the brethren behind the bars.



To Seek and Save the Lost

Sr. Shony (Ahmedabad)

Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good! The Prison Ministry is a wonderful ministry and I am so happy to be part of this compassionate ministry and family. It was Sr Fulmani who introduced me to PMI and I am so grateful to her for urging me to do little good work for the brethren behind the bars. Moreover, it was the Online Training Program for PMI volunteers which brought about great awareness of the vast richness, goodness and graciousness of PMI ministry with its urgency to seek and save the lost for Jesus our redeemer. It is amazing to note the various activities and undertakings of PMI that are going on all over the country. I extend hearty congratulations to our dear Chairman, Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, dear Fr. Francis Kodiyon and the entire National Office team. of PMI.



PMI: A Heavenly Ministry

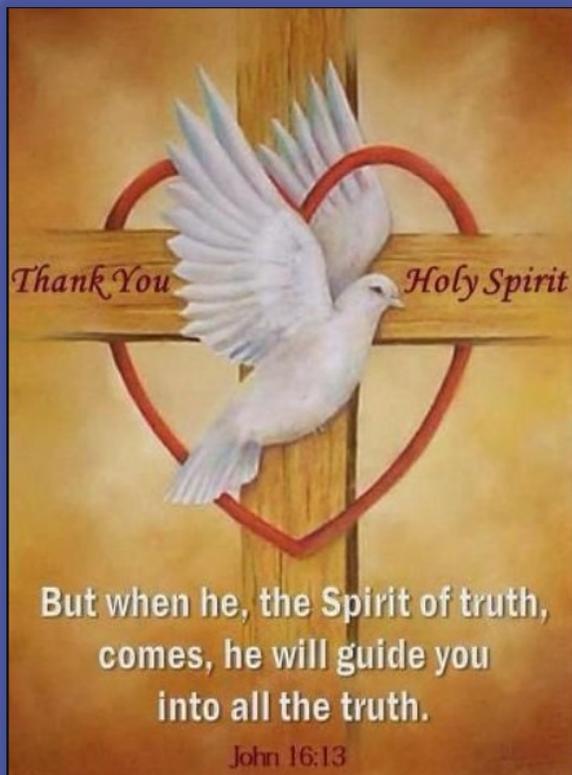
Fr. Michael Francis (Co-ordinator Aurangabad Diocese)

"What thanks O Lord can I render Thee!" With heart full of gratitude to God, and to our Chairman, Rev. Dr. Allwyn D'Silva, all the National Office members and in a very special way to Rev. Dr. Francis Kodiyan, I, with great joy would like to say that I am delighted to have attended the OTP. I got to learn many new strategies and above all came to know the brief history of PMI and the real spirit of the great mission of PMI. All the input sessions were very inspiring and helped me to grow in knowledge and wisdom. The most important wisdom I learned is the



team spirit
guided by the

Holy Spirit. After the talk of Fr. Brian, I am more inspired to go out of my way to serve in this heavenly ministry. I always knew from the beginning that faith can move mountains, but this time I learnt that faith can help us to be patient even when we don't see the mountains moving. I am saying this in the context of all the hardships that we face right from getting the permission till our perseverance. I have decided to keep going. There is no looking back. Special thanks to the founding fathers Fr. Varghese Karippery and Fr. Dr. Francis Kodiyan. Last but not the least, Sr. Adele Korah, as her sharing gave me great boost.



Be a Love Bomb

Sr. Noel Theresa C.M.C



“Be a Love-Bomb. Let it be exploded not to kill but to heal the broken hearted”. What a glorious call, a call within a call. Jesus the wounded healed, calls us to be healers of hearts and the minds of the unfortunate brethren behind bars. About 4 lakhs of them waiting for us silently. When I began Prison Ministry one year ago, I was very curious about it. I knew almost nothing of its practices, nature, practices, their rights or anything about it. I only had a desire to save souls for Jesus. I wanted to probe into the depths of Prison Ministry and our Lord knew my thirst. As a result, my God gave me this golden opportunity to participate in

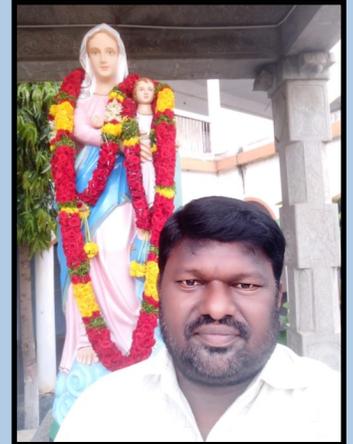
this online training programme of PMI. The OTP was really informative, inspiring and awesome. I got a lot of knowledge on how to save our brethren behind bars. All the lectures on the different aspects of PMI were very much appreciated. The testimonies of Mr Reni George and Mr. Alex were very much inspiring. “I was in prison and you visited me.” **Mt 25:36**. Jesus is waiting to be visited behind bars. Let us wear the ornaments of love, compassion and a listening heart and set out. We can lead them to repentance, reconciliation, reformation and redemption with the help of prayers. The spiritual aspect of PMI was the best part that touched me the most. Yes, Jesus can do wonders through us. He is the one who makes the impossible to possible. Let us be an instrument in his hands. Only prayer can move stony hearts. The intercession of St. Maximillian Kolbe will help us. Congratulations and great thanks to Rev. Fr. Francis Kodiyan and team. May you be blessed and rewarded by God Almighty, abundantly. And may many more be inspired by you and come forward for this glorious ministry.

***“Only Prayers can
move Stony Hearts”***

Inspiration

Fr. Pasala Lahastraya (Andhra Pradesh State Co-ordinator)

First and foremost, I thank God, Rev Fr Francis Kodiyan and PMI family for conducting online training program for coordinators and animators. I am mostly inspired by the effective talk of Rev Fr. Brian Gowans on 7th August 2020. His talk took me to the higher levels of my personal vision and mission and to the deeper level of Prison Ministry. In his talk, the striking point to my heart was not the number of participants of Mass in prisons but a single soul is enough to have salvation. I was cherished and smacked to love a prisoner to get salvation through the Mass in prison. I was moved with compassion and mercy within my heart that we are helping a prisoner to have an encounter with our Savior in prison ministry. We are giving Jesus the Savior to a prisoner. Above all, whenever network helped me, most of the talks were inspiring, enlightening and awesome. Billion thanks to all.



A Call to Deeper Commitment

Fr. Dion Isaac (Co-ordinator, Hyderabad, Telangana)

I learnt to visualize my brother and sister in the prisoners faces

Talks given by Sr. Lini, by Fr. Kodiyan, Sr. Lima and by others were very enriching and inspiring

This training programme has boosted me to be more serious and committed.



Highly Charged Love Bombs in Tihar Jail

Sr. Kokila SChSA

Tihar Central jail is the largest jail in Asia: - There are five jails in Tihar complex, one District jail in Rohini and one jail in Mondoli. The volunteers of Prison Ministry India had been rendering selfless service to all these jails. The inmates are incarcerated in alphabetical order. They are under trials, convicts, life-sentenced, death row convicts, perhaps many are innocent. The situations of life, circumstance, utter poverty, injustice, socio-economic scenario have dragged them in to this man-made hell. So we, PMI volunteers, reached out to our brothers and sisters who are lost, last and least. Our main activities in Tihar jails are teaching, counseling, sharing, family contact, meeting their advocates, standing as moral support in the courts, helping prisoner's children, paying school fees and providing stationeries, and finding job for the ex-prisoners. Releasing inmates after paying their fines. The jail authorities have been very appreciative and co-operative towards us and our selfless services. Christmas Celebration in the jails are mega events for the schools, prisoners and for us volunteers. During Easter we organize Prayer service, Holy Mass and Confession in some jails. Monthly report of our activities and yearly report are mandatory for renewal of our Jail Pass.



This year 2020 till 16th March we were visiting the jails, some are full timers, and some are thrice week. Suddenly Covid 19 locked down everything, everyone in-definitely. At that time there were 18 thousand inmates. The Supreme Court had directed all the states of the country to release the prisoners to decongest the jails in order to curb the possible spread of the Covid-19. So Tihar jail released four thousands undertrials

***We volunteers have to be highly charged and recharged love bombs
passionate and effective***

- on parole, on bail, on interim bail, and some were acquitted.

PMI volunteers are in touch with the released inmates as they are in need of support, counseling, adjusting to life outside prison. So we volunteers have to be highly charged and recharged love bombs passionate and effective service provider. We are very grateful to the National head-quarter, Bangalore for providing online training and making us active and alive to face the challenges of Covid-19. Let us intensify our prayer life, our spiritual life and our relational life to explode our love bombs to heal the thousands broken, wounded and hurt people as we journey along.....

Covid-19 and Prison Ministry

Simon Philip (Vadodara)

The monstrous Coronavirus pandemic has shattered the humankind all over the world and India is no exception. All normal activities whether social, educational, cultural, religious, commercial or charitable, have come to a screeching halt that includes our Prison Ministry services being offered for all these years to our brothers and sisters behind the bars. Fervent prayers are being offered to the Almighty all over the world and the whole world is awaiting God's Grace with anxiety, anger, despair typical of human nature. How God would answer our prayers for eradication of the pandemic and restoration of healthy, peaceful and vibrant environment in the world once again is something we have to wait and watch.



Our Prison ministry services, based on the mandate of our Lord as mentioned in Matthew 25, has served our incarcerated brothers and sisters and provided them with the solace and comfort they are longing for in the gloomy environment of the four walls of the prisons. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spoke in the wheel of our Prison Ministry activities and hampered them significantly. Our incarcerated brothers

and sisters have been caused deep isolation and aloofness as they have been deprived of the love and empathy of our PMI volunteers' visits to them. While we are keeping ourselves busy in the services of the families of the prisoners, the COVID-19 poses a new dimension of problem for the prisoners because COVID-19 has reached Indian prisons.

The Prisons in India, with their high occupancy rates and inadequate healthcare facilities can prove to be a disaster in the making. The prisons in many states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have been reportedly affected. Under the Supreme Court directions decongestion of prisons has begun and accordingly 60, 000 prisoners have been released since March, 2020. However, with the population over four lakh prisoners, this measure may not be sufficient and there is an acute need to focus on the hygienic and sanitation aspects inside the prisons. The Model Prison Manual 2016 needs to be implemented in letter and spirit. The deficiencies in implementation with poor care facilities, make our prisons a fertile ground for the novel Corona virus. Lack of institutional staff adds to the woes in effective implementation. The shortage is between 30% to 40 % as per the Indian Justice Report 2019.

The present circumstances created by COVID-19 indirectly gives us an opportunity to take up these issues which will not only offer protection to the inmates from COVID infection, which is the need of the moment, but will permanently help improve and upgrade the hygienic standards in the prisons. This is very vital in view of the fact that the end of COVID 19 is highly unpredictable and the medical authorities cross the globe including WHO have no idea as to how the future will be shaped by the novel corona virus.

We may think of taking the following remedial steps to combat the spread of COVID-19:

- i) Weekly visits by Doctors.
- ii) Sanitisation of wards/ barracks and common areas.
- iii) Handwash facilities at entry and exit points.
- iv) Thermal check to monitor visitors and staff.
- v) Additional mobile toilets.

- vi) To augment drinking and bathing water facilities.
- vii) Soaps/cleaners for all and sanitary pads for women prisoners.
- viii) Food quality and supplements to boost immunity.
- ix) Masks and education for social distancing.
- x) Any new entry only with screening and after isolation.

Because of the immense contribution of the PMI volunteers, in the form of a bridge between the prisoners and the families of the prisoners and as counsellors and motivators to the depressed and broken prisoners. Their absence is acutely felt by the prisoners during this period of pandemic. It is very important that PMI helps them by arranging video call or voice call meeting with their families so that their stress level can be reduced. Our action in the abovementioned areas will be a yeomen service to the prisoners in the present grim and seemingly hopeless environment, where even the people in the comfort of their homes with all amenities are facing a depressing situation. This may require the PMI to step up our efforts through representation and follow up with the four pillars of the Criminal Justice System viz.

(i) Police, (ii) Prison, (iii) Legal and (iv) Judiciary.

This will be the most fruitful use of the time in the right direction.

Disappointment Overcome

Adv. Grace Saxena (Delhi)

The wonderful PMI online training encouraged me and made me realize that nothing is impossible for God, his spirit is always moving and guiding us to reach out to work for his mission, I was disappointed in lockdown period specially about brothers and sisters behind the bar and outside the bar

But the OTP has shown the light how to disperse the darkness in the lives of the needy by constantly finding



ways to be with them in the pandemic, where government and the civil society are struggling to get solutions to bring normalcy in the world. I am very grateful to all National Team PMI members especially Fr Francis Kodyan, Fr Varghese Karpipally who got this divine call to begin a ministry for the least, the last and the lost. His team made us aware how the ministry started and how it functions and how much they have achieved and service provided to prisoners. I am very touched by the new avenues which are awaiting to become active in full motion eg PMI STF, TSS MR, MMR .

I am very grateful to God for Fr Francis, Sr Lima, international speaker Fr Brian Gowans, Fr, Rajkumaar, Sr Rosily and all team members for their tireless effort to enrich us by sharing their experiences and motivated us to come forward with our commitment.

I really appreciate the brothers who shared their testimonies about the transformation the living God brings to one's life.

The concept of theory of four R's is powerful to bring impact on one and all individual. All the study materials and all publications made my conviction stronger to deliver my service to the PMI.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by saying that we need to inform the brothers and sisters behind bars "when man makes God the enemy, we can never be sure that he has won the day. When God is our ally, as He was on the cross, we can be sure that he has won the day and the victory is ours."

Thank you



PMI Family Fellowship

Sr. Shanti, Berhampur, Odisha

I appreciate very much the course conducted on PMI. I felt so happy to see so many familiar faces and also become familiar with many new persons. It was like a family get together.

We prayed together, reflected together and received many new insights too.

I felt proud to hear the various activities conducted in prisons in different States of India.

I am also happy that the course is continued through the chain fasting and prayers.

I felt more enthusiastic and empowered after seeing and hearing from so many pmi volunteers all over India.

I congratulate all who organised it in a spirit filled and efficient way



I am Blessed

Teresa Rozario (Kalyan, Mumbai)

Firstly, I am absolutely grateful and blessed by the Almighty for giving me this opportunity to work as a lay person among priests and nuns.

Looking around, amidst the chaos caused by the pandemic, it gets me excited and somehow makes me nervous to get myself prepared for the future challenges. Attending the Zoom meeting, getting to know my fellow members of the PMI and



their experiences and knowledge.

Not forgetting Fr. Francis Kodiyan and his team for conducting the online classes / exams and Sr. Elizabeth (Chembur) for helping and guiding me and motivating me to be a part of this wonderful family.

God bless you all.

Longing to be set free

Fr. P. A. Aruldoss (South Arcot Multipurpose Social Service Society)

The caged bird sings,

With a fearful trill

Of things unknown

But longed for still

And his tune is heard

On the distant hill

For the caged bird

Sings of freedom.

—**Maya Angelou**



According to the words of Maya Angelou every human wants to set free from his own interlocks. I am overwhelmed to be a part of the course and to acquire the valuable mission to lead ahead. I have also learnt that every individual has imprisoned in his or her own willingness and many are not interested to be let free. Being in a mission this helps me to render the service even better, to understand every individual has flaws. To counsel and comfort every individual is need of the hour. I am so thankful to the team for choosing the right ministry and to heal the wounds of the individual. To bring them back to be human is what I have learnt. To be a man for others. I am highly indebted for the organizers. I whole heartedly thank and appreciate the organizers for the event. May the Almighty shower his countless blessings to serve more and more.

The Goodness of Chain Fasting

Christiana (Kohima)

I had a very good experience during the PMI training. I came to learn many new things about how to deal with prisoners. The thing which struck me the most was the chain fasting, though I heard about it, I experienced it for the first time. It had helped me in many ways. Before this I used to visit prison without knowing anything but now I came to know the main motives and practices.

I'm really happy and blessed that I'm also able to attend the PMI training

FASTING

This is the kind of fasting I want, says
the LORD;

Free those who are wrongly imprisoned;
lighten the burden of those who work for
you. Let the oppressed go free. Remove
the chains that bind people.

Share your food with the hungry, and give
shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those,
who need them, do not hide from relatives
who need your help.

Isaiah: 58:6

PMI and Its Spirituality

Sr. Shibi Philip, CCV (Rajkot, Gujarat)

After participating the PMI online training program from 3rd - 11th August, I am very much touched, impressed and happy to know that over 8000 volunteers are giving their loving and selfless service to our brothers and sisters behind the bar (most of them innocent ones) in India. Prison Ministry is a free gift from God and is founded on the WORD of GOD. It is a service with maximum inconvenience but trusting in the Divine Providence with prayer and fasting. I would like to quote the phrase which was often repeated during the training program; “Be a **LOVE BOMB!** Let it be exploded, not to kill but to give life”.



Apart from gaining knowledge and information, it was heart breaking to listen to the testimony of Mr. Reny George and Mr. Alex who were murderers and were in jail, where PMI volunteers helped to change their lives and become renewed persons who are a LOVE BOMB to others. Let us not look at the crime but see what made him/her to commit the crime.

*“Be a **LOVE BOMB!** Let it be explored, not to kill but to give life”.*

This training program has helped me to have a better and clear understanding of PMI and the spirituality in it. It is also a call for self-sanctification and self-transformation. I am happy and grateful to God for this opportunity which came to me through the person of Sr. Fulmani.

**For what shall it profit a man, if
he gain the whole world, and
suffer the loss of his soul?**

Jesus Christ

An International Touch to PMI

David Fernandes (State Co-ordinator, Goa)

The PMI State/Diocesan & Units Directors Online training program was successfully held from the 2nd August 2020 till 17th August 2020 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The full program was meticulously planned by the National Office team.

All the participants were divided into 11 groups who helped to conduct the day's proceedings. Prayer & Fasting days were allotted to each group. There were 2 resource persons for each day sharing their experiences, encouraging volunteers besides giving valuable inputs to face the challenges of the Ministry.

Talks focused on the main objectives of the ministry.

There were reports & presentations from the 4 zones covering the entire country. Testimonies by 2 of our brothers helped us to give glory to our God who is always close to the broken-hearted. All sessions were very interactive. Fr. Francis Kodiyan effectively moderated and coordinated the daily proceedings. The participants were blessed to have a guest speaker from Scotland, Fr. Brian Gowans who is the president of the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care. He gave an interesting international perspective of Prison Ministry which was very enriching along with his words of caution & advice.

The course ended with an online examination.

Sincere gratitude to Rev Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Fr Francis Kodiyan, Sr Lima and the entire National team for all their efforts to keep the Prison Ministry family strong and united in our efforts to serve the Least, Lost & Last of our brethren behind bars.



70 x 7

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Soldiers of the Good Shepherd

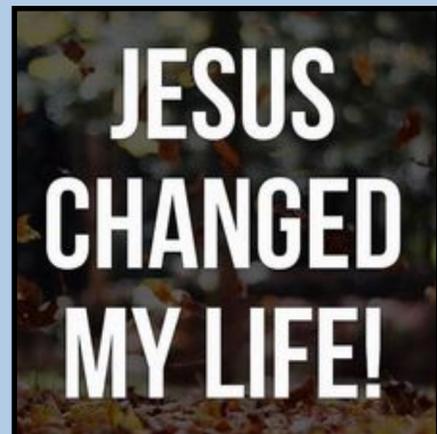
Khriesasielic Chrispin, Christ The King Parish (Kohima, Nagaland)

Beneath the harsh clouds,
There lies the stranded sheep's.
Crying out loud waiting
But many are blind to see and deaf to hear

But the soldiers of the Good Shepherd
March towards on hearing the cry
With a mission to save the stranded
How blessed are the chosen

To wipe the tears of the broken
To be the love bomb
To give another chance
To seek and save the lost

Let them arise and shine.
From the Rag to Richness
No stones left unturned.
Blessed are the one
Soldiers of the Good Shepherd.



A Valuable Lesson In Counselling

Magdalene (Kohima)

I have learnt a lot of things from this online program. It was really a beneficial thing for me and I am proud to be a part of this. I had learnt so many things from this and it is beyond my expectations

I thank our Fathers, Sisters and all the speakers for all your valuable words in encouraging us and leading us to do the right path. May God Bless you all and may you all continue to do the good work!

I had learn so many things and I would like to share two points which I find really helpful.

The first point - a talk by Mr Alex he said while going to prisoners he asked and request us not to see the crime he/she may be a murderer, rapist or have committed any other crime but to see the person which I find really interesting.

The second point—a talk by Sr. Lima about counselling and the steps while doing counselling. I have learnt so much from this, the do's and don'ts of counselling. I believe counselling is very important thing in this ministry.

I had learnt so many good things in this online training program. Thank you all !

I hope to work for the betterment of our society and prisoners with all of you. We had learnt so many good things from this online program and will work together as a family.



Champions of Courage... Come

Rowena Luis (Co-ordinator, Dongri Unit, Mumbai)

It is a commendable job of the staff in the PMI National office who presented this Online Training Course. In these contemporary times, it was made extremely creative and compact, through media apps, despite the constraints.

This program came to us in the comforts of our homes and challenged us to a greater depth of commitment. It spanned several days and comprehensively covered up every aspect of Prison Ministry.

The program coordinators offered the participants a captivating approach to working conscientiously within the confines of prisons and children's homes. A range of charismatic speakers and teachers gave us a good clear glimpse into the ministry. They themselves have created an indelible mark on prisoners and officials and have carved a permanent niche for PMI in the Chronicles of social work in the country. Nay, raising it to a ministry which Christ began from the cross and invites disciples to confidently bring his peace to the lost, least and lonely.

In celebration of becoming Champions of Courage, I extend an invite to my co-workers....Come!



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8



Counselling and Prayers

Mrs Lilli Jose (Gandhinagar)

Firstly, I thank God, Fr. Francis Kodyan, Sr. Lima, Sr. Lini and all others that I was able to be a part of this extremely knowledgeable training session.

After joining this session I learnt many more things about prisoners life within and after their term in jail. Many a times society does not accept these people once they come out of jail which eventually might mould their thought process. Their reaction would become aggressive. Here is where how we help them is the most life changing point for many of these prisoners. With constant counselling and prayers by PMI members their life can be changed.



With constant counselling and prayers by PMI members their life can be changed.

We also try to counsel their family members and help their kids with studies. Understanding how their path of life can be changed without prayers was also one of the learnings. Through out the training session all the presentations gave a strong message of "to be courageous" is the biggest learning for me.

Though we all are located at different places we can still pray for the prisoners together from where we are which will bring some fruitfulness in their life.

From my childhood I was interested in social services. Thus got enrolled in prison ministry to serve the prisoners for their over all wellbeing and spiritual upliftment.

The overall training was good. I also appreciate all resource persons for sharing their knowledge during the session and listening to their talk, it definitely inspires me to work harder. From this overall training the motivation that I have received, I will take the same motivation and enthusiasm further to the other PM Gandhinagar members.

Prison Ministry is the Love of Jesus

Sr. Anita C.M.C. (Raipur.)

Prison Ministry is a mission, which works with the love of Jesus and love of our brethren behind bars. Since the past 5 years I have been doing this ministry, I have found out that some prisoners are innocent, some are the culprits, some are misunderstood and some are put in jail by other people's pressure. When we visit the prison we feel that they are craving for love, love of their parents, the love of her husband, the love of his wife, the love of their children, the love of their brothers and sisters and the love of their relatives. Some are so sad because for many years they are in prison and their family members do not visit them. They are left alone and they feel they are unwanted. So when we visit and meet with them we are the representatives of God and God's love has to penetrate them. That is our call and mission.



During this program I realised that we have to follow the 5C's, that is Christ, Conviction, Concern, Commitment, and courage. We have to work with full commitment. This is not a social work, it is the love of Christ, who suffered, was crucified and died.

The training program was very effective and meaningful. So I appreciate and congratulate each and everyone who took the trouble to arrange this program. Thank You.

5C's
Christ
Conviction
Concern
Commitment
Courage

Prison ministry is a mission, which works with the love of Jesus and love of our brethren behind bars.

Faith Can Move Mountains

Villy Rosy (Nagaland)

I am very grateful and privileged to write a few words about my experience in being a participant in the PMI Training program. I confess that I did not know what PMI is not did I have any idea about its activities. The program has awakened in me a thirst to know more about PMI and its activities. It is so inspiring to see how the Word of God is put into practice through the selfless service rendered by PMI. I have also learned that in order to be part of PMI, one must have faith in God, trust in Him and always be in communion with Him. It is also inspiring when released prisoners share their life testimony of how they have changed from murderers and criminals to activists through the intervention of PMI. Participation in the OTP has really increased my faith in God and the organisers of the programme for it.



*One must have
faith in God,
trust in Him and
always be in
communion with
Him*

Not Caught

Fr. Ashwin Macwan (Gujarat)

Yup this is the feeling I go through when I talk about Prison Ministry, hear about Prison Ministry, visit prison and share about Prison Ministry. I am not better than those who are behind the bar. They were caught and I am not. Connecting my life with the Prison Ministry has given me new perspective all together. It is not I doing something to their life but they who are transforming my life.

One aspect which I really liked of Prison Ministry and shared it with many is that Prison Ministry is not social work but it is a spiritual work. A spiritual journey, journey where I become aware of myself and make them aware those who are inside the prison

It is not only my physical presence matters but also my spiritual presence. By praying for them, making sacrifices for them, living a simple life, giving up something I enjoy. After much discernment and prayer during this PMI training program I myself have taken some resolutions:

1. To pray one decade of rosary every day for the conversion of prisoners.
2. Not to take sugar at all in my food.

This is just to remind myself that I am connected with something great, mysterious and divine.

The course has helped me to look at those behind the bars with different outlook. They are in need of mercy and grace which they will experience through me.. I understood what this PMI is all about. My next step is to prepare youth group by conducting the online program and initiate the prayer aspect in youth.



A Positive Reflection Each Day

Fr. S. Sudhakar (Diocesan Director, Kurnool Diocese)

The PMI Online Training was a great experience for me to look for something positive to reflect on each day.

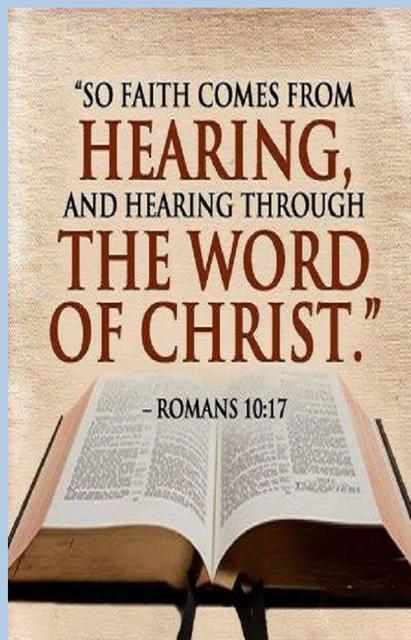
Training has changed my thoughts to server and bring change in the life o those who are behind the bars.

The presentations were very good in connecting the Bible. Finally the program enriched me to avail the opportunity to serve even in difficulties.

Thanks to PMI. God bless.



*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” –
Philippians 4:6*



CORONA

A POEM BY SR. GERTRUDE

Corona, oh Corona, why did you, come to the Earth? (2)

Yes, I came to the earth, to teach you a lesson! (2)

How weak are you, how feeble are you? (2)

Although the creator, given, power over all

All things on Earth, even, how weak are you?(2)

You thought, that, your power is strong,

Your Position is strong, your religion is strong

Your cast is strong, so, you are strong.

I am here, to remind, that

You are all one, and, same you are (2)

There is only one, power, power of the Creator

There is only one, position, position of God's child

There is only one, religion, religion of humanity

There is only one, cast, and the cast of love

I am not your enemy; I am your reminder

I have no partiality !!!

Prisoners or freeman, rich or poor man

Hindu, Christian or Muslim

Neither, any political party,

I am your reminder, do I remind you

Surrender yourself at the feet of your creator

He will heal you, He will save you

He will be with you, He is your Creator

He is, waiting for you, He is your father

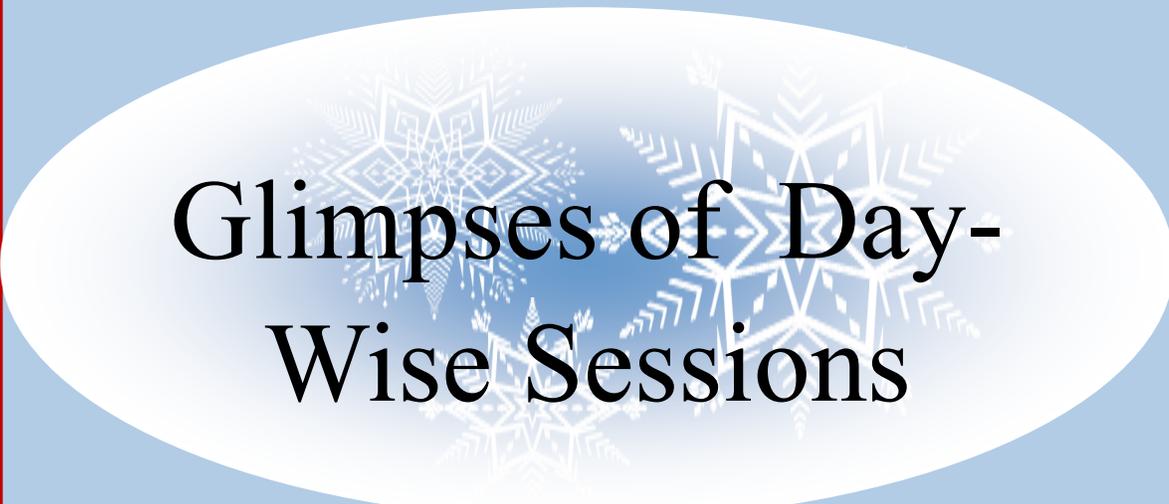
So, surrender yourself at the feet of your father

Thus allow me go back, go back to my home.

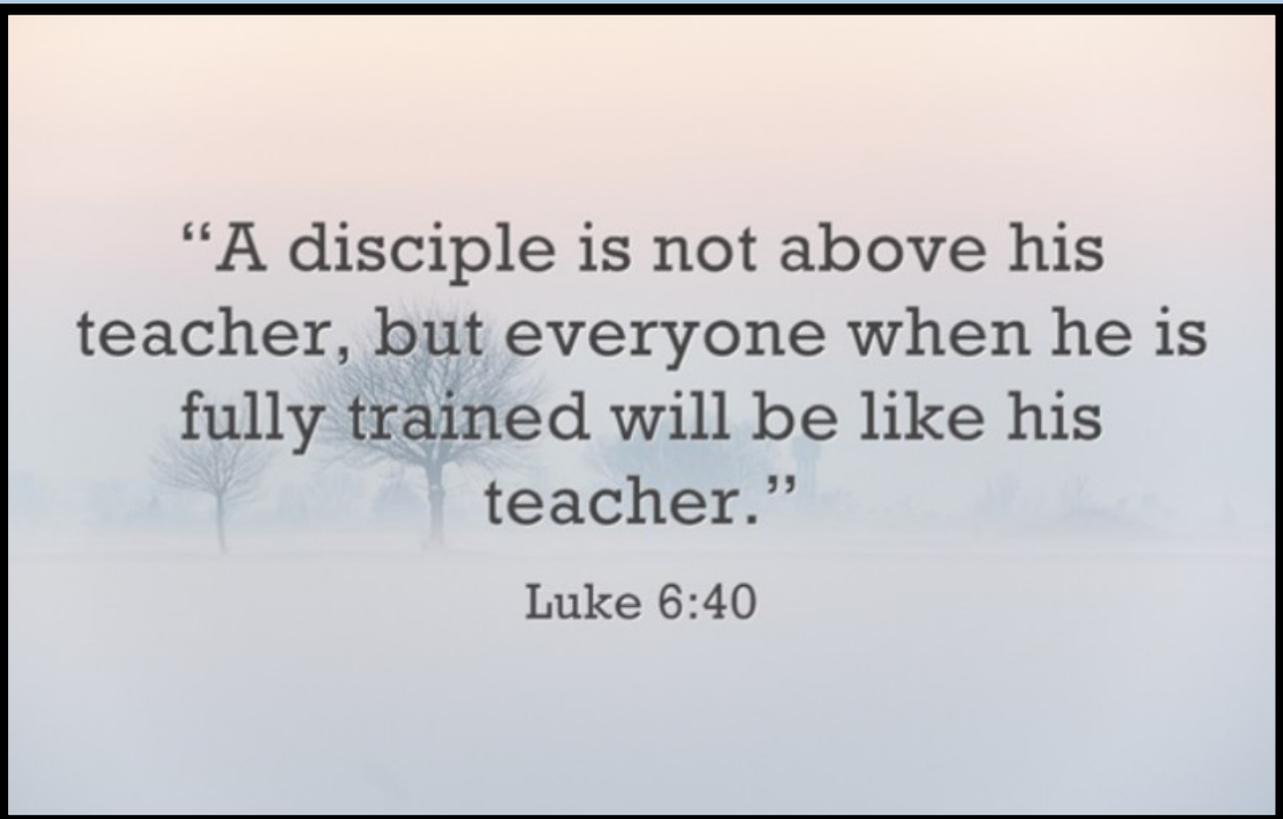


There is only one,
power, power of
the Creator


*Surrender yourself
at the feet of your
creator*



Glimpses of Day- Wise Sessions



“A disciple is not above his
teacher, but everyone when he is
fully trained will be like his
teacher.”

Luke 6:40

Day-wise Session Overview

Day 1 : 2nd August 2020—Preliminary Session

The preliminary session was a trial round which began at 4 p.m. on Sunday 2nd August.

Fr Francis Kodiyan and Sr Lima welcomed the participants. Fr Francis Kodiyan, the PMI national coordinator, addressed the participants, gave general instructions and then made the following observations:

- i) The importance of the month of August when International Justice Sunday, Prison Ministry Sunday and St Maximilian Kolbe are celebrated.
- ii) The importance of following correct etiquette - the do's and don'ts of online training programmes.
- iii) He congratulated all the participants and exhorted them to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
- iv) There will be an exam at the end of the training program.
- v) The sessions will begin at 10.00 a.m. and end at 12 noon every day. The online link will be provided at 9.30 a.m.
- vi) Sundays are earmarked as PMI family days, and there will be sharing time from 4 to 6 p.m.

The session ended at 6.00 p.m.

Day 2 : 3rd August 2020—Inaugural Session

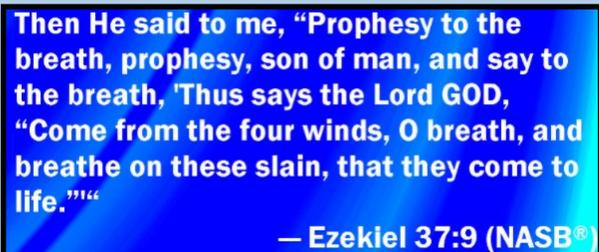
Sr Lima, the programme coordinator, presented the day's programme for/during the inaugural session. The prayer was led by group 1. Sr. Kokila, PMI Delhi State Coordinator and team began with a hymn to the Holy Spirit and read a passage from the Gospel of Matthew 25. Fr Francis extended a warm welcome to all the officials and participants, reminding them that this is a Jesus Mission that they are called to. It's a free gift and we must equip ourselves for warfare. He congratulated our National Chairman, Most Rev Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, for his innovative ways to make the ac-

tivities of PMI successful even in the lockdown period.

Bishop Allwyn thanked the staff for their commitment and said they do the work and he gets praised. He assured the participants that they would definitely learn a lot from the program. He said, "Many unfortunate ones are caught in the cycle of crime, shattering families. But you can play an important part by being an agent of transformation and reformation." He said although no one is allowed inside prisons today, one can still work with their families outside, support their children, prepare families for homecoming and so on. Sometimes people are arrested unjustly to quieten them when they become a threat to the authorities. We pray for the authorities that they may respect the right of freedom and the right to protest. He extended his congratulations to Fr. Francis who finds a home for those who don't find one. He wished the participants successful completion of the programme.

Fr Varghese Kariperry, the cofounder congratulated all the dynamic participants who are the volunteers of PMI and called them Ezekiels of the 21st century. He read from Ezek 37: 9-10, and encouraged everyone to actualise the mission of Ezekiel. Jesus too always worked among the marginalized. PMI volunteers are now the extension of Jesus who lived 2000 years ago and are called to be Apostles of Renewal. This work is a challenge to seek the lost 1 leaving the 99. In the world, 99 is greater than 1. But for Jesus the lost 1 was more important and greater than the 99. He had compassion for the lost and suffered with them. One could be saved even at the last moment like the good thief. He reminded that prayer and trust in the Lord formed the method of this mission. PMI believes in team work and not individual efforts. It is not so much the efficiency as the effectiveness of the mission that matters and effectiveness comes from team work. Faith, prayer and sacrifice are the operating forces in the spiritual realm. He exhorted all to keep the work of the prophet Ezekiel and Jesus moving.

Fr Francis led the self-introduction session inviting each participant to introduce himself. It was a wonderful sharing session and PMI volunteers from so many states



Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'""
— Ezekiel 37:9 (NASB®)

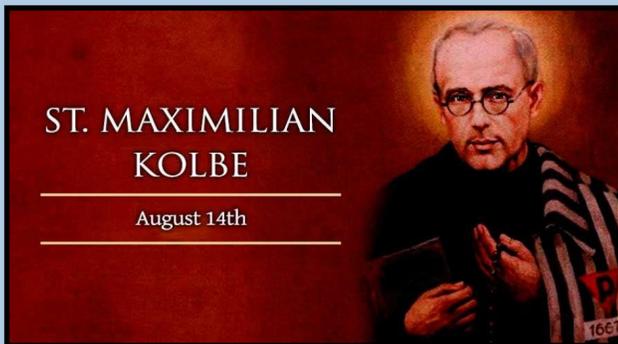
briefed on the ongoing activities in different parts of the country. It was exciting to have a great batch of participants who were not only volunteers but friends and family forever. Sr Lima introduced the course dynamics, encouraging everyone to keep themselves mentally and emotionally fit for the course. Fr Pravin Fernandez, PMI Mizoram State Coordinator, proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked God for his providence, the National team for their efforts, the chairman for inspiring us and Fr Francis for the warm welcome. He thanked Sr Lima for the interesting and informative sharing and Sr Kokila and group1 for the day's program. Sr Rosily, PMI treasurer, concluded with the closing prayer and Angelus.

Day 3 : 4th August 2020-General Introduction

Fr Francis Kodiyan introduced Prison Ministry India in general. He dwelt at length upon various aspects of PMI and how it is founded upon the words of Lord Jesus and quoted Luke 19:10 and John 15:13. He referred to the Patron of PMI, St. Maximilian Kolbe, whose feast is celebrated on 14th August each year. He reminded the

participants that the work of PMI was one of service and no remuneration was offered, except that given by Jesus. The other aspects Fr. Francis covered in his session were the CBCI 34 plenary assembly, CBCI justice, peace and development office, Desk for PMI etc. Among other things he spoke also about PMI lifestyle, ways to make an entry, methods, spirituality, administration, national office staff, ministries inside the prison and outside

the prison, goals to be achieved viz. repentance, reconciliation, reformation, rehabilitation, reintegration etc. He introduced the magazines pertaining to PMI viz. Prison Voice and Reformative Explorations and books such as Rainbow, Love Bomb and The Lost. He finished his session stating that the most important goal of Prison Ministry is to **'REDEEM THE LOST'**.



Prison Ministry: To Regain the Lost

Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, chief editor of Prison Voice presented the topic Prison Ministry: to Regain the Lost. She started with a message that prison ministry is an opportunity and a blessing and that it is a Christian calling. It is founded on 5C's viz. CHRIST, CONVICTION, CONCERN, COMMITMENT and COURAGE. The inspiration

**CHRIST, CONVICTION,
CONCERN, COMMITMENT and
COURAGE.**

and strength are derived from Lord Jesus who said that he came to seek sinners and not the righteous. She mentioned the prominent concepts: outsiders' concept, insiders' concept and Jesus' concept. She beautifully defined the prison and said that PMI volunteers are to be 'Love Bombs'. She appreciated the selfless efforts of the founders of PMI viz. Fr Varghese Karippery and Fr Francis Kodiyan. Sr Lini explained the services rendered by PMI, the various concepts and principles of prison ministry and also explicated the PMI Emblem. She closed the session stating the four basic principles of PMI: prayer is our strength, inconvenience is our convenience, God's Providence is our Bank, begging is our life style.



Day 4 : 5th August 2020

PMI Biblical Foundations

Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'Silva, the PMI Chairman shared his thoughts on the Biblical Foundations of Prison Ministry India. He presented his talk based on the following 5 principles:

1. All people can be redeemed. Crime takes people away from God and we are not to gratify the desires of our sinful nature. At the same time, we are not to be weary of 'doing good'. We have been given an opportunity to do God's work. Each person can be redeemed through believing in the person of Christ (Rom 3:23; Gal 5:16-23; Gal 6: 9-10).
2. Healing takes place in creating relationships and not by just speaking to people. Therefore, it is good to plan for a relationship founded upon prayer.
3. PMI volunteers are called to be ministers of service and not to dominate. Love that is translated into service projects Jesus to others. Get into the shoes of another and try to experience his feelings rather than think that we know it all. As Jesus asked Peter, he asks us, 'Do you love me?'
4. Those enslaved by evil can be set free from prison. This must be a firm belief and thus our aim must be to ensure that prisoners don't go back to crime once freed. Giving them an experience of God will help. Even skill training should be done in love.

The transforming power of Jesus must be shared. Volunteers themselves need transformation in order to be agents of transformation. The Lord invites us to strive for holiness. Volunteers need to spend time in unity (Mt 5: 13-16; Eph 4: 14-16; Is 32: 18). Not all prisoners are criminals. The state thinks they are criminals, and therefore we must pray for the authorities so that they may respect the freedom of citizens. He also reminded that we are all criminals only that we are not yet caught by the authorities.

"Crime takes people away from God and we are not to gratify the desires of our sinful nature."

PMI: Historical Introspection

Fr Varghese Karipery, the cofounder of Prison Ministry India, and the first national coordinator, shared thoughts on Prison Ministry India: A historical Introspection. He observed that unjust imprisonment was found through history. Jesus himself was imprisoned. History of the world, could be read as the history of apparently failed people. Innocent people are being trapped, imprisoned and killed. The rehabilitation methodology can be seen in the book of Philemon; a methodology of renewal, conversion and rehabilitation. Peter, John and others also underwent the same experience. This ministry started with the real providence of God on 8 December of 1981. The motto was to become a Love Bomb which explodes not for killing but to give life. Prayer and fasting were the real foundation of PMI. PMI brings love and solace to the prisoners who have lost their identity and are reduced to mere numbers. He said that prayer and fasting, with the word of God, goes into the spiritual realm and can make history. History makers are 'MAD'. Make A Desire, Make A Dream, Make A Decision, Make A Difference. Prisoners are seen by people as social outcasts, potential menace to society and this is a stigma. From the Christian outlook, they are in the image of God. They have the possibility of renewal and growth. He explained in depth the 3R Theory. a) Release: not outside the prisons, but an emotional, mental release within the prison. B) Renewal: a mental resetting with new values in Rehabilitation centres. c) Rehabilitate: in society with jobs, marriage and social life etc.

*History makers are
'MAD'.*

*Make A Desire
Make A Dream
Make A Decision,
Make A Difference*

Day 5 : 6th August 2020

PMI Spirituality

Fr Francis Kodiyan presented his paper on PMI spirituality. To renew the world, one must renew oneself and must become conscious of God and one's purpose of life. We must pray for the conversion of sinners, remain active at home and convents, ashrams, parishes and monasteries, and let them become prayer towers. We must preach the gospel through a peaceful life and then seek to reform prisoners through our life experiences. We must follow into the prisons like Father God who was the first one

active in Prison Ministry when he gave his son to save us. Therefore, we too must have an 'outreach ministry'. He didn't stay inside but went outside in search of the Samaritan woman, Levi the tax collector, Zacchaeus, Paul the persecutor etc. Jesus Life Goal, Luke 4:17-19, proclaims release to the captives and Jesus exhorts us to visit prisoners.

Father spoke on various aspects of JF spirituality; Jesus centred spirituality, people-oriented spirituality and spirituality like that of the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23. Fr Francis spoke about the spirituality of reformation, of prisoner's, prisons, church, society and world reformation. The signs of PMI spirituality are enhancement in God experience, enhancement in Divine Providence, doubling of faith, improvement in self-confidence, Joy of unity and fraternity, enhancement in optimism and stamina, greater satisfaction in searching, saving and serving the lost, the least, the last, undertaking adventurous deeds for the Lord, growth of the number of reformed prisoners, joy in inconvenience rather than convenience. All this must be done in compassion. He concluded the session highlighting the Prison Ministers' daily habits of daily mass, bible reading, personal prayer, intercessory prayer, rosary for prisoners, Jesus prayer on the way to prisons, spiritual reading, weekly prayer groups, friendship with prayer group members, frequent visits to prisons etc.

Types of Prisons and Prisoners

The second session was taken by Sister Clara Directress of Jeevodaya Ashram. She shared on the topic 'Types of Prisons and Prisoners.' Prison is a place where prisoners are kept confined not as punishment but for correction. We must know our purpose- to transform and reform, accept their wrongdoing and lead them to repentance. In repentance there is salvation for Peter looked to Jesus and received New Life whereas Judas looked to the money bag and received death. She shared views on different types of prisons, prisoners, facilities, capacities and the work which we the PMI are doing in these different types of prisons. The different kinds of prisons are, Central Jail, District Jail, Sub Jail, Women's Jail, Borstal Jail, Open Jail, Special Jail etc. India's under trial population has a disproportionate number of Muslims, Dalits and Adivasis, illiterate and locked up for more than a year. It is estimated to be the third highest in Asia. She observed that habitual criminals and prostitutes are the most difficult to change. A new trend in crime is that of rape and addictions. In concluding

she reminded the PMI volunteers to be modest in their dress and also added that in PMI we don't have any qualifications because we believe that when God calls someone, He also qualifies them.

Day 6 : 7th August 2020

International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care

Fr Francis Kodiyan warmly welcomed Fr Brian Gowans, the President of the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral **Care** (ICCPCC) to the PMI Diocesan Directors Online Training Program. He lives in Edinburg and is the Chaplain to the Scottish Prison Service.

Fr Brian thanked Fr Francis as he shared his warm memories of meeting in Delhi at a PMI National Conference, where he was impressed with the welcome, he received at the program knowing there were 6000 volunteers at that time. The enthusiasm, commitment and spirituality of the participants was a unique insight into PMI. He once again felt re-energized listening to the previous speaker (Sr. Lini who presented the Best Practices of PMI) to knowing the spirituality of PMI and with gratitude he joined the program.

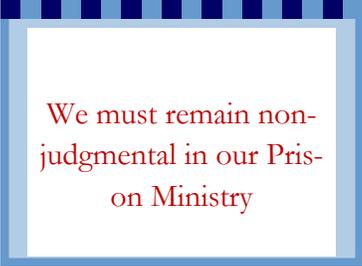
ICCPCC

In 1950 just after the II World War there were many atrocities which left people devastated and yet there was much hope among displaced prisoners, some who were political prisoners and others who were prisoners of food theft, still others as a fallout of the war and grave injustice. Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini was assigned to look into the area of prison ministry. In 1963, he was appointed as Pope Paul VI. 12 priests were assigned to this group. From this humble beginning, this group has been in existence for 70 years covering 114 countries. There is a World Congress held every 4-5 years and this did not take place this year due to the Covid19 pandemic. Fr. Brian has been part of this ministry since 2000. He himself will be stepping down from his involvement as President over 10 years.

What do we do?

The nature of our work is to accompany prisoners. In the Philippines some years ago, he was shown a painting of the face of Christ with the crown of thorns and behind prison bars, with the regular verse from Mt25 when I was in prison you visited me. He bought it and brought it home and only then realized that it was verse 43 when I was in prison, you DID NOT VISIT me. Those 3 words, made a complete change in him realizing that this is the expectation unmet in prisoners. So even though they may be in a building surrounded by many, educators, chaplains and officials they may still be alone. We can still be present with them and not be seen. You may say “I want to take Jesus to them”, that makes my heart sink, because in reality Jesus is already there. We don't take Jesus there, but we discover Jesus there. “It is not the healthy but the sick who need the doctor.” There is also the story of the footprints in the sand, where 2 footprints are seen and suddenly only one set, that of Jesus's. It is at the most difficult moments when Jesus carries us. It is important to meet people where they are in their life. To be true companions and accompany them. And yet a real friend is one who challenges them. Not one who points out an error in their lives, but to see the genuine love and compassion, we discover Jesus together. We must remain non-judgmental in our Prison Ministry. We have only one judge who will judge us all, who is still full of mercy today. We must be true people of holiness. He took himself to a lonely place in order to pray, to spend time talking to the father and be charged with the Holy Spirit.

We need to have patience... maybe we are not fully prepared. So that prisoners can find in us a true and holy person. A prisoner once told him, “You are all I have”, that's not a good place to be, because we cannot be with them 24x7. Be realistic of what we offer, what can be achieved. Today we see a ‘Revolving Doors’ phenomena in society and prisons. They keep coming back into prison, but they keep looking for a friendly face. After the 10th and 11th time, they want change. They need hope to be encouraged. They look for the Chaplain or someone living a different life. Don't say to them, “I understand you I have been there.” That's not the life of a chaplain, you can't use them to get help for yourself. Don't project your problems when you go in. Should we be friends with the prisoners? Yes, but be careful. Don't be manipulated in

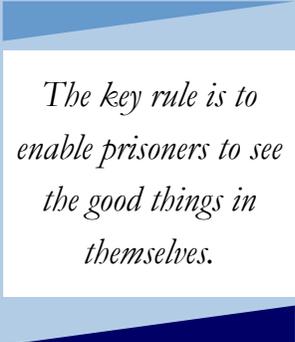


We must remain non-judgmental in our Prison Ministry

giving too much of information about yourself. Be careful to not offer excuses, do your best to be there. Tell the truth when needed, "I overslept" not the traffic. They will realize if you are being dishonest. Be truthful.

The greatest results in ourselves come from the fact that we are not an organization with money or which makes money, but through our many volunteers that go in. This is our strength. As an organization of 70 years we have many links with other groups such as Prison reforms etc. and some who deal with the victims of crime. Our work is with the prisoners, but victims also feel the injustice. We must give them encouragement.

We're working closely with the Crime Commission of the UN in Vienna – speaking to them about what faith groups can offer to the UN. Working with other groups on The United Nations standard minimum rules for treatment of prisoners like the human rights, took many years. 2 years ago, in South Africa, with the justice minister, when some countries were struggling to put in these ideas, it was said, 'Throw in the spirit of Mandela'. Look at Mandela rules, which took many years to formulate. The hard work must begin and it must be implemented. As president, it has taken me to prisons in the poorest and richest areas and I have seen a wide variety of how prisoners are being treated. Whatever the culture or language that divides us, we are deep down still the same, part of God's family. He created the mountains and the rivers and He also created us. Find the broken hearts in dark places searching for the light.



The key rule is to enable prisoners to see the good things in themselves.

Do you have a favourite passage from the gospels? Or a popular passage? What surprised me most was when prisoners liked the passage of the disciples in the boat and Jesus calmed the winds and peace descended. Reflecting on it I can see why they liked this passage. The boat toss was the story of their lives and the waves and winds buffeting in their lives from society. Look at the papers and the words used to describe them. Negative words and sometimes even their own families disown them.

In our hands we must go not only with the newspaper but we have the Bible, the scriptures the word of God and what is Jesus saying to them, 'You are the light of the world, you are the salt of the earth, you are the children of God'. These are the words we need to take into the prison to share with those in the prison. Their self-

esteem is low. I give them a blank paper to write all the bad things about themselves on the left-hand side and all the good things on the right-hand side. They scribble many things on the left but nothing much on the right.

The key rule is to enable prisoners to see the good things in themselves. Thankfully, now I can recognize the good even in the most unmanageable person. Don't find it for them, help them to find it for themselves. Never let them go through prison without looking within for the hope. Encourage them to find the hope within and build on it.

The good thing about prison ministry is that we can challenge others and also ourselves to change. We are not perfect but don't take that into the prison. Don't let them play on your weaknesses. In Northern Ireland there were always troubles, difference in backgrounds between protestants and Catholics. Some prisoners could not accept Catholic pastors but being friendly with them and over a period of time they waited for Father. There can be difficulties of minority groups in prisons. Don't focus on differences but focus on what they all have in common. Let's enjoy the diverse ways but be full of compassion, love and mercy. Overcrowding is the issue in many prisons at present:

Good Accommodation for the benefit of all. Nowadays young offenders have their own room. In modern cells they have toilets and showers which can be luxuries in some countries but is a norm elsewhere. Phones are given to them due to Covid19 to keep in touch with families. In some places, hundreds of prisoners live in rooms with no ventilation nor sanitation. It only takes one prisoner to fall ill.

Good Food

Making sure they are physically healthy. For their health doctors can be seen. In other places medical examination is in a yard in the open. No privacy or confidentiality. The key word is respect. Chaplains can be a good link with the families.

Our Own Faith

Numbers are not important. Neither are we in competition with any other group. A religious one said that she found Christ in the prison and not in the

***Jesus, on the
cross of
Calvary with
the criminal, is
the founder of
Prison Ministry.***

convent. They can be truthful and can recognize when we are being honest. We must recognize what we have in common – the kingdom of God in a broken place. And we use the new Jerusalem to build broken lives. Be careful not to be manipulated. Be honest. Be a friend and be challenging don't be judgmental. they are sent to prison to be loved, to grow and to become good citizens. Despite the atrocities in different places I have seen much laughter. I am thankful and grateful for the time I have spent with prisoners.

Day 7 : 8th August 2020

Prisoners Reformation: Mr Reni George

Fr Francis Kodiyan conducted the session on Prisoners' Reformation and Reintegration in the most innovative way by bringing reformed prisoners like Mr Reni George and Mr Alex to share their views on the process of change. Mr Reni George began with the reminder that it is a privilege to know God as Father because Jesus made us joint heirs. Our inner eyes need to be opened to see the godly things and as said in 2 Cor 5:17 we become new creations when we receive Jesus into our hearts. He was brought up in a missionary family and had a good foundation, but he became a hardcore criminal and killed his own uncle and aunty with the help of three accomplices from different countries. The murder was a heinous crime and he still feels sorrowful for it.

**Transformation happens by
sharing the Good News.
Prison Ministry is a ministry
of reconciliation.**

“Don't go to waste your time, go only to give Jesus to the prisoners. Fast, pray and then go. Inside everyone is unhappy. Go talk to them, show them what love is and that's what God wants from you.”

He said he knew everything of Christian religion but did not know Christ. Jesus, on the cross of Calvary with the criminal, is the founder of Prison Ministry. That's why this ministry is so powerful. The prisoners can be reached out in prisons but the hardcore criminals in the open world are not easily reachable. The greatest ministry is to bring the soul of the person to Christ. While in prison he was once out on parole and set out to rob a bank, committing a crime without any guilt and he was skilled in crime. But while on the outside he encountered Jesus, and he cried, "Forgive me, I've gone too far." That was his conversion and he felt God who knew him even before he was born loves him. The power of the Holy Spirit was moving him to repentance and Jesus began to become real for him. He went back to jail, not with the money, but with a Bible. He received only abuses. But with the next 8 years in prison, he saw more than 100 prisoners converted. Transformation happens by sharing the Good News. Prison Ministry is a ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile the lost person back to the Father. For this one must give the Gospel. He observed that the greatest concern a prisoner has is about his family; how will his wife and children will manage without him. And so, Reni made a decision to help the Children of prisoners. He began 'Precious Children's Home' to look after the children of prisoners. He began in a rented house and now they have a home of their own, a home converted into a community to reach out to the children of prisoners.

Prisoners' Reformation: Mr Alex

Mr Alex shared his life transformation story; another testimony that touched and moved the participants. He spoke about how he never received any love from his parents and always wanted to run away from home. He lived many days on the train from Bangalore to Madras and back. He was in jail for 13 years and during that time he experienced the love of God through PMI volunteers who visited the jail. He



urged the participants in these words, “Don’t go to waste your time, go only to give Jesus to the prisoners. Fast, pray and then go. Inside everyone is unhappy. Go talk to them, show them what love is and that’s what God wants from you.”

Day 8 : 09th August 2020

PMI Family Day

The group met at 4p.m. for fellowship. Those who joined shared about themselves and their involvement in PMI as well as their experience about the training course. The sharing made us feel like an extended family.

Day 9 : 10th August 2020

Prisoners' Rights and Prison Laws

Fr PD Matthew SJ, the first Catholic Priest in India to become a lawyer, is an inspirational speaker who empowered thousands through his work of legal aid. He had an opportunity to stay with a tribal group of bonded labourers in the district of Bharuch in Gujarat. The interaction with them helped him to realize the way, they were oppressed by powerful elements in their society and their cries for human rights and justice challenged him, as a priest, to respond to them in an effective way. The last 30 years of experience in this service has given him a great sense of satisfaction and joy as a Jesuit lawyer. The words of Jesus ‘Happy are those who hunger and thirst for justice and they shall be satisfied,’ are being realized in his life too. He believes that legal



professionals with a socio – spiritual vision and mission can become catalysts to establish a New India based on the values enshrined in the Constitution of India. He believes that a positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst... a spark that creates extra-ordinary results.

Fr PD Mathew focused on the vision and mission of Prison Ministry. He stated that, as prison ministry volunteers, we are called to serve the brothers and sisters behind the bars. He further said that, they too are members of Christ and the kingdom of God. He dealt in detail on the fundamental rights of prisoners, namely, right to life and personal liberty, right to live with human dignity, right to health and medical treatment, right to speedy trial, right to free legal aid, right to Juvenile justice court, right to higher education, right to receive books and magazines inside the Jail, right to publications, right to reasonable wages for work, special rights to women prisoners, right to have female guards for female security, rights to pregnant prisoners, rights to mother prisoners, right to security of life inside the jail, right for interaction with society, right to be interviewed, right to socialize, right for facilities in prison, right to food and water, right to have adequate accommodation, right to apply for mercy and concessional application etc.

Day 10 : 11th August 2020

PMI Inside the Prison

Sr Adele Korah who recently celebrated her 80th birthday is affectionately called 'Cardinal of PMI'. She has been instrumental in the release of more than 500 prisoners. Sr Adele spoke about her amazing work in the prisons. She shared with us the years of her experience and knowledge and spoke about her insights and ideas. She proposed suggestions for the new volunteers who are to take up the baton after her. She covered all the aspects of prison work, such as, Release, Repentance, Reconciliation, Reformation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Redemption.

PMI Outside the Prison

Fr Benny Pachanal, presently the National Assistant Coordinator in his presentation

spoke about the different aspects of the work of Prison Ministry outside the prisons. Once a prisoner is released from prison there is no one to attend to their needs and this is where PMI steps in to reach out to hundreds of ex-prisoners. No one is willing to accept them and very often families too don't care for them. PMI involvement outside prisons can be seen in various concrete ways. Some of them are in rehabilitation centres, homes for prisoners' children, educational assistance, research & documentation, volunteers training, legal cells, counselling, reconciliation and forgiveness, reconciliation with families etc.

Day 11 : 12th August 2020

PMI Rehabilitation Centres

Jeevodaya

Sr Fidelis gave a captivating recount of the activities of Jeevodaya, a home away from home for the unwanted women ostracised by society, caught up in the mesh of immoral trafficking, flesh trade etc. She passionately described the service rendered by Jeevodaya to its inmates by way of medical treatment, counselling, skill training, education, spiritual renewal etc. She thanked the PMI volunteers for coming forward and exhorted all to be someone to somebody who has nobody.



Kolbe Home

Sr Gertrude began by stating that Kolbe Home is a heavenly haven for the children of the imprisoned; children from impoverished families, broken families etc. Kolbe home tries to develop human virtues and also provide the missing family environment by celebrating everyone's birthdays, festivals etc. These children are occasionally taken to their parents in prison and the emotions that fill the air are heart renting. She reminded that the PMI is to serve the lost, the least and the last.

Van Thuan Home

Fr George Kalassery VC., Director of Van Thuvan Home said that Van Thuvan Home was for released prisoners and that the moving force behind RRDC was the gospel of Mathew chapter 25:36. He described the activities of the Home which is a jubilee gift of the PMI and the involvement of Fr. Francis Kodiyan, our national co-ordinator, in the establishment of it. He concluded exhorting all to be “love bombs”

Snehashramam

Sr Beena Thekkkan, directress of Snehashramam, said the Snehashramam is the home away from home for released women prisoners. It tries to give the inmates a deep experience of God's infinite love. It is an asylum for unwanted women, women trapped in brothels, flesh trade and those abandoned by their own families. It is there, for any woman in mortal danger. So far 554 women have enjoyed the solace of Snehashramam. She shared many pictures of the activities of Snehashramam and said that prayer and God's providence are the pillars of Snehashramam.

Day 12 : 13th August 2020

PMI: State Level Ministry

Fr Shaji Stephen, the PMI Kerala state coordinator shared at length about the working of Prison Ministry right from its inception to its steady progress over the years to the present day. He explained in detail the unit level, zonal level, diocesan level, seminary level and state level administration of PMI. He illustrated the rights and duties of the coordinators, secretaries, treasures and so on.

PMI: Diocesan Level Ministry

Mrs Veera Pinto, the secretary of PMI Bangalore Diocese gave a good presentation on the working of the PMI Diocesan level unit. With a well prepared PPT and detailed charts she presented the functioning of the diocesan PMI unit. They work in many different prisons and children's homes as well as in the medical side. They also have a year planner with programmes decided at the beginning of the year. Spiritual nourishment too is well looked after. It is a very generous and charitable unit reaching out many in need even in the lockdown period.

PMI: Parish Level Ministry

Fr Wilfred Fernandes, the Central regional coordinator presented the PMI Parish unit model. With a well prepared and excellent presentation Fr Wilfred never failed to inspire. The Kolbe Knights of Poona have successfully set up 2 well-functioning parish units and with a clear understanding of the benefits of parish units to PMI, they are launching ahead with many other parishes and religious homes too. Father Wilfred explained the structure and functioning of a PMI Parish Unit, its commissioning and involvement in the diocese.

PMI: Seminary Level Ministry

Fr Joseph Mackolil, the first KCBC appointed director of Jesus Fraternity spoke about the importance of PMI during seminary formation. Inculcating the PMI spirituality from the seminary formation stage is of vital importance. Prayer services and activities flowing from them were highlighted. The biblical perspective of PMI, which is the foundation for its working in seminaries, was well explained.

Day 13 : 14th August 2020

Counselling Skills

Sr Lima CJ, the PMI Volunteers Training Program Coordinator spoke on Counselling Skills. She poured out all her knowledge and expertise in delivering her talk on the various body positions and what they communicate during counselling. She said what must be avoided and what is permitted and also gave the various steps in counselling.



PMI Special Task Force Angels

Fr Francis Kodiyan introduced the extremely innovative idea of the PMI Special Task Force Angels. Just as any country has a STF to look after the needs of the territory, PMI too has created a unique STF Angels. The list is as follows:

DRC - Death Row Commandoes

TSS - Terrorists Saving Squad

MR - Mafia Redeemers

ATB - Antihuman Trafficking Brigadiers

SKR - Serial Killer Reformers

HSS - Habituals Saving Squadron

WPL – War Prisoners' Liberators

Volunteers have offered to be leaders of these teams.

Day 14 : 15th August 2020

Prisoners' Reformation Trajectory

Fr Francis Kodiyan presented the topic: Prisoners' Reformation Trajectory'. Through PPT he explained the different stages of reformation such as self-acceptance, self-transformation, self-actualisation and self-transcendence. He illustrated the prisoners' reformation trajectory into four phases such as preformative, formative, performative and performative.

PMI Regional Coordinators

Fr Wilfred Fernandes, the PMI Central Regional Coordinator shared his view with PPT.

Sr Jobina spoke on North East Regional Co-ordination and Sr Lini explained the Southern and Northern regional coordination.

Day 15 : 16th August 2020

PMI Family Day

The group met at 4 p.m. for PMI family day. Fr. Francis asked Rowena to conduct the group discussion. We celebrated Fr Dion's birthday. Those who did not share on the previous Sunday, did their personal sharing.

Day 16 : 17th August 2020

Examination

Fr Francis conducted the exam. There was much excitement about the exam in which 50 questions were to be answered. All were expected to write out their answers on a sheet of paper and send a scanned picture of it to Sr Lima.

Valedictory Ceremony

The Valedictory function began with the arrival of our esteemed guests, Bishop Allwyn D'silva, PMI Chairman and Fr Jervis D'souza, CBCI Deputy Secretary General. Sr Lima was the Master of Ceremony. Mrs Rowena Luis led the prayer with the simple statement of 'Thank You Jesus' and a hymn with the words that Jesus began his public ministry with, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.' Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, PMI National Coordinator welcomed all the esteemed guests and the participants and the staff to the online ceremony. He announced that Mrs Rowena Luis would be the Director of this batch, Fr Dion the Assistant and Sr Fulmani the Secretary and that they would have the responsibility of this batch.

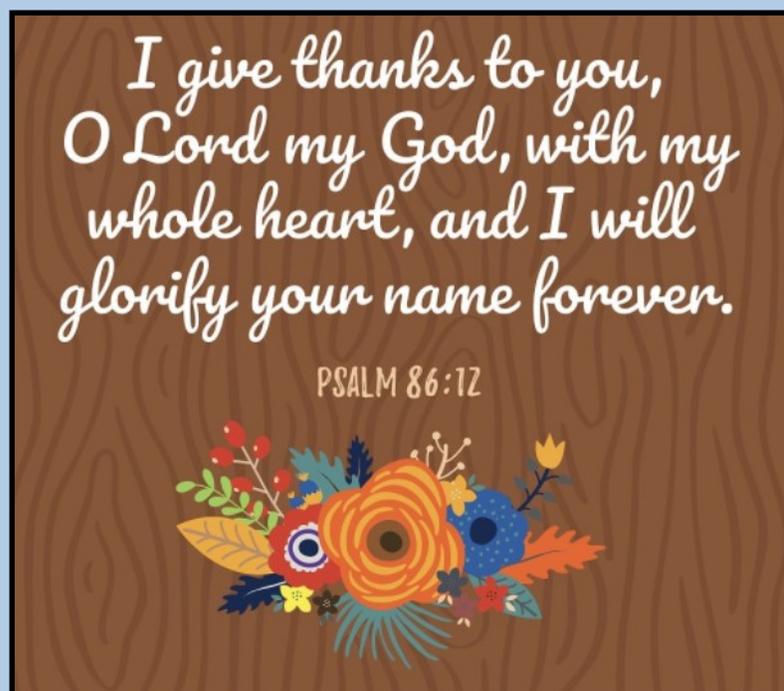
The Online Training Program Appraisal was beautifully presented by Fr John Ponnore. He extended some very valuable suggestions also.

The Parish Unit approach is to be the new face of PMI in the near future and that would ensure more involvement.

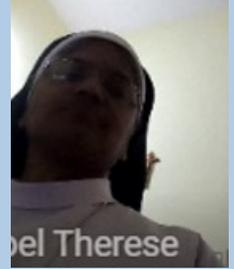
There could be smaller regions with fewer states, similar to the 14 CBCI regions.

Evangelisation in India is a must and can effectively happen through PMI. This ministry is rooted in prayer and can be the oxygen to pump up evangelization.

Most Rev Dr Allwyn D'silva, PMI Chairman delivered the Presidential address. He appreciated the volunteers of PMI who are not paid for their service. He reiterated that it is the love in our hearts which helps us to reach out to prisoners. The valedictory message was read out by Fr Dr Jervis D'souza, CBCI Deputy Secretary. He appreciated the various activities of Prison Ministry India. He wished the participants all success as they step out into their ministry in their respective states and cities. Bishop Allwyn released the Souvenir of the first batch of PMI Diocesan coordinators and Fr Jervis released the PMI quarterly on Reformation and Rehabilitation called *Reformative Explorations*. Mr Daryl released the Collage and Fr Suresh from Kohima released the new copy of Prison Voice. Bishop Allwyn handed the certificates to every member with a special blessing. Fr Rajendrakumar, PMI Interim Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks, Sr Rosily chanted the Prayer for Prisoners and Sr Lima prayed the Angelus. The group dispersed with added vigour and determination to persevere in the service of the Lord through the glorious activities of PMI.



TRAINING SNAPSHOTS



WONDERFUL TRAINING MOMENTS





Prison Ministry India

PMI STATE AND DIOCESAN COORDINATORS TRAINING PROGRAM (Faculty Members and Participants)

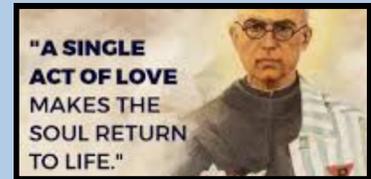
(Bangalore - August 2020)



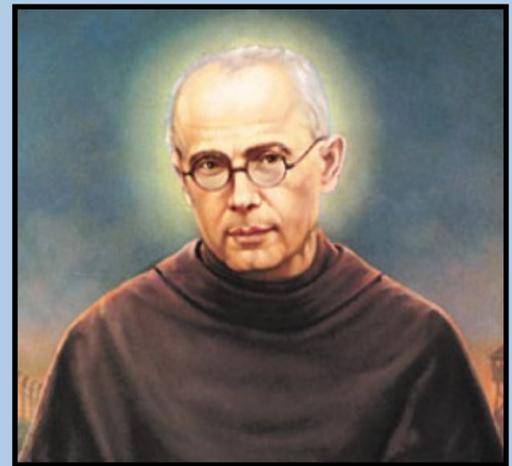
HYMN TO ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

COMPOSED BY SR. GERTRUDE

St. Maximillian Kolbe our patron...
St. Maximillian Kolbe our father...(2)
You dived into the deep, to the love of Christ, and
You practiced His word in your life... (2)
“There is no greater love for a man, than
Lay down his life for his friend” (2)
You laid down your life for friend,
Prisoner, saved his life and family (2)



St. Maximillian Kolbe our patron...
St. Maximillian Kolbe our father...
You are great, you are wonderful
You are the role model of life
PMI is Your Ministry,
Prisoners are your sheep
We are here your haired shepherds
Bless us oh...St. Kolbe



St. Maximillian Kolbe our patron...
St. Maximillian Kolbe our father...
This is your home, and we are your children
Bless us and lead us St. Kolbe (2)

“The Cross is the school of love.”

PRAYER FOR PRISONERS

Lord Our Loving Father, we praise and worship you together with Jesus Christ who taught us to visit the incarcerated. We thank and glorify you for sending your only begotten Son Jesus to proclaim liberty to the captives and saving us through His unjust imprisonment and death on the Cross. Merciful Father, give us the grace to see your face in our brethren behind the bars and help us to remember them as though we were in prison with them.

Beloved Father, we entrust into your compassionate hands our imprisoned brethren, sanctify them by your precious blood and anoint them with your Holy Spirit. Illumine their hearts to accept the present traumatic situation, give them the grace of repentance and forgiveness. Inspire their family members and society to accept them inspite of their defects and failures. Fill us with the fruits, gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit so that we may be empowered to transmit the unconditional and forgiving love of Jesus to prisoners.

Bless the prison staff that they may be kind, gentle and understanding towards those under their care, sanctify and strengthen the victims that they may reconcile with those who offended them. Mary, Mother of Jesus pray for the reformation and rehabilitation of our brethren behind the bars. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Mother Mary, Pray for us

St. Maximillian Kolbe, Pray for us