



PRISON VOICE

April 2023

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Issue 4

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹40/-



Be Servants to One Another



**PMI Chhattisgarh
State Gathering.**



**Cloth Distribution to
Central Prison, Vishakapatnam.**



**Counselling Course Participants,
PMI, Kerala.**



**Distribution of Books to
Central Prison, Trichy.**



**Easter Celebration,
Attingal Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Alappuzha Sub Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Aluva Sub Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Attakulangara Women Prison.**



**Easter Celebration,
Central Prison, Bengaluru.**



**Easter Celebration,
District Jail Muttom.**



**Easter Celebration,
Irinjalakuda Sub Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Kakkanad Prison.**



**Easter Celebration,
KGF Prison.**



**Easter Celebration,
Kottayam Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Nettukaltheri Prison.**



**Easter Celebration,
Neyyatinkara Special Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Poojapura Central Jail.**



**Easter Celebration, Poojapura
District Jail.**



**Easter Celebration,
Poojapura Open Jail for Women.**



**Easter Celebration,
Special Sub Jail, Karamana.**



**Easter Celebration,
Sub Jail Pala.**



**Easter Celebration,
Sub Jail, Tirur.**



**Maundy Thursday Celebration,
Tihar Jail.**



**Good Friday Visit to
KGF Special Sub Jail.**



**Hearty Welcome to
Mar Jose Pulickal, PMI Chairman.**



**Kolbe Boys' Visit to
Vidyavanam, Bengaluru.**



**Mar Jose Pulickal Visiting
Jeevodaya, Bengaluru.**



**Mar Jose Pulickal Visiting
Kolbe Home.**



**Maundy Thursday Celebration,
Aluva Sub Jail.**



**Maundy Thursday Celebration,
Central Jail, Thrissur.**



**Maundy Thursday Celebration,
Central Prison, Kannur.**



**Maundy Thursday Celebration,
Tihar Jail.**

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PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY



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Are You Willing?

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

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

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EVERYONE CAN FALL; JESUS WANTS TO SAVE EACH ONE



Nobility of Heart

Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at the juvenile detention facility in Rome where he had celebrated the Mass in 2013. He told the young inmates that Jesus is not afraid of anything anyone has done; Jesus paid the price for our sins and wants to save us. Jesus never abandons anyone; he has come to save, serve and accompany everyone, Pope Francis told young inmates. "If we listened to these (lessons) from Jesus, life would be so wonderful because we would rush to help one another instead of ripping off each other, taking advantage of each other like wise guys teach us," he said in his homily during Mass at Rome's Casal del Marmo prison for minors. Helping others and lending a hand are "human, universal gestures, but they come from a noble heart. And Jesus today with this celebration wants to teach us this: nobility of the heart," he said during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper April 6.

How We are to be with One Another

Less than one week after he was discharged from the hospital for a respiratory infection, Pope Francis presided over the Mass and washed the feet of 12 young people of different nationalities, ethnicities and faiths, including a Muslim and two women, who are housed at the juvenile detention facility. He entered and exited the chapel in a wheelchair and the pope's master of liturgical ceremonies, Msgr. Diego Giovanni Ravelli, was the main celebrant at the altar. However, during the rite of the foot washing, the pope stood and moved before the 12 inmates who were seated on a raised platform, like other years, so the pope did not have to kneel or stoop to gently wash, dry and kiss each foot. The ceremony of washing another's feet "is not something folkloric," he said, explaining the ritual. It is a gesture that shows "how we are to be with one another."

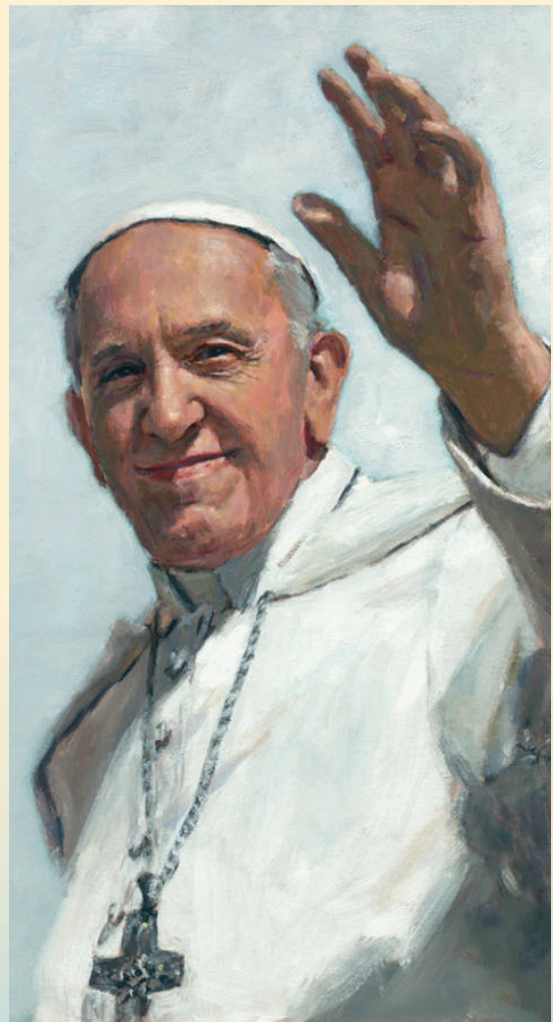
“I Have Come to Save you, to Serve You”

The pope talked about the worry or fear of not being worthy of such a gesture since “each of us can say, ‘But if the pope knew the things I have inside me...’. But Jesus knows about it, and he loves us as we are, and he washes the feet of each one of us.” “Jesus is never frightened by our weaknesses, he is never frightened because he has already paid (for our sins),” Pope Francis said. “He only wants to accompany us, he wants to take us by the hand so that life will not be so hard for us.” It is hard to see so many people in the world taking advantage of others, to see how many people are trapped in a situation with no way out, to see so many injustices and broken families, he said. If anyone has avoided serious hardship, it is not because they are better than others, he said, “it’s because of God’s grace!” “Every one of us can slip, each one of us. And this awareness, this certainty that each one of us can slip is what gives us the ‘dignity’ -- listen to this word -- the ‘dignity’ of being sinners,” the pope told the inmates. “And Jesus wants us that way and that’s why he wanted to wash our feet and say, ‘I have come to save you, to serve you.’” Held in the prison’s small chapel, the Mass was the second of two Holy Thursday liturgies over which the pope presided, the first being a morning chrisom Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Casal del Marmo Juvenile Detention Centre

The Casal del Marmo prison for minors was the same facility the pope visited 10 years ago, just 15 days after his election, when he broke with a papal Holy Week tradition of celebrating the evening Mass at a Rome Basilica. The prison holds inmates who are between the ages of 15 and 25, although all

were minors at the time of their sentencing. Since becoming pope, he has chosen other prisons and different places for the ritual, like a rehabilitation center for people with severe physical disabilities and a center for migrants and refugees. After the Mass, the pope blessed a plaque for the chapel that was dedicated to Blessed Pino Puglisi, an outspoken anti-Mafia priest in Palermo, Sicily, who was assassinated in 1993. The pope greeted a number of young inmates who also gave him several gifts made in the prison: a wooden cross, cookies and pasta. The pope also distributed rosaries and chocolate eggs to some of the nearly 100 people at the Mass, including inmates, corrections officers and prison staff.



Blessed Easter

Jesus is Risen

At the very outset I wish you all a good Holy Week and Happy Easter celebrations in all the Indian Prisons. Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection. It is also about the restoration of life and rising again from the dead. Easter is a reality of transcendent and eternal proportions. It is our firm belief that God came to live on earth as man in history, and this God incarnate in Jesus Christ was crucified, died, was buried and rose again on the third day. Christ's resurrection on the third day provides the reason for mankind to be freed from sin so that eternal life can be enjoyed in the presence of the Almighty. The crucified Christ who rose again as the Resurrected Lord has freed mankind from human failure, offering the hope of ultimate victory, and securing an eternity of peace, free of all pains, failures, humiliations and diseases of this world.

Culture of Life

At Easter, we Catholics renew our baptismal promises and thereby declare that we are a people of life. Life is precious and should never be cheapened or destroyed. At the global level, this is happening in the staged terrorist attacks that destroy innocent lives. There is also warfare which destroys the lives of individuals and entire families, thereby increasing the number of criminals in prisons and overcrowding them. No one should ever take pleasure in the destruction of human life. Life is sacred and must always be respected and cherished. Many choices people make are leading to death. We need to call our people to be people of life who choose life and respect the life and

EDITOR'S VIEW



Sr Amala DC
Chief Editor



dignity in every human being. We need the entire nation becoming a people of life and cultivating a culture of life and non-violence in our homes, schools and communities. I would like to see all our citizens answering the call to be peacemakers. "Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognized as children of God" (Mt 5/5).

Liberation from Sin and Guilt

There are so many prisoners who are devoid of hope and are held captive by their sin. This is why there is no better place to share the Easter story than in prisons, where men and women are waiting to hear about the freedom they can experience because Christ paid the penalty for their crimes on the cross. The price Jesus paid on the cross is very tangible for those in prison. Although they are serving time in a physical prison, the realization that they can be freed from their spiritual prison of guilt and sin is the best news that they could ever hear. Easter is a time to rejoice over this fact and to share the Gospel with others so that they might know the joy and the freedom waiting for them. Let us pray that hearts will awaken to God's redeeming love. And pray that prisoners will find a new purpose and the new gift of forgiveness. When we choose life we can celebrate life, and Easter, the celebration of life, becomes a celebration of joy. Let us give that hope and joy to our brethren behind bars.

GRADES OF LOVE

Jesus' passion, death and resurrection reveal the highest level of love which is the greatest challenge of humans to imbibe and imitate. Christian life, especially consecrated life, is an art of love, a school of love and a race to reach the perfection of love. But a few only reach its higher grades of agony, blood-shedding, self-sacrifice and its delightful glory. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15,13). One of the best norms to measure the grades of Christian perfection and spiritual life is to examine one's grade of love. This article illustrates the different grades of love in view of enlightening and empowering PMI volunteers.

Moses Maimonides

Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), Jewish philosopher, jurist, and physician, the foremost intellectual figure of medieval Judaism illustrates eight levels of charity in Mishneh Torah, Laws of Charity (10:7-14). Level 8 - the donor is pained by the act of giving. Level 7 - the donor gives less than he should but does so cheerfully. Level 6 - the donor gives after being solicited. Level 5 - the donor gives without being solicited. Level 4 - the recipient knows the donor but the donor does not know the recipient. Level 3 - the donor knows the recipient but the recipient does not know the donor. Level 2 - neither the donor nor the recipient knows the other. Level 1 - the donor gives the recipient the wherewithal to become self-supporting.



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

Bernard of Clairvaux

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), a French Cistercian abbot, in response to the first commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12,30), sets out a number of degrees of love as the individual progresses in the spiritual life: 1) The first degree of love: when man loves himself for his own sake. 2) The second degree of love: when man loves God for his own good. 3) The third degree of love: when man loves God for God's sake. 4) The fourth degree of love: when man loves himself for the sake of God. In this stage man's love for himself is only for God's sake. This experience may be very rare in this life, for it is to become like God, when



human affections dissolve and are poured into the will of God. This is the state to be desired. There is no more self-will, nothing of man remains in man. It can only arise when one loves God with all one's heart, soul and strength (Mk 12,30). The soul is caught up in a love that cannot be obtained by human effort but arises through God's power. Bernard's beautiful hymn, "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee, reverberates with the language of divine love. "O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek; To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah, this No tongue nor pen can show; The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know".

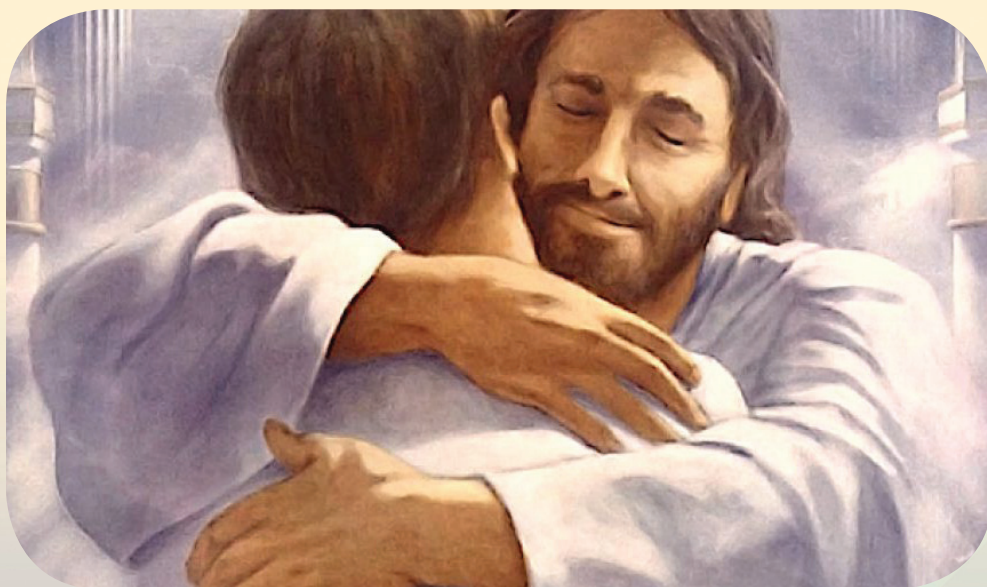
Ancient Greek Insights

According to ancient Greeks, humans can experience eight types of love in various relationships, such as with romantic partners, friends, family and even strangers on the

street. They are Philia - affectionate love,Pragma - enduring love, Storge - familiar love, Eros - romantic love, Ludus - playful love, Mania - obsessive love, Philautia – self-love, and Agape - selfless love.

Jesus – Summit of Love

Pope Benedict XVI's Encyclical Deus Caritas Est - God is Love is anchored on the biblical passage: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (I Jn 4, 16). This Encyclical explains certain essential facts concerning God's love for man and the intrinsic connection of this love with human love. In the New Testament, the concept of "love" manifests a development by setting aside the word eros in favour of the term agape to express a self-sacrificing love. In Jesus Christ, this agape reaches its most radical form. In dying on the Cross, by giving himself in order to raise and save man, Jesus expresses love in its most sublime form.



The Eucharist - Sacrament of Love

Jesus guaranteed an enduring presence of his sacrifice on the cross through the institution of the Eucharist, in which he gives himself under the species of bread and wine as a new manna that unites Jesus with him. By participating in the Eucharist, we too are involved in the dynamic of his self-giving. We are united with him and, at the same time, with all others to whom he gives himself; thus, we all become “one body”. As Vatican II teaches, “At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Saviour instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a Paschal banquet, ‘in which Christ is consumed, the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us (SC 47).

Be a Love Bomb

Prison Ministry India volunteers who are attracted to this spiritual movement by the maxim “Be a love bomb. Let it be exploded. Not to kill but to heal the broken-hearted,” are invited to reach the highest level of love – self-giving love, love with pain, and loving by dying on the cross. Prison ministry must be based on the experience of a personal encounter with Christ, whose love has moved the heart of the volunteer, awakening within him love of neighbour. We shall examine whether we have grown in love as explained by St Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth” (1Cor 13,4-8).



BE A BEARER OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

My Personal Vocation

When I dwelt deeply on the love of Jesus in my prayer, I felt that when Jesus breathed his last, He was breathing into me telling me, “Now it is your turn Adele to live as I lived, carrying my love and light to others, especially to the sinners who have not known my love for them so that they too may be saved.” I considered it as a personal call for me from the Lord and so I prayed daily after Holy Communion, “Jesus, help me to carry your light to all those who are living in the darkness of sin and ignorance.”

Prison Ministry my Dream Mission

After my return from Nepal, I was able to join the Prison Ministry in 2004 knowing well that it is a Biblical Ministry to which Jesus has invited us. Sr. Irene Jane, then Provincial Superior blessed me and sent me saying, “Train yourself and train many more sisters”. She also asked me to give an orientation on Prison Ministry to several groups in the Provincial House, including the Provincial Council, Superiors, H.M’s and even Junior Sisters. After that I was sent to Bangalore to start the ministry in the Central Prison, Bangalore.

In the beginning of my ministry in prison, I had to live in the Government quarters of police constables along with a sister of another congregation. The room had no toilet nor running water for our needs. There was an Indian toilet outside with a broken commode. On cleaning it I discovered that it was brown due to the thick coat of dirt on it. I scrubbed it hard with a granite piece as we had no liquid cleaner for the toilets. I said a prayer in my heart to accept



Sr Adele Korah SCCG

my sacrifice for the transformation of the prisoners who are living in sin. We had to share the same food prepared for the 5000 prisoners as we had no cooking facilities in the Police Quarters. We had to collect water from outside in buckets. Yet, I didn’t mind the difficulties and adjusted myself to live with inconveniences because of my desire to serve the rejected brethren living in prison cells in Bangalore. Sr. Irene Jane during one of her visits to the room I stayed was kind enough to give me sister to join in the ministry and a rented house to stay and continue the ministry.

I was welcomed to enter the prison without any restriction and was free to visit the inmates of both men and women section. Whenever I met the brethren behind to bars, I felt it was Jesus whom I was meeting, because Jesus said, “When I was in prison you visited me”. Jesus reminded me to see him and serve him in every brother or sister in the prison. I considered all the inmates of the prison as my brothers and sisters who are in pain and are in need of love, acceptance and understanding. That was a helpful thought to continue meeting their needs whether it was convenient or not for me to reach out to them.

People who see me going in to the prison, specially the Police Constables, used to ask

me, “Sister, don’t you have any other place to go? Why do you want to serve these criminals?” In answer I asked them, “Who made them criminals?” None of them was born as a criminal. First of all, those within the prison are not all criminals. Majority of them are under trial. They were brought inside the prison walls, but have not been declared by the court as guilty of the crime they have been accused of. Several of them do not know why they were brought in, because they were arrested on the way back home after their work. Even if many of them had a sinful past, I felt that as a follower of Jesus who came to seek sinners, I am called to continue the ministry of a good Shepherd and bring back the lost ones to their Savior who wants no one to be lost. Many of them would cry out saying, “Please give me another chance to live again”.

I recall how a person who was arrested after he had killed his wife by smashing her head with the gas cylinder in a moment of anger and frustration, was unable to sleep at night because whenever he closed his eyes, he could see only his blood-stained hands and he was weeping bitterly. Persons who have committed heinous crimes of murder become restless. But after listening to them patiently without any judgment and after some sessions of counseling, they gradually accept their failings and regain peace. I have heard some saying, “If I had this understanding earlier, I would not have reached this state.”

My mission in the prison is geared towards Release, Reformation, Reconciliation, Rehabilitation, Redemption and Reintegration of the brethren behind the bars. I had the opportunity to help several of them to experience an inner release from the fetters of guilt, sinfulness, anger, lack

of forgiveness, hatred and from the desire to take vengeance on those who were the cause of their imprisonment. I used to spend time listening to their woes, besides praying with them and guiding them with appropriate Word of God. I took this initiative to have group prayer, believing that prayer is the foundation of the ministry for the Least and the Lost. It has helped many brethren to begin leading a value-based life by turning away from a life of crime. The Lord of love and forgiveness touched the life of many and set them free from their bondages gradually. “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36). Those who are open to accept themselves and open themselves to the healing touch of God go through a process of inner transformation gradually and take a firm decision to turn from their crime filled life and to begin a new life in the light of God.

Accusers Turned Friends

I called the guys brothers and explained to them, why we render service in the midst of criminals. Our focus is on conversion of their hearts from their criminal tendencies to become creative people who can have positive impact on the society. We give counseling to help them to take a new turn in their lives and to become persons with love, kindness and forgiveness but not to change their religion. I challenged them asking the officials to ask the guys to go and bring a single person who is an inmate in the prison, who says that we have called any one to come and pray with us. They got an understanding that we are not the group that was to be blamed. Those persons who came to accuse us returned as friends and accepted sweets from my hands. “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act, He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noon day.” (Psalm 37:5, 6)

Transformation of self is possible only by the grace of God. I am convinced of the fact that no human being can transform a hard-core criminal, but all things are possible for the Almighty who laid down His life to save us. He needs you and me to be a bearer of His Light to those who are living in darkness by becoming Gospel in action by our life. "I shall give you a new heart and a new spirit, put a new spirit within you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead." (Ezekiel 36:26) As the brethren start reading and listening to the life-giving WORD of God, they start experiencing the love and the light of the Savior and are gradually liberated from their inner bondages of hatred towards their enemies.

Ministry Extended to Released Prisoners

I realized that a committed volunteer needs to serve without counting the cost. Once at 8 pm when we had just finished dinner in our convent, I received a call from a released prisoner that he was in trouble as he and his brother are in danger of being arrested and send to prison because his brother an alcoholic has quarreled with a person in the street and a group has called police to arrest him. I contacted Rev. Fr. Sony C.P from Snehajyothi for help and he willingly accompanied me to the spot to assist the persons in need. When I saw that the police was trying to arrest him and take him under custody, I pleaded with the police not to send the man to the prison but to permit me to admit him in a Rehabilitation Center for his reformation rather than imprisoning him. The Police replied to me, "If you plead like a mother begging help for her son,

how can I refuse you. Please take him and do what you think is best." I was greatly relieved when Rev. Fr. Sony accepted to take him to the Center immediately, though it was in the night. So the accused was taken for Rehabilitation, instead of sending to the Central prison. With the assistance of the Director of the Center, that person returned, renewed and reformed.

We are called to do good to our neighbor and have to be prepared to do everything possible, to suffer everything and to even shed our blood for the good of our neighbor in imitation of the consuming love of our Redeemer in dying for us, let us become aware of the need to reach out to the areas where people stand in dire need of our services, especially those who are rejected by the society and even by their dear ones. Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers in to the harvest. (Luke 10:2)



“If no one else will Go: I will Go!” Blessed Engelmar Unzeitig



Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

“Whatever we do or whatever we want is surely on account of the grace that simply carries us and guides us. God’s almighty grace helps us overcome obstacles; love doubles our strength, makes us inventive, makes us feel content and inwardly free; if people would only realize what God has in store for those who love Him! God directs everything with wonderful wisdom. Only we don’t always know immediately what everything is good for,” wrote Blessed Engelmar Unzeitig from prison to his sister in August 1941, when he was permitted to write a letter. Engelmar Unzeitig, born Hubert Unzeitig, was a German Roman Catholic priest who died in the Dachau Concentration Camp during World War II on the charge of being a priest. He was a professed member of the Missionary Order of Marianhill (CMM) and assumed the religious name Engelmar when he was admitted into the order. He became known as the *Angel of Dachau*.

Early Life

Hubert Unzeitig was born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1911 and joined the Marianhill Missionaries at age 18. After completing his studies in theology and philosophy, he was ordained in 1939 and given the religious name Engelmar. A month later, World War II began.

30 Years-old Priest Arrested

Although he desperately wanted to serve as a missionary among the poor, he was assigned as a parish priest first in Austria, then in the Bohemian Forest region of Germany. It was there that Father Engelmar encountered the Hitler Youth, who eventually reported him to the Nazi regime for his homilies, in which he defended the Jewish people and criticized their increasingly dehumanizing treatment. Father Englemar was arrested by the Gestapo on April 21, 1941 and sent to the concentration camp at Dachau. He was arrested by the Nazis when he was only 30 years old and had been a priest but two years, serving in Germany and Austria. His crime was having preached against the Third Reich from his pulpit, particularly against its treatment of the Jewish people.

Prisoner Number: 26147

Fr Engelmar arrived in Dachau on 3 June 1941, was assigned inmate number 26147, placed in Barracks #26, and given a badge to wear on his camp uniform. Distinct from the yellow star denoting Jews or the black triangle designated for Gypsies and prostitutes, Fr Engelmar was given a red triangle, the symbol reserved for “rescuers of Jews,” political prisoners and Catholic priests.

Passion and Sacrifice behind Prison Walls

From the moment of his arrival at Dachau, Fr Engelmar entrusted himself to God's will and to His Divine Providence. Under the inhuman conditions of the concentration camp he went about his daily chores with incredible equanimity and at the same time, constantly looked out for any opportunity to help and support his fellow prisoners. Fr Engelmar's confidence in God's care for him and his desire to help others manifested itself almost immediately; he began to learn the Russian language, so he could minister and care for the Eastern European inmates; he often gave up his own food rations for those who were hungrier than he.

If no one else Will Go: I Will Go!

In late December 1944, Dachau experienced an outbreak of typhoid fever. Those who contracted typhus were isolated into separate barracks and left to die alone. Fr Engelmar, as was his motto, if no one else will go, I will go, offered to enter the typhoid barracks, along with 19 other priests from the clergy barracks. No medicines and no protection from the typhoid infection were offered to them, yet they tended to the sick and dying with tenderness, bathing, comforting and anointing them. Although he knew this mission would likely be his last, Fr Engelmar nevertheless maintained his faith and confidence in the good God. In January 1945, he again wrote to his sister, "We must never forget, you see, that everything which God sends or permits is meant to contribute to our good. Even behind the hardest sacrifices and worst suffering stands God with his Fatherly love, who is satisfied

with the good will of His children and gives them and others happiness."

Breathes His Last behind Prison Walls

Of the 20 priests who volunteered for the typhoid barracks, 18 died. Fr Engelmar was among them, passing away on March 2, 1945. He was 34 years old. Six weeks later, American forces liberated Dachau.

Beatification

In recognition of his heroic virtue, Fr Engelmar Unzeitig was declared venerable by Benedict XVI in 2009, and Pope Francis acknowledged him as a martyr which opened the path for his beatification. Some 1,800 people participated in the beatification Mass at the Würzburg Cathedral. Several representatives of the Czech government were present, as well as members of the Mariannhill missionaries and the bishop of an Austrian diocese where Fr Unzeitig had served. His feast is celebrated on March 2, the anniversary of his death.

Pope Francis

On 25 September 2016, Pope Francis said: "Yesterday in Würzburg, Germany, Engelmar Unzeitig was beatified, a priest of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannhill (CMM). He was killed in hatred of the faith in the concentration camp at Dachau, where he responded to hate with love, to ferocity with meekness. May his example help us to be witnesses of love and hope even in the midst of tribulation!"

Be the Door of God's Mercy - Feast of Divine Mercy

Fr Allam Sagar Manoj Kumar

The Twentieth Century witnessed tremendous changes and progress on many fronts, be it in the field of Science, Information Technology, Communications or Mass Media. But the last century will be remembered for the scars it left behind in people's memories; those caused by the two world wars. In fact, the horrors, the massacres, and the death of millions during those wars serve as the background to the feast we celebrate as the Feast of Divine Mercy.

In the year 2000, the Holy Father St. John Paul II, instituted the Feast of Divine Mercy, which is celebrated every year on the Sunday after Easter. It was inspired by a series of apparitions received by a Polish nun of the city of Krakow, Sr. Faustina. In 1905, when she was twenty years old, Faustina entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where she was a member for the next thirteen years, until her death on October 5th 1983. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993, and canonized in 2000. When canonizing her, our Holy Father said: "Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina to the whole Church, as a gift of God for our time. By Divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was this message of mercy."

At this juncture, let us understand the Revelation of God's mercy in the Sacred Scripture. The Bible bears testimony to the steadfast nature of God's loving kindness. We know how a God of mercy delivered the people of Israel from slavery and entered into a covenant with them. But very soon, tired of waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain, they made a golden calf which they began to worship. When Moses



came down and witnessed the terrible sin they had committed, he blazed with anger and broke the tablets at the foot of the mountain. He even proceeded to have about 3000 people put to the sword. However, later when he went up the mountain again, he discovered the great truth as the Lord revealed himself with the astounding proclamation: "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34:6). The phrases became like the credo of the Old Testament, finding expression repeated in several places. He is a God who does not keep a record of our sins, who delights in showing mercy (Mic. 7:18). This is the God that Jesus came to reveal. He showed the compassionate love of the Father in the manner in which he treated sinners like Zacchaeus and the penitent woman. In his parables he spoke exquisitely of the father embracing his prodigal son and the shepherd going out, in search of the lost sheep. Finally, on the cross, he became the expiation of our sins and prayed for forgiveness for those who killed him.

How are we to respond to this incredible gift of mercy? On this Feast of Divine Mercy,

we are being asked to believe in the merciful God and to embrace the power and beauty of God's forgiveness. Just as he entered through locked doors to bring peace to the disciples, let us ask him to break through the locked doors of our own hearts. Let us quickly grab that second chance he offers. But just as he made the disciples instruments of his mercy, so he expects us: "To be merciful, as your Heavenly Father is merciful" (Lk. 6:36). Accepting the mercy of God carries with it the obligation of showing that mercy to others. We do that by refusing to hold grudges and forgiving those who hurt us. We also do that by doing the works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. Here, we need to understand that acting mercifully to others is entering into the heart of God and doing what God is doing in the world. It is living in the Sacred Heart. There, each one of us, is wrapped in the boundless mercy of God, and is empowered to bring that mercy to others. That is why, St. Paul offers a wonderful summary: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted and forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).



Finally, Justice for India's 'Born Criminal'

Not every custodial torture and murder triggers a human rights movement that awakens the victim communities, especially when they happen to be the most vulnerable in a country like India. But that is what happened in the case of Budhan Sabar, a 28-year-old member of the Kheria Sabar, an ex-criminal tribe in West Bengal's Purulia district. The criminalization of communities like the Kheria Sabar is credited by historians to the British colonial era when a large number of nomadic and artisan communities were declared 'born criminal' through the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.

The Kheria Sabar is one among many communities that were notified as criminal tribes. Following India's independence this injustice was sought to be corrected by a 'denotification,' which gave them a new name, denotified tribes (DNTs), but little else in the name of dignity, liberty, and justice enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Budhan Sabar was tortured to death in police custody on Feb. 17, 1998, and he certainly was not the first and last victim of a state atrocity in the country. Even today, data provided by India's Federal Ministry of Home Affairs in Parliament last month, revealed that the number of deaths in police custody across the country has gone up nearly 60 percent over the last three years and 75 percent over the last two years.

The number of such custodial deaths had declined over three successive years from 146 in 2017-18 to 136 in 2018-19, then to 112 in 2019-20, and further to 100 in 2020-



Basant Rawat

21. But it rose sharply to 175 in 2021-22. This official data paints a bleak picture of the state of affairs across the country. But then came the news on Feb. 20. A district court in Purulia had sentenced Ashok Roy, an official in charge of the police station where Budhan Sabar was killed, to 13 years of imprisonment. Justice was finally done, even if nearly 25 years late, and Budhan Sabar's poor family and community people expressed their satisfaction. The conviction of a police officer has certainly rekindled hope in the community after such a long wait for justice.

Many men, even women and minors, from the DNTs though continue to be picked up and tortured by the Indian police for suspected petty crimes like robberies and chain snatching, etc. because they were stamped as 'habitual criminals' by the British. Budhan Sabar too was picked up by the local police of Purulia as a 'suspect' for allegedly looting a bus — some eight months after the crime was committed. However, the police could never prove his crime in court. For three days he was tortured inside a lockup, where he was kept without food and water until he "confessed" the crime he never committed. Then the police announced he had committed suicide.

Budhan Sabar was, like his fellow tribespeople in Akarbaid village, a poor craftsman, an artist who would weave

Courtesy to UCA News March 14, 2023.

beautiful baskets from date palms. His death would've gone unheard like so many others, then as also today, but for the intervention by West Bengal's legendary social activist and celebrated writer, Late Mahasweta Devi, and well-known linguist and cultural activist, Professor Ganesh Devy. Devy happened to be in Midnapur University the day he heard about Budhan Sabar's death. He joined forces with Mahasweta Devi who approached the court demanding a second post-mortem. Her plea was granted and it was confirmed that it was indeed a case of custodial murder, not a suicide as the police wanted the family and community members to believe.

The chief justice of Calcutta High Court in the state directed the Central Forensic Science Laboratory to investigate the matter and submit a report, based on which the investigation was handed over to a federal investigation agency. Charges were laid in 2003 and the trial commenced until justice was done last month. Prashant Rakshit, a social activist and a key witness in the case who continues to work for the welfare of the Kheria Sabar community, acknowledged the role of Mahasweta Devi and Professor Ganesh Devy, who went on to form the DNTs Rights Action Group (DNT-RAG) to mobilize the suffering communities across the country. The tragic death of Budhan Sabar became a rallying point - inspiring and awakening the communities across the nation, whether it was the Chharas in Gujarat, or Pardhis in Maharashtra - as per a government report, a total of 1,262 communities are identified as denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities across the country. Professor Ganesh Devy, who is a former teacher of English literature, continues to work for the communities. He started a magazine, named Budhan, and began collecting and

publishing data, information, and stories of the DNTs until the National Human Rights Commission took notice.

In Gujarat's principal city, Ahmedabad, he motivated a group of young Chharas to launch a street theatre movement, also named Budhan, which continues to be active and stages the tragic story of Budhan Sabar. The Indian government finally woke up to the woes of its lesser citizens and set up the National DNT Commission in 2006, which produced a report, leading to greater awareness of their rights and efforts to end the stigma attached to them. The current government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed a new commission and produced its own report, which is still gathering the dust. Professor Ganesh Devy is hopeful; the latest judgment in the Budhan Sabar case will lead to reviving concern and action from the federal government. Ahmedabad-based DNT activist and filmmaker, Dakxinkumar Bajrange, says: "Members of our communities still do not own land in India. We are literary footpath dwellers." He is the writer and director of the play on Budhan Sabar and feels satisfied now that he could keep the memories of the case alive through street and theatre performances.

Calcutta-based lawyer, Advocate Pradip Roy, who served as the amicus curie in the case for the high court, feels although delayed, the court judgment holds a lesson for India's rogue police officers. "They will be more cautious, and as a result, we expect fewer atrocities," he says. Certainly, there is renewed hope for members of the DNT communities, by some estimates 25 million people. Even in death, Budhan Sabar's martyrdom will continue to inspire them to fight for justice.

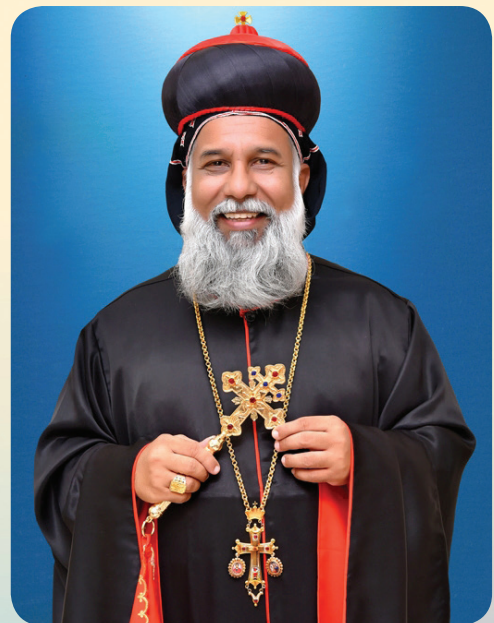
Indian State Lifts Ban on Religious Visiting Prisons¹

The communist-led government in Kerala has withdrawn its ban on religious groups conducting counselling and prayer sessions for prisoners in the southern state, following the intervention of Cardinal Baselios Mar Cleemis, who heads the state bishops' council. Cardinal Cleemis, also the Major Archbishop of Kerala-based Syro-Malankara Church, appealed to the state's Chief minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, to withdraw the government's March 31 order banning religious, mostly Catholics, visiting prisons and offering counselling and spiritual assistance. Cleemis approached Vijayan, the only serving communist chief minister in the country, on April 5 after the media widely covered the government's ban on religious persons, ahead of Holy Week. The Cardinal informed Vijayan that it was not proper to deny spiritual and psychological help given to the prisoners, said Father Jacob G Palakkappilly, the bishops' council spokesperson. The chief minister agreed with the cardinal and decided immediately to reverse the decision. Vijayan also confided to the prelate that the order was issued without his knowledge and that an explanation would be sought from the officer concerned.

Balram Kumar Upadhyay, the director general of prisons in a circular issued on March 31 banned the entry of Church groups and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the prisons for religious and other psychological counselling sessions without assigning any reason. The order came as a shock to Church leaders especially those engaged in prison ministry

helping the prisoners in various ways to come out of the trauma of their prison life and create a positive outlook toward their future life. "We are happy that the Chief Minister understood our point and immediately agreed to lift the ban," Palakkappilly added. Jesus Fraternity which functions under the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council "will hold Maundy Thursday services and celebrate holy Eucharist in various jails in the state".

The Catholic bishops in a statement said the ban was not proper, particularly considering the religious service helps prisoners for a "change of heart and encouragement for a better life." Jesus Fraternity/ prison Ministry India has been working for prisoners' spiritual and mental uplift for over three decades, and banning them without a reason would not help anybody, Palakkappilly said. Christians, who claim apostolic tradition in the coastal state, are a minority in the state as they make up only 18 percent of the 33 million people.



¹ Courtesy to UCA News 6 April 2023.

Jeevodaya – A Home Away from Home

Introduction

Constant change being part of human nature it has also become part and parcel of the life of the Church. New ministries evolve and we see how it has helped the life of the Church. As the motto of our congregation, 'Need of the time is the will of God', we the Holy Cross sisters entered into this new ministry – PMI, here in Bangalore, officially on 22nd January 1995 as a rehabilitation centre for released women prisoners, to empower the marginalized, especially the disadvantaged and the discriminated. Since there was no separate office for the national work, the National office also started functioning from the same building, Jeevodaya.

"It is something beautiful, a gift of God, to take care of people, men and women in jail. It is something beautiful for God and a real gift of God" says St Theresa of Calcutta. Yes, prison ministry is always a beautiful ministry as Jesus himself is the founder of this ministry. I being one of the pioneers of this ministry in Karnataka know the struggles and hurdles we had to go through and overcome to convince the jail authorities to start the mission. Since prayer is the powerhouse of PMI, we – Fr Varghese Kariperry, Sr Clara and myself - started kneeling down on the sand brought from the prison premises, spending one hour every day in prayer for our brothers and sisters behind the bars to get the required permission. Jeevodaya Ashram came into existence in line with the motto of our congregation, 'Need of the time is the will of God', with the idea of giving new life to the people who live in the shadow



Sr Fidelis HCM

of sin and death, the marginalized and the excluded, as a rehabilitation centre for the released women prisoners, women from the red-light areas who are eighteen and above and in any situation of moral danger.

God's Care and Protection

Jeevodaya Ashram is the place where we really experienced God's providential care, His protection, support and guidance. "If you are faithful to the vow of poverty, divine providence will walk with you step by step". These words of our Founder Fr. Theodosius Florentini OFM, became real to us and we started experiencing it in different ways in this ministry.

Aims and Objectives

PMI is a radical Christian movement inspired by the life and mission of Jesus, well reflected in the Gospel narratives. PMI and its rehabilitation work is built on the conviction that there are no born criminals or prostitutes but are made so by society, and that all human beings are loved by God their creator. Human beings are capable of change through inner healing and genuine forgiveness which enables them to change for the better. Only love and compassion can win them over and bring them back to a new life with human dignity. We provide them: 1) Medical and psychological treatment as and when needed; 2) Counselling to help

them feel and behave in a more personally satisfying manner; 3) Skill training according to their capacity to grasp and learn; 4) Spiritual renewal; 5) Finally rehabilitate them either by reintegrating them into their own families or by settling them in marriage.

Most of the women who come to Jeevodaya are deformed with grievous wounds and hurts of life and are to be reformed and confirmed and then only they can be transformed. For the actualisation of this goal, we give them a timetable to follow in order to inculcate values as they mostly come from valueless and Godless backgrounds which led them to go astray.

Jeevodaya Ashram is a 'Home away from Home', and we live like in a family. They participate in all the activities of the home. They are also given an opportunity to learn cooking, housekeeping, gardening, cleanliness, how to talk and behave politely etc., as they are to be able to manage their own families later. They are also given skills like tailoring, paper bag making, candle making, greeting cards making, jewellery making etc. Those who can study better, are given opportunity and encouraged to go forward with education – like Nursing, computer, health assistant's course, degree in B.Com, B.A, MBA, Visual Arts etc. which will give a better future for them. One of our inmates, who became a nurse, got married and after having two children, is now working in Dubai. Another one is running a Beauty parlour and she offers free training for any of our inmates if they wish to learn. We do continue to care and support them in their difficulties and struggles. They do visit us, communicate and stay connected with us as Jeevodaya remains their mother house.

We live a very simple life managed by local contributions. For the past twenty-seven years, we have been able to follow the original charism of PMI – 'begging –our life style, God's Providence –our bank account and God – our security. These are proven realities in our life here in the Ashram. So far we have had around 800 women come and go through Jeevodaya Ashram. Eighty of them are married and settled and live in their own families. 95% of them are ok ... They do approach us whenever they need some help financially or otherwise. All the grand children of Jeevodaya are getting educated which is something commendable. One of them has joined the seminary and the family is very happy about it. The first granddaughter is working and finishing her MBA this year. God be praised!

"If Jeevodaya were not there, where would I have gone when I was released"? These words came out of one of the released women whose whole family was in prison. Most of them are very grateful for having been through Jeevodaya. It stands as a Banyan tree giving shelter to many broken and wounded women so that they can breathe a ray of hope and see the light of truth to take a U-turn and be happy to begin anew. Let us try to hear the voice of the Lord speaking to us, "Why are there people going hungry and thirsty about you, while you abound in gifts from my hand? I can reach out to these hungry and lonely, the least, lost and the Last, only through you. This is the reason I have given you so much, that you may share it with them". May His great love flood our lives, to overflow and touch others with healing so as to channel His grace to every one of His children, especially the voiceless and the powerless!

Kolbe Home, Patan

PMI Kolbe Homes

“I was in Prison and you visited me” (Mt 25:36). PMI Kolbe Homes, established in the name of St Maximillian Kolbe who died for a coprisoner, are meant for the integral development of prisoners’ children under the care of Prison Ministry India (PMI). These children are either from prisons or from broken families, conditions of extreme poverty, single parent or from similar homes. They come to terms with life-realities not through scolding and punishment but by love, care and understanding, which are the best ways of formation. In our society most of us look down on prisoners’ children and those pushed to the fringes of society. Through education, spiritual and psychological training, and above all through motherly and fatherly love Kolbe Homes strive to bring them to the main stream of life, by enabling them to be reconciled with God, self, family and society.

Kolbe Home, Patan, Gujarat

Kolbe Home Patan is the Heart of the Divine Mercy Jesus shrine, Patan Parish in Gandhinagar Diocese, Gujarat. The seed of this Kolbe Home was sown in the Diocese of Gandhinagar by Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, the PMI national coordinator and cofounder on 8th of August 2019. On that day Father expressed the need of a center in Gujarat, a place for the children of prisoners in Gujarat. Archbishop Thomas Macwan with great trust entrusted this noble work to the charge of Fr. Dominic, the Archdiocesan coordinator of PMI. After doing a detailed study by visiting the prisons in the state of Gujarat, Fr. Dominic



Sr Merceline SMMI

and Sr. Fulmani found that they had an opportunity to witness to the values of Jesus Christ in Gujarat. There were 12,000 prisoners in Gujarat. It was found good to have a center for the prisoners’ children, a wonderful opportunity to share the merciful love of the heart of Jesus with them.

SMMI Sisters

Archdiocese of Gandhinagar invited many congregations to take up this mission but got negative response as it was challenging, having high risk, lack of Catholics and the place being not close to the town. But the deep faith of our Shepherd, Archbishop Thomas Macwan, was remarkable that with great trust and full confidence in the Lord, he started the renovation of a building for this good cause. “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails” (Prov.19:21). This has come true in the mission of Patan when our provincial Sr. Alice Joseph paid a visit to the Archbishop of Gandhinagar on visiting her sisters in the communities of Gujarat. The power of the Holy Spirit was deeply felt and experienced by Archbishop and the Provincial superior after the meeting. While praying in the chapel, the Archbishop was inspired to ask Sr. Alice, if she would accept a new mission at Patan for Prison Ministry. She was shocked and was silent for some time and told the Bishop, “After consulting my

Superior General and the provincial team I will let you know”. But to her great surprise when she returned to Nagpur, the invitation letter of Archbishop Thomas Macwan was waiting for her.

After consulting her team, she informed the Superior General and sent her a copy of the invitation letter of Archbishop Thomas Macwan. The general team was very happy and encouraged Sr Alice Joseph and her team to venture into the unknown path. They asked her to go ahead trusting in the power of the Lord, though the mission may involve risk, and be difficult. With the assurance of the generalate Sr Alice and team responded positively to the invitation of the Archbishop. The pioneering members Sr Vidhya and Sr Merceline were chosen and sent for initial orientation for Prison Ministry India in Bangalore for two weeks. Special prayers were offered for this new mission by the province. The dream of Kolbe Home was realized on 20th November 2021 in the presence of Archbishop Thomas Macwan, Fr Francis Kodiyan, Sr Alice Joseph and a good number of SMMI sisters and other sisters, Fathers, and prison ministry volunteers from all over Gujarat.

The Beginning

When the actual life of Prison Ministry began in Kolbe Home Patan, we were here without any activities as we were asked to stay in the place and not to go for prison visits for sometime as the place and situation were not so favorable. God gave us a beautiful chance to experience a little of the taste of prison life: only two sisters, and a kind of desert place so we had a desert experience with Jesus for prison ministry. We also joined in the temptations with Jesus that one or two people who met us mostly

every day tried to discourage us in every way saying, that no children would ever come to stay here; that with no help from anywhere, what we would do and how would we live and manage...etc. Our only answer to them was that the one who brought us here would provide; we will live here whatever may happen; we will do any work and we spend our time in prayer. The time was very precious to experience the Lord in prayer and in the garden. After seeing our life and work, people started accepting us that the one who came to read the electricity meter contributed Rs 200/- for the cause. The most beautiful experience was that we were not required to preach Jesus in Patan, rather, people were able to recognize Jesus when they met us. They ask us, ‘Are you Christians?’ People were surprised to see us Christian Sisters living in Patan and were happy to see Sisters. We found a beautiful place to witness to Christ without preaching.

Let Children Come to Me

The Archdiocese had to wait patiently for two years to open the Kolbe Home in Patan. But after opening the Kolbe Home, we the



SMMI sisters had to wait patiently with prayer and sacrifice for more than seven months to get children in Kolbe Home. Fr Kamji and Fr Dominic worked hard with us to visit and to learn the condition of the families. The first family who stayed with us in Kolbe Home consisted of father, mother, two daughters and a son. That son is in prison and there is very little hope for him to be freed. His wife and child stay with her parents. When the child will become 4 years old she will be the first prisoners' child to enter Kolbe home. At present there are eleven little angels that are similar to prisoners' children. Kolbe home is alive with their joyful presence. All of them go to the nearby Govt. School which is 2 km away from Kolbe home. They are reached to school by vehicle.

Kolbe Dynamics

Kolbe Children follow the program of regular study, play, prayer, yoga etc. Fr. Dominic, the coordinator of PMI for the Archdiocese is a father to the Kolbe Home, a friend, a guide to the staff and is ever available without counting the cost, sacrificing his time, resources and person for Kolbe Home. Two sisters and two staff live with the children and strive to give motherly love and care. They need to be helped in every way; they are responding and we pray for them to have a good future. These little ones pray daily for their benefactors and well-wishers. A few of our local people come to visit the children and celebrate their birthday with them sharing their joy and happiness.

Divine Providence

Kolbe home depends for its survival entirely on the providence of God as we

have no source of income of our own. We strongly believe in the care of our Heavenly Father who feeds the birds of the air and clothes the grass of the field. The basic Principle of Prison Ministry India: Prayer is our Power House, and Inconvenience is our Convenience. God's Providence is our bank balance, and begging is our life style. Our life here in Patan is very much at ease with these principles. Our patience, faith and trust in God, keep on growing in every positive experience and friendly support that strengthens the life of Kolbe Home. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in Prison and you visited me". Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it me" (Mt 25:35-40).



From Child Labour to Juvenile Homes and Prisons!



Sr Lini Sheeja MSC

Early every morning Anuja, aged 8 (name changed) pulls a cart into town hauling water for her neighbours. When it's full, the tank weighs about 450 pounds. After doing her morning chores, the hardest part of her day begins. Instead of going to school, she goes to work in a brick factory all day long. It's a hard and tedious work, often in temperatures above 35 degrees, each family getting paid by the number of bricks they load. As Anuja's mother was getting older and weaker and the family needed financial resources, Anuja was required to carry the family burden as she has 4 siblings after her.

"I wish I could go to school, but I need to make money to buy food for my family," said 8-year-old Anuja in a desperate tone. "I'm afraid I won't be able to work enough. We owe other people lots of money. I work from 6:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening. Still, we don't have enough food," continued Anuja. Her father had died of corona virus leaving the family with a mountain of debt. And that's how they came to the brick factory. Anuja started working one year ago and. "I don't know what to do," said Anuja's mother with tears rolling down her cheeks. "I wanted my daughter to be educated, so she doesn't have to work in the brick factory like me." Anuja's dream of becoming a teacher is an impossible dream to fulfil, as she is in no position to go to school. It's hard to believe that a girl like her has to bear so much worry on her tiny shoulders.

A child at this age is supposed to be on the

shoulders of their parents, but it is a tragedy that she/he has to carry the burdens of the family on his/her shoulders. Why is there so much of misery in our society? Where should a child be? He or she should be in schools, not in workplaces. Children should be playing in playgrounds, not washing vessels. Children should be doing Maths, not working in a factory. Children should eat good food, not working in fields in the scorching sun. Child labour deprives the child of her/his childhood. Are these children paid well for their work? When will our society treat children as children?

Unspeakable Hardship, Violence and Cry

So many children are trafficked today. St. Bhakita was trafficked and went through maximum torture. She endured unspeakable hardship and violence as a trafficked girl. The same struggles, hardships and child trafficking are also linked to child labour today and it always results in child abuse. Trafficked children face all forms of abuse - physical, mental, sexual and emotional. Trafficked children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted; they provide cheap or unpaid labour, are forced to work as house servants or beggars and may be recruited into armed gangs. Trafficking exposes children to violence, sexual abuse and HIV infection.

The Cry Continues.....

Ashmita (name changed) started working in the fields from the age of 7. Both her parents were drunkards. Ashmita was happily going to school, playing and studying with her friends. It was at this time that she was asked to stop her schooling and remain at home to cook and take care of her siblings at home. At the age of 8 she already had 3 siblings after her. She had always witnessed her parents' fighting and yelling at home. When I met her she was 16 years old. "I have never slept peacefully in my home. We have never eaten one meal happily. Both my parents drink every day; fight, shout, and scream and we feel miserable. My mother used to beat me after getting drunk. When I was 14, I went to work in a house and I continue to work there. Life has been so challenging and I have never experienced love from my parents. Now, I have 6 siblings and if I work I can feed my siblings," said Ashmita.

Sad Statistics

Roughly 160 million children were subjected to child labour at the beginning of 2020, with 9 million additional children at risk due to the impact of COVID-19. This accounts for nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide. Almost half of them are in hazardous works that directly endanger their health and moral development. Across India, child labourers can be found in a variety of industries: in brick kilns, carpet weaving, garment making, domestic service, food and refreshment services (such as tea stalls), agriculture, fisheries and mining. Children are also at the risk of various other forms of exploitation, including Sexual exploitation and production of Child Pornography, including online.

Domestic Work and Hazards

Children are priceless gifts from God and are the treasure of each family. The family and the community have the primal goal in shaping the personality of children. Sadly, many children are forced to work from a young age. The hazards linked to child domestic work are a matter of serious concern. Some of the most common risks children face in domestic service includes: long and tiring working days, use of toxic chemicals, carrying heavy loads, handling dangerous items such as knives, axes, and hot pans, insufficient or inadequate food and accommodation, humiliating or degrading treatment including physical, verbal and sexual abuse. The risks are compounded when a child lives in the household where he or she works as domestic worker as well. These hazards need to be seen in association with the denial of the fundamental rights of the child.

How many children are employed in our houses? Are we not destroying them and their future? We live in a world where compassion and love are lacking! We look for our comforts, our future and employ these tiny ones in our houses as domestic workers. A child should be seen as a child, not as a servant. Many children are employed in factories where less salary is paid to them. Instead of employing a child in our house as a maid, if we have the heart to educate them we would have a better society. Can we make the world a better one for the kids? We are today providing a dangerous society for our children. When are we going to give a safe society to them?

Childhood: A Journey

Every child is a gift and God rejoices at every new birth, for we are created in His own image and likeness. Every child born on this earth is holy, because she/he is created by a Holy God and is born innocent. Childhood is a journey; a child can turn out to be a villain or a hero, empowered or suppressed. A child can be looked up to by society for his/her noble qualities or they can be looked down upon for being in Observational Homes for correctional behaviour. On the one hand due to poverty, children are deprived of education and forced to work from a very young age and made to shoulder responsibilities beyond their age and capacity. On the other hand, children from the well-to-do strata of society have access to money and opportunities and live in the lap of luxury with nothing denied to them. Some children are deprived of their basic needs while others are given more than what they need.

Children: Vulnerable Group

Children are not things to be moulded but human beings to be unfolded. They have lots of potential within. They are gifted and they must be helped and guided to unwrap the package of their lives at different and opportune times. Some parents say, "Our children never listen to us; we find it hard with them." Children will listen to us after they feel they are being listened to. How we speak to our children becomes their inner voice. Children learn more from what we are than from what we teach. Hard punishments and strict disciplining are no more beneficial to children as are too much pampering and providing all that they need. Homes, institutions and society should be balanced for children's future, for we are dealing with a vulnerable group.

Role of Parents

"Today, there is the tendency among many parents to renounce their role in order to be merely friends to their children, refraining from warning and correcting even when this is necessary for teaching them the truth, albeit with every affection and tenderness. It therefore should be stressed that the education of children is a sacred duty and a shared task for the parents, both father and mother; it requires warmth, closeness, dialogue and example. In the home parents are called to represent the good Father in heaven, the one perfect model to inspire them," said Pope St John Paul II on 4 June, 1999. I remember a prisoner saying to me, "If my mother had loved me, as she loved my brother I would have not landed here. I never asked for anything from my mother; I had only asked for her love, her listening ears and time to spend with me. Since, I didn't receive any of these, I fell into the trap of my friends and they became my world at the age of 16. Whatever they did was right for me and today I'm behind bars. I was never taught about the physical and psychological changes that I as an adolescent was going through."

Educate a Child and Stop Child Labour

I know many families who are adopting a child to educate. We want many more, who are blessed with wealth, to come forward to adopt a child to provide education. A few months back, a mother came to me with her four daughters. She had lost her husband in the pandemic. He left them with Rs.4 lakhs debt and this mother works as a domestic worker in 2 houses, pays interest for Rs.4 lakhs. She was about to send her 2 children to work and it was at this time that this family was referred to us. All the four children are now supported by 2 families

and they are continuing their education. Life is so challenging for families! So many mothers are struggling to educate and feed their children.

Conclusion

As children are physically fed, they also need to be fed emotionally, psychologically, mentally, spiritually and socially. Every child is a different kind of flower and all together they make this world a beautiful garden. Let us sacrifice our today, so that the children can have a better tomorrow. Let us stop child labour by adopting, supporting and educating these vulnerable children. Migration is one of the main causes for child labour. Let us open our eyes around our houses, convents and seminaries and reach out to these children. Let the children have a future! The World day against Child Labour is celebrated every year on 12th June. Many children are broken in our society. The brokenness is carried on as children continue to be employed. Let us break the chain of brokenness and build every child that is born.

Haiti: Second Kidnapped Priest Released¹

The head of a Catholic religious order in Haiti has spoken out against the violence sweeping his country a day after one of his priests was released from captivity. Father Jean-Yves Médidor, of the Clerics of Saint Viator, was freed Thursday, 23rd March, nearly two weeks after he was abducted in the outskirts of Croix-des-Bouquets, a suburb of the capital, Port-au-Prince, where he ministered as a priest. In a message sent to Archbishop Max Leroy Mésidor of Port-au-Prince, which was also sent to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Father Dudley Pierre, provincial of the Clerics of Saint Viator, highlighted the “violence” and “anarchy” in Haiti. Describing how the country was passing through a “dark hour”, in his message Father Pierre asks “When will this spate of violence end?”

Calling the abduction “painful and outrageous”, Father Pierre gave details of how his brother cleric was kidnapped leaving the priests’ residence by a gang of armed and hooded men. He said: “As he closed the gate, one of our guards saw masked men chase Father Jean-Yves. Later,

we realised that there were vehicles waiting by the junction.” The abduction of Father Médidor came barely a month after Father Antoine Christian Noah was kidnapped and held for 10 days. The 33-year-old Claretian priest was captured after returning to Haiti from retreat in the Dominican Republic. Father Noah managed to escape by making a hole in the roof of the house where he was being held. After reaching safety, he moved to another country.

His superior, Father Fausto Cruz Rosa, paid tribute to Father’s Noah’s heroism, saying that he was only fed four times over his 10 days in captivity. He said: “[Father Noah] was never afraid because he prayed to his patron. He is a man of prayer, very spiritual, very serene. The kidnappers were surprised at how a priest could handle it.” Both kidnappings come against a backdrop of increasing concern about stability in Haiti where the United Nations estimates that there were more than 1,300 kidnappings last year alone, and more than 2,000 murders. The security situation has deteriorated especially since the July 2021 murder of President Jovenal Moïse, with deepening poverty and lack of food.

¹ ZENIT News 03.26.2023

New Life of Tihar Friends

It was the third Sunday of Advent, on December 11, 2016. Our Holy Father had dedicated this day to the poor. It was a fitting day to celebrate the joy of Christmas at St. Anne's Sisters of Chennai Convent in Dwarka, New Delhi. 5 of the recently acquitted inmates from Tihar Jail joined in the celebrations. An invitation was extended by Sr. Inigo asking them to join the community of Sisters. It was also meant to be a follow up of the work done in Tihar. Our friends, of course, were very happy to enjoy the new freedom. More so, they came to our apartment to meet their guides and philosophers - Sr. Inigo, Mr. Gabriel and Sr. Winefred F.C., and to share a fellowship meal with them. Sr. Inigo presented them with Christmas gifts. Sr. Winefred took this opportunity to coax them to open up their hearts about their life in Tihar, which turned out to be an Ashram for them. They happily shared their dreams and plans for the future.

Interview by Sr. Winefred F.C. with the Former Five Inmates of Tihar Jail

Sr. Winefred: "Raju, do you think you wasted 8 productive years of your life in the jail? What were your feelings and reactions?"

Raju: "Eight long years!" he sighed. "When I came to Delhi, I was only 17 years old. In the remote village of Bihar I had almost nil opportunities. And so I wanted to study and make my future. When I was implicated in a crime that I had not committed, my world came down crashing. They put me behind bars saying I was a criminal. I could not understand why me? I had no way to communicate with my parents. Fear,



Sr Inigo SSA

anxiety, sadness, helplessness, depression and despair gripped me. All of a sudden Sr. Inigo appeared as a North Star; as a messenger of hope, encouragement, comfort and solace. I began to pick myself up and grabbed the opportunity to improve my academic qualifications and leadership skills. In jail, I did a diploma course and graduated from IGNOU. I started speaking in English. The Jail authorities trusted me and put me in charge of the library. For my legal procedures, Sr. Inigo arranged advocate Michael Peter. He did his best and I am now acquitted. Though free, I am still too timid to face the world. There are vast changes everywhere. It will take time for me to adjust to the new digital world. Shortly I will be returning to my family. I miss my father dearly. He passed away while I was in custody." His eyes welled up.

Sr. Winefred: "Sudhir, during the 6 years of imprisonment, what happened to your life?"

Sudhir: "To be in prison without any reason is the hardest agony and misery. Depression, uncertainty about my future, misunderstanding, anger and above all worry about my family added to my sorrows. There was only darkness everywhere around me. The encouragement of Sr. Inigo gave me hope. I learnt computer, both hard and software, and upgraded my academic

qualifications while in jail. Now I am a free man and presently working with a private company.”

I asked Dilip how he had managed 5 years of confinement in Tihar jail and what motivated him to face the trials.

Dhilip: “Life in prison was terrible. I was cut off from the world. My parents were poor. There was absolutely no contact or communication with anyone. I took interest in reading the Bible, attended prayer services and looked forward to the day of my freedom. My meeting with Sr. Inigo transformed my life. Her counselling and motivation convinced me that it is not the end of the road, but merely a bend. Time and again she assured me of the bright future that awaited me, if only I were willing to avail the opportunities that came my way. I passed X and XII from the Open School. I worked hard to improve my proficiency in English. My term in prison has inculcated in me fine values. I am a new person; a completely changed person. I am ready to face the world and its challenges. I am a free man now with a happy family and a small garment shop.”

Ajay shared with us both his negative and positive experiences in Tihar. “I went into the jail at the age of 17. I realized that there was a world of difference between the inside and the outside of the jail. I was convicted for 5 years. It was as if I was falling from a cliff, having nowhere to hold to save my life! My life was completely shattered. But God had a plan for me. He had given me a talent for painting. I put all my emotions and feelings on the canvas and produced masterpieces. I took part in national level painting competitions. Even the jail authorities greatly appreciated my talents. I was married

before I went to jail. My wife’s faithfulness and the remarkable support that I received from my mother gave me a reason to live. With great determination I changed my life for the better. I have also upgraded my academic qualifications. Sr. Inigo was like my 2nd mother. She nurtured my emotional and spiritual growth. Today, I have a happy family with 3 beautiful children. Presently, I am employed with a Micro Tech Company.”

Sr. Winefred: “Thangboi, you said you were in jail for 8 years and 9 months. How did you cope with the realities there?”

Thongboi: “Music kept me alive. I raised my drooping spirit to the Lord. The strumming of the strings filled my heart with comfort and consolation. I read the Bible and prayed to Jesus to set me free. Jesus entered my life in the form of Sr. Inigo. I experienced forgiveness, healing and restoration. I am a totally changed person now. I thank Jesus for the air of freedom I now breathe and enjoy. It is almost a decade since I have seen my family. While in prison I used to be haunted every day about my failure in carrying out my family responsibilities. I am longing now to get back to my village. I know everything would have changed there as well!”

Sr. Winefred: Dear friends, I was overwhelmed with sadness and joy as I walked along with Raju, Sudhir, Dilip, Ajay and Thangboi through their painful memory lane. I am grateful to them for opening up to me. I salute their positive mindset and firm determination to lead a purposeful life. The harsh realities in prison have made them strong to begin a new life. These are amazing stories, true stories, unbiased stories for you and me.

Interview by Sr. Winifred F.C. with Arthur Frank, a Nigerian and a former inmate of Tihar and now a freeman.

He came to our Apartment at Dwarka, New Delhi, on the Feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2019. He wanted to express his profound gratitude to Sr. Inigo, who had changed the course of his life, while he was lodged in Jail No: 4 at Tihar. He was beaming with joy on his release from the Jail and for meeting us outside prison enclosure. I asked him to share his jail experience.

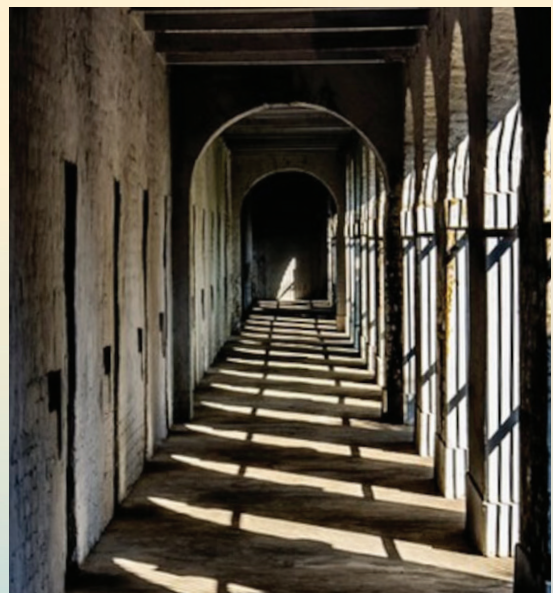
Sr. Winefred: Can you share briefly with us your life in Tihar?

Arthur: The day I entered the Jail, I thought my life had come to an abrupt end. Being a foreigner and a stranger in Indian Jail, there was not a soul to console and comfort me! The high-rise walls and thick bars, were menacingly staring at me. I was pushed into despair and depression. Every second I spent within its confines I felt as if I was in Hell. But God never abandons His people. He sent Sr. Inigo, an embodiment of compassion and mercy to meet me. Her gentle look and overpowering smile conveyed the message of love, acceptance and forgiveness. Her very presence gave enormous inner strength and tranquillity, not only to me but to the group of inmates, who came in contact with her. She has been the channel of God's grace. She became our own. With bated breath, we eagerly looked forward to her Bible sharing and prayer sessions. Those wonderful moments energized us and helped us to disregard the prison life. We were spurred on by her prophetic words: "God has a plan for you. Do not allow this incarceration overwhelm you. He will not allow you to suffer here for long. He has already determined the time of

your release." Today, a number of inmates from our prayer group have been set free and have returned to their loved ones at home.

With huge anticipation we used to eagerly look forward to the celebrations she used to organize on Ash Wednesday, the Washing of our feet on Maundy Thursday, the joyous celebrations during Christmas season and the feast of St. Anne. These grace-filled events brought lots of cheer and immense peace to our frayed lives. She repeatedly claimed that it was Jesus that she visited in prison, whenever she came to see us. She quoted the Bible, Mt. 25:36-41, to substantiate her claim. The Prison Ministry India (PMI) volunteers are the voice of the voiceless inside the prison. They are the rays of hope amid gloom and despair. Their visits invigorate and revitalize our drooping spirits. I therefore request you, dear Sisters, to continue your Angelic and Divine Ministry and be beacons of new hope, fresh life and guiding light to people like us.

Holy Commander, and become ready to immolate ourselves.



Saint Faustina's Divine Mercy and its Impact on Prisoners

Br Pradeep Anthony L OFM

St Faustina Kowalska

St Faustina was born on 25th August in the year 1905 at Glogowiec, Poland. She was from a poor and religious family of peasants, and the third of 10 children. Her baptismal name was Helena. From her young age she had a love for prayer, and was sensitive to the poor. At the age of 16, Helen left home and went to work as a housekeeper in order to help her parents. On August 1, 1925, she entered the 'Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy' and took the name Sr Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Her special love for the Eucharist made her add 'of the most Blessed Sacrament' to her name. For 13 years St Faustina lived in the Congregation in several religious houses like at Krakow, Plock and Vilnius, where she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. She never showed her rich interior life to anybody, but carried forward her tasks in a simple and devout way. She had a child-like trust in God and showed great mercy towards her neighbor.

Divine Mercy in My Soul

Her personal diary named Divine Mercy in My Soul reveals to us her real inner motivation behind all her actions. She was sent to the world to proclaim God's mercy as a prophetess by Christ (Diary 1588). She was diagnosed with tuberculosis at a very young age; she offered all her sufferings as vicarious suffering for the conversion

of sinners. She accepted and transformed those sufferings for the redemption of humanity. PMI members are called to do the same. Her suffering was a vicarious and voluntary suffering. In 1984 Pope Paul John II advocated in his apostolic letter *Doloris Salvific* (Redemptive Suffering) the meaning of suffering for humankind. In 2015 Pope Francis announced the year of mercy to show the importance of mercy. He promulgated the face of God as mercy. A similar message could be drawn from the life of St Faustina. She died at the age of just 33 on October 5, 1938. Presently she is considered as an apostle of mercy.

Church's Teaching on Revelations

The Catholic Church teaches about two kinds of revelations: public revelation and private revelation. The former is enough for the salvation of every faithful soul as it is the revelation through Christ to the entire universe through his incarnation, death and resurrection with hope in eternal life. And the latter is useful to uplift the faith of the individual. The Divine Mercy Prayer is a Private Revelation given to St Faustina that helps the faithful to affirm their belief in the Public Revelation. From her Diary 475-476 of St Faustina, we come to know how Christ revealed this prayer to her. In the month of September 1935 this event happened to her. This reminds us of the role of a religious in the life the Church. Like Abraham and Moses who interceded and asked for the

forgiveness of sins, every Christian has this great role to play for others (Gen 18:22-33, Ex 32:30). The Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated of PMI is the best opportunity to pray for the renewal and reintegration of prisoners.

Divine Mercy's Impact on Prisoners

The allegory of a prison cell exactly suits to explain what purgatory means and vice-versa. A prisoner cannot redeem himself or herself unless somebody renders them their help from outside. In St Faustina's Dairy (20) she wrote the importance of praying for the souls in purgatory. She calls their suffering as a prison of sufferings. She saw many souls who never believed in the existence of hell and purgatory ended being there. Though, Mercy triumphs over justice (Jas 2:13), sadly, many don't opt for it. Through the divine mercy prayer we knowingly and willingly ask for God's mercy. It is sure that all people have sinned in the world (Rom 3:23) and fallen short of God's glory. Therefore, it is a fearful thing to fall in the hands of the living God (Heb 10:31). Thus, it is important to have this thought, that though human beings get tired of sinning, God never gets tired of showing his mercy to his people. The Divine Mercy Prayer has the special power to wash sinners with the blood of Jesus and make them righteous. From the diary (47-48, 84, 309, 299) there is a clear explanation about the image of divine mercy. The two rays from the divine mercy image are red and pale. The red shows the power of Jesus' blood which saves and gives life to the soul and the pale ray makes the soul righteous. Therefore, this prayer is one of the strongest prayers that redeems not only prisoners but also redeems prisoners

who have given their mind, heart or whole selves knowingly or unknowingly to the evil one.

St Faustina's Divine Mercy with PMI Mission

St Faustina's love for the Eucharist reminds me of the special love that Fr Francis Kodiyan and Fr Varghese Kariperry had for the Eucharist. In fact, this love urged them to start Prison Ministry India in their seminary days. Her message holds good in the present times as well, as her focus was to heal the broken hearted, seek the lost, least, last and take them to Jesus. PMI is not merely a social non-governmental organization rather it is a prayer group to redeem and save souls. PMI exists to take these souls to Christ's mercy. As we experience Divine Mercy, we have to show the same mercy to the prisoners as well. Like St Theresa of Child Jesus who prayed for the prisoner Pranzini and transformed him, PMI has to plead for the divine mercy of God for prisoners. With this intention PMI commenced the 24 hours Eucharistic Adoration known as 'Incessant International Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated.' Its participants mostly pray rosaries, or divine mercy chaplet and many other prayers for prisoners. Our strongest thoughts become prayers, our strongest prayers become beliefs, our strongest beliefs become reality. This has been the story of the saints, prophets and sages who were close to the mind of God. May God help us to have right thoughts, beliefs and do His will in our lives!

A Loving Tribute to our Friend Seby George!

Sr Diana CTC

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Rev 21:4). Memories are the story that we leave behind as we journey through our life time. So, is the story that I pen to you dear members of PMI Family. As the Prison Ministry Sunday falls in August, a few of our well-wishers and benefactors in and around Bangalore respond to the national office and the story begins here. Mrs. & Mr. Seby George visited us, in the mid-September 2015 and the visit was definitely a different one. That day it was my turn to attend to them. As we welcomed and introduced each other I found that they had accompanied our ministry with their love and care. Then I learned from them, that Seby George was a Wing Commander in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and also had abundance of experience in civil law, and the good will to support our mission. Dr. Catherine was a Clinical Psychologist who served as DRDO scientist till 2014 in an IAF unit. I simply thanked God for bringing such wonderful personalities to us as we were almost set to start our **Kolbe Home** a foster home for boys.

During our sincere conversation on the ministry and its mission Dr. Catherine took my phone number, Seby congratulated me for becoming the first woman Chief Editor of ‘Prison Voice’ our National Monthly. They had seen the first fruit of my effort that was sent out in August 2015. Both loved and appreciated our activities. When I extended our gratitude to their good will and contribution Seby recalled the words of St Theresa of Kolkata, “I can do things



you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things to build a better world.” So I said, “Create Homes; not Cells”. Yes, Indeed! We have enjoyed in many ways Seby’s & Dr. Catherine’s generous support, kind and caring nature, words, ideas and value-based program planning. They were so encouraging to us i.e. the PMI National office team in helping to create Kolbe Home as a real home. When we wanted to have a Regional office at Bombay we bought a small piece of land at Karjat, Maharashtra, they selflessly contributed a substantial amount. May God reward them. By God’s grace, I had been an instrument to channel their graciousness to many of our members who were struggling in their ministry in different ways. I’m sure all of us will be proud to know that, Seby too walked

with us in our ministry. We, the PMI Family are indebted to you dear friends, Seby and Catherine George and to the family.

I would like to share some parts of the Eulogy written for Seby by Wg Cdr Unni Kartha his colleague. "Seby George was a soldierly disciplined officer, with high intellect and rational original opinions of his own, sometimes at variance with his colleagues and superiors. He was not a subservient 'Yes' man. A thorough diehard professional fighter jock, he had unflinching faith in the superiority of his God and his Miggie (21). Though he had high level of camaraderie, he feared none, least of all his superiors, and always stood up to respectfully espouse his 'courage of conviction'. All of it antithesis of desired OLQ for higher promotions, though few such men too could have done good for the service".

Seby took voluntary retirement in 1994 after suffering two heart attacks, and moved to Bangalore in 1994. Post retirement Seby did commendable social service, soldiering of another kind. He was sick for three months with an aggressive brain tumor which left one side of his body paralyzed. Finally, in his wife's Catherine's words "Seby was a devoted husband, who took his marriage vows very seriously, and he had a very strong faith in God. He suffered a lot due to his heart ailments and lastly the aggressive brain tumor. He bore all his trials very bravely and with a smile. He passed away peacefully in his sleep at 3.45 am on 17 March. His funeral was on the feast of St Joseph on 20th March 2023". **May this noble soul rest in peace!**

Women's Day Celebration: PMI Visakhapatnam Unit

Sr Mary James. SJA

International Women's Day programme was celebrated in the Central Prison, Visakhapatnam on 08 March 2023 at 10am. Mr. Bulli Krishna DLA was present as the chief guest along with Mr. Ramachandra Rao D.S, Sr. Sandrina, Provincial Superior of St. Ann's Luzern and some of the PMI members of Visakhapatnam Unit. The programme started with a welcome address followed by a prayer. The Chief Guest in his message highlighted the importance and the role of women in the Society and the family. Without women there is no life. There can't be just a day to celebrate a woman. Every day should be a day, where we respect the divinity of women and safe surd their dignity. Woman plays an important role as a mother, wife, daughter etc. Women have achieved heights in every professional area and we need to recognize the power of women and help them to improve the world. After the speech he was honoured with a shawl. The students from St. Joseph's Community College performed dances and skit. Made all the inmates to sing and dance after the programme. All of them were very happy to take part in dancing, forgetting all their worries and problems. Gifts were distributed to all the winners who participated in games and Rangoli competitions conducted prior to it. Generous donors presented sarees and blouse pieces which were distributed to all the inmates. At the end tea and snack were provided to all. The programme was winded up at 11.30am by a short prayer and final blessing.

Washing of the Feet of Tihar Inmates

If there is one theme that Jesus constantly emphasized upon in all His teachings, it is on loving neighbour. “If you have love for one another, everybody will know you are my disciples” (Jn. 13:35). Love is one of the greatest and outstanding virtues of the Universal Church. Love encompasses comforting, consoling, forgiving, sacrificing, instructing, healing, giving hope to the hopeless, especially to the unloved, uncared-for, undesired and unfortunate brothers and sisters. For centuries, washing of the feet has been practiced on Maundy Thursdays as a visible sign of this invisible reality. “I have set you an example, you too do the same”. Master to servant is the pattern that He set before us. This is the pattern that we are invited to arrogate. Just speaking on loving one another or serving humanity or being ‘higher up’ does not mean we are any better. We **MUST** act. Before Jesus uttered these words, He did something unthinkable that bewildered His disciples. They were disconcerted by what He did – He washed their feet.

For the past two years, Holy Father Pope Francis, a Pope of Hope and Humility in a world permeated with vanity, has chosen Prisons to wash the feet of 12 inmates to exemplify his ever willingness to serve. He beseeched them to pray for him so that he, too, might be cleansed of his ‘filth’. With the permission of Tihar Jail authorities, the members of Prison Ministry India (PMI-Delhi) organize the Maundy Thursday



Sr Inigo SSA

commemoration event in the Tihar Prisons every year. This year Sr. Celine F.C obtained permission from the prison authorities to have the feet of the inmates of Jail no: 8 washed. Fr. Jose, the coordinator of Delhi PMI along with Sr. Joy SCC, Sr. Marianna and Sr. Inigo carried out the ceremonious washing of the feet of these inmates on April 8, 2023.

Being the first time, washing the feet of the Prison inmates was an unfamiliar experience for Fr. Jose Thannippara MST. He considered it a privilege and he could hardly conceal his exuberant joy. Fr. Jose heard the confession of nearly 40 inmates and assisted them to prepare themselves to worthily participate in this sacred liturgy. Sr. Inigo explained to the inmates that the foot-washing ceremony was meant to highlight Jesus’ love, humility and willingness to serve others like a servant/slave. And in doing so He completely cleansed and purified the hearts of His disciples. She exhorted the inmates to be humble, ready to serve the needy and to love one another, forgetting their bitterness and wounds.

Fr. Jose then bent and washed the feet of 12 inmates, wiped their feet and kissed them. He was assisted by Sr. Celine and Sr. Joy. It

was a seldom-experienced emotive moment for both the inmates assembled there and for us as well. I could see the eyes of the inmates well up with tears when Fr. Jose touched their feet. It most certainly turned out to be a moment of conversion experience for our inmates. The choir and the music band added to the solemnity of the Maundy Thursday commemoration. They invited and involved everyone to participate in the singing.

The event ended on a happy note with the vote of thanks proposed by an inmate. Chocolates, rosaries and pens were distributed to all the inmates gathered there. I heard someone comment: “How can this be a mere ritual anymore! This is what Jesus meant on washing the feet – It is so real and so meaningful”! Prison inmates are just like any of us. They are normal people. Prisons are not meant for punishment but for reformation and transformation. It’s a place meant for inmates to reorient their lives; a time to reflect and an opportunity to change. They try their utmost best to turn their lives for the better. However, due to privations, joy eludes them. Let us treat them with dignity and love and pray for their quick release from prison and to be accepted wholeheartedly by their loved ones and society.

PMI HOUSING PROJECT: SIMIMOL REJITH

It was a dream of Mrs Simimol Rejith to have a house of her own. As her husband was in prison, she was living alone with her two children in a rented house. When she found that there was no way of finding the resources required at least to pay the rent of the house in her physically unwell state, she approached the Jail Superintendent for some financial support to fulfil her dream of having her own shelter to live in. Although she had a small amount of money, she knew it would not be sufficient. However, she started to construct a small house with what was available.

Indeed, it would have been an impossible task if she were not helped by PMI. Realizing the pathetic situation of Simimol, I requested some financial help from Rev Fr Francis Kodiyan, the national coordinator of Prison Ministry India. At once he agreed to assist and enquired about the amount she required. He granted Rs. 1,50,000.00 and

forwarded it to Simimol on the following day. Sneathramam could organize Rs. 40,000.00. This financial support paved the way for her to put up a small and livable house. The work was completed and the house was blessed on 13th March 2023 at 10 am by Rev Fr Tom Madathikandthil MSJ in the presence of Sneathramam Sisters. It was indeed a joyous moment for Simimol and her children - the dream realization of their life to live in their own house. They express their immense gratitude to all those who supported them generously to fulfill their dream.



WAY OF THE CROSS FOR PRISONERS

Sr Shanti Pulickal SCC



Introductory Prayer

Lord Jesus, we adore and praise you for saving us by your holy cross. Be with us as we meditate on your sufferings and death during this 'way of the cross'. You were innocent but you took upon yourself the guilt of our sins, atoned for it and restored our relationship with God. Lord, we offer this way of the cross for the suffering humanity; particularly those are behind the bars in various prisons and those living in the dark shadow of death due to war, violence and the victims of different types of crimes. Assure them Lord that you are walking with them, helping to carry their cross and making their burden light. Amen

1st Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore you O Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death even though you were innocent and everyone knew it. But you accepted the

condemnation, for our redemption. Lord we pray for all who are given the death sentence and are counting the days for their death in various parts of the world. Help them to accept their sufferings in union with yours and offer it for the wellbeing of their families

and the whole world. Give them the grace of repentance and surrender. We pray that the death sentence may be changed into something more humane that brings about transformation of the person. Have mercy on us O Lord. Have mercy on us. May the souls of the faithful departed, Through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen



2nd Station: Jesus Accepts the Cross and Carries it to Calvary

We adore you O Christ...

Lord Jesus, you were weak after the scourging and your body was aching. But you accepted the cross and carried it with full trust and surrender to your Father. You say to us, "Unless you take up your cross and follow me you cannot have life in you". Lord Jesus we pray for all prisoners who are carrying the cross of loneliness, rejection from their families and society, helplessness and hopelessness. We pray for their families who struggle to make both ends meet because the bread winner of the family is in the jail. We also pray for the prisoner's children who are ridiculed by their class mates. Lord, give them your protection and the assurance that you are with them, make their cross easy and their burden light. Have mercy on us ...



3rd Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time under the Weight of the Cross

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, the journey was long, your body

was weak, your cross was heavy and you fell under the weight of it. But you rose and continued your painful journey because it was your Father's will that by dying you would destroy death and by rising you would restore life. Lord, we pray for all who have fallen into crimes for the sake of money, power, position, or unhealthy friendships.



Help them to repent and seek your forgiveness instead of giving way to revenge or guilt feeling. Help them to believe in your mercy and forgiveness "Though your sins are as red as scarlet they shall be made as white as snow". Have mercy on us ...

4th Station: Jesus Meets his Mother

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, the meeting with your mother was painful but it was a source of comfort and consolation for you. The disciples did not stand by you; one betrayed you, another denied you and the rest ran away. Holy mother Mary, as you comforted Jesus by your presence, bring healing and comfort to the suffering humanity. We bring to your maternal care all prisoners' children especially those who stay with their mothers till the age of six. They are denied of all privileges of children- always under police



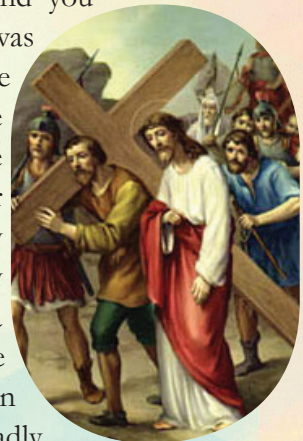
protection and live in unhealthy company. It is said that prisoner's children are potential criminals. We also pray for all children who are kidnapped, maimed, used as beggars, for prostitution, for carrying drugs or for child labor.

Mother Mary, be near them and stop all violence against children. Have mercy on us...

5th Station: Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross.

We adore you O Christ...

Lord Jesus, the soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross behind you but soon his heart was transformed and he began to experience the blessings of the cross. No longer did he carry it by force but cheerfully and gratefully as a disciple. His whole family too believed in Jesus and his sons gladly gave up their lives for believing in Jesus. We thank you Lord for calling us, the PMI volunteers for alleviating the sufferings of prisoners through our services and intercessory prayers. You said, "Whatever you do for the least of my people you do it for me". Help us to see you present in every prisoner and become your instruments in bringing about their renewal, release and rehabilitation. Lord we ask you to remove all forms of obstacles in entering the jail and carrying out our services, protect us and make our lives more and more fruitful in service. Have mercy on us ...



6th Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, we thank you for accepting the services of Veronica and rewarding her by imprinting your face on her towel.



Help us Lord to wipe the tears that flow from the hearts of those who suffer and find no relief – those who have lost their dear ones due to sickness, all forms of natural calamities and those who live in war torn countries like Ukraine. Help us to support them by our prayers. Imprint your face in their hearts that

they see you constantly and place their full trust in you. We pray especially for the conversion of those who cause such sufferings for others. Lord let your Kingdom of love; joy and peace fill this whole world. Have mercy on us ...

7th Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, by the merits of your second fall have mercy on all who are addicted to various types of crimes

and bad habits- the serial killers who find pleasure in killing others, those affected by suspicion and doubt in family life, people who are addicted to alcohol, drugs, superstitions and various forms of evil practices.

Lord, save those who are falling into sin and are unable to come out of

it. Help us do our part through our prayers



and sacrifices, guidance and counseling and by directing them to receive the sacraments, reading the Word of God and various forms of devotional practices.

Have mercy on us O Lord ...

8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, the women had an important role in your ministry and they were with you in your passion, crucifixion, death and resurrection. But Lord, women are not given their due importance in the male dominated society and the church. Bless the efforts of all who work for creating and recognizing the important role women have in the family, church

and society. Lord, in your mercy put an end to all forms of abuses and violence against girl children, torture in the name of dowry and lack of acceptance of their roles in making decisions for the welfare of society. Lord let your Kingdom of justice and peace reign in this world. Have mercy on us...



9th Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, you fell again and again due to bodily weakness. But due to our weak, fallen human nature we fall repeatedly into various forms of temptations. You speak to us of the need of perseverance in prayer,



constant watchfulness and total union with you as the vine and the branches. Help us not to cause any scandal to others by our way of living or take the pharisaical attitude of self justification and condemnation of others as sinners. Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like yours. Have mercy on us...

10th Station: Jesus is Stripped of his Garments

We adore you O Christ...

Jesus you were deprived even of your human dignity when they stripped you of your garments. Have mercy



on all who are deprived of their human dignity, those who lack the basic necessities of life such as food, water, clothing or shelter, those who are denied justice and those who live and work in sub human and in human conditions. Lord, touch

and transform the hearts of all who amass wealth at the cost of other's sweat and tears. Help them to experience real joy and blessing in sharing their wealth with others and in restoring their human dignity. Have mercy on us ...

11th Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We adore you O Christ ...

Jesus, your hands and feet were nailed to the cross and you were left to die there with only a few loved ones around you. Yet you saved us and the whole world through your suffering. We pray for all who live in solitary confinements in various jails, the prisoners

who have no one to visit them or care for them, those who are sick and lack medical care and attention and all the needy and neglected. We also pray for those who are paralyzed or bedridden for years and have to depend on others for their every need. Lord, help them to sanctify their sufferings by uniting it with your sufferings on the cross. Lord, bless all the PMI volunteers who serve such prisoners. Help us to find more and more ways of caring them. Help us also to support one another through our prayers, words of appreciation and encouragement. Have mercy on us...



12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore you O Christ ...

Lord Jesus, your death has brought us real life. You forgave all who caused you sufferings and prayed that we too do the same. You thirsted to save all, especially the last, the least and the lost. Then you surrendered your life into the hands of your Father, bowed your head and gave up your spirit. Lord, as you left your bodily presence in this world and chose each one of us to continue your work, you left with us various means by which we can draw strength from you and continue your ministry of serving the prisoners. They



are: The power of your cross, the power of your 5 wounds, the power of your precious blood, the power of your Holy Spirit and the power of your Word. Help us Lord, to

die to ourselves constantly and live by your power, your strength and your life. Have mercy on us

13th Station: Jesus is Laid in the Arms of his Mother.

We adore you O Christ...

Lord Jesus, your mother was your constant support especially in moments of your suffering. You gave her to us as our Mother and co redeemer. Mother Mary, be the support of all your children. We pray for all who suffer in various prisons, visit them and comfort them. Help them to seek your maternal love and protection and intercede for them. We pray especially for all the prisoners and the sick we visit and those for whom we pray in our intercessory prayers. You alone can bring about their renewal, release and transformation. Strengthen the prisoners as you strengthened the apostles. Pray in their hearts and draw them closer to Jesus. Have mercy on us...



is not their home. Help them to make use of the facilities offered by the govt. and improve the quality of their life, profit from the different types of education or skill training offered and make themselves fit to serve the society and their families when they are released from the jails. Lord, protect them from all forms of laziness, discouragement and frustration. Have mercy on us ...

Concluding Prayer

We thank you Lord for giving us the grace to participate in your sufferings through this way of the cross. Help us to unite all our sufferings with yours and offer it for our sanctification and that of the world

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Jesus crucified have mercy on us



14th Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

We adore you ...

Lord Jesus, you were laid in the tomb but your body was not meant for corruption in the tomb. You rose with new body, new strength and new life. Lord we pray for all prisoners. Assure them that the prison



Women's Day Celebration: Women Prison, Bengaluru

Mrs Veera Pinto

International Women's Day is a global day to celebrate and appreciate the social, economic, cultural, and other achievements of women. We, the volunteers of Bangalore Unit of Prison Ministry India celebrated women's day on March 10th, 2023 in the Lady's section of Central Jail. There were 221 inmates and 11 children below 5 years living with their mothers inside the jail. We had planned a medical camp and obtained permission for it, in Feb 2020. Unfortunately, due to the onset of Covid 19 the doors of prisons were closed for all. With much perseverance and follow-up, in March 2023, we received permission for regular visits to all prisons in Karnataka. And with that our entry to all jails began with the celebration of Women's Day.

With much hope in our hearts, as we entered the women's cell, we could see immense joy and happiness in the eyes of the inmates. All were waiting eagerly for us, as it took more than usual time for the authorities to complete the checking formalities. Fr Clement Deep, PMI Bangalore Archdiocesan Unit Coordinator began the program with a prayer, welcomed the gathering, and a brief introduction to activities of Prison Ministry, followed by the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and senior women inmate and a girl child. We Felicitated the Chief Guest - Asst Supt Madam Anitha, Sr Fidelis our guest of honour, Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, PMI national coordinator and a woman inmate with shawls and garlands.

Asst Supt Mrs. Anitha in her presidential address expressed gratitude towards Prison

Ministry, for spending a day with the jail inmates and for all the support extended to the prisoners. Sr Fidelis gave a women empowerment talk in Kannada and assured them of free accommodation and stay at Jeevodaya, when they are released. Jeevodaya is a rehabilitation home in Bangalore for released women prisoners. Fr Francis Kodiyan spoke highlighting how PMI is empowering women released prisoners through rehabilitation centres, homes for prisoners' children, housing projects and employment schemes for them.

Many inmates came forward to take part and actively participated in the games conducted by us. A separate event was conducted for the children staying with their mothers. Dance and tongue twisters were the attractions of the day for the international/ foreign national prisoners mainly from South Africa, Nepal, and other countries.

We distributed prizes to the winners, inner garments, and sarees as gifts to all the inmates, cakes, and fresh fruit juices from the prison Bakery. During the discussion, while seeking permission, the superintendent informed me there is a need for a Sound system exclusively in the Women's cell. We donated a portable sound system with cordless mikes. Many inmates came to talk to us individually and we patiently lent an ear. We prayed for their well-being, their early release, and for their family to accept them and soon they unite with their family. Truly a memorable day spent with our sisters behind the bars.



PMI Volunteers Training Program Search, Seve and Save the Lost 11-24 April 2023

Program

11 Tuesday

1000 Arrival
1100 Registration
1300 Lunch
1500 Eucharistic Adoration
1600 Tea & Games, Ice Breaking
1830 Evening Prayer
1930 Holy Mass
2000 Supper & Goodnight

12 Wednesday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
0730 Holy Mass
0800 Breakfast
0900 Inaugural Session
1100 Coffee Break
1130 Biblical Foundations,
Prison Ministry :Mar Jose Pulickal
1200 Introduction to Prison Ministry
: Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS
1300 Lunch
1500 Birth and Growth of Jeevodaya
: Sr Fidelis
1600 Tea & Games
1830 Eucharistic Adoration
1930 Supper
2015 Documentaries on Prison Ministry

2145 Goodnight

13 Thursday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
0730 Holy Mass
0800 Breakfast
0900 PMI Dynamics of Central Region:
Fr Wilfred Fernandes
1000 3R Theory Fr Varghese Karipperry
1045 Tea
1100 Heartbeats form Tihar: Sr Inigo
1230 National Convention Insights
: David Fernandes
1300 Lunch
1500 How Vipasana Transforms Prisoners
: Ms Lalitha & Saraswathy
1600 Tea & Visit to - Jeevodaya
1830 Eucharistic Adoration
1930 Supper
2015 Documentaries on Prison Ministry
2145 Goodnight

14 Friday

0630 Morning Prayer & Mediation
0730 Holy Mass
0800 Breakfast
0900 Spirituality of Prison Ministry
India: Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS

1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Ministry Inside the Prison
 : Sr Adele SCCG PMI
 1200 Ministry Outside the Prison
 Fr Benny Pachanal
 1300 Lunch
 1500 PMI North Region:
 Fr Jose Thannippara MST
 1600 Tea & Games
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Movie on Prison Ministry
 2145 Goodnight

15 Saturday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 PMI Special Task Forces
 Fr Michael Francis
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Catholic Social Teachings
 Fr Anil Prasad
 1200 Redeemed Prisoners
 Sr Lini Sheeja MSC
 1300 Lunch
 1500 Sharing
 1600 Tea & Visit to Swanthana
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Movie on Prison Ministry
 2145 Goodnight

16 Sunday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 PMI Milestones
 Fr Francis Kodiyan MCBS
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Melvin Human Rights
 1200 PMI Lifestyle and Guiding
 Principles : Sr Amala DC
 1300 Lunch

1400 Outing
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Souvenir
 2145 Goodnight

17 Monday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 Insights from PMI Mumbai Unit
 : Fr Glasten
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 CBCI JPD Commission
 : Fr William MI
 1230 PMI Rehabilitation Centres
 : Sr Clara HCM
 1300 Lunch
 1500 Competitions - Oral
 1600 Tea & Games
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Souvenir
 2145 Goodnight

18 Tuesday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 North East Ministry : Jobina UFS
 0945 Insights from PMI Mysore Unit
 : Adv Michael Noronha
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Prisoners' Rehabilitation and
 Reintegration: Dr Antony Sebastian
 1300 Lunch
 1500 Competitions - Written
 1600 Tea & Games
 1830 Evening Prayer
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Souvenir
 2145 Goodnight

19 Wednesday

0630 Morning Prayer & Meditation

0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 Prisoners' Reformation Trajectory
 : Fr Francis Kodiyan
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 PMI State Level Ministry
 : Fr Martin Thattil
 1200 Seminary Units
 : Fr Jose Valiamangalam MST
 1300 Lunch
 1400 Begging & Pilgrimage Practice
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Prison Visit
 2145 Goodnight

20 Thursday

0630 Morning Prayer
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 PMI Fund Raising – BDP
 : Sr Amala DC
 1000 Homes for Prisoners' Children
 : Sr Basil SCS
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Journey to Central Prison, Bengaluru
 1200 Conference on the Rules and
 Regulations to be followed in
 Prison Visit
 1400 Lunch
 1600 Tea & Games
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Prison Visit
 2145 Goodnight

21 Friday

0630 Morning Prayer
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 PMI Projects : Fr Antony O de M
 1000 Coffee Break
 1015 Visit to Open Prison Devanahalli
 1600 Tea & Games

1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Prison Visit
 2145 Goodnight

22 Saturday

0630 Morning Prayer
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 Criminal Trial and Bail Procedures
 : Adv Titto
 1030 Coffee Break
 1100 Reni George
 : Reformed Prisoner Witnessing
 1230 PMI Mysore : Adv Michael Noronha
 1300 Lunch
 1500 Preparations for Cultural Program
 1600 Tea & Competitions
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Cultural Programs
 2145 Goodnight

23 Sunday

0600 First Team Going for
 Sunday Ministry
 0800 Second Team Going for
 Sunday Ministry
 1130 Ravi Sagar SJ
 1300 Lunch
 1600 Tea & Games
 1830 Eucharistic Adoration
 1930 Supper
 2015 Preparation for Exam
 2145 Goodnight

24 Monday

0630 Morning Prayer
 0730 Holy Mass
 0800 Breakfast
 0900 Exam
 1000 Coffee Break
 1030 Valedictory
 1300 Lunch & Departure



**PMI Coimbatore Visiting
Thalavadi Villages.**



**PMI Volunteers Gathering,
Gujarat.**



**PMI Volunteers Training Program,
Bengaluru.**



**PMI Volunteers Visit to
Distract Jail, Kottayam.**



**PMI Volunteers Visit to
Special Sub Jail, Ponkunnam.**



**PMI Volunteers Visit to
Sub Jail, Bhanda.**



**PMI Volunteers Visit to
Sub Jail, Pala.**



**Prisoner's Release,
Open Jail, Pune.**



Releasing of 13th National Convention Souvenir.



Seminarians Visit to Alappuzha Prison.



Seminarians Visit to Aluva Sub Jail.



Seminarians Visit to Central Jail, Viyyur.



Seminarians Visit to Distract Jail, Idukki.



Seminarians Visit to Aluva Sub Jail.



Seminarians Visit to District Jail, Palakkad.



Seminarians Visit to Open Prison, Cheemeni.



**Seminarians Visit to
Ottappalam Sub Jail.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Special Sub Jail, Chittur.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Special Sub Jail, Kottarakara.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail Peerumedu.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Alathur.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Chavakkad.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Mattancherry.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Pala.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Ponnani.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Thavannur Central Prison.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Women Prison, Thrissur.**



**Ugadi Celebration
Central Jail, Mysore.**



**Vincent De Paul Society
Members Visiting Kolbe Home,
Bengaluru.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
Central Prison, Mysore.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
District Prison, Mandya.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
Women Prison, Bengaluru.**



**Easter Celebration,
Jharsuguda Jail.**



**PMI Chhattisgarh
State Gathering.**



**Women's Day Celebration
Central Women Prison, Shimoga.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
Bilaspur Prison.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
Central Women Prison, Bhopal.**



**Women's Day Celebration,
Hindalga Jail.**



**PMI Brothers' Visit to
Archbishop's House, Thrissur.**



**Seminarians Visit to
Sub Jail, Attingal.**