

2ND AUGUST 2020

**EIGHTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
& PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY**

Theme: Reform to Reintegrate

Introduction: Today we celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday in the Archdiocese. On this occasion, we recall the sacrificial life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of Prison Ministry India. His inflamed love for God and fervent devotion to Mary led him to live a life of faithful apostolic deeds. Lord, through the 40 years of Prison Ministry service, you have brought countless souls the apostolic endeavours and inevitably extended the kingdom of God in every prison of our country. Grant O Lord that through this Eucharistic celebration, we too may be filled with the fire of love, and zeal to work selflessly and reach out in service and serve our society especially to those in the prison.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: 144: 8-9,15-18

Second reading: Rom 8: 35, 37-39

Gospel reading; Matthew 14: 13-21

Prayer of the Faithful:

Celebrant: Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus shows great compassion towards the sinners and the poor. Let us, therefore pray, that we too may be guided by the Holy Spirit to show the same compassion towards others... saying,

Response: Lord, Graciously Hear Our Prayer

- **For the universal Church.** You have anointed the Pope, Bishops, priests and consecrated people as powerful instruments of your liberating love. We pray that their guidance will assist our brethren behind bars and recreate the image and likeness of love in them. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our government.** You have appointed them to serve this nation. May they be mindful of the prison inmates in distress and sensitive to cater to their needs. We pray that they make better choices for the wellbeing of the inmates. Bless the jail authorities to be kind, gentle and understanding towards the inmates. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For the volunteers of Prison Ministry across the country.** You have commissioned them to reach out to the least, the lost and the lonely in prisons. We ask for your guidance and protection upon them in this ministry. Empower them to reform and reintegrate prisoners back into the mainstream of society. Let us pray to the Lord.
- **For our brothers and sisters behind bars especially those wrongly accused.** You too were innocent and falsely accused and so you can understand their plight. They live with so much mental, emotional and physical discomforts. We pray that you shower your mercy to comfort

them and enable them to renew their lives in their preparation to be released. We pray for reconciliation with their families and society. Let us pray to the Lord.

- **For those in prisons who have died in this pandemic.** You have called them from the pain of imprisonment. We pray for these inmates, that you grant them a merciful judgment and eternal rest and reward. Let us pray to the Lord.
- (Pause to pray for personal and community needs. Let us pray to the Lord)

Concluding Prayer: Loving Father, you are the happiest when we your children turn to you. Stretch out your healing hands and touch all our brethren behind the bars and help them to lead a renewed life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen