DON BOSCO PRISON MINISTRY WINS
PASCUAL CHAVEZ AWARD 2012

The prestigious PASCUAL CHAVEZ AWARD 2012, was instituted on September 07, 2012 by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia, to promote visibility and innovation in Don Bosco Salesian Youth Ministry and to propagate good practices in the region of South Asia. This was awarded to Don Bosco Prison Ministry of Salesian Province of Kolkata on April 05, 2013 by Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga sdb, Regional Councilor for South Asia, President of Don Bosco - Salesian Provincial conference of South Asia. In 1995 Don Bosco Prison Ministry (DBPM) was began at the initiative of Fr. Scaria Nedumattathil sdb at Berhampore in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. Over years it developed into a viable project, with a vision to restore freedom, honour & dignity to all behind bars and a mission to reform, release, rehabilitate and reintegrate prisoners in the society as law abiding citizens. DBPM, with its various welfare activities – legal assistance, counseling, vocational training courses, sports, games, music, entertainment, micro projects for income generation, prisoners’ family welfare schemes, adult education, educational and health support for prisoners’ children back home etc., succeeded in releasing and rehabilitating a large number of marginalized citizens. In partnership with the department of correctional services (Prisons Directorate) of Govt. of West Bengal, DBPM has built up hope and shaped lives for many in various jails. Noticing good results, other states have started to seek the help of Don Bosco Prison Ministry to begin similar welfare activities in those jails. DBPM has come up to this expectation, due to committed and dedicated services of a few Salesians of Kolkata Province - Fr. Francis Thathenkery, Fr. Jacob Champanil, Fr. Antony Kariyattil, Fr. Mani Kariapuram, Fr. Scaria; support of many prison Officers, Staff & several prisoners who are part of Don Bosco Prison Ministry Team; other NGO partners – Ramakrishna Mission, Sisters of Charity sccg, Apostolic Carmel sisters, Missionaries of Charity, St. Joseph of Cluny sisters, Prison Ministry India, Matri Kalyan Sangha, Congregation of Teresian Carmelites & others. Don Bosco Alumni and Salesian Cooperators have come forward to collaborate with Don Bosco Prison Ministry to take this Mission to national and international level.

Appraising the nominee and acknowledging the following salient features noted by the jury:
Intervening in the rehabilitation of young prisoners with livelihood skills training and reintegrating them into society, winning the partnership of the government, being a replicable and sustainable model and creating an extensive impact on the lives of many youth and their families.
On 7th September 2012, the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia, instituted the "Pascual Chávez Award for Innovative Salesian Ministry" in honour of the ninth successor of Don Bosco. The purpose of the award is to promote visibility and innovation in Salesian Youth Ministry and to propagate good practices in the region of South Asia.

Appraising the nominee and acknowledging the following salient features of:
Intervening in the rehabilitation of young prisoners with livelihood skills training and re-integrating them into society, winning the partnership of the government, being a replicable and sustainable model and creating an extensive impact on the lives of many youth and families; the jury awards the "Don Bosco Prison Ministry" of the Kolkata province, the Pascual Chávez Award for Innovative Salesian Ministry in South Asia for the year 2012.

Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB
Regional Councillor for South Asia - President of IPSCSA