



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome and Rome seen from the world

N. 100



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Reflections & Directions: Message of the month

Advent: a path to the depths of the heart

Dear Confreres,

With the beginning of Advent, we begin a journey that is not simply a journey to Bethlehem, but a period that digs deep into our hearts. Advent is a season when the world seems to quiet down, inviting everyone to prepare, to wait, animated by a hope that does not disappoint, alive and deep. It is the time when we must make room in our lives and hearts for Jesus to come in a new and powerful way.

The meaning of Advent for us Camillians is particularly profound, as it represents an invitation to renew our mission to serve Christ in the sick and to care for the suffering with an open heart. The central message, "a heart open to Jesus," calls us to make room for Christ not only in our own lives but also in the lives of every person we encounter. By preparing to welcome Jesus, we prepare ourselves to recognize him in every face, to bring his love and compassion to every place of suffering, loneliness and need.

Advent is a journey toward interiority. The prophet Isaiah exhorts us, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a path for our God" (Is. 40:3). This preparation is not a ritual tradition, but a profound transformation. We are called to cleanse everything that clutters our hearts and prevents us from being a welcoming environment in which Christ can dwell.

Advent is "a time when we set out together toward Bethlehem, where God awaits us in the simplicity of a child" (Pope Francis, First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, 2015). Advent invites us to rediscover this simplicity, to listen to the quiet voice of God who calls us to love with all our hearts. In this time, we are called to make room for Christ, converting our hearts so that we welcome him with the same awe and wonder that Mary and Joseph had on the night of the first Christmas.

Advent is also a journey of community. Our vocation as Camillians is to be a family of faith, united in the mission to "relive the ever-present merciful love of Christ for the sick and to bear witness to it to the world" (Constitution 1). As we enter this holy season, let us unite in prayer and solidarity in our provinces, delegations and communities. St. Paul exhorts us, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). In this Advent season, let us support each other, persevere in our shared mission to bring Christ's saving love to those in need. Together, we can be light to each other, encouraging and inspiring each other to serve with humility and joy.

Advent is the time of the promise of Emmanuel, "God with us," who takes on our humanity to bring salvation and healing. This is the promise that changes everything. Jesus himself tells us, "I am with you all days, until the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). His presence is a source of comfort and strength for us, especially in our ministry to the sick, where we feel Jesus' closeness in every gesture of care and compassion.


St. Camillus and his first companions perceived this call when they made their first religious profession on December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. On this day, each of us is invited to commit ourselves totally, to embrace the call to serve Christ wholeheartedly. It is a day to remember that our hands are meant to be his hands, our hearts his heart, loving the sick, the suffering and the lonely.

As we open our hearts to Jesus this Advent, we are also called to give it to others. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:35). Imagine if every person we meet could feel Christ's love through us! When we care for the sick, when we comfort the bereaved, we show the world what it means to be disciples of Jesus. Let us strive to become a sign of hope, a beacon of love, living out our vocation with the compassion and humility of Christ.

May this Advent season inspire each of us to serve with renewed compassion, mercy, enthusiasm, hope and joy, to find strength in one another, deepening our fraternal bonds and encouraging one another in the spirit of Camillian fraternity. I hope that this Advent season will help us to prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus and that we can bring his love and hope to everyone we meet.

May Mary Immaculate, Queen of the Ministers of the Infirm, continue to inspire, guide and protect each of us in our Camillian vocation, helping us to live it fully and joyfully.

I wish you a peaceful and joyful Advent, marked by an authentic welcoming of the birth of our Lord in our lives, in our communities and in our families.



Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General



Conquered by Christ, we walk as pilgrims of hope

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Universal Jubilee of the Catholic Church will officially open on **December 24, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m., with the celebration of the solemn Holy Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, followed by the rite of the opening of the Holy Door. This event will mark the beginning of an extraordinary year: it will be an authentic pilgrimage of faith, a time of grace in which we are invited to meet the Lord, renew our hope and experience his transforming love.

The theme of the jubilee ***Pilgrims of Hope*** recalls the centrality of Christian hope, which sustains and illuminates man's future. As Pope Francis reminds us in the bull of jubilee

indiction, *Spes non confundit*, hope is a force that impels us to build the future with joy, even in the most complex moments of history.

A transforming encounter

The jubilee event is not just a celebration, but is shaped as a profound experience of encounter: it is the personal relationship with the living Jesus Christ, who awaits us to renew our hearts and lives. This encounter is not limited to a special moment, but is a call to live a renewed faith and a concrete commitment every day.

Christ is the real protagonist of this jubilee. It is His light that illuminates our path and His love that renews everything.

His grace invites us to be instruments of hope, sharing with courage and love the gift received, to become authentic disciples and witnesses of His mercy.

The jubilee invites us to rediscover our faith and to be authentic witnesses of the Gospel; it is a powerful invitation to renew our faith, to become salt of the earth and light of the world; it is a propitious occasion to rediscover our Christian identity, to remotivate our commitment as disciples sent into the world to be a sign of hope and charity. We are called to live this mission with awareness, accepting the challenge to be authentic witnesses in every gesture, in every word.

As Camillian Charismatic Family: a mission to be rediscovered

For us, the Camillian Charismatic Family, bringing hope to the sick is a mission of commitment and privilege. St. Camillus taught us that the sick are our benefactors, for they open to us the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven: in every gesture of care, we should reveal ourselves as a tangible sign of God's love and witnesses of his mercy.

Jubilee 2025 has a special meaning for us in the Camillian Charismatic Family: we celebrate the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus, an invitation to reflect on the transforming power of God's grace.

The chosen theme- ***Conquered by Christ*** (Phil. 3:12)-immediately transfers us to the heart of our charism: a visceral love for the sick, lived as a concrete revelation of divine compassion.

St. Camillus teaches us that holiness is a path accessible to all, lived in faithful and creative dedication to our vocation. This anniversary is an invitation to renew our charismatic identity, to strengthen fraternal

communion and to witness enthusiastically to the joy of the Gospel through daily ministry.

We are called to live our charism with creative fidelity, rooted in love and charity toward the sick. The jubilee is an opportunity to sense new opportunities to fruitfully perform our charism, making it a source of hope and healing for the world.

A call to action

Let us try to make Jubilee 2025 an opportunity to renew our commitment to the sick and the poor, to sense the profile of Jesus in their lives and suffering! Every gesture of charity, every free service can sow hope and love, making us instruments of God's mercy!

To make Jubilee 2025 a meaningful experience, we invite you to:

- 1. plan creatively:** organize Jubilee initiatives that reflect the richness of our charism and share your ideas, to walk together as a charismatic family.
- 2. contribute generously:** support spiritually and concretely the celebrations, especially the international ones in Rome, ensuring active and meaningful participation.

To each of you, we renew our gratitude for the commitment and dedication with which you carry out our mission, with the hope that Jubilee 2025 will be for us a time of spiritual renewal, fraternal communion and growth in hope.

We accompany you with our prayers, asking the Lord to bless and sustain you on this journey. May the jubilee be a time of grace for the whole Church and an opportunity to bring the light of the Gospel to the world!

With fraternal affection and the thousand blessings of St. Camillus,

Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI

Superior General, Ministers of the Infirm

Mother Lucia Walker

Superior General, Ministers of the Infirm

Mother Zelia Andrighetti

Superior General, Daughters of St. Camillus

Mother Lurdes Calderon Flores

Superior General, Handmaids of the Incarnation

Luisa Muston

President General, Missionaries of the Infirm Christ Hope

Renewed commitment and new inspiration: the 9th CADIS Leadership Conference

By Giulia Calibeo

From November 3 to 9, 2024, the Camillian Pastoral Center in Bangkok hosted the 9th CADIS (Camillian Disaster Service International) Leadership Conference, a pivotal event to reaffirm commitment to building resilient and vulnerable communities.

The conference brought together participants from 40 countries, including Australia, the Philippines, India, Brazil, Ireland, Italy, and many others, to discuss strategic themes and share experiences in humanitarian and development interventions.

A Comprehensive Agenda

This year's central theme, "Reaffirming Our Commitment and Optimizing Our Interventions to Build Resilient and Vulnerable Communities," guided discussions on several key topics:

- **Community-based disaster management**, focusing on health emergencies;
- **Mental health and psychosocial approaches**, addressing the aftermath of disasters;
- **Resource mobilization**, critical for sustainable humanitarian and development interventions.

Servant Leadership: The Heart of Resilience

The conference opened with a deep dive into the concept of servant leadership, a model that places service at the core of leadership. Aris Miranda, MI, Director of CADIS International, explored various servant leadership models inspired by historical and spiritual figures such as Moses, St. Camillus de Lellis, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. A servant leader, Miranda emphasized, combines tenderness with firmness, listens rather than imposes, and measures success by dedication



to service. This approach, inspired by St. Camillus' "New School of Charity," drives CADIS members to uphold human dignity at the heart of their mission.

Building Resilience in Health Emergencies

The second day featured insights from Dr. Pretesh Kiran, an expert in disaster preparedness, who highlighted the importance of a community-based approach to tackling health crises. Discussions underscored the need to address not only physical ailments but also psychological impacts, often overlooked, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may manifest months after a disaster.

Mental Health and Spirituality in Crisis Contexts

The third and fourth days were devoted to mental health and spirituality, critical aspects of disaster management. Lisa Anna Gayoles, a psychologist specializing in social behavior, guided participants in recognizing and addressing mental health challenges such as anxiety, panic attacks, and suicidal thoughts. Following this, Dr. Consuelo Santamaria delved into a psychosocial and spiritual-pastoral approach inspired by Camillian



A servant leader combines tenderness with firmness, listens rather than imposes, and measures success by dedication to service.

spirituality, emphasizing humility and unconditional love as essential elements in supporting those who suffer.

Resource Mobilization and Sustainability

The final day focused on resource mobilization, led by Usha Menon, an expert in non-profit sector strategies. During the workshop, participants explored the unique priorities of each country and opportunities to engage new supporters. Particular attention was given to the Laudato Si' practices, which guide CADIS's institutional ministry toward sustainability.

Looking Ahead to CADIS International's 10th Anniversary

The conference concluded with renewed momentum for the future. In anticipation of CADIS International's 10th anniversary on December 1, 2025, a working group was established to plan commemorative activities and collaborative projects.

This ninth conference served as a moment of reflection, inspiration, and renewed commitment for CADIS, which continues to build bridges of solidarity and hope in the world's most vulnerable communities.

“He took care of him”: a beacon of humanity and hope in healthcare ministry

By **Fr. Francesco De Rienzo, M.I.**

The national project “He took care of him,” promoted by the Camillian Religious of Southern Italy in collaboration with the Regional Office of Apulia and the National Office of the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference) for Health Pastoral Care, stands out as a significant initiative within the context of healthcare ministry. Designed to address a wide range of tangible and spiritual needs, this program aims to bring comfort, hope, and support to those facing illness, pain, and loneliness - often without adequate assistance.

A holistic approach to care

At the heart of the project is the goal of offering integrated support that combines care for the body with care for the soul. The intent is clear: to provide spiritual, moral, and emotional support not only to patients but also to healthcare professionals and volunteers, promoting a holistic vision of the individual. This vision embraces the physical, psychological, spiritual, and relational dimensions, placing human dignity at the forefront.



Prayer and Community: tangible support

Among the project's key initiatives are moments of prayer and meditation, designed as opportunities for reflection and solidarity. Organized in hospitals, parishes, and the homes of the sick and elderly, these gatherings aim to alleviate isolation and create a network of human and divine connection. Community prayer thus becomes not only an act of faith but also a gesture of solidarity that restores a sense of belonging to the sick.

Listening Centers for grief support

Another cornerstone of the project is the establishment of listening centers focused on grief ministry. In an era where loss is often endured in solitude, these spaces provide a welcoming environment to share pain, receive support, and find emotional relief. Grief processing, facilitated by professional listeners and empathetic settings, becomes a more manageable journey, allowing individuals to navigate their loss with greater resilience.



Catechesis and training to humanize care

Humanizing the healthcare system is another central objective of the project. Through catechesis sessions, roundtables, and seminars, the initiative fosters broader reflection on how to bring humanity back to the forefront of healthcare. Patients are not just cases to be treated but individuals with stories, emotions, fears, and hopes. The project seeks to raise awareness within the healthcare sector about the importance of a more compassionate and respectful approach.

A recognition for outstanding service

A symbolic initiative within the project is the St. Camillus de Lellis Award, which honors individuals who excel in caring for the sick. This award celebrates the spirit of service embodied by St. Camillus and aims to inspire others to follow his example, promoting the values of solidarity, compassion, and humanity.

Volunteer training and regional synergies

The project places particular emphasis on volunteer training, as volunteers play a crucial role in supporting patients and their families. Through targeted training programs, volunteers will be equipped with the necessary tools to perform their roles effectively, both practically and spiritually. There is also a focus on environmental and health issues, with informational courses organized in collaboration with local associations. Additionally, the project aims to support families of individuals with disabilities by offering legal and practical assistance to help them navigate bureaucratic challenges.

A mobile healthcare ministry

A key innovative aspect of the project is the creation of the “Salus Infirmorum” Mobile Training School, designed to train healthcare professionals, volunteers, and laypeople. Through courses and workshops, this

school seeks to disseminate a culture of care rooted in human dignity, solidarity, and compassion, transforming healthcare environments into more welcoming and humane spaces.

A project rooted in the territory

The idea for this project emerged from the local community of Macchia-Borgo Mezzanone, inspired by the guidance of Brother Carlo Mangione and his experience in social and healthcare volunteer work. By engaging dioceses, parishes, and regional associations, the project aims to build a support network that goes beyond healthcare, fostering a culture of care centered on the individual.

A commitment for the future

“He took care of him” is more than a program; it is an invitation to build a more inclusive society where every individual, regardless of their condition, feels supported and valued. It is a call to foster synergy among the Church, institutions, and civil society, transforming pain into hope and caregiving into an act of love.

In conclusion, the project represents a beacon of hope in a world often marked by indifference. Through the collaboration and dedication of all involved, it seeks to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who suffer, embodying the values of humanity and solidarity that St. Camillus lived out so profoundly.

Santa Maria Maddalena: a new era for the mother church of the Camillians

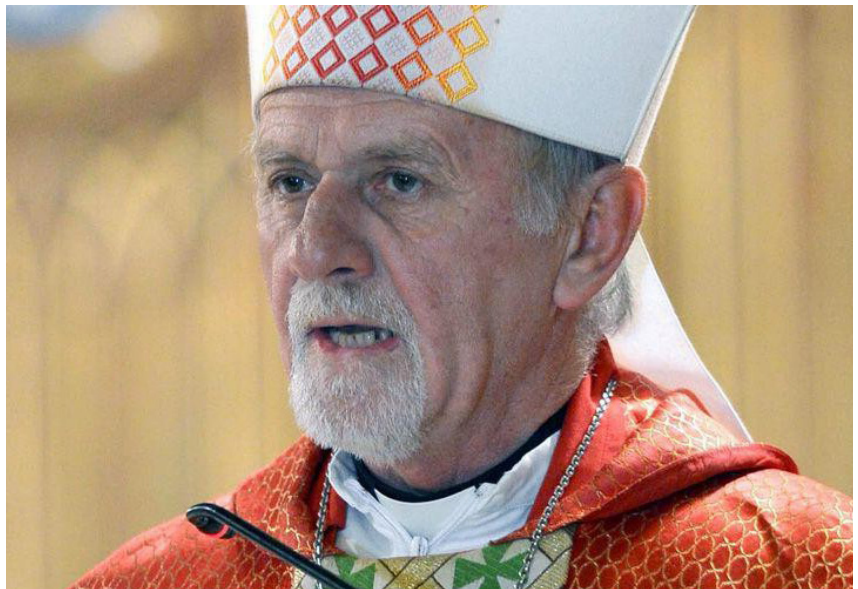
By **Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon, MI**

With immense joy, we share an extraordinary news: our beloved church of *Santa Maria Maddalena* in Campo Marzio, the mother church of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, has recently been elevated to a cardinal titular church. This honor was conferred by Pope Francis during the public ordinary consistory held on December 7, 2024, in St. Peter's Basilica.

The church, consecrated in 1727 in its current Baroque style, has for over four centuries preserved the physical, spiritual, and charismatic memory of our Order. Purchased by St. Camillus in 1588, it remains the beating heart of the Camillian community and a symbol of our commitment to the sick and the suffering.

A new Cardinal for *Santa Maria Maddalena*

During the consistory, Pope Francis created and published 21 new cardinals, including Archbishop Vicente Bokalic Iglic of Santiago del Estero, Argentina, who is now our titular Cardinal. Archbishop Bokalic, a Vincentian religious, has dedicated his life to the service of the Church, bringing with him profound experience as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires



His Eminence Cardinal Bokalic Iglic

under the leadership of then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis.

A bond with the Pope and catholicity

The elevation of the church of *Santa Maria Maddalena* to a cardinal titular church strengthens the bond between the Camillian community and the Pope, a symbol of unity and catholicity. It is a significant recognition, highlighting the central role of our church not only in the history of the Order but also in the life of the universal Church.

Toward the 300th Anniversary of the consecration

Looking ahead to 2027, we

prepare to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the consecration of the church of *Santa Maria Maddalena*. This event will be an opportunity to reflect on its rich spiritual and charismatic heritage and to renew our commitment to being witnesses of mercy and charity.

A special 'Thank You'

We express our gratitude to Pope Francis for this privilege and affirm our friendship, collaboration, and prayers for our new titular Cardinal, Archbishop Bokalic. The Camillian community of *Santa Maria Maddalena* pledges to embrace this new responsibility with enthusiasm and faith.

Establishment of the Camillian vice-province in Vietnam

By Fr. Joseph Trần Văn Phát, MI



“These vows express a complete love, as Jesus Christ, our Lord, has taught us.” With these words, Bishop Peter Nguyễn Văn Khảm, President of the Episcopal Conference of Vietnam, presided over the Holy Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate. This celebration was also an occasion to give thanks for the establishment of the Camillian Vice-Province in Vietnam. The Mass took place on December 7, 2024, at the Tân

Định Church, in the presence of many religious, benefactors, and faithful.

The Thanksgiving Mass

The celebration began with the procession of the concelebrants, including Fr. John Baptist Phương Đình Toại, provincial delegate of the Vietnamese Delegation, Fr. Baby Ellickal, member of the General Council, and Fr. Paolo Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, Provincial Superior of Thailand.

During his homily, Bishop Peter reflected on three great joys that characterized the event. The first was the joy of gratitude, inspired by the words of the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation: “My soul magnifies the Lord.” He explained how the Camillians can now give thanks for the fruits of their 20 years of mission in Vietnam. The second joy was the joy of service: just as Mary hastened to visit Elizabeth, the Camillians dedicate themselves tirelessly to the sick, finding

deep spiritual satisfaction in their mission. Finally, the third joy was the joy of self-giving: “When they renew their vows, the Camillians declare their total and unconditional commitment, following the example of Christ.”

Addressing the community, the Bishop posed a question about the future of the Order in Vietnam, inviting everyone to trust in the Lord and support the Camillians in their mission.

The elevation to Vice-Province

Following the homily, the official proclamation of the Decree of the Superior General took place, formally elevating the Vietnamese Delegation to Vice-Province. The decree was read by Fr. Baby Ellickal in English and by Fr. Giuse Trần Văn Phát in Vietnamese.

The new Council of the Vice-Province was then introduced: Fr. John Baptist Phương Đình Toại as Superior, Fr. Vincent Vũ Quốc Toàn, Fr. Giuse Phan Anh Dũng, Fr. Paul Nguyễn Như Hiếu, and Fr. Giuse Hoàng Quốc Huy, who also serves as secretary and financial administrator.

Shortly afterward, the Camillian religious renewed their solemn vows, reaffirming their commitment to live in chastity, poverty, and obedience, and to serve the sick even at the risk of their lives.

Gratitude and congratulations

At the end of the celebration,



Fr. John Baptist Phương Đình Toại expressed his gratitude to Bishop Peter, the parish priest of Tân Định Church, and all present for their support. Fr. Paolo Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, Provincial Superior of Thailand, extended his congratulations to the new Council of the Vice-Province. Bishop Peter also addressed the assembly, emphasizing the significance of this event for the future of the Camillian mission in Vietnam.

The celebration concluded with a group photo featuring the Bishop, the concelebrants, the new Council, and the Camillian religious, all united in a spirit of joy and fellowship.

Words of sharing

Brother Joseph, a Camillian currently completing his studies in Thailand, shared his enthusiasm: “Returning to

Vietnam, this celebration has given me renewed strength to face challenges and continue my path of consecration.”

Ms. Phụng, a businesswoman close to the Order, added: “I have always supported Fr. Toại for his dedication to the poorest of the sick. Seeing his work recognized today fills me with joy.”

After the celebration, a simple banquet gathered all attendees in the church courtyard, where Bishop Peter once again highlighted the significance of the event: “This day embodies three joys: gratitude, service, and self-offering. These are the foundations of the Camillian mission, which today sees its efforts rewarded for the benefit of the poor and the sick in Vietnam.”

Asian regional Formation Meet

By **Fr. Baby Ellickal, MI** & **Fr. Michael Woothichai Boonbunlu, MI**

“The future of humanity is in the hands of those who are strong enough to provide coming generations with reasons for living and hoping.” (Gaudium et Spes, 31)

The Asian Regional Formation Meet on the Ongoing Formation of the Formators was held from December 1 to 5, 2024, at the Camillian Pastoral Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. This event brought together 20 formators from three provinces and three delegations, including the Philippines (2), India (3), Thailand (7), Vietnam (3), Indonesia (4), and Taiwan (1). The active participation of four religious brothers further enriched the program. With the theme “Holistic Formation in a Fragmented World,” this significant gathering sought to equip formators with the necessary tools to accompany candidates along their journey of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral development.

The gathering commenced on December 1, 2024, with an opening prayer led by Rev. Fr. Peter Nguyen Huu Biet MI, Novice Master of the Thailand Province. Rev. Fr. Michael Woothichai

Boonbunlu (Fr. Joey) MI, Asian Regional Secretary for Formation, warmly welcomed the participants, expressing his joy at hosting this significant event in Bangkok. Rev. Fr. Paul Cherdchai Lertjitlekha MI, Provincial Superior of Thailand, officially inaugurated the event with an opening address, highlighting the honour and privilege of hosting the program in Thailand.

Rev. Fr. Baby Ellickal MI, General Consulta for Formation, delivered the keynote address, representing Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI, General Superior, and the General Consulta. Fr. Baby emphasized the sacred and noble responsibility of formators in shaping the lives of future ministers of the Gospel, entrusted with carrying forward the legacy of St. Camillus. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Province of Thailand for their exceptional hospitality and to Fr. Michael Woothichai Boonbunlu MI, Fr. Pairat Sriprasert MI, Fr. Anusorn Nilkhet MI, Fr. Peter Nguyen Huu Biet MI, and Fr. Suphakorn Jojo MI for their meticulous planning, hard work, hospitality, availability and

generosity. Fr. Baby invited the participants to reflect deeply on their mission, reimagine formation in a fragmented world, and boldly innovate for the future.

A spiritual talk by Rev. Fr. Joseph Apisit Kritsaram, C.Ss.R, enriched the opening day, focusing on the spirituality of vulnerability in religious life. Fr. Apisit encouraged participants to embrace their own brokenness as a pathway to authentic spirituality. The day was formally inaugurated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Paul Cherdchai Lertjitlekha MI, alongside the participants.

On December 2, 2024, the program continued with Morning Prayer and Holy Mass led by Rev. Fr. Jose Emmanuel Cabarles from the Philippines. Rev. Fr. Peter Jittapol Plangklang, C.Ss.R, facilitated sessions on Human Development, Personality, and Healthy Relationships, providing valuable insights into mental health, self-care, and fostering healthy interpersonal connections. Rev. Fr. John Phuong Dinh Toai MI, later addressed the

Psycho-Spiritual Challenges of Camillian Formation, with a focus on fostering affective maturity, navigating social media and cyber addiction, and promoting the responsible use of technology in formation programs.

The discussions on December 3, 2024, were guided by Rev. Fr. Baby Ellickal MI, who addressed the Challenges of Camillian Initial Formation and ongoing formation. Through group activities and reflections, participants identified challenges in initial formation and explored new opportunities for growth in their formative ministry. The day began with Morning Prayer and Holy Mass, presided over by Rev. Fr. John Phuong Dinh Toai MI, setting the tone for a day of meaningful discussions. On December 4, 2024, the program began with the celebration of Morning Prayer and the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Jofree Devassia MI from India. The focus of the day shifted to collaboration, with Fr. Baby

Ellickal, MI, leading a session on Collaboration in Camillian Formation in Asia and Beyond.

Each delegation shared their formation programs, future plans, and strategies for inter-provincial collaboration. Participants expressed their gratitude for the enriching experience through feedback. Fr. Baby concluded the discussions by reaffirming the importance of organizing similar programs in the future and strengthening inter-provincial collaboration in the Asian region.

The gathering formally concluded with a Thanksgiving Prayer, followed by a sightseeing tour of Bangkok and a special dinner featuring an enchanting boat trip along the Chao Phraya River. These moments of cultural and fraternal joy added a celebratory dimension to the program, fostering deeper connections among participants.

These four days were indeed moments of personal renewal

and nourishment. The participants were deeply touched by the sense of fraternity, enjoyed the delicious and healthy food, the warm and heartfelt hospitality of the Thai confreres, evening volleyball games, well-organized celebrations of prayers and the Holy Eucharist, and the input sessions that marked a personal renewal and transformation for everyone. The presence and active participation of some older missionaries in this event were both enriching and valuable. Their wisdom, lived experiences, and deep-rooted commitment to the Camillian charism brought a sense of continuity and inspiration to the gathering. December 5 was designated as a day to visit the formation houses and ministry centres of this province.

Special gratitude is extended to the Provincial Superiors and Delegates of the Asian Region for their cooperation and support, which made this gathering a memorable and impactful event.



Celebrating the 20th ‘Days of Bereavement’ at San Camillo

By Juan Pablo Hernández



This year's edition highlighted the importance of addressing grief and loss within educational contexts and managing the emotions typical of bereavement, such as anxiety and fear

This year, the Days of Bereavement were once again celebrated at the San Camillo Center (Madrid), bringing together over 400 participants who joined in person to contribute to a more humane and heartfelt approach to grief management.

Organized by the Center for the Humanization of Health, the event embodies the mission of the Camillian Religious to care for those who suffer—not only

in sickness but also in moments of pain and loss. This mission holds particular resonance in our country following the recent devastation caused by DANA, which brought grief to many families and individuals who lost loved ones.

This year's edition highlighted the importance of addressing grief and loss within educational contexts and managing the emotions typical of bereavement, such as anxiety and fear. Space was also dedicated to the voices of grief, through stories collected in books that offer a profound way to connect with others' pain by sharing personal narratives.

The event continues to inspire the development of listening and accompaniment projects for those in suffering, supported by the Network of Listening Centers and collaborations with various organizations and individuals sensitive to this important cause.

Each day, more drops nurture the seed of humanization and the culture of care. It is essential to continue preserving and fostering this mission.

Diaconate Ordination of three young Camillians in Uganda

By Avin

In this 25th anniversary year of the Camillian missionary presence in Uganda, the Camillian community gathered in celebration for the diaconate ordination of three perpetually professed brothers—Gyaviira Matovu, Akewa Francis, and Tiigo Mathias. This momentous ceremony took place on November 1, 2024, at St. Paul's National Major Seminary in Kinyamasika, Fort Portal, and was a profound blessing for the Camillian mission in Uganda.

The ordination ceremony began with a solemn procession, after which the seminary's rector, Fr. Vincent Muhindo, welcomed the congregation warmly and expressed his appreciation to the Camillian community for organizing the celebration in the seminary. The mission superior, Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath, introduced the candidates, and their families presented them to the bishop, who then consecrated them, officially marking their transition to the diaconate. The ceremony was enriched by hymns and the Litany of the Saints in Gregorian chant, adding spiritual depth to the occasion.



The bishop shared his gratitude for the Camillians' work and their ministry to the sick, emphasizing the impact of their service on the diocese.

With these ordinations, the Camillian Mission in Uganda now comprises 4 priests,

4 deacons, 7 temporary professed members, 5 novices, 10 philosophy students, and 9 aspirants. We thank God and St. Camillus for the gift of these new deacons, who are prepared to serve God's people with faith, dedication, and compassion.

Bro. Giovanni Stefano Scarpa (1935 - 2024)

Brother Giovanni Stefano Scarpa was born on September 9, 1935, in Portosecco di S. Pietro in Volta (VE), to Costantino Scarpa and Maria Ballarin. He received the sacraments of initiation in his parish of St. Stephen, from which he took his second name. After completing elementary school with good results, he lived the life of a devout Christian, working and actively participating in parish life.

At the age of 29, he discerned a religious vocation and, on September 21, 1964, entered the Camillian Institute at the St. Camillus Care Home in Venice-Alberoni. After a couple of months, he moved to the St. Camillus Care Home in Cremona, where he served as a nurse and receptionist. On March 19, 1966, he began his canonical postulancy. On September 23, 1966, he entered the novitiate at Mottinello in Rossano Veneto (VI), and on September 24, 1967, he professed temporary vows for three years. In October, he was sent to St. Pius X Care Home in Milan, where he remained for two years. After a month at Verona S. Giuliano in October 1969, he returned to St. Camillus in Cremona. There, he renewed his vows on September 24, 1970, and 1971, and finally, on January 23, 1972, he made his solemn profession. The ceremony took place in his hometown of Portosecco at the explicit request of the parish priest, Don Mario Boni, who was enthusiastic and proud to have a consecrated member in his community "during such a critical and turbulent time for vocations."



On May 12, 1972, he was transferred to Venice-Alberoni, and on October 30, he moved to St. Camillus in Milan to enroll in the Professional Nursing School, where he earned his diploma in 1974, later adding the Head Nurse qualification in 1977. On October 7, 1977, he returned to Venice-Alberoni, where he managed the infirmary at the Retirement Home. On October 22, 1980, he was sent to St. Camillus in Cremona to support the local Head Nurse. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1992, he celebrated his 25th anniversary of profession. On September 21, 2004, he moved to Bologna, where he remained until the closure of the religious house on Via Tanari Vecchia.

On October 13, 2005, he was appointed local councilor. On January 31, 2007, he returned permanently to Cremona, now in his later years but continuing to provide various services. On October 17, 2017, he was again

appointed local councilor.

After a life marked by good health, two years ago he underwent surgery for a tumor, from which he recovered successfully. However, he recently suffered a stroke, followed by promising rehabilitation. Unfortunately, an unexpected relapse led to his death on Sunday, December 1, 2024.

Brother Giovanni was always described by his formators and confreres as a simple person who faithfully practiced his devotions, was punctual in communal acts, sociable and kind in character, and always in harmony with his brothers. He willingly fulfilled requests for assistance, was obedient to superiors even in challenging situations, and accepted the denial of some of his personal requests, such as staying near his elderly parents in 1980 or pursuing the priesthood during his temporary profession. Aware of the significant academic challenges it entailed, he embraced with conviction the lay consecrated state through honest and healthy discernment. He loved reading the Word of God during celebrations and proudly wore his Camillian cassock.

Brother Giovanni dedicated himself diligently to "investing his talents" and now joyfully hears the Lord's invitation: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord." His funeral was held at the St. Camillus Care Home in Cremona on December 4, 2024.