



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome and Rome seen from the world

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Edited by:

Ufficio Comunicazione
Piazza della Maddalena, 53
00186 Roma; Tel.: +39 351 318 6090
Email: comunicazione@camilliani.org
Website: www.camilliani.org



Reflections & Directions: Message of the month

Easter and the jubilee of the sick: A time of hope and renewal

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:3).

Dear confreres,

The month of April introduces us to a time of grace and renewal, marked by two events of particular importance for the Church and for our journey as Camillian religious: the Jubilee of the Sick and the World of Health (April 5-6) and the Resurrection of the Lord (April 20).

These two moments invite us to celebrate with hearts full of hope and gratitude. The Jubilee of the Sick is a sacred time, an opportunity to reflect on the strength and courage of those who face illness with dignity and faith, while Easter is the heart of our Christian faith, the victory of life over death, of light over darkness. Celebrating these events means renewing our

commitment to be bearers of hope and witnesses of divine mercy.

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ and his victory over death, a symbol of hope and renewal. In this same spirit, the Jubilee for the Sick and the World of Health Care becomes an occasion for celebrating life and acknowledging the dignity and value of each human being. This celebration reminds us that life is a sacred gift, worth caring for and protecting, especially in moments of frailty and suffering. The Jubilee for the Sick is also a time for reflection on charity and compassion, essential values of our Christian faith and concrete ways of loving God and our brothers and sisters. Through these events, we are called to rediscover the authentic meaning of our mission: to be witnesses of mercy and instruments of the hope of the Risen Christ for the sick and the suffering.

Close to the sick: presence and comfort

To all the sick, we wish to let you know that you are always in our hearts and in our prayers. Your suffering is not forgotten, and your courage is a testimony to the strength of the human spirit. In this Jubilee dedicated to you, we pray that you may find comfort and healing in the loving presence of the Lord.

May the light of the Resurrection illumine your days and bring you hope, peace and healing of body and spirit. May you feel the presence of the Risen Christ at your side, giving you strength and consolation.

Our commitment as Camillians

For us, Camillians, this is a time to renew our vocation and our service to the sick and the suffering. May we be instruments of God's mercy, bringing light and hope into the lives of those who suffer. Our charism calls us to stand by the sick with a mother's heart, with a gaze that recognizes the dignity and value of every life. Easter reminds us that, even in the most difficult trials, the light of the Resurrection illuminates our path and gives us the strength to persevere.



Gratitude for those who serve the sick

A special thought also goes to all healthcare workers, religious, and volunteers who daily care for the sick with dedication and professionalism. Your service is a tangible reflection of God's love for humanity, and your commitment is a living testimony of the light which Easter brings into our lives. We are deeply grateful for your work, which makes evangelical compassion a concrete reality.

May these celebratory events be an opportunity to renew our commitment to be instruments of divine mercy, bringing light and hope to those who need it most. May the Resurrection of Christ inspire and strengthen our vocation to serve, following the example of St. Camillus.

Happy Easter and a happy Jubilee journey to all!
With fraternal affection,

Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General

I Feel the “Finger of God” and Experience His Loving Caress

Healing Hope: The Jubilee of the Sick at the Heart of the Holy Year

By Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon MI



On Sunday, April 6, 2025, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church celebrated the Jubilee of the Sick and of all those involved in the world of suffering and health, within the wider context of the Universal Jubilee of Hope.

This jubilee was of special significance for us, Ministers of the Infirm, since the great spiritual and charismatic legacy of our holy founder, Saint Camillus de Lellis, urges us—starting from our very religious consecration—to draw near to those who are sick and suffering, and to support, through formation, all the men and women who, by science or conscience, dedicate their lives to caring for the sick.

The Jubilee of the Sick was also an ecclesial event marked by the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is currently experiencing a moment of personal fragility in his health. “As during my hospitalization, even now in my convalescence I feel the ‘finger of God’ and experience His loving caress,” he said during the Angelus on April 6, 2025.

In his message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick, celebrated on February 11, 2025, Pope Francis offered us a precious reflection on how to live hope in times of trial. He invited us to pause and meditate on God’s presence beside those who

suffer, particularly through three characteristics: encounter, gift, and sharing.

These are three dynamics constantly mirrored in the Gospel. When Jesus meets suffering, discomfort, fragility, exclusion, or death, He fully embodies these three moments: an embracing and empathetic encounter; the gift—not only of healing but of His very presence, revealing the Father's love; and the sharing of His mercy, which opens the way not only to recovery but to a deeper healing.

As Camillian religious, on Saturday, April 5, we hosted a moment of prayer and Eucharistic adoration at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene—home to the relics of Saint Camillus—in collaboration with the Pastoral Healthcare Office of the Italian Episcopal Conference. It was a meaningful opportunity for the religious of the generalate, the Camillians residing in Rome, the Daughters of St. Camillus, and other pilgrims to gather in prayer for the sick and all healthcare workers, bearing witness to the spiritual depth of our charism.

Celebrating the Jubilee of the Sick became a powerful moment to re-signify the meaning of hope. To hope in the midst of pain means reminding ourselves—and above all, testifying to those who suffer—of the great value of Jesus' paschal salvation. This hope is not simply a feeling, but a theological virtue that becomes active and concrete: it springs from the Cross and Resurrection of Christ. Hope is a relationship of cooperation between each of us and the Lord of Life. We are not alone in this hope: it permeates our actions and thoughts and positively shapes our existence. It draws us away from selfishness, calling us to build authentic solidarity.

This hope must inevitably find expression in our daily lives, transforming into a comprehensive



human therapy: it is nurtured by relationships and care. It encompasses the gaze of the sick upon their own illness, as well as the perspective of the caregiver and the wider community.

The hope we are called to cultivate, exercise, and share is the revelation of God's merciful face, who in Jesus draws near to all who experience physical, spiritual, moral, emotional, or relational distress. Celebrating this Jubilee means committing ourselves to keeping the world open to God and ensuring that neither humanity nor creation succumbs to despair, which strips humanity of its dignity.

In the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee Year—entitled *Hope Does Not Disappoint*—Pope Francis reminds us that the works of mercy (cf. Mt 25), among which we find “visiting the sick,” are acts of hope, because they demand and offer a deeply human attitude, marked by the free and generous gift of our humanity.

North Italian Province Assembly: A Spirit of Renewal and Participation

A vibrant assembly held in an atmosphere of serenity, openness, and active participation—effectively dispelling the narrative of a weary or resigned province.

By Fr. Felice de Miranda MI

The Assembly of the North Italian Province was held this year from March 31 to April 2 at the Spirituality Center of the Shrine of *Santa Maria del Fonte* in Caravaggio (BG). This Marian Shrine, where on May 26, 1432, the Virgin Mary appeared to a young peasant girl, Giannetta de' Vacchi, is one of the oldest and most significant Marian shrines in Europe and continues to be a pilgrimage destination, especially for the sick who turn to the *Madonna del Fonte* with hope for healing.

In this remarkable setting, the 37 religious

present gave life to a vibrant assembly held in an atmosphere of serenity, openness, and active participation—effectively dispelling the narrative of a weary or resigned province.

Seated at the presidency table were Bro. Luca Perletti as secretary and Fr. Donato Cauzzo as moderator.

The first part of the assembly featured the general report of the Provincial Superior, Fr. Giuseppe Rigamonti, who reviewed the state of the Province over the just-concluded three-



year term. He compared statistical data from the beginning and end of the triennium and addressed ongoing challenges, such as the merger of the four provincial entities into a single entity of North Italian Province. He also touched on the long-standing issues of vocational crisis, formation of young religious, community life, and interprovincial collaboration. This was followed by a rich discussion on the key topics raised.

Subsequent presentations were given by the Provincial Bursar, Fr. Vittorio Paleari; the CEO of the Foundation, Fr. Virginio Bebber; the Councillor for Formation, Fr. Umberto Andreetto; the Vocation Promoter, Fr. Marco Moioli; the Councillor for Ministry, Fr. Pier Paolo Valli; the Director of the Formation Center, Fr. Danio Mozzi; and representatives from the missions in Georgia, Armenia, and Haiti (Fr. Akaki, Fr. James, and others). Each speaker presented updates on their respective areas of responsibility, including the experience of the “Camillian Workshop” for

religious under 70, aimed at shared reflection and future planning for the Province.

Each report was followed by a brief open discussion for further exploration.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, April 1, the assembly broke into four working groups to discuss and evaluate a working document synthesizing community reflections and proposals from individual communities. The summaries from the groups were then brought to the general assembly and voted on as “wishes,” since the assembly did not have deliberative authority. A commission of three religious, appointed by the Provincial and external to the Provincial Council, counted the votes for the Provincial “terna,” which was then communicated to all the Province’s members.

The assembly concluded with lunch on Wednesday, April 2, and the mutual wish for a true Paschal renewal for the Province.

General Assembly of the Roman Province concludes at Bucchianico



Bucchianico – The General Assembly of the Camillians of the Roman Province concluded on Friday, April 11, at the shrine of St. Camillus de Lellis. The gathering, which began on April 8, featured a keynote address by Monsignor Bruno Forte and unfolded over several days marked by reflection, fraternity, and prayer. The event culminated in a jubilee celebration presided over by the Superior General of the Camillians, Father Pedro Tramontin. The assembly saw the participation of all the religious engaged in the Camillian ministry across Central Italy.

Haiti – A New Light for the Little Ones: The Renewal of the *Foyer Saint Camille*

The Foyer remains a vital reference point for thousands of people, also thanks to the support of the “Madian Orizzonti” community and many benefactors, confirming a network that becomes concrete mission and active charity.

By Fr. Robert Daudier MI

On the occasion of the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, the *Foyer Saint Camille* Hospital celebrated the 21st anniversary of the *Foyer Bethléem*, a home for children with disabilities, by inaugurating a new modern neonatal unit. This project, part of the 2021–2026 Five-Year Plan, represents a significant step forward in strengthening healthcare for the most vulnerable in a context marked by poverty, instability, and insecurity.

Despite the severe difficulties caused by armed control of the territory and the collapse of public services, the Camillian community has continued, with faith and determination, the modernization of the facilities and the acquisition of essential medical equipment. The Foyer remains a vital reference point for thousands of people, also thanks to the support of the “Madian Orizzonti” community and many benefactors, confirming a network that becomes concrete mission and active charity.

“To care for the sick as a mother would for her only sick child” is the central phrase that constitutes the foundation, the cornerstone, of the Camillian mission in Haiti. St. Camillus, who in the 16th century founded this school of charity based on privileged care for the sick, showed us



the way — a path we continue to walk today as we promote a spirituality of mercy toward those who suffer. “Offering modern healthcare facilities, better suited to the needs of the population and attractive to staff” is one of the key elements of our health plan to make the healthcare and social

service network more humane and efficient.

Unfortunately, far from improving, the socio-political and economic situation has worsened, forcing many sister institutions to close and pushing numerous professionals to leave the country. Understandably, this situation has hindered the full implementation of the 2021–2026 Plan.

Despite setbacks and delays, we proudly recognize that several goals have been achieved quietly and with discretion, improving care for our sick brothers and sisters. For example, through great sacrifice, we acquired new medical equipment: operation tables, anesthesia machines, monitors, incubators, and imaging devices, and we also established an independent oxygen production system.

The opening of the Neonatal Unit, also part of the five-year plan, has finally been realized. We are proud of the new neonatal facilities, which are a concrete sign of our commitment to offer modern, appropriate infrastructure for the most fragile and defenseless population. The unit is equipped with 6 incubators and 9 cradles.

This new space is for us a place of life and hope for parents and their little ones. It is a place of

welcome, love, and tenderness. The name “Foyer” evokes a home, a place of shared affection. At the same time, neonatology is the space where newborns are welcomed in their transition from life in the womb to life outside, and it is the duty of our medical staff to provide love and care in this delicate moment.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our benefactors, both local and international, and especially to our Camillian confreres in Italy, who support the mission. We also express deep gratitude to the healthcare and administrative staff, and to all those who help us promote life in such a difficult country, renewing our trust in all who collaborate with us to sustain this mission so precious for the Haitian people.

Let us continue to save lives by remaining faithful to the directives of the Ministry of Public Health, supported by the skills and dedication of our team, even as we acknowledge that today’s challenges are greater than ever.

Through the intercession of St. Camillus, our patron, and of the Virgin Mary on this feast of the Annunciation, may we ask God for His protection and the gift of a generous and undivided heart in service.

Tachileik: Rebuilding Hope with 14 New Homes for Displaced Families

In Tachileik, on the Myanmar–Thailand border, the Camillians of the Thai Province, together with PRO.SA and the local community, are building 14 houses for families displaced by recent floods. A concrete project bringing dignity, safety, and hope to those who have lost everything.

By Fr. Paul Cherdchai MI

The “Rebuilding Lives” project aims to build 14 permanent homes for families in Tachileik (Myanmar, near the border with Thailand), whose homes were destroyed by recent floods. The initiative aims to provide safe and sustainable housing, responding to both the immediate and long-term needs of displaced families. The project also involves the local community, fostering a sense of belonging and resilience. Restoring safe living conditions will allow these

families to start over with dignity and security.

In September 2024, the border area between the district of Mae Sai (Thailand) and Tachileik (Myanmar) was hit by severe flooding and landslides, causing extensive damage to homes and property. While Thai residents received aid from the government, many families in Tachileik received no support from local authorities,





aggravating the humanitarian crisis.

The Camillians of the Thai Province have started a survey among the flood victims in the Mae Sai area. The Camillian Social Center in Chiang Rai was not affected, but immediately started distributing humanitarian aid (rice, food, water, first aid kits, blankets, etc.). The Provincial, Fr. Paul Cherdchai, extended the distribution of aid even beyond the border, to Tachileik (Myanmar), contacting the local parish priest, Fr. Paschal Nyi, and Msgr. John Saw Han, bishop of the diocese of Kengtung. The 14 most affected families lived near the Christ the King church: their homes were completely destroyed or buried under mud. Without rapid intervention, these families face prolonged displacement, serious health risks and lack of stability. The construction of new homes will provide them with safe and dignified living conditions. Political context and difficulties Since the 2021 coup, Myanmar has been ruled by a military junta, with interruptions to public services and obstacles to the arrival of international humanitarian aid.

The main beneficiaries are 14 vulnerable families, including the elderly and children, who will live in healthy, safe and stable homes. The local community is actively participating in the construction, offering volunteer labor free of charge. Indirect benefits include the promotion of solidarity, improvement of infrastructure and local economic recovery.

Timeline

- September 2024: distribution of 400 emergency kits
- October – December 2024: fundraising, site visits and land preparation
- January – August 2025: construction of the houses

Each house measures 6x8 meters (48 m², without the front terrace). The cost of building a house is about 5,000 euros, for a total of 70,000 euros, financed in part by Bro. Gianni Dalla Rizza and PRO.SA. There are no labor costs, thanks to the volunteer work of the community.

As of April 2025, 11 houses are under construction and about 45% of the project is complete. Completion is expected by June-July, before the start of the rainy season.



Building Resilience for the Future: Voices from the Asia-Pacific Missions

Promoted by CADIS International and CTF Philippines, the conference addressed a critical challenge of our times: not only responding to emergencies, but strengthening the ability of communities to resist, adapt, and transform—even in the most vulnerable contexts.

From March 17 to 20, 2025, the city of Cebu in the Philippines hosted a meaningful gathering for the entire Camillian network in the Asia-Pacific region: the CADIS Conference entitled “Resilience in Action: Building a Future of Collaboration.” The event brought together 24 participants from the Philippines, India, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, the United States, and Italy—united by their shared commitment to human development and disaster response.

Promoted by CADIS International and CTF Philippines, the conference addressed a critical challenge of our times: not only responding to emergencies, but strengthening the ability of communities to resist, adapt, and transform—even

in the most vulnerable contexts. The Philippines, one of the countries most affected by natural disasters, provided the perfect symbolic setting to reflect on how hope can become concrete action. During the working sessions, participants shared best practices and strategies for resource mobilization, volunteer engagement, and the promotion of the CADIS mission. Particularly meaningful moments were dedicated to field visits in the barangays of Nangkaville and Inayawan. Here, courageous women shared the rebirth of their communities—amid poverty, precarious housing conditions, and mental health challenges—but also their rediscovered dignity, new skills, and locally made products through solidarity-based microenterprises.

The conference also opened up new horizons, such as the organization of “CADIS Ambassadors,” a project that began in Australia to spread awareness of CADIS values and actions through key figures within society. The launch of an international contest to celebrate the tenth anniversary of CADIS was also announced, highlighting a network that is dynamic, rooted in Camillian values, and forward-looking.

From the words of Fr. Aris Miranda, Director of CADIS International, a clear vision emerges: “If the vulnerable communities we assist become resilient communities committed to ecological conversion, then true development will happen.” It is an ambitious challenge that speaks to us Camillians as well: how can we be, today, signs of hope and instruments of resilience in the wounded places of our world? From Cebu, a strong and clear answer was heard: together, through solidarity and faith, it is possible.

A Camillian Journey of Hope

The Jubilee of Hope invites us to look to the future with confidence, while also recognizing the value of care as a concrete act of charity and justice. The stories heard in Cebu—like those of the women



who regained dignity through collaboration and work—remind us of the centrality of encounter, gift, and sharing, as Pope Francis indicated for this year of grace.

As Camillians, we are called not only to serve in places of illness, but also to care for the social and environmental wounds afflicting the most vulnerable communities. The mission of CADIS and our confreres on the ground is an essential part of this horizon of service: a living witness to the Gospel of mercy, which—even in contexts marked by fragility—becomes active hope and concrete presence.



St. Camillus returns to Bucchianico: A jubilee pilgrimage in the heart of his homeland

The solemn moment of the translocation will take place on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the Church of Santa Maria Maddalena in Rome, where the relics of our Holy Founder normally rest.

Rome – Bucchianico, April 2025: Thirteen years after the historic first translocation, the relics of the body of St. Camillus de Lellis will once again return to Bucchianico, his birthplace, where they will remain from April 25 to November 30, 2025, the First Sunday of Advent. This extraordinary

event is part of the Jubilee Year of Hope and offers the faithful, pilgrims, and devotees a unique opportunity to experience grace and spiritual renewal.

The solemn moment of the translocation will

take place on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the Church of Santa Maria Maddalena in Rome, where the relics of our Holy Founder normally rest. In the presence of the Camillian community and representatives of the Vicariate of Rome, the altar containing the reliquary will be opened in accordance with canonical practice. This will be followed by a moment of prayerful veneration, marking the beginning of the pilgrimage toward Bucchianico.

The next day, April 25, the shrine of St. Camillus de Lellis at Bucchianico, designated as a Jubilee Church by Archbishop Bruno Forte, will receive the relics of the Saint during a solemn celebration. Archbishop Forte himself will welcome the body, representing the Archdiocese of Chieti-Vasto, the entire Abruzzo region, and the People of God, who—walking in the footsteps of St. Camillus—wish to undertake a pilgrimage to obtain the plenary indulgence.

The significance of this event lies not only in its historical value—it is only the second translocation of the Saint's body after the 2012 return to his homeland for the first time in over four centuries—but especially in its deep spiritual meaning during this Jubilee Year. "The most Abruzzese of Saints, and the most Saintly of Abruzzese" once again speaks to the hearts of his fellow countrymen and to all those who recognize

themselves in his charism of merciful service to the sick and suffering.

As emphasized by Mayor Renzo Di Lizio and Father Germano Santone, parish priest and rector of the shrine, this is a moment of great ecclesial, civic, and devotional importance that involves the entire regional and national community. All are invited to prepare spiritually for this season of grace.

The relics of the body of St. Camillus will remain in Bucchianico until November 30, 2025, the beginning of the new liturgical year. These will be months filled with pilgrimages, celebrations, prayer, and reflection, during which the People of God will be called to rediscover the roots of their own vocation to service and hope, inspired by the example of the Patron Saint of the sick and of military and civil healthcare.

The Communications Office of the Generalate and of the Church of Santa Maria Maddalena supports this pilgrimage with affection and gratitude, safeguarding the living memory of St. Camillus and spiritually accompanying all those who will set out on this journey.

"Blessed and happy are the Ministers of the Sick who will come to know the great good of their vocation!" - (St. Camillus de Lellis)



A vocation that blossoms across continents: new Camillian Professions in Brazil and Thailand

Young confreres from Brazil, Thailand, and Myanmar have given their “yes” to the Lord in religious profession ceremonies held in Brazil and Thailand.

A precious gift for the entire Order, which joyfully welcomes these new Camillian religious as witnesses of a vocation that continues to blossom despite the challenges of our time. Their profession is a sign of hope and a concrete response to the Lord’s call to serve the sick with a mother’s heart, in the spirit of St. Camillus.

Solem Professions in Sampran

On the occasion of the annual Church celebration dedicated to St. Camillus at our Social Center in Sampran, scheduled this year for January 25, 2025 (Holy Year), two young men—Tai Agostino Kaveesin Butsaeng and Charles Saw Charles Bo Bo from Myanmar—have made the profound decision to dedicate themselves forever to the service of the Lord within our Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians).

We are experiencing a very critical moment in the vocational field: there are few young men entering religious life, and even those who do are often overwhelmed by the distractions of modern comforts and technology, which distance them from the fundamental values of Christian and religious life.

The celebration was presided over by our Provincial, Fr. Paolo Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, representing the Reverend Fr. Pedro Tremontin, along with nearly forty confreres and other priests. In his homily, Fr. Paolo emphasized the importance of total and unconditional self-giving to the Lord, free from worldly desires—only in this way can one be truly available to God's call.

All the confreres gathered around the two newly professed religious, embracing them with warmth and offering their fraternal support. Fr. Sante Tocchetto, their formator, encouraged them to never forget this closeness and support, especially in moments of discouragement.

We thank the Lord for this great gift to our Province and to our Order. In particular, Charles Saw Charles Bo Bo is the first candidate from Myanmar. We hope that in the future, despite the challenges posed by civil war, the Camillian presence may also be established in this country, as it has been in Vietnam.

May the Lord bless and guide these new young Camillian religious so that they may fully live out the Charism and serve as an example to others.

Religious Profession: a commitment to God and the Sick

The Camillian Province of Brazil, on February 1, 2025 experienced a moment of great significance and emotion with the first religious profession of young men Alisson Augusto, M.I., and Wellington Ricardo, M.I. The solemn ceremony, presided over by the Provincial Superior, Fr. Mateus Locatelli, M.I., took place at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Pinhais (PR), bringing together Camillian religious, the Daughters of St. Camillus, the Ministers of the Sick, and members of the Camillian Lay Family.

The religious profession represents a deep commitment to God and the Camillian mission, which is centered on the merciful care of the sick. By making their first vows, Alisson and Wellington publicly embraced the evangelical counsels of chastity, obedience, and poverty—fundamental pillars of religious life. Additionally, as members of the Order of the Ministers of the Sick, they also professed the Camillian fourth vow, a unique commitment that distinguishes the Order: dedication to the care of the sick, even at the risk of their own lives.

This act of total self-giving reflects the spirit and mission left by St. Camillus de Lellis, who dedicated his life to serving the sick, seeing in them the living presence of Christ. The vow of chastity expresses the choice of a universal and unconditional love, allowing the religious to dedicate himself fully to the service of God and those in need. The vow of obedience signifies the willingness to follow the divine will through attentive listening and communal discernment. The vow of poverty symbolizes detachment from material goods, living in simplicity and trust in God's providence. Finally, the fourth vow reinforces the Camillian mission of standing by the sick, offering them not only physical care but also spiritual and human comfort.