

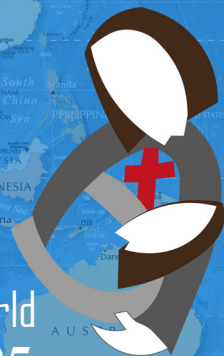


Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome and Rome seen from the world

N. 105



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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 for the month

Dear Confreres,

I fraternally hope that each of you celebrated Holy Easter in a profound and grace-filled way, a time of renewal of faith and hope in the living presence of Christ among us.

I would like to share with you some insights and feelings I experienced during my recent pastoral visit to our brothers in the Camillian communities in the Philippines and Taiwan. Together with Fr. Gianfranco Lundardon, I participated in the ongoing formation meeting, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Camillian presence in the Philippines, and the subsequent provincial chapter. Afterwards, I visited the communities and met with the religious both in the Philippines and in the Taiwanese delegation, accompanied by the provincial superior, Fr. Evan Paul A. Villanueva.

It was a privileged and Spirit-filled time, spent alongside our confreres, the members of the Camillian Charismatic Family, and the collaborators in the various health and educational activities. I experienced these events and encounters as a significant milestone to remember with gratitude and honor the Camillian missionaries, whose efforts and prophetic vision, both personal and communal, have borne abundant fruit for the Church and for suffering humanity in this part of the world. We give thanks to the Lord for the many gifts received during these 50 years!

The ongoing formation program that preceded the provincial jubilee and the chapter proved to be very fraternal and effective, with the intense and significant participation of many religious, symbolically coming also from other Camillian provinces and delegations in Asia. It was a fruitful time of encounters, reflection, and fraternal sharing.

For me, in particular, it was a precious opportunity to listen, learn, and understand more deeply the concrete reality experienced by our religious in the Philippines and in the delegations in Taiwan, Indonesia, and Australia: their challenges, their hopes, and their constant commitment to live and actualize the Camillian charism with fidelity and generosity.

In the heart of the Camillian Jubilee Year of the Conversion of St. Camillus (1575-2025), I trust that you have already begun to live the celebrations and various initiatives inspired by our Jubilee theme Conquered by Christ. I am grateful to you for all that you are experiencing and celebrating, and I encourage you to continue on this journey together, as a family united in spirit and mission. I am aware that the provinces, vice-provinces, and delegations are currently undergoing a period of discernment in view of the election of new major superiors for the various circumscriptions of the Order. This time requires adequate, fair, prudent, and evangelical reflection. May the Spirit of the Risen Lord guide each of you to participate proactively and responsibly in this process. As Scripture reminds us: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:3-5).

Looking ahead, I invite you to remember and prepare carefully for the celebration of the birth of St. Camillus (May 25, 1550) and the day of the Camillian martyrs of charity, which we will celebrate on May 25. May these moments not be simply occasions for commemoration, but help us to relive our roots and our missionary identity with intensity. I urge you to take steps and initiatives that renew our gratitude and rekindle our apostolic zeal.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the upcoming international conference of formators

and vocation promoters of the Camillian charismatic family, which will be held in Rome from May 25 to 29, 2025. It will be a valuable opportunity for mutual enrichment, spiritual renewal, and deepening of the charism of St. Camillus. I thank you in advance for the collaboration you have offered to the Jubilee Central Commission and to the Central Commission for Formation. A pilgrimage to Bucchianico, the birthplace of St. Camillus, is also planned for the participants. May it be for all a return to the origins, an authentic pilgrimage of the heart.

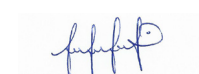
Dear brothers, in this sacred time of the Universal Jubilee of the Church and the Camillian Jubilee, I invite you to look within yourselves to live with deep gratitude the priceless gift of our Camillian religious vocation: it is not only a call received in the past, but a daily mission to be lived with courage, tenderness, and fidelity, through the intercession and example of St. Camillus.

Let us cultivate in our spirit a sincere and humble desire to let ourselves be conquered once again by the love of Christ, the same love that radically transformed Camillus' heart. May this love shape us, convert our resistance, and nourish an ever deeper personal conversion and authentic community renewal. May our consecrated life not fade away in routine or boredom, but be transformed each day into an authentic pilgrimage towards the heart of God.

May this renewed awareness of our vocation and mission make us available and attentive to the appeals of those who suffer in silence, waiting for a sign of hope, a word of consolation, a gesture of healing.

At this moment in the life of the Church, when we are invited to pray for the election of the next Pope, the new provincial superiors, and their councilors, I join you in asking for God's closeness for the whole Church and the intercession of St. Camillus for our Order.

With fraternal affection and blessings, I greet you.



Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General

A New Shepherd for the Universal Church: Pope Leo XIV

The Camillian Family's Prayerful wishes for the Holy Father

The universal Church has welcomed with deep gratitude and hope the election of the new Pontiff: His Holiness Leo XIV, Robert Francis Prevost, an Augustinian religious and the first Pope from the United States. His election, following days of intense prayer and discernment by the College of Cardinals, takes place in the heart of the Holy Year, and represents for us all a sign of renewal in continuity - a call to openness, dialogue, and attentive listening.

Born in Chicago in 1955, Robert Prevost devoted much of his life to missionary service, especially in Peru, where he lived for many years and became a citizen. He served as Bishop of Chiclayo, Prior General of the Augustinians, and, under Pope Francis, as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. His ministry has consistently been marked by a deep commitment to formation, justice, intercultural dialogue, and a closeness to the peripheries of faith and human suffering. The name he has chosen - Leo - clearly recalls the pontificate of Leo XIII, author of *Rerum*

Novarum, father of the Church's social doctrine and a prophetic voice in defense of human dignity and social justice. It is a name rooted in strong tradition, yet oriented toward a future of unity, reconciliation, and peace in a world increasingly divided and searching for healing.

In his first message to the Church, Pope Leo XIV offered, with clarity and humility, the vision of his pontificate: to build bridges, live the humility of the Gospel, and lead a Church that goes forth - capable of touching the wounds of humanity with merciful hands. His words, addressed to believers and non-believers alike, have already ignited a light of trust and fraternity in the hearts of the faithful.

As Ministers of the Infirm, disciples of St. Camillus de Lellis, we welcome with joy the new Successor of Peter. We join in prayer for the Holy Father, entrusting his ministry to the Lord so that he may be a guardian of hope, a builder of peace, and a witness to the charity of the Gospel. Along his journey, we invoke the

intercession of St. Camillus, who loved the Church and the Pope deeply, and who lived the Gospel fully in the service of the sick and the poor.

In a time when human fragility is more visible and urgent - in illness, loneliness, and exclusion - we pray that the new pontificate may give voice to the voiceless, gently protect the marginalized, and promote a culture of care in every sphere of ecclesial and social life.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten and sustain Pope Leo XIV, so that with a steadfast and merciful heart he may guide the people of God through these times, as pilgrims of hope and charity.

The Camillian Family, in the heart of the Jubilee Year of St. Camillus' conversion, renews its commitment of fidelity to the Holy Father and to the Church, placing its charism of mercy and service at the service of the sick and suffering - with hands, hearts, and spirits fully immersed in the life of a body that suffers, hopes, and believes.



XXVII Alzheimer Days: Care, Dignity, and Humanization at the Heart of the Conversation

We share with deep appreciation the experience of the 27th Alzheimer Days, hosted by the San Camilo Center for the Humanization of Health on April 9 - 10. This annual event continues to be a significant moment for reflection on dementia care from an integral perspective - one that considers the human person in all their dimensions, fully in line with the Camillian vision.

By **Juan Pablo Hernández**

A **Laboratory of Humanized Care:** Held in-person and streamed online, the event brought together a diverse and engaged audience: healthcare professionals, volunteers, students, and family caregivers. It became a true interdisciplinary forum where science met

lived experience, technical knowledge embraced relational care, and professional training aligned with compassionate listening. The discussions reaffirmed the urgent need to promote care that merges competence with empathy.

Key topics included the challenges of home-based care, the evolving role of assistive technologies (such as the Snoezelen method and digital tools for at-home support), and communication strategies tailored to the various stages of Alzheimer's. Each presentation stressed a common point: technology should never replace human presence, but rather support and enhance the quality of the therapeutic relationship.

Dementia, Dignity, and Meaning in Life: A significant portion of the event was dedicated to the ethical, psychological, and existential dimensions of dementia. Experts in gerontology, bioethics, and psychosocial support engaged in a meaningful dialogue about preserving the dignity of people with dementia and the vital role of care in sustaining the meaning of life, even amid fragility. The topic of sexuality and affectivity in people with Alzheimer's was also addressed - an often overlooked yet fundamental aspect of truly holistic care.

The Manifesto for the Humanization of Alzheimer's Care: The event concluded with

the presentation of the Manifesto for the Humanization of Care in Alzheimer's, issued by the *San Camilo* Center. The document calls for collective awareness and reaffirms a strong institutional commitment to:

- integrating technology in support of relational care;
- fostering meaningful communication;
- respecting intimacy and personal boundaries;
- recognizing the value of life even in the face of cognitive decline.

This appeal is directed at professionals, institutions, and civil society alike, reminding that Alzheimer's is not only a medical condition but a profoundly human experience that challenges us to welcome, accompany, and stand beside those who suffer. Here, the Camillian charism finds renewed relevance: to see, in every person who suffers, not just a diagnosis, but a brother, a sister, a person worthy of compassion and care. The Alzheimer Days at the *San Camilo* Center remind us that authentic care is always relational - and that humanization is not an extra, but the very essence of what it means to care.



May 25: Birth of St. Camillus and the Day of the Martyrs of Charity

This twofold commemoration invites not only celebration, but also deep reflection on the root of the Camillian charism, whose most authentic and radical expression lies in generous service to the sick - even at the risk of one's life.

For the entire Camillian Family, May 25 is a date charged with meaning. On this day, the Church and the Order commemorate the birth of St. Camillus de Lellis (1550), the one who, through his life, established a “new school of charity” in service of the sick. But this same day also marks, for the past 31 years, the Day of the Camillian Religious Martyrs of Charity, established in 1993 by then-Superior General Fr. Angelo Brusco, to preserve the memory of those who, throughout history, gave their lives beside the sick, bearing witness to the Gospel until their last breath.

This twofold commemoration invites not only celebration, but also deep reflection on the root of the Camillian charism, whose most authentic and radical expression lies in generous service to the sick - even at the risk of one's life. It is a moment to rekindle, in the heart of every Camillian, the awareness of one's “yes” and the ultimate meaning of one's vocation.

Witnesses to the very end

More than 300 Camillian religious, over the centuries, have offered their lives out of love for the sick - often in times of epidemics, war, and famine, in the most fragile and vulnerable places on earth. Without fanfare or dramatic heroism, they remained with those who suffered, even when others fled.

Their example is an immense spiritual heritage: lives broken open in charity, which still speak to us today with strength and clarity. They cared, consoled, washed, bandaged, brought comfort and hope - accepting to share fully in the condition of the sick, recognizing in them the suffering face of Christ.

A memory that becomes vocation

This day was born to preserve and make visible

the memory of these confreres. But more than that, it was created to rekindle in each of us the awareness of the gift we have received: our vocation is not a personal privilege, but a mission of mercy. A mission that calls for dedication, humility, perseverance, and a constant conversion of heart.

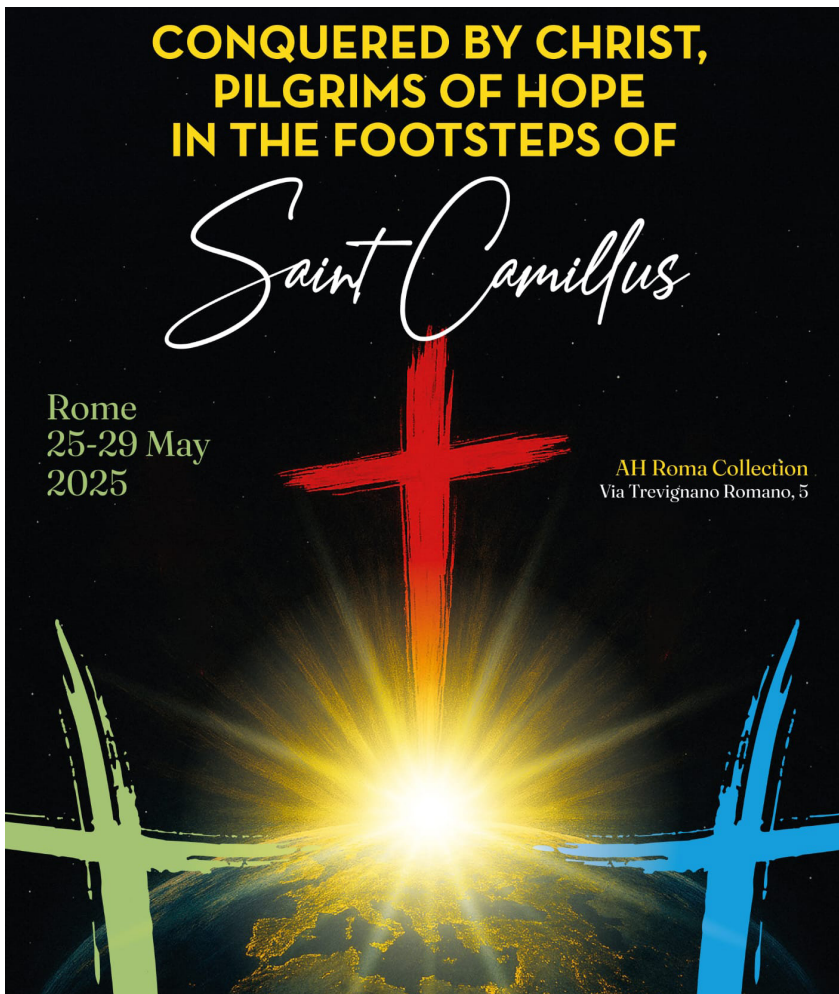
To celebrate the martyrs of charity is to ask ourselves how we are living our Camillian identity today, in a world that is increasingly fragmented, medicalized, and at the same time indifferent to suffering, a world where care risks becoming technique without compassion, efficiency without closeness. In this context, we are called to be sign and sacrament of a care that knows how to see, to touch, to listen, to accompany.

At the heart of the Camillian Jubilee

This year, the commemoration of May 25 takes on even greater significance: we are at the heart of the Camillian Jubilee, which celebrates the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus (1575–2025). Looking to his figure - and to the many confreres who were martyrs of charity - means renewing our belonging to this great family, one that has chosen as its way of life closeness to the sick and the poor, “like a mother caring for her only sick child.”

We are pilgrims of hope, called today to bring the light of the charism wherever the human person suffers, wherever the body is wounded, and the soul lost. Our time is in need of witnesses, not merely institutions. It needs hearts conquered by Christ, ready to be consumed by the fire of charity. In the path traced by St. Camillus and the martyrs of charity, we carry the charism today - wherever suffering cries out for a face, a hand, a presence.

“This is our life: to love and to serve, until the very end.”



These five days of reflection, prayer, fraternity, and dialogue are designed for all those who, throughout the world, accompany young people in their vocational journey and transmit with passion the charism of St. Camillus. The meeting will begin symbolically on May 25, a date that unites the birth of St. Camillus with the Camillian Day of the Martyrs of Charity—a precious occasion to once again view vocation as gift, service, and responsibility, even to the point of total self-giving. The opening Mass, to be celebrated by the Superior General, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, will mark the start of a journey centered on what truly matters: a heart that burns, a love that becomes mission.

A time to listen, reflect, and renew

Formators and Vocation Promoters walking in the Footsteps of St. Camillus

An international gathering at the heart of the Camillian Jubilee

In this Camillian Jubilee Year commemorating the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis, the city of Rome will host a gathering of deep significance for the entire Camillian Charismatic Family:

the International Meeting of Formators and vocation promoters, to be held from 25th to 29th May, 2025 at the “Maestre Pie Filippini” Spirituality House on Via Monte Cucco.

The days will unfold through a rich spiritual and formative itinerary, offering theological input, experiential workshops, roundtable discussions, and community celebrations. Topics such as the beauty of consecrated life today, generational dynamics in formation, communicating the charism in the digital age, and the identity of the Camillian Charismatic Family will be explored with attentiveness and an ecclesial spirit.

Experts and distinguished speakers, including Cardinal

Ángel Fernández Artime, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life, will contribute to the gathering. At the center of this experience, there will be a heart - the heart of St. Camillus - present in his relics, which will be welcomed and venerated during the gathering as a living sign of the love that inspired his life and continues to guide our mission of service.

The gathering will conclude on May 29 with a jubilee pilgrimage to Bucchianico, the birthplace of St. Camillus. Walking through the places of his childhood and conversion will be a simple yet powerful act - a return to our roots, both physical and spiritual, to renew our fidelity to the call we have received and rediscover the beauty of vocation lived generously.

More than a formation opportunity, this gathering is a true moment of grace - a time to strengthen the unity of the Camillian Charismatic Family, keep alive the memory of the charism, and rekindle the passion of vocation that flows from the Gospel lived through charity. This will be a time to be inspired, formed, and renewed in the footsteps of St. Camillus and in the spirit of hope, fidelity, and service.

Caring with Faith: A Jubilee Lived Together

In this Jubilee season, even fragility becomes a pilgrim of hope. The following report, offered by the chaplaincy of the Santo Spirito Hospital in Rome, recounts an experience of faith and communion lived alongside the sick and those who care for them each day. It was a symbolic journey - marked by prayer, listening, and blessing - that reminds us all how every act of care can become a path of grace and mercy.

By **Fr. Bobin Eanthunkal MI**

On the occasion of the Jubilee Day of the Sick and Suffering, Saturday, April 26, 2025, a group of around 35 people from the Santo Spirito Hospital took part in a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. The initiative, organized in collaboration with the hospital chaplaincy, saw the active participation of chaplains, doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers - all united in the desire to entrust to the Lord, in this time of grace, the sufferings of the sick and their own daily service.

Along the way to the Holy Door, the group prayed the Psalms and recited the Jubilee Prayers for the Sick. It was a moment of deep spirituality and fraternal communion, lived with profound faith and reflection. The crossing of the Holy Door represented a symbolic act of conversion, mercy, and inner renewal, accompanied by the remembrance of all hospitalized patients and their families.

Upon arrival at the Basilica, participants were able to pause in personal prayer and receive a final blessing - with the intention of carrying into their hearts and daily work the consolation and hope of the Gospel.



This moment of grace strengthened the sense of community and mission among the hospital staff, reminding all that every act of care and assistance, when lived with love, becomes a tangible sign of God's mercy.

Port-au-Prince: Camillians serving life under siege

By Fr. Robert Daudier, MI

In a context of escalating insecurity and poverty, the Camillian community in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) continues to be a living and courageous presence alongside the most vulnerable. Six confreres, in the formation house and the *Foyer Saint Camille* hospital area, carry out a challenging yet vital mission each day: accompanying, caring for, educating, and witnessing Christian hope amid one of the continent's most severe humanitarian crises.

Despite the armed control of much of the capital, including our neighborhood, the Camillian community has not ceased its activities: from healthcare services to pastoral care, from assisting disabled children to providing food support for hundreds of families. Their presence has become a tangible sign of the active mercy that St. Camillus taught and transmitted as a charism.

The Camillian community of Port-au-Prince consists of six confreres dedicatedly working in various areas of the mission, responding to the numerous challenges of the local context.

Currently, the community is divided into two main groups: the formation house and the hospital area.

At the formation house, Fr. Erwan serves as the director, assisted by Fr. Webly in accompanying our four seminarians, who are currently in the pre-novitiate phase.

In the *Foyer Saint Camille* hospital area, four other confreres live and work: Fr. Giraud, chaplain of the *Notre Dame de la Santé* chapel; Fr. Roudy, a nurse engaged in the daily care of hospitalized patients; Fr. Maxo, responsible for the chaplaincy, Foyer management, human resources, and a vocational school (sewing, cooking, cosmetology); Fr. Robert, superior of the community and director of the Foyer.

A valuable contribution to our mission also comes from three Sisters Ministers of the Infirm who actively collaborate with us. Two of them, in particular, lovingly dedicate themselves to daily activities with the 96 disabled children welcomed in the Foyer.

Indeed, we are experiencing very tragic and difficult times, with almost all people's activities tightly controlled by armed gangs. Almost the entire capital is under their control, including our area. Our hospital in our area is a reference hospital where we welcome many patients. But unfortunately, for almost three years, the area has been occupied by armed gangs without the presence of legal authorities or public services. To resupply, we must plan monthly necessities to reduce shortages; moreover, items are scarce on the market, as there are no more flights, and almost no ships enter regularly. In short, we are very much blocked and survive with these sad situations. We must live, we cannot give up, as we, the Church and religious, are a sign of hope for others. We must encourage others to overcome these difficult times; we do our best in this regard and persist. To be able to work, we host our collaborators to avoid dangerous movements.

We have understood that the services we offer to the poor population, prey to misery and social and food insecurity, are very useful and necessary for

the bandits and their families. Thus, we manage to resist despite everything, with the help of Providence. The bandits could destroy our work at their pleasure if it were not useful, but the way we serve all the people who come to us without any prejudice, including the bandits, works in favor of our mission, despite other works in the area not being spared. The Foyer offers considerable support to more than 500 poor families and malnourished children in the area, as we are adjacent to *Cité Soleil*, the largest slum in the country; the maternity ward remains open every day, with an average of about 40 children hospitalized per day, we assist tuberculosis patients; on average 85 hospitalized patients to provide healthcare with meals included; 325 people collaborate with us at the emergency service open 24 hours a day.

Despite the armed control of much of the capital, including our neighborhood, the Camillian community has not ceased its activities: from healthcare services to pastoral care, from assisting disabled children to providing food support for hundreds of families.

For the realization of activities, we have considerable financial support from the *Madian Orizzonti* community in Turin, as requested by the North Italian Province. We take initiatives to keep the activities at the Foyer functional, such as raising chickens, pigs, a bit of agriculture, seeking sponsors in the country or elsewhere, to be able to distribute dry and hygienic rations to the most vulnerable patients, such as the 2,700 HIV-positive patients, the group of 500 malnourished children, employees, church faithful, armed men who come to

ask regularly, pregnant women. We organize social activities such as free consultation days for the population.

In the *Notre Dame de la Santé* chapel, we accompany our faithful and members of the various groups and choirs to live the faith. At the Foyer, there is always good collaboration with the parishes in the area and with our parish priest.

May St. Camillus continue to intercede for us and thank you, Fr. Provincial, for all your support and prayers.



St. Camillus, conquered by Christ and Pilgrim of Hope

Transfer of the relics of St. Camillus to Bucchianico

By **Fr. Walter Vinci MI**
General Postulator

The transfer of the relics of the body of Saint Camillus de Lellis marks a profound occasion of spiritual growth for the Order and the city of Bucchianico. This transfer is deeply interwoven with the path of the universal Church, currently celebrating the Ordinary Jubilee “Pilgrims of Hope,” and with the journey of the Order, which in this year commemorates the 450th anniversary of the Conversion of Saint Camillus - a man truly “Conquered by Christ.”

Saint Camillus, “Conquered by Christ,” becomes a “Pilgrim of Hope” in his homeland, among his people, and a messenger of mercy for all those who, in turn, wish to become pilgrims of hope toward the Shrine of Bucchianico - designated a Jubilee Church for the Archdiocese of Chieti-Vasto - to be conquered by Christ by following the example of this giant of charity.

The Saints - and therefore their relics, which must be venerated with sobriety and without spectacle - are a privileged way to reach Christ and be conquered by Him through the virtue of charity. This moment of grace urges us to live our Jubilee pilgrimage as a journey of inner renewal and commitment to bring hope especially to the most fragile, the sick, and the marginalized. It was a moment of grace and celebration lived over two days: on April 24 at 11:00 a.m., at the Church of *La Maddalena*, where the relics of the body of Saint Camillus are preserved, in the presence of the Daughters of Saint Camillus, confreres of the *Maddalena* Community and the Roman Province, laypeople who regularly attend the church, and the Tribunal of the Diocese of Rome, following a moment of prayer led by the Superior General, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, we witnessed the transfer of the relics from their place of preservation into the specially prepared reliquary.

On April 25 at 9:00 a.m., the pilgrimage of the relics began from Rome toward Chieti, where they were first welcomed in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity and later in the Cathedral, where the Archbishop of Chieti-Vasto, His Excellency Msgr. Bruno Forte, presided over a Solemn

Eucharistic Celebration. At the conclusion of the celebration, the relics resumed their journey toward Bucchianico, where they were awaited at the entrance of the town by its citizens.

This transfer is not only an occasion to recall the extraordinary legacy of Saint Camillus but also a reaffirmation that the service to the sick - even at the risk of one's own life—is a privileged path to holiness. We are all called to holiness. Saint Camillus teaches us that service to brothers and sisters who suffer in body and spirit is a path to achieving the fullness of our human and spiritual lives.

At the beginning of this pilgrimage, one question must accompany us: why do we venerate the saints? The same question was once asked by Saint Bernard in a sermon, and the saint's answer was: "We know well that the saints do not need our honors. To honor their memory is, in fact, for our benefit, not theirs. Why, then, are they so important to us? ...The memory of each saint is like a spark, even like a burning torch that sets my heart ablaze so that I may desire Christ to appear to me as He did to them, and that He may be my life as well" (cf. *In festo omnium sanctorum* V, 5-9: PL 183, 478-480).



“I have received much; it’s easy, I must give everything!”

*At the heart of the Camillian vocational journey lie stories that speak for themselves: testimonies of passion, service, and concrete faith. That of **Fr. Lorenzo Lettere**, recently ordained as a priest, is one such story. From his experience at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome to missions in Burkina Faso, through his novitiate in Messina and solemn profession at the Basilica of St. Camillus, Lorenzo recounts a path marked by encounters, discernment, and total self-giving. A story that reminds us how vocation is a response of love to a greater Love.*

If I had to begin with a verse from the Gospel to tell my story, I would certainly choose the one from Luke 10:34: “He went to him and bandaged his wounds.” This verse perfectly describes God’s action in my life.

To this dimension of care, I must add a generous measure of surprise. Since childhood, I have always been active in my parish, nurturing the desire to become a priest. Alongside that strong desire, I was also deeply fascinated by the world of hospitals and nursing. So much so that, when asked the classic question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I would reply, “A priest or a nurse.”

And here is where the Lord begins His work, in secrecy and silence, performing His wonders. God’s action revealed itself in my life, overturning all my plans—even those that appeared good.

It was during my studies at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome that the Lord reshuffled all the cards, revealing unexpected paths. Between one nursing lecture and another, I found time to reflect and respond to the deep questions of my heart.

The example of the Camillian

fathers serving in the complex hospital units at *San Giovanni-Addolorata* Hospital, where I was doing my clinical training, awakened in me the desire to make my life a gift for others. I had been cared for first, and now I wanted to care—not just as a nurse. In the ministry of those fathers, I saw something

more. I, too, wanted to become an instrument of mercy like every Minister of the Infirm. So, I jumped headfirst into this adventure, entrusting myself fully, allowing the Lord to lead me through unknown paths. I didn't know where I was going—but the Lord did. He had taken me by the hand and was walking with me.

After graduating in Nursing, I began the novitiate in the Camillian community in Messina. I made my simple profession on September 26, 2020, and my solemn profession on May 25, 2024, in Rome, at the Parish Basilica of St. Camillus. Love received and given has been the constant thread throughout my journey. Love alone!

That love became real in the experiences I lived and the relationships I built during my time at the student house in Rome—with the Missionaries of Charity, at "Villa Immacolata", at "Ars Medica", and with the poor at the Caritas Center on Via Marsala.

Many places come to mind where I carried out my pastoral training. The formative experiences within the formation house with numerous experts, and those beyond it—especially my missionary experience in Burkina Faso. As the saying goes, "Travel broadens the mind," but I discovered that some journeys—like my time in Burkina—broaden the heart as well.

I still carry in my eyes the beauty of that land, the glances

exchanged quickly—those that spoke without words. I remember the red of the earth, the majesty of the baobabs. I experienced what it meant to be "the different one," because of my skin color. I learnt the sacredness of hospitality and many other lessons that dismantled the certainties I thought I had.

That's how God works: He breaks into our lives and helps us to correct our aim.

There are so many experiences I could recount from these years of formation. In all of them, I felt I had received love, and from there I set out—with all my fragility—to offer love to those I met "on my path."

On September 14, 2024, I was ordained deacon by His Excellency Most Rev. Bruno Varriano at the Church of *Villa Sacra Famiglia*, the provincial house of the Roman Province. On March 24, 2025, in the Cathedral Basilica of Otranto—my home archdiocese—I was ordained priest by His Excellency Most Rev. Francesco Neri.

Entering the cathedral of Otranto, one is almost captivated by the colors and majesty of the mosaic floor depicting the Tree of Life. In that dynamic vision of life, nature, animals, and stars, even the visitor becomes a protagonist. At the center of the presbytery is a donkey—and it was on that donkey that I lay prostrate during the Litany of the Saints, invoking the help of the Church in heaven.

Joy, awe, and so many other emotions filled those long-awaited, carefully prepared hours. The liturgy of the day brought us the Gospel of the Annunciation. Those words resounded deeply in my heart: it is precisely on this feast day that the Church celebrates the moment when God broke into history through the availability of a teenage girl from Nazareth—Mary.

I felt the angel's exhortation directed at me: "Do not be afraid, Lorenzo," because if God has planted in you the desire to give yourself freely, He will help you fulfill that gift "to the end" and according to His gracious will (cf. Phil 2:13).

"Do not be afraid, Lorenzo," because the hand of the Lord that took you, tearing you away from your beautiful, legitimate, but earthly plans, is the same hand that will support you in times of pain, discouragement, and fatigue—and guide you through the dark and unclear steps along the way.

"Do not be afraid, Lorenzo," because the warm and tender affection the Church is showing you now will never fail. The Church has learnt fidelity from her Spouse, who is Christ.

In the end, it's simple: I was asked for one thing - I was asked for everything. I was asked to throw myself into this beautiful adventure, with the awareness of Jesus' words: "Whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel's will save it." (Mk 8:35)



A Lifelong ‘Yes’: Perpetual Profession of four young Camillians

By Fr. Valamparackel Tinto MI

On the 1st of May 2025, at 10:30 AM, *Upasana*, St. Camillus Study House in Bengaluru, became the sacred setting for a momentous occasion as Kalarpara Justin, Prakash Nayak, Niravathinal Christo, and Ponnankudam Arun made their Perpetual Profession in the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Kuliraniyil Bijoy Joseph MI, Provincial Superior of the St. Camillus Province, India. The event was graced by the presence of the family members of the newly professed, Camillian religious, religious sisters, and members of the

wider faith community, all gathered in prayerful support and thanksgiving.

This significant milestone marked the professed brothers’ lifelong commitment to the Camillian charism—dedicating their lives to serving the sick, suffering, and marginalized with compassion and fidelity to the Gospel. The liturgy and profession rites stood as a powerful testimony to their deep vocational call and unwavering devotion.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, a short felicitation ceremony was held to honor the professed and celebrate the grace of their vocation.

Fr. Martin Mwangi Njau (1966–2025)

Martin Mwangi Njau was born on May 9, 1966, in Gathanga, Kiambu, Kenya. He began his life in the Order of the Ministers of Sick (Camillians) when he enrolled at St. Camillus Seminary in 1986. In the following year 1987, he enrolled at Consolata Institute of Philosophy to pursue Philosophical Studies, and he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and a certification in religious studies in May 1990. He spent a year as a pre-novitiate and had pastoral experience at Tabaka Mission Hospital following his studies in philosophy. It was determined that he would enroll at Tangaza College for a year while waiting for others to begin the novitiate, as he was the only applicant in the Kenyan delegation to join that year.

He so enrolled in Tangaza College in August 1991 for a year before departing on July 20, 1992, to start his novitiate formation in Baguio, Philippines, for a year. He made his first religious vows on September 15, 1993, after returning from the Philippines on July 7, 1993. After that, on March 25, 1996, he returned to Tangaza College and finished his theological studies, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and a Diploma in Religious Studies.



After receiving, the Ministries of Minor Orders professed his solemn religious profession on December 8, 1996. Thereafter, His Grace Raphael Ndingi Mwana Nzeki, the Archbishop of Nairobi at Kenyatta National Hospital, ordained him a deacon on February 8, 1997, and His Grace Nicodemus Kirima, the Archbishop of Nyeri at Ol Kalou parish, ordained him a priest on September 19, 1998.

Fr. Martin took part in a pastoral and spiritual rejuvenation course at the Camillianum International Institute of Pastoral Healthcare, which took place in Rome from November 8–28, 1997. He also completed a formation course at the Instituto Di Metodologia Pedagogica, Universita Pontifica Salesiana, Rome, in 1997–1998. Additionally, from May 25 to August 25, 2005, he attended a Spiritual Companionship course at Chemchemi ya

Uzima in Nairobi. Based on his training, he was appointed a Novice Master for the Kenyan Delegation on July 20, 2010, after serving as a Rector and pre-novitiate Formator at St. Camillus Seminary from 1999–2009.

On August 20, 2013, he was appointed parish priest of Mary Help of Christians parish, Ndundu – (Gatundu Deanery), Nairobi Archdiocese from 2012–2017. Later, on March 2, 2019, he was appointed hospital chaplain at Tabaka Mission Hospital. On March 2, 2020, he was moved to St. Camillus Rodi parish, Homabay diocese as an Assistant priest in charge of the parish. On July 5, 2024, he once more worked as the hospital chaplain at St. Mary's Mission Hospital (Elementaita Gilgil) and St. Francis Community Hospital in Nairobi.

During his illness, he was treated at Mater Hospital, Karen Hospital and St. Mary's Mission Hospital when he was ill. At the age of 59, he passed away on April 27, 2024, at 6:45 a.m., while undergoing treatment at Tabaka Mission Hospital under Camillians' care. One clear characteristic of Fr. Martin's personality was his availability. Fr. Martin instantly began to put his best effort into the assigned

particular service. His attribute common sense was another aspect of his personality. Fr. Martin preferred to be direct and straightforward rather than to engage in in-depth deliberation or consultation. He followed the virtues of

perseverance and common sense when carrying out his projects. It was occasionally essential to restrict, if not completely prevent, him from carrying out his pastoral work-related endeavors. As the first

indigenous Camillian religious from the Kenyan Delegation, Fr. Martin occasionally conveyed this feeling with enthusiasm amongst his confreres!

Fr. Andrea Amendola (1935–2025)

Andrea AMENDOLA was born on December 23, 1935, in Rome, son of the late Carmine and the late Anna Di Stano. He became a naturalized citizen of Burkina Faso on February 24, 1999. He was the elder of two brothers—his sibling Lucio went on to found a charitable association that continues to support many disadvantaged children through OSCAM (Œuvres Sociales Camilliennes).

Fr. Andrea was baptized in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and made his First Communion on May 18, 1944, at the parish of St. Camillus in Rome. After primary school, he attended middle school in Ancona, where his family had relocated during World War II. At the end of the war, the family returned to Rome. There, on November 6, 1949, Andrea joined the Camillians of the Roman Province.

He entered the novitiate on October 6, 1952, and made his first religious profession on October 7, 1953, in Rome,



followed by his solemn profession on December 26, 1956. He was ordained a priest on December 26, 1959, at the Basilica of St. Camillus in Rome and was then assigned to the Camillian student formation house in Rome.

On October 15, 1960, he was appointed assistant to the aspirants at Villa Sacra Famiglia in Rome. On July 21, 1963, he became vice-master of the temporary professed in the same formation house.

At the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, he asked to be

sent on mission, but initially received no response from his superiors. On May 12, 1968, he was appointed Superior of the community at Villa Santa Maria in Florence and Novice Master. On September 18, 1969, the novitiate was transferred to Bucchianico, where Fr. Andrea also became Master of Novices and Professed. On December 1 of the same year, he left for Paris to study French.

On April 7, he traveled - first by ship, then by train - toward Côte d'Ivoire. On April 19, 1970, he arrived as a young missionary in the country then known as Upper Volta (later Burkina Faso), following three formal requests and replacing a missionary returning permanently to Italy. He was assigned to the community that is today known as the St. Camillus Juniorate, serving as a formator.

On August 1, 1972, he was appointed Novice Master in the parish community of Saint Camillus in Dagnoen. After

a short stay at the Juniorate in 1974, he returned to the St. Camillus Scholasticate as a formator. In 1984, the scholasticate was transferred from the parish community to the current house in Wemtenga, where Fr. Andrea dedicated himself to the formation of young postulants, novices, and professed.

In 1998, he was named economist of the Camillian Delegation in Burkina Faso, becoming permanently incardinated in the delegation.

Following the death of Fr. Celestino Di Giovambattista in October 2001, Fr. Andrea succeeded him as chaplain at MACO and joined the parish community in August

2007. Later, he assumed the responsibility of OSCAM (Œuvres Sociales Camilliennes), a role he fulfilled until 2023 with particular dedication to the poor and the sick. Due to age and illness, he obediently accepted the decision of his superiors to remain in community for rest and medical care.

During Lent 2025, he was hospitalized several times at St. Camillus Hospital in Ouagadougou, where he passed away on May 1, 2025, at the age of 89 - after 56 years of mission in Burkina Faso, 73 years of religious life, and 66 years of priesthood.

After a life fully given to Christ through radical detachment, total self-giving to the Church

and to his brothers and sisters, a life marked by silence, prayer, discretion, and humility, Fr. Andrea was rich in the gift of himself. He was deeply available for spiritual accompaniment—especially for generations of young Camillian formandi, consecrated persons, priests, and lay faithful.

The Camillian Province of Burkina Faso recognizes and honors in Fr. Andrea Amendola a fallen BAOBAB. May the seeds he sowed in this land of Burkina Faso bear much spiritual fruit to the glory of God.

May Fr. Andrea enjoy the beatific vision of the Most Holy Trinity, face to face, and intercede for us from Heaven. Through the mercy of God, may his soul rest in peace.