



CAMILLIAN CHARISMATIC FAMILY

Jubilee of the 450th Anniversary of the Conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

OF FORMATORS & VOCATION ANIMATORS

ROME, 25-29 MAY 2025



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Conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis**

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FORMATORS AND VOCATION ANIMATORS
OF THE CAMILLIAN CHARISMATIC FAMILY**

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***“CONQUERED BY CHRIST,
PILGRIMS OF HOPE ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. CAMILLUS”***

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Jubilee celebration of 450th Anniversary
of the Conversion of St. Camillus De Lellis



International Conference
of Formators and Vocation Animators
of the Camillian Charismatic Family

CONQUERED BY CHRIST, PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF

Saint Camillus

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Report Summary

In commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Camillus de Lellis, the Camillian Charismatic Family gathered in Rome for the International Symposium of Formators and Vocation Animators, held from 25–29 May 2025. The convention unfolded under the powerful and timely theme: “Conquered by Christ, Pilgrims of Hope on the Footsteps of St. Camillus.”

This significant event offered a moment of profound spiritual renewal, theological reflection, and fraternal communion for those engaged in formation and vocation animation across the various branches of the Camillian Charismatic Family. Participants included religious men and women, formators, vocation promoters, and lay collaborators committed to the life and mission inspired by the Camillian charism across the world.

The central aim of the convention was to rekindle the flame of the Camillian charism in light of the foundational experience of St. Camillus, offering hope and bearing witness to the Gospel of mercy and healing amid today’s fragmented and suffering world.

The theme drew inspiration from the personal journey of conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis, whose encounter with Christ radically transformed his life and ignited in him a fervent charity toward the sick and the poor. His transformation stands as a model of vocational rebirth and missionary zeal. The phrase “Conquered by Christ” echoes the Pauline confession (Phil 3:12), highlighting the power of divine grace to redirect and renew a human life.

To be “Pilgrims of Hope” evokes the sense of a shared journey in uncertain times, carrying the light of the Gospel and the legacy of St. Camillus into the wounded realities of today, especially in the fields of healthcare, human suffering, and abandonment. To walk “on the footsteps of St. Camillus” is an invitation to embody the founder’s radical compassion, evangelical freedom, and prophetic innovation in the care of the sick.

This Convention was a collaborative initiative of the Jubilee Commission and the Central Commission for Formation.

SUNDAY, 25 MAY 2025 - Arrival and Welcome

Participants from across continents arrived and were warmly received and accommodated. In the evening, the convention began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a moment of spiritual grounding, followed by dinner and fraternal sharing.

Notable presences included:

- Most Rev. Fr. Pedro Celso Tramontin, MI, Superior General of the Camillians
- Mother Zelia Andrighetti, Superior General of the Daughters of St. Camillus
- Mother Lucia Walker, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Camillus
- Mother Lurdes Flores Calderon, Superior General of the Handmaids of the Incarnation
- Luisa Muston, President of the Missionaries of the Infirm "Christ the Hope"

There were 88 participants in total, including formators and vocation animators from the various congregations, representing 26 countries of the Camillian Charismatic Family (FCC).

MONDAY, 26 MAY 2025 – Opening Day

The day began with Lauds. The morning session was moderated by Fr. Baby Ellickal, MI, General Consultor for Formation. After breakfast, he invited the Daughters of St. Camillus to lead the official opening prayer of the Convention.

Following the prayer, Fr. Medard Aboue, MI extended a warm and heartfelt welcome on behalf of the Jubilee Commission and the Central Commission for Formation. In his address, he emphasized:

"Just as the young men and women you left behind in your formation houses eagerly await the fruits of this jubilee experience, we hope that your renewed enthusiasm will inspire them even more deeply to follow in the footsteps of St. Camillus and our religious founders. Conquered by Christ, we strive to become true pilgrims of hope, bringing light to the vocational paths of the younger generations entrusted to our care.

Let this symposium not be an end, but a new beginning, a moment to reignite the charism in our formation journey and strengthen the synodal path of the Camillian Charismatic Family."

Following Fr. Medard, Fr. Baby Ellickal invited Fr. Pedro Celso Tramontin, MI, Superior General, to officially inaugurate the Convention. In his opening message, Fr. Pedro called participants to renew their vocational zeal in the spirit of the Jubilee:

"Let this Jubilee be a sacred opportunity to deepen our identity and mission. Ours is not merely a personal vocation, it is a shared mission of healing, lived in communion with the suffering and most vulnerable. The Camillian charism must be rekindled through community, compassion, and faithful service."

He especially emphasized inter-congregational collaboration, describing it as:

"A prophetic sign of unity in diversity that strengthens our witness and enhances our ability to respond to the cries of our world. Inspired by St. Camillus, let us walk together, building bridges of fraternity and working hand in hand across congregations, cultures, and continents."

First Conference

Fr. Baby Ellickal warmly welcomed the Cardinal, introduced him to the assembly, and invited him to deliver his presentation. Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life,





delivered a compelling keynote address titled “The Inter-congregational, Intercultural, and Multicultural Challenges in Consecrated Life Today” during this international gathering in Rome. He emphasized the importance of deep reflection among religious men and women, as well as lay collaborators, on key issues such as interculturality, the role of technology in formation, and the witness of charity, all embraced within a spirit of prayer, fraternity, and celebration.

Marking the 450th anniversary of St. Camillus’s conversion, Cardinal Fernández Artime invited the Camillian Charismatic Family and the wider consecrated community to “return to the essentials” of their charism, renewing their mission with hope and enthusiasm despite the complex challenges posed by today’s healthcare environment and societal demands.

Addressing the broader reality of consecrated life, the cardinal posed a provocative question: “Is consecrated life in good health?” While affirming that many consecrated persons live fulfilled, joyful, and dedicated lives, he acknowledged widespread concerns about a “malaise” within religious life, especially in the Western world, characterized by declining numbers, closures of communities, and departures from consecration. Citing authoritative sources and Pope Francis’s description of these departures as a

“haemorrhage,” he highlighted the deep internal and external crises affecting religious life, including secularization and loss of identity.

Cardinal Fernández Artime stressed the need for a fresh and profound faith centered on Jesus Christ to revitalize consecrated life and sustain its prophetic mission with joy, hope, and fidelity to its charism amid today’s multicultural and intercultural realities.

He underscored that the future of Consecrated Life is not about maintaining numbers or





preserving physical structures, but about a radical return to its core, being truly centered on Christ. The current model of religious life, marked by clinging to institutions and self-preservation, is increasingly unsustainable. Many congregations face decline, lacking vision beyond survival, and resistance to necessary change threatens their vitality. Yet, the Spirit of God sustains Consecrated Life, calling for a purifying death of old forms to allow a new flourishing, a life lived authentically in freedom and service to mission.

Ultimately, the cardinal affirmed that vocation is not a human choice but a divine call, as Jesus “called those whom he wanted, and they went with him” (Mk 3:13). The Church’s mission is not about numbers or strategic recruitment, but faithfulness to the call, even if it means being a small, humble remnant. Like the quiet, hidden life of Christ, Consecrated Life’s future may be less about spectacle and more about faithful, silent presence, centered on Christ and open to the Spirit’s surprising ways beyond human plans or expectations.

His reflection began with a profound affirmation that consecrated life cannot truly exist without deeply believing men and

women who are captivated by Jesus Christ and fully abandoned to God. He challenged the common confusion between mere religious practices and genuine faith, urging a return to the core of consecrated life, an authentic and personal encounter with Christ. The malaise in consecrated life is not primarily about numbers but about deeper spiritual disengagement that requires ongoing conversion and freedom rooted in a genuine call from God. True consecrated life demands abandoning comfort zones, practicing forgiveness, and living with God at the center, not merely fulfilling external duties or institutional expectations.

He then explored the challenging reality of living in multicultural, intercultural, and international religious communities, emphasizing the prophetic opportunity these present to witness true fraternity amid diversity. Such communities require formation that fosters awareness of cultural differences, empathy, self-reflection on one’s own prejudices, and the ability to overcome cultural stereotypes. Beyond superficial cultural exchanges, deeper mutual understanding and love are essential to build authentic brotherhood. Communication, listening, and overcoming “culture shock” are critical skills for living joyfully and

prophetically in these diverse communities, showing the world that faith transcends national, ethnic, and cultural boundaries.

Finally, Cardinal Fernández Artime concluded his reflection with a hopeful trust in the enduring value of consecrated life within the Church. He highlighted the theological and spiritual necessity of consecrated life as a quasi-sacramental embodiment of Jesus' way of life, essential for the Church's mission to bring Christ to all peoples. Despite historical changes and challenges, consecrated life remains indispensable for the Church's holiness and witness, anchored in the promise of Christ's abiding presence: "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). This gives renewed confidence and hope for the future of consecrated life.

The first session concluded with questions and comments from the participants, which the Cardinal responded to positively. The session ended with the presentation of a jubilee memento to him.

Second Conference

After the coffee break, Fr. Baby Ellickal introduced the next speaker, Prof. Vincenzo Comodo, a sociologist of consecrated life. Prof. Comodo presented a provocative analysis titled "Techno-dependencies and the Use of Digital Tools in Formation Processes." He examined how digital realities shape the attention, emotional life, and spiritual development of young religious. He called for discernment in adopting digital tools, encouraging the cultivation of authentic presence and interior silence.

In his presentation, Prof. Vincenzo Comodo highlighted the profound shift in lifestyle and relational dynamics within consecrated life brought about by digital technologies. With a touch of realism and irony, he illustrated how priorities among newly arrived religious in communities have shifted, from seeking the chapel to asking for the Wi-Fi password, underscoring the pervasive influence of digital connectivity.

Comodo emphasized that digital tools now shape habits, behaviors, expectations, and relationships, both positively and negatively. However, he warned of risks posed by misuse and overdependence on social media, messaging



platforms, and emerging technologies such as AI. These can lead to what he termed "techno-addictions"—digital pathologies that subtly but seriously impact individuals and communities.

He urged religious communities to confront these challenges with honesty, awareness, and discernment. Comodo stressed the need for robust and ongoing formation aimed at cultivating critical thinking, responsible use of digital media, and balanced online engagement. Such formation is not optional but essential to preserve the identity of consecrated life and the quality of community relationships. Without it, the spiritual and communal dimensions of religious life risk dilution by the superficiality and compulsions of the digital world.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve

and influence society, he called for formation programs that integrate prudent time management, ethical media use, and communal reflection, ensuring consecrated life remains rooted, relevant, and resilient in the digital age.

After midday prayer and lunch, the afternoon session continued. The second session concluded with questions from participants, which Prof. Comodo answered. The session closed with the presentation of a jubilee memento to him.

Third Conference

Fr. Medard, MI, served as the moderator for the afternoon session. He warmly welcomed and introduced the speaker, Fr. Maurizio Bevilacqua, CMF, Dean of the Claretianum. Fr. Maurizio delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled “The Understanding and Living of the Evangelical Counsels in Contemporary Society.” He emphasized that the evangelical counsels, poverty, chastity, and obedience, carry a deeply counter-cultural significance in today’s world. Fr. Bevilacqua argued that these counsels offer a prophetic witness against prevailing societal values such as consumerism, individualism, and the pursuit of personal autonomy. He presented them not merely as religious obligations but as transformative and liberating paths that challenge dominant cultural paradigms.

In his reflection, Fr. Bevilacqua highlighted how each counsel addresses spiritual crises of modern life: poverty critiques material excess, chastity affirms relational integrity, and obedience counters the culture of self-assertion. He invited consecrated persons to reclaim the radical nature of these vows with renewed awareness and authenticity, seeing them as signs of hope and resistance amid a fragmented society. His presentation called for an interior renewal in how these counsels are understood, lived, and witnessed both within the Church and the broader society, encouraging a commitment that is deeply spiritual and socially relevant.

The third session concluded with questions from participants, which Fr. Maurizio answered, followed by the presentation of a jubilee memento.

Fourth Conference

After the coffee break, Fr. Medard introduced and welcomed Fr. José Carlos Linhares Pontes Junior of the Alphonsian Academy. Fr. José Carlos delivered the closing presentation of the day on “Forms of Abuse in Religious Life: A Canonical and Moral Perspective.”

He began by defining abuse as the exploitation of a person in a situation of inferiority through authority, violence, or threats, stressing that





abuse goes beyond sexual misconduct to include psychological, economic, spiritual, and authority-related dimensions. Fr. José Carlos emphasized that while not all inappropriate behaviors constitute canonical crimes, many forms of abuse, especially when institutionalized, cause deep wounds to individuals and communities. He drew attention to manipulative behaviors that misuse religious structures and norms, resulting in emotional dependence, distorted relationships, and lasting trauma.

The presentation systematically explored various categories of abuse. Psychological and spiritual abuses were described as subtle yet deeply damaging manipulations, often disguised by religious language or appearing as care. Economic abuse encompassed licit and illicit uses of money to control or silence others, while abuse of authority involved coercive misuse of leadership roles. Fr. José Carlos referenced Church documents, including the Code of Canon Law and VELM 2023, outlining specific articles addressing crimes against the sixth commandment and superiors' responsibilities in protecting minors and vulnerable adults. He stressed the urgent need to cultivate a culture of

trust, accountability, and preventive formation in religious communities.

In conclusion, Fr. José Carlos called for robust formation practices in vocational houses, emphasizing community-based discernment, the presence of lay collaborators, and the protection of both trainers and trainees from abuse and false accusations. He urged transparency, maturity, and spiritual integrity throughout religious formation. His address also warned against common errors by superiors in abuse cases, such as denial, silence, or relocating the accused, and highlighted that while canonical processes seek the truth of the action, moral discernment seeks honesty of intention. His keynote was a clear call to conscience, urging religious communities to respond to abuse with justice, compassion, and structural reform.

The fourth session ended with questions from the participants and responses by the speaker, followed by the presentation of a jubilee memento.

Evening: The day culminated in a profound moment of grace with the reception of the Relic of the Heart of St. Camillus, celebrated under the theme “A United Heart Inflames Hope.” The Holy Eucharist was then celebrated, presided over by Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin, Superior General, together with all participants. The day concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist and a communal dinner.

TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025

The second day began with Lauds. The day's moderator was Sr. Mary Ann Mariavilla, FSC. The prayers, led by the Ministers of the Sick, set the tone for the day, whose theme focused on the biblical and historical foundation of the Camillian charism.

Fifth Conference

Sr. Mary Ann warmly welcomed and introduced the speaker, Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon, MI, Vicar General. Fr. Gianfranco delivered a profound reflection on the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus, focusing on the spiritual and mystical foundations of this pivotal event. His presentation, titled “2 February 1575: The

Conversion of Camillus and the Foundation of a New School of Charity,” drew a compelling comparison between the Gospel accounts of Zacchaeus and the Good Samaritan.

Fr. Lunardon emphasized that the true challenge for Camillians is not to convert the Samaritan figure, symbolizing charitable action but rather the Zacchaeus figure within each person: the reluctant, small, and sinful self that must personally encounter Jesus and undergo genuine conversion. He highlighted Zacchaeus’s encounter with Jesus as an image of being loved unconditionally, which precedes and empowers authentic charity and service. This spiritual awakening, rooted in faith and ongoing conversion, forms the authentic basis of the Camillian charism, transcending philanthropy to become transformative love expressed through concrete acts of charity.

Delving into Camillus’s own conversion, Fr. Lunardon portrayed it not as a singular event but as a lifelong, progressive journey toward deeper awareness of God’s mercy and unconditional love. Camillus’s experience of God called him to radical self-acceptance and purification, enabling him to see both himself

and God with new eyes. This “true knowledge” of God, grounded in mercy beyond all hope, shaped Camillus’s mission and identity, inspiring the foundation of a new “school of charity.”

Fr. Lunardon concluded that Camillus’s conversion invites Camillians today to embrace a continuous journey of faith and transformation, where the love received from God naturally flows into loving service for the sick and suffering, ensuring their mission remains rooted in a deep, mystical encounter with Christ.

He further reflected on St. Camillus’s struggles with faith, walking confidently in the darkness of faith, yet lacking the courage to fully abandon himself to God’s trust without demanding certainties. Though intellectually ironclad, Camillus’s faith was emotionally and spiritually impoverished because it remained confined to the mind, without engaging the heart, desires, and decisions. This limited approach fosters the illusion that belief can remain detached from personal involvement and total surrender to God’s will.

Fr. Lunardon highlighted that moral conversion involves choosing true good and Gospel values over immediate satisfaction. Yet living these values daily is a profound challenge, often leading to tension and frustration when faith becomes a rigid obligation. He warned against voluntarism and perfectionism, where faith is reduced to law observance and love becomes a mere precept. This restricts mercy and grace, fosters self-justification, and instills fear of failure, impeding a deeper encounter with God’s gratuitous love and mercy, as exemplified in Camillus’s own conversion.

Symbolically, Fr. Gianfranco narrated that true religious conversion, exemplified by Zacchaeus and Camillus, demands total, unconditional surrender to God, a gift and grace surpassing human effort. This radical love reorients one’s horizon: failure is no longer about losing oneself but about failing to abandon oneself fully to God’s mercy. Conversion begins in concrete realities, as with the prodigal son’s hunger, and matures through self-acceptance and trust in God’s transformative power. Fr.





Lunardon called all to embrace this journey, moving from intellectual assent to a lived, heartfelt relationship with Jesus Crucified, embodying the Camillian charism of “dying to live and living to die” through true love and service.

The fifth session concluded with questions and responses from the speaker, followed by the presentation of a jubilee memento.

Sixth Conference

Fr. Felice De Miranda, MI, offered a moving account titled “Camillian Charism and Spirituality: The Witness of the Martyrs of Charity Past and Present.”

He invited the assembly to contemplate the profound question of identity at the heart of Camillian life, rooted in the charism of caring for the sick even unto death. Drawing from historical and spiritual sources, Fr. Felice illustrated how the Camillian charism is not only a tradition of compassionate care but also a spiritual path embracing suffering, sacrifice, and resurrection. He emphasized that Camillian

spirituality integrates a theology of service naturally leading to the cross, yet bearing the hope of new life, just as Christ’s passion leads to Easter.

The presentation highlighted the witness of Camillian martyrs throughout history, from those who perished during European plagues to more recent examples such as Fr. Celestino Di Giovambattista and those who sacrificed their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fr. Felice provided historical context, citing scholars like Vanti (1929) and Reale (1989), and detailed biographies of seven Camillian martyrs recognized for their sanctity. He stressed that these martyrs inspire not only for their heroic acts but for their unwavering fidelity to the Camillian fourth vow: to serve the sick even at the risk of their own lives.

In concluding, Fr. Felice connected the legacy of these martyrs to present-day expressions of the Camillian mission, notably through CADIS (Camillian Disaster Service International), which embodies the same spirit of self-giving charity in contemporary crises. He reflected on the liturgical principle *lex orandi, lex credendi* to show how prayer life sustains and reflects this

charism. The presentation closed with a moving invocation of the “Beatitudes of the Minister of the Infirm” and a prayer for the Camillian martyrs of charity, affirming their relevance as models of lived spirituality and prophetic witness in a wounded world.

The sixth session concluded with questions and answers, followed by the presentation of a jubilee memento. At 12:15 pm, the Eucharist was celebrated, presided over by Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh, MI, followed by lunch at 1:00 pm.

Afternoon Testimonial Session

In the afternoon, a testimonial session was held, offering powerful stories of vocation, hope, and fidelity in challenging contexts. Sr. Mary Ann introduced the speakers.

First Testimony

Bro. Carlo Mangione, MI, Provincial of the Province of Sicula-Napolitana, shared moving testimonies reflecting the enduring relevance of the Camillian charism. He spoke of young people’s yearning for authenticity and meaning amidst suffering and confusion. Through stories of Camillian religious and lay collaborators, Bro. Carlo illustrated how compassionate service becomes a compelling witness to youth, drawing them to view service not merely as duty, but as vocation.

He highlighted initiatives in his province, hospital chaplaincies, pastoral care, and volunteer engagement, as spaces where young people experience transformative encounters with the sick and elderly. Bro. Carlo called on the Camillian Family to invest in youth formation, nurturing spaces where young people discover the joy of living for others. The session concluded with a lively exchange of questions and the presentation of a Jubilee memento.

Second Testimony

Sr. Bernardetta, MI, of the Daughters of St. Camillus, accompanied by Sr. Jemma DSC and a group of lay collaborators, shared moving stories of accompaniment with young women facing illness, trauma, or abandonment. Sr. Bernardetta emphasized how silent, consistent, compassionate presence awakens in youth a deeper awareness of love’s transformative power. These humble, daily acts, she said, reflect



a Gospel lived authentically in the flesh.

Sr. Jemma highlighted that the Camillian charism is not exclusive to religious but is a shared mission, especially involving the youth. By engaging young women in pastoral activities, prayer, and formation, they help them find meaning beyond the superficial distractions of modern life. They underscored that the Camillian spirituality, rooted in joy, sacrifice, and tenderness, offers an alternative path of healing and hope. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A and the presentation of a Jubilee memento to Sr. Bernardetta.

Evening: Reopening of the Camillian Study Centre

In the evening, all participants gathered at the Camillian Study Centre for its official reopening, a symbolic moment in the life and mission of the Camillian Charismatic Family. Rev. Fr. Medard Aboue, MI welcomed the assembly and outlined the new vision of the Centre, now home to three key entities:

- CADIS (Camillian Disaster Service International)
- Salute e Sviluppo Foundation
- The Camillian Study Centre

He emphasized their collaborative identity, reflecting the vitality and unity of the Camillian charism in action.

Following his introduction, Rev. Fr. Pedro Celso Tramontin, MI, Superior General, led the blessing and prayer ritual, invoking God's grace on the mission and those who serve through the Centre.

The Director of the National Office for Pastoral Health Care of the Italian Bishops' Conference then addressed the assembly, recognizing the Study Centre as a valuable gift to the Church, particularly for its work in formation, health care, and integral human development.

Evening Celebration



The evening concluded with a musical celebration introduced by Fr. Sergio Palumbo, MI, featuring the vocal ensemble I Dodecafonici. This spirited group of seven amateur singers, formed in 2007, delivered a vibrant performance celebrating the Jubilee. Their eclectic repertoire, from 16th-century madrigals to modern classics and Roman folk songs, was received with enthusiasm. The performance closed with the touching dedication of “La Sacra Spina”, adding a heartfelt note to the evening’s joyful and festive atmosphere.

WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025

The day began with morning prayers, followed by breakfast. The first session was moderated by Sr. Rosabianca Carpenè, Missionaries of the Sick Christ the Hope.

Seventh Conference

Sr. Rosabianca introduced Bro. Carlos Bermejo, MI, Provincial of Spain, who delivered a profound and thought-provoking presentation titled “The Camillian Charismatic Family: Pilgrims of Hope in the World of Health.” His reflection was divided into two parts. The first explored the nature of hope and its vital relevance in today’s world, particularly within the context of healthcare and human suffering.

Using evocative metaphors such as “hope is a child” and “the last thing to be lost,” Bro. Carlos illustrated hope’s fragility, resilience, and transformative power. He stressed the responsibility of the Camillian Charismatic Family to be bearers and instillers of hope, especially where illness, pain, and uncertainty prevail, bringing comfort and new meaning to those in need.

In the second part, he introduced the concept of the “Seven Surnames of Hope,” which encapsulate key dimensions of how hope is lived and shared: trust, patience, remembrance, healing, tenacity, perseverance, and abandonment. Each “surname” represented a vital dynamic, trust as the foundation; patience as an evolving attitude; remembrance linking past and future; healing as hope in action; tenacity as resistance to despair; perseverance as faithfulness to a hopeful vision; and abandonment as a grace-filled surrender. Bro. Carlos’s presentation combined theological depth with pastoral insight, inspiring the Camillian Charismatic Family to witness hope credibly in a world wounded by suffering. The session concluded with a Q&A, after which a jubilee memento was presented to him.

Charismatic and Spiritual Distinctiveness

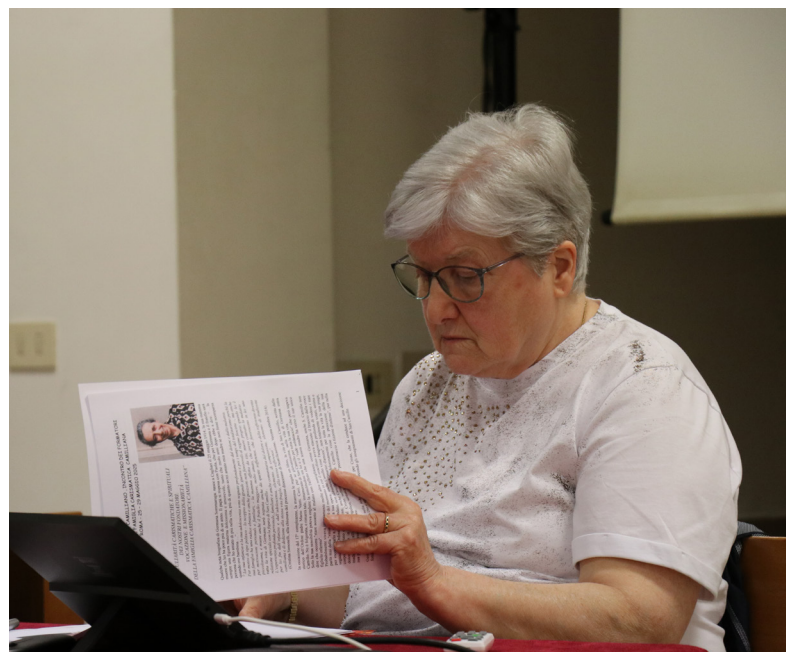




of Our Founders: Vocation and Mission of the Camillian Charismatic Family

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the next session was anticipated after the coffee break. Sr. Rosabianca welcomed and introduced Fr. Laurent Zoungrana, MI, Sr. Bernadette Rossoni, FSC, Sr. Bernadetta Violini, MI, and Mother Lourdes Calderon Flores to the assembly for a short presentation.

Fr. Laurent Zoungrana, MI: Fr. Laurent, former Vicar General of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, spoke on “The Charismatic and Spiritual Distinctiveness of Our Founders: Vocation and Mission of the Camillian Charismatic Family.” His presentation reflected on the foundational spiritual heritage given by St. Camillus de Lellis and other founders, while also offering a comprehensive overview of the Order’s current vitality, challenges, and opportunities worldwide. Drawing from his extensive experience, Fr. Laurent emphasized the centrality of the Camillian charism of mercy and compassion toward the sick, the enduring importance of the fourth vow, and the urgent need for deeper communion among the various branches of the Camillian Charismatic Family. He invited all members to deepen their vocational identity, live the charism more radically, and collaborate creatively and faithfully to respond to human suffering with prophetic witness.



Sr. Rosabianca Carpenè: Sr. Rosabianca then shared her experience as a secular missionary of the Missionaries of the Sick – Christ the Hope. Her heartfelt presentation offered a reflection on the current life and mission of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, highlighting the spiritual legacy of St. Camillus and its contemporary expression. She underscored the vibrancy and challenges of living the Camillian charism across diverse contexts, particularly among women’s congregations inspired by the same spirit. Emphasizing the fourth vow of service, even at personal risk, she stressed the commitment to bringing Christ’s healing presence to the wounded of our time. Sr. Rosabianca also highlighted the importance of collaboration across congregations and lay groups within the Camillian Charismatic Family, noting that unity in diversity strengthens and expands the mission. Her insights encouraged participants to rekindle the founding charism’s original fire and respond courageously to today’s suffering, deepening the spiritual bonds uniting the Camillian family in mercy and healing.

The morning session concluded, and the participants proceeded to the Holy Mass, presided over by Fr. Hubert Goudjinou, MI. This was followed by lunch.

Afternoon Session – Charismatic and Spiritual Distinctiveness of Our Founders:



Vocation and Mission of the Camillian Charismatic Family

The afternoon session continued with heartfelt and enriching presentations from members of the Camillian Charismatic Family who shared reflections on their respective congregations' lives, missions, and spiritual journeys.

Sr. Bernadette Rossoni, FSC: Sr. Bernadette Rossoni of the Daughters of St. Camillus offered a profound and enlightening reflection on her Congregation's current life and mission. Drawing inspiration from Blessed Giuseppina Vannini and St. Camillus de Lellis, she traced how the original charism of mercy and total dedication to the service of the sick continues to shape the identity and apostolic work of the Daughters of St. Camillus worldwide. She emphasized their ongoing vitality, especially in hospitals, healthcare centers, and homes, focusing on the poor, abandoned, and those enduring extreme suffering.

Sr. Bernadette also highlighted contemporary challenges, including declining vocations in some regions, the need for intercultural dialogue within international communities, and the urgency of responding to new forms of poverty and illness. Despite these, she celebrated the Congregation's creative fidelity to the founding charism through new missions, lay collaborations, and spiritual renewal programs. She underlined the importance of living the Camillian fourth vow with radical love and



courage and encouraged all members of the Camillian Charismatic Family to deepen their spiritual roots, strengthen inter-congregational bonds, and continue offering a prophetic witness in the world of health and suffering. Her testimony was a moving affirmation of the enduring fruitfulness of the charism, lived today with the same passion as at its inception.

Sr. Bernadetta Violini, MI: Sr. Bernadetta Violini, MI, of the Sisters Ministers of the Infirm, further illuminated the theme with a thoughtful and heartfelt overview of her Congregation's life, mission, and spiritual journey. Founded in the spirit of St. Camillus de Lellis, her community remains animated by an evangelical passion for serving the sick and suffering, especially the poorest and most neglected.

She shared how the Sisters continue to live the Camillian charism with dedication and compassion, especially in hospitals, elderly care homes, and mission territories where suffering is compounded by poverty, abandonment, or social injustice. Her presentation stressed holistic care, integrating spiritual accompaniment with professional healthcare, all inspired by the Gospel and their founders' legacy.

Sr. Bernadetta reflected on the joys and challenges faced today—including aging members, cultural shifts in vocations, and the need to reimagine traditional ministries amid new global health concerns. Despite these, she affirmed the enduring fire of the

charism, sustained through prayer, fraternal life, formation, and new forms of collaboration within the Camillian Charismatic Family. Her presentation was a testament to the resilient and prophetic witness of the Sisters Ministers of the Infirm, calling all to nurture and transmit their shared charism in today's wounded world.

Mother Lurdes Calderón Flores: Mother Lurdes Calderón Flores, Superior General of the Handmaids of the Incarnation, gave a profound and inspiring presentation on her Congregation's life and mission within the session's theme. She highlighted the rich spiritual heritage and foundational inspiration guiding the Handmaids in their consecrated life and apostolic commitments.

Rooted deeply in the mystery of the Incarnation, the sisters strive to be a visible expression of God's compassionate love, particularly among the poor, the sick, and marginalized. Mother Lurdes spoke about their varied ministries across countries, including healthcare, pastoral care, education, and social services. She emphasized their commitment to human promotion, spiritual accompaniment, and healing presence, closely aligned with the Camillian Charismatic Family's mission of service to the suffering.

Acknowledging challenges such as declining vocations in some regions, generational transitions, and the need for renewed formation and governance structures, she expressed hope and confidence in the Holy Spirit. She noted signs of vitality, especially in new foundations and younger members who bring creativity

and zeal. Mother Lurdes concluded by stressing the importance of collaboration among the Camillian Charismatic Family's branches, inviting all to walk together in mutual support, shared formation, and fidelity to the founding charisms that continue to guide their path of service in the Church and the world today.

The sharing by the members concluded with a question-and-answer session, during which the speakers responded thoughtfully to the participants' queries. Each speaker was then presented with a jubilee memento as a token of appreciation.

After lunch, the session resumed with Sr. Teresa Rungphet, MI, General Councillor of the Ministers of the Sick, moderating a panel.

Eighth Conference

Sr. Teresa introduced and warmly welcomed Fr. Sibi Augustine Chennatt, MI, from the Communications Office of the General Curia, who delivered a compelling presentation titled: "Communicating the Charism through Social Media: What Kind of Communication?"

Fr. Sibi began by emphasizing the dynamic nature of communication and its transformative role in shaping identity, faith, and relationships. He highlighted the theological foundation of Christian communication, rooted in the Word of God and perfectly embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus' communicative style, empathetic, context-sensitive, and relational, serves as the model for the Church's mission today. The Church is called to communicate love, communion, and faith, especially in a world



increasingly marked by digital interactions but paradoxically experiencing deep isolation.

Addressing the radical shift ushered in by the 21st century through the internet and social media, Fr. Sibi outlined five major paradigm changes:

- Disintermediation
- Dialogue-based interaction
- Content-centered communication
- Participatory public engagement
- Constant flow of information

He underscored social networks as vital extensions of human relationships and identity, particularly among youth, the most digitally engaged demographic. While social media offers unprecedented opportunities for connection, creativity, and evangelization, it also brings challenges such as emotional superficiality, digital addiction, identity fragmentation, surveillance capitalism, and erosion of privacy.

In response, Fr. Sibi invited the Camillian Family to embody their charism of compassion, healing, and presence within the digital space, inspired by the life of St. Camillus. Just as St. Camillus practiced empathy, active listening, and non-verbal care, digital communication must be rooted in authenticity, emotional intelligence, and relational sincerity. Communication today is no longer the task of a few specialists but a shared responsibility of the entire Camillian community. Every religious is called to be a communicator fostering a culture of openness, dialogue, and hope, bringing



the healing presence of Christ to the digital peripheries of today's world.

The session ended with a question-and-answer dialogue, followed by the presentation of a jubilee memento to Fr. Sibi. Each speaker brought unique perspectives on how the foundational vision of their institutes continues to animate the Camillian Charismatic Family's missionary identity and shared vocation today.

Evaluation and Feedback

The feedback session was guided by Fr. Medard and Fr. Baby Ellickal, Coordinators of the Jubilee Commission and the Central Commission for Formation. Questionnaires were distributed for participants to evaluate the convention, with completed forms collected by



the organizing committee.

There was ample time for participants to share their reflections openly. Many interventions, observations, and suggestions were made to further enhance the quality of future conventions. Following this, each Superior General offered their evaluation and final remarks on the assembly and future collaborative plans.

Fr. Medard also presented the book resulting from the previous convention held on May 25, 2024, the Feast of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity. The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Fr. Baby Ellickal.

In the evening, the assembly closed with the final blessings from Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin, MI, the distribution of Jubilee gifts, Evening Prayer, and a fraternal dinner.

THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025 – Pilgrimage to Bucchianico

The final day was marked by a spiritual pilgrimage to Bucchianico, the birthplace of St. Camillus. Pilgrims traced the physical and spiritual footsteps of the Saint, prayed at his family home and the sanctuary, and renewed their commitment to the Camillian way of life.

This pilgrimage crowned the week with a profound sense of gratitude and renewed purpose.

The International Convention proved to be a profound moment of spiritual renewal, intellectual reflection, and fraternal communion. It reinforced the urgency and beauty of the Camillian vocation today, especially amidst the cries of the poor, the sick, and the forgotten.

As “pilgrims of hope,” the Camillian Charismatic Family leaves this Jubilee Convention rekindled in the Spirit, rooted deeply in the legacy of St. Camillus, and sent forth to bring healing and hope in Christ’s name.



Words of heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is difficult to find the right words when the heart is full. Full of gratitude, faces, encounters, hope. At the end of this journey we have shared, so intense and surprising, I feel a strong need to say only this: thank you. Thank you for every word spoken and heard, for every smile given, for every moment of silence shared, for every prayer that has united us. This International Conference of Formators and Vocation Animators has been more than an event: it has been an experience of the living Church, a fragment of the Kingdom, a time of grace.

We walked together as pilgrims of hope, grasped by Christ, fascinated by St. Camillus, driven by the Spirit to believe once again that fraternity is possible, that vocation is a flame that can set the world on fire, that care is the most human face of the Gospel. We savoured the beauty of being different but united, bearers of a charism that pulsates, provokes, and transforms, yet animated by the same passion: the Gospel of compassion and mercy. Together we dreamed, listened, reflected, laughed, and prayed. We let the Spirit surprise us.

But now comes the truest time: that of return, of after, of everyday life. Now it is up to us. To me. To you. Because everything we have experienced cannot remain closed within the walls of a conference. It must become life. Choices. Witness. We have lit a fire. Now we can no longer turn back. I dream with you of a formation that is not just transmission, but generation of life. A vocation that is not promoted with strategies, but is ignited with the fire of passion. A fraternity that is not declared in documents, but is lived in the effort and joy of sharing.

The world needs witnesses. People who dare.

Who fall and get back up. Who make mistakes but never stop loving. We are called to be artisans of the future, sowers of light, guardians of the pain of others. Yes, dear friends, in these days we have been artisans of peace, sowers of fraternity, witnesses of the future. We have built bridges, lit lights, shared dreams. And above all, we have rediscovered the strength and beauty of inter-congregational collaboration, not as a functional strategy, but as a common vocation and synodal journey.

We have also laid the foundation stone of a shared dream: the Camillian Study Center, a laboratory of thought, spirituality, and formation, which will offer new life to our Camillian mission in the vast and complex world of health and care. With heartfelt gratitude, I would now like to express my heartfelt and cordial thanks to the Superiors General, together with their respective Councils, who with trust, vision, and generosity have believed in, supported, and made this journey possible.

In particular, special thanks go to: Father Pedro Tramontin, our beloved Superior General of the Order of Ministers of the Sick, Mother Zelia, Superior General of the Daughters of St. Camillus, Mother Lucia, Superior General of the Ministers of the Sick of St. Camillus, Mother Lurdes, Superior General of the Handmaids of the Incarnation, Luisa, President of the Missionaries of the Sick, Christ the Hope, and to your respective Councils, for your witness of enlightened, humble, and passionate leadership.

Heartfelt thanks also to our speakers, authentic sentinels of thought and spirituality, who with wisdom and depth have accompanied us in discerning and listening to the Spirit. Special thanks to this center for the warm hospitality offered to us. Heartfelt thanks to the

Sisters of the Incarnation, especially Mother Lourdes, Sister Delina, and all the other sisters, for the care and attention with which they welcomed us. We are also deeply grateful for the delicious food that was prepared for us: truly exquisite! Sincere thanks also go to all the kitchen staff for their valuable service.

Sincere thanks to all the moderators for their valuable service and for their help in facilitating relations and dialogue among us. Special thanks to our translators, Father William, Father Guy, and Father Pietro, and Sister Annie. With competence, dedication, and discretion, you have provided a valuable service, allowing words to become bridges between languages and hearts.

You have been true silent artisans of communion, contributing in a fundamental way to mutual understanding and to the beauty of our being together.

Heartfelt thanks to Brother Carlo Bermejo for his willingness and generosity in granting us a certificate on behalf of his Pastoral Health Center in Spain. And finally, a heartfelt thank you to each of you, dear participants: formators, vocation animators, men and women religious, and lay people. With your presence, your enthusiasm, and your lived faith, you have given body and soul to this event. You are living proof that hope is not a utopia, but a possible and concrete reality. A warm and heartfelt thank you also goes to those who, with generosity and discretion, took care of every organizational detail. In particular: Fr. Medard, Fr. Sergio, Sr. Laura, Sr. Delina, Sr. Catherine, Fr. Aris, Fr. Siby,

Fr. Lucas, and Nadia. Your silent, attentive, and faithful service has been like oil that has fuelled the lamp of fraternity and beauty.

Dear friends, let us carry with us what we have experienced. Let us keep it in our hearts as a precious treasure and share it generously in our lives and missions. Let us not allow the fire to go out. We are called to be fires that light other fires, ardent witnesses of the Gospel of compassion. But now, we cannot stop. We have received so much, and it is time to give back. It is time to dream bigger. To dare more. To love better. The world does not need tired formators, but passionate witnesses. Not vocation officials, but restless believers, in love with the Gospel and with humanity.

Pope Francis reminds us: God's dream is bigger than ours. And he always calls us to go out, to walk, to take risks. Let us therefore leave this Conference renewed in the Spirit, seized by Christ, with hearts on fire and steps ready to continue on the journey, in the hope that does not disappoint. May this be only the beginning of a shared journey that continues to expand, deepen, and flourish, for the benefit of formation, vocation, mission... and the whole world.

And now, let us entrust everything to the Lord, through the blessing of our Superior General, Father Pedro, as a seal of grace on what we have experienced together. With a heart full of gratitude, eyes shining with hope, and determined steps, I embrace each one of you in the name of the Lord. I carry you in my heart. One by one.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI



*Rome, 29 May 2025
Coordinators of the Jubilee Commission
& Central Commission for Formation*

