



Camillian Disaster Service International
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Credits: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

**TODAY MORE THAN EVER WE ARE
WITNESSES OF CHARITY AND BUILDERS
OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

CONTENTS

03 EDITORIAL

The Enduring Imperative: Witnesses of Charity and Architects of Resilient Communities in the Contemporary Milieu

05 EMERGENCY

Where humanitarian aid knows no borders: CADIS Thailand assists earthquake survivors in Myanmar

07 REFLECTION

From Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV: between legacy and new possibilities

08 EVENTS

Witnesses of a charity that saves, today in memory of the Martyrs of Charity

09 PROJECTS

Tzu Chi and CADIS Foundations' emergency intervention in Kenya bears fruits

10 LATEST UPDATES

Snapshots of CADIS



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CROSSOVER is the quarterly news bulletin of the Camillian Disaster Service International. The name **CROSSOVER** was inspired by the gospel of Mark (Mk. 4,35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake, and then a massive storm battered their boat that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them; Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. St. Camillus himself had crossed over the confines of the hospitals when he learned about the plague-stricken people, and the victims of floods, war, and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are displayed during these difficult historical moments.

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THE ENDURING IMPERATIVE: WITNESSES OF CHARITY AND ARCHITECTS OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY MILIEU

The recent observance by the Camillian community, in conjunction with the Camillian Disaster Service International (CADIS), of the feast of the Camillian martyrs of charity and the birth anniversary of Saint Camillus de Lellis (May 25), transcends mere historical remembrance. These pivotal commemorations serve as potent reaffirmations of the foundational ethos that underpins our organizational mission and necessitates proactive engagement in the current global context.

The testimonies of the Camillian martyrs delineate acts of ultimate sacrifice, wherein lives were conscientiously committed to the succor of the ailing and suffering, even amidst pestilential outbreaks and existential perils. (cf. [17th Century Plagues](#)). Their unwavering adherence to the principle of charity, intrinsically motivated by a profound reverence for the Divine and a deep empathy for humanity, constitutes an enduring paradigm for contemporary praxis. Concurrently, Saint Camillus de Lellis, a figure demonstrably transformed by divine grace, dedicated his life to the systemic transformation of healthcare practices, inculcating principles of profound compassion and professional efficacy in the ministration to the infirm. His visionary foresight established the fundamental precepts for a ministry that continues to exert substantive influence globally.

In an epoch progressively characterized by multifarious and intricate challenges—ranging from geophysical disruptions and anthropogenic climate change to protracted armed conflicts and pervasive health crises—the tenets championed by our martyred predecessors and Saint Camillus are not merely apposite; they are, with unprecedented urgency, the very bedrock upon which our collective identity as witnesses of charity and architects of resilient communities is predicated.

The role of a witness to charity is actualized through the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations displaced by geopolitical instability, the deployment of medical interventions in communities devastated by endemic disease, and the offering of solace and hope to individuals experiencing profound desolation. This witnessing is inherently active, manifesting as a tangible expression of divine beneficence mediated through human agency. It is discernible in the assiduous efforts of CADIS personnel operating at the nexus of crises, in the dedicated service rendered by Camillian religious in healthcare facilities and care institutions, and in the discreet acts of beneficence performed by every constituent member of our extended fraternal order.

Furthermore, our organizational mandate extends beyond immediate humanitarian succor to encompass the imperative of fostering resilient communities. This necessitates proactive engagement in strengthening societal infrastructures against future exigencies. Such endeavors involve the systematic empowerment of local populations through knowledge transfer and resource allocation, strategic investment in sustainable developmental paradigms, and the cultivation of social cohesion. The objective is to establish environments where communities are not only capable of recovery from adversity but are also positioned to emerge with enhanced fortitude, augmented self-sufficiency, and superior preparedness to navigate future challenges with inherent dignity and optimism.

The historical trajectory of St. Camillus consistently demonstrates that authentic charity is not solely concerned with the alleviation of immediate suffering; it is intrinsically linked to the restoration of human dignity, the facilitation of comprehensive healing processes, and the empowerment of individuals. The exemplary lives of our martyrs underscore that this commitment may indeed necessitate exceptional courage, profound personal sacrifice, and an unwavering fidelity in the face of daunting circumstances.

Moving forward, it is incumbent upon us to internalize these historical lessons and permit them to inform and invigorate our operational strategies. We must endeavor to perpetually embody the spirit of St. Camillus, extending compassionate and expert assistance to those in need. Moreover, we are to draw strength from the heroic attestations of our martyrs, inspiring dedicated service even when confronted with arduous pathways.

Through every act of care, every manifestation of solidarity, and every strategic initiative aimed at empowerment, we unequivocally reaffirm our commitment to this sacred vocation. In the contemporary context, we are not merely the beneficiaries of a distinguished legacy; we are active contributors to the construction of a more equitable, compassionate, and robust global society. Let us embrace this formidable undertaking with renewed intellectual rigor and practical resolve, recognizing that the scope of human need is vast, and the opportune moment for the cultivation of charity is undeniably at hand.

Aris Miranda, MI
CADIS Director



WHERE HUMANITARIAN AID KNOWS NO BORDERS: CADIS THAILAND ASSISTS EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS IN MYANMAR

CADIS Thailand at the frontline to assist the survivors of the earthquake in Myanmar

On 28 March 2025, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar, with the epicentre in Sagaing, causing a fault line of over 200 km. The earthquake toll is 3,700 dead, 4,800 injured and 129 missing, according to the AHA Centre. The tremors were felt as far as Thailand and China, but no serious damage was reported. The priority response was given to Myanmar.

CADIS International's response was quickly mobilized together with CADIS Thailand who organised an emergency response team to assist survivors. In collaboration with the Church of Myanmar through Caritas Myanmar (Karuna Mission Social Solidarity - KMSS), a field assessment of the situation was presented.

Basic needs required are temporary shelters, ready-to-eat foods, water and medicines. The political situation initially was challenging for the aid organisations. In fact, the biggest obstacle was reaching the affected areas due to bad access to roads and several military checkpoints. Moreover, according to government protocols, volunteers and foreign organisations were not immediately given the go signal to enter the country. Thanks to the mediation of the Catholic Church, aid was facilitated.

During an online meeting convened by CADIS International, contact persons from Thailand, India, together with partners, discussed possible interventions, as well as the establishment of local contacts and the fundraising campaigns, which are still active through CADIS International's Emergency Fund.

From 21 to 23 April, CADIS Thailand made the first distribution of food and non-food relief goods to the affected people in Myanmar.

At the Camillian Pastoral Centre in Lat Krabang, Bangkok, more than 350 parcels of goods were prepared for distribution. The parcels included rice, instant noodles, canned foods, drinking water and medical kits.

Fourteen (14) Camillians and volunteers reached Ban Klang, Mae Jae district, Roi Koh province, Myanmar, passing through the Thai-Myanmar border checkpoint. At the border, the team was met by Fr Bo Choi, a local priest, who guided them to Ban Klang - the central aid distribution site for affected villagers. Here, the team met two main groups of displaced people: earthquake survivors, who are in dire need of food and shelter, and internally displaced people due to political unrest and civil war.

Ban Klang has a population of about 5,000 people representing various ethnic groups, including Shan, Karen and Burmese. Historically, there have been frequent clashes between ethnic groups and military forces in this area. Temporary shelters were set up along the Thai side, where CADIS Thailand had already provided assistance and food to the population.

It has been observed that there was a strong feeling of insecurity and homelessness due to the earthquake, fear, constant alertness for evacuation and continuous search for safety on individuals.



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The second mission took place from May 28 to May 31. Caritas Chiang Mai Diocese, Caritas Thailand, and CADIS Thailand organised a new mission to assist our brothers and sisters in Myanmar who have been affected by the earthquake and ongoing unrest.

After having prepared packages with medicines, mosquito nets, blankets and food, two teams set off. The first group is composed of Fr. Pairach, Fr. Wirote, and the CARITAS social team of the Diocese of Chiang Mai and CADIS volunteers and they traveled to Khun Yam, passing through Huai Ton Nun checkpoint, up to their destination in Mae Jae, Roi Ko district, Myanmar.

The second group composed of Fr. Ning, Fr. Tiger, and volunteers from Phu Thong and Achu took a boat from Samlab to the Gotule area in Myanmar, and visited three locations: 1. Umee Tha – a hospital and nursing school; 2. Tagay Tha – a village of 15 families displaced by disaster and conflict; and 3. Imtu Tha – a refugee camp with around 300 families and children.

At each location, the volunteers had to travel by boat which is about 20–30 minutes, rowing upstream on the vast Salween River, surrounded by breathtaking nature.

They observed that life in these villages is extremely difficult — no electricity, scarce food, limited supplies, and many hardships. They will continue to bring goods and relief to the areas that are hard to reach because of poor roads and damages brought by the earthquake.

Thanks to the support of generous donors and institutions, the implementation of relief operations was possible. The need is still high, and in the next months recovery and resilience building will be the main concerns, not to mention the psychological impact of this event. CADIS will continue to assist the survivors thanks to your support and prayers.



FROM POPE FRANCIS TO POPE LEO XIV: BETWEEN LEGACY AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

Pope Francis rallies for “ecological conversion” as an accessible means for everyone to spiritual and cultural transformation towards a more sustainable and just way of life to save our common home. He developed this theory based on the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church and his moral praxis of humility and compassion towards those in the existential peripheries. We are grappling with the horrendous consequences of climate change. By embracing an ecologically converted lifestyle, we empower ourselves to face these “storms” and emerge stronger, more united and more in tune with the needs of humanity and the planet.

Pope Francis has reframed environmental issues as deeply connected to human dignity, poverty, and economic justice. His teachings (*Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*) are formed by faith and informed by science. Together, they fuel a vision of integral ecology—where environmental justice is not a separate cause, but the beating heart of human dignity. It makes the health of our planet tied to the dignity of every human being.

Pope Francis challenges us to look to the margins—the forgotten, the displaced, those living on the frontline of ecological collapse. He has illuminated our path. His voice echoes in our “hearts, head and hands” as we empower communities with the knowledge and tools to build resilience against systems of inequality that marginalise the most vulnerable.

Pope Francis has helped us see more clearly, love more deeply, and act more boldly. His teachings continue to guide us as we reach out to those in the shadows, helping them stand strong and resilient, not alone, but as part of a family that refuses to give up on each other, or on the future we are called to build together.

This is part of the great legacy entrusted to us by Pope Francis to share and cultivate, working towards building an ecologically converted and resilient community.

And with the vivid and affectionate memory of Pope Francis, we welcome with great joy the new Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV, elected on 8 May 2025. During the first *Urbi et Orbi* blessing, he thanked the leadership of Pope Francis and reiterated the need for a ‘disarming and disarming’ peace, as “Humanity needs God as the bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us too, then one another to build bridges, with dialogue, with encounter, uniting us all to be one people always at peace.”

Pope Leo XIV expressed vividly his hope and desire for “a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.” Not unknown to him, the wounds of division and discord are caused by economic greed and political ambition for world dominion. This reality “exploits the Earth’s resources and marginalises the poorest,” the Pope said.

He further expressed his desire for the Church - “we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion, and fraternity within the world [...] “We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people.” (cf. [Vatican News](#))

As Pontifex Maximus (great bridge builder) Leo XIV, aims to continue the legacy of his predecessor in building bridges for ecological and social justice to care for our common home. Speaking on the deteriorating environmental crisis facing the world, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost stressed, it is time to move “from words to action.” “Dominion over nature”—the task which God gave humanity—should not become “tyrannical.” It must be a “relationship of reciprocity” with the environment, he said. ([Pope Leo XIV On Climate change](#))

Pope Leo XIV has made clear that *Laudato Si'* remains the foundation for his papacy’s approach to environmental stewardship. He raised concern over the unchecked growth of technological development and market-driven environmental harm. He warns that profit motives, when left unregulated, often drive decisions that damage creation and deepen inequality. While he recognized science and technology as tools for human development, he cautioned that their development be “disciplined by justice, guided by wisdom, and tethered to the common good.” (cf. [Pope Leo XIV on Climate Justice and Sustainability](#)).

WITNESSES OF A CHARITY THAT SAVES, TODAY IN MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS OF CHARITY

Reflections and activities for the commemoration of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity

In May 25, we celebrated the feast of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity, the living memory of those religious who, animated by the spirit of our founder St. Camillus de Lellis, gave their lives in generous and tireless service to the sick and suffering, even at the risk of their own health and safety. Their testimony continues to challenge and inspire us in our daily journey of charity.

This year, our commemoration took on an even deeper significance because it is set in the context of the 10th anniversary of the CADIS Foundation. The theme that guides us - A Decade of Compassion and Empowerment: From Crisis Response to Building Resilient Communities' - helps us to read the memory of our martyrs not only as a tribute to the past, but also as a prophetic thrust towards the future.

In these ten years, CADIS has worked in the most vulnerable communities of the world, addressing humanitarian emergencies and accompanying communities in the difficult but necessary process of healing, rebuilding and resilience. We have learnt that true compassion is not limited to immediate aid, but is expressed in the willingness to stay, to listen, to walk with those who suffer, promoting paths of personal and collective emancipation.

The Camillian Martyrs of Charity are, for us, a concrete example of this style of presence: not solitary heroes, but faithful brothers, capable of remaining close to the last even when everything invites us to flee. Their legacy calls us today to renew our commitment to human dignity and integral health, especially where crises seem to extinguish all hope.

As we commemorated the 25th of May celebration, we joined together with an open heart to the mission entrusted to us: to be signs of compassion that transform, witnesses of a charity that saves, builders of communities that resist, heal and renew.

As part of the celebration of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity, CADIS BF Burkina Faso organized a weeklong activities. They conducted a blood donation campaign at the Saint Camille Hospital in Ouagadougou. The campaign enabled the organization to collect 44 bags of blood for the benefit of indigent patients. Then, CADIS BF made a visit to the "Wèndguèta" mental health center in Gnimdi, bringing some donations consisting of oil, rice, pasta, tomatoes, and soap. From Thursday 22 to Saturday May 24, a triduum (prayer) was organized. All these activities culminated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity on Sunday, May 25 in the chapel of Saint Camillus Hospital in Ouagadougou. The Eucharist was presided over by the Provincial Vicar, Reverend Father Luc Zongo, and animated by the Camillian postulants from the Saint Camillus Boys' Juniorate together with the Camillian confreres, novices, and lay faithful members of Camillian-inspired associations.



TZU CHI AND CADIS FOUNDATIONS' EMERGENCY INTERVENTION IN KENYA BEARS FRUITS

Following the devastating 2024 floods of Kenya, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (BTCF) teamed up with Camillian Disaster Services International (CADIS) and CADIS Kenya to offer all-encompassing aid in three severely impacted rural communities of Baringo County, which is in the Rift Valley region of Kenya, and the Mathare and Mukuru Kwa Njenga informal settlements in Nairobi. More than 16,600 people were assisted by the initiative, which offered relief goods such as food and non-food items, school uniforms and supplies, rent assistance, medical aid, semi-permanent housing, livelihood support, and agricultural support.

The project's objectives were to mitigate hunger, increase community resilience and recovery, improve access to safe and secure shelter, and combat waterborne diseases by offering tailored support according to local needs. 900 families in all three regions received female hygiene kits and food packs that included 10 kg of rice, 10 kg of beans, 4 kg of maize flour, 2 kg of sugar, and 3 liters of cooking oil. In addition to 1200 school children receiving school uniforms and supplies, 700 families received non-food goods.

Over the course of three months, 200 households in Mathare got cash transfers totaling 20,000 KHS (155 USD) each for the purpose of renting a home. Fifty people in Baringo County were given semi-permanent homes, and 200 farmers were given cash transfer of 10,000 KHS (77 USD), farm supplies, and technical assistance to improve their economic capacity and income from their new agricultural endeavors along Lake Baringo.

Of the 644 people who received health screening services in Mukuru Kwa Njenga, 206 also received follow-up medical care, which included laboratory testing, medications, eye care, and medical attention.

Impact and testimonies of the flood relief intervention in Kenya



Over the months, volunteers and field workers have collected testimonies of several residents affected by the event. Thanks to their words, we were able to make relief and recovery activities more efficient and achieve more effective results. Among the emotional stories we collected:

Mr. Samson Omondi, is one of the victims of the floods. His home in the Mathare slum in Nairobi was violently affected, due to the floodwater disrupting everything and forcing him to flee. Thanks to the intervention of CADIS, along with many others, Samson was assisted with basic necessities, assistance, and temporary shelter.

Ms. Winnie, a resident of one of the hardest hit areas of Nairobi, received from primary care, food for a month, as well as basic necessities such as a mattress, blankets, and netting to shelter from mosquitoes, following the flooding that affected her home. Prior to the arrival of CADIS, many were forced to sleep on the floor in poor conditions, even young children and the elderly. Moreover, thanks to the economic support provided by the project, beneficiaries like Winnie can hope to return to normalcy and return to their homes soon.



SNAPSHOTS OF CADIS

TERMINAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT IN CEBU, PHILIPPINES

The 2-year project (2023–2025) "Building Disaster Resilient Communities in the Informal Settlements of Cebu City, Philippines", implemented by the Visayas Primary Healthcare Services, Inc. (VPHCS) in partnership with CADIS International, and funded by CEI, has come to the end. It aimed at improving disaster preparedness, health services, and livelihood opportunities in four vulnerable urban communities in Cebu City.

The first year of the project implementation focused on capacity building and increased awareness of the community on Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM), Participatory Assessment on Climate and Disaster Risk (PACDR), and health trainings on basic health care, first aid, herbal medicine, and disease prevention.

As the project moved into its second year, the focus was on community fire safety measures, waste management, livelihood income-generating program (IGP) and food security training. Environmental stewardship became a growing part of the initiative with seminars inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical, and sustainability with a series of workshops to train community leaders in project development, financial management, feasibility studies, and leadership.

CADIS project in Cebu City stands as a compelling example of how participatory, grassroots-led approaches can address complex challenges in informal urban settlements. By combining disaster preparedness, health care, economic empowerment, and environmental awareness into a unified effort, the project has not only transformed communities but also provided a replicable model for inclusive and sustainable development.

The final report is available on the website.



Herbal ointment made from Plumeria, Moringga and Bitter vine

TAKE PART IN THE CONTEST TO CELEBRATE CADIS

There is still time to participate in the competition organized by CADIS International. By 29 June you can submit your entries for the logo, hymn, and prayer to officially celebrate the tenth year of the CADIS foundation. This is a unique opportunity to fully participate in the CADIS world. Participating is very easy and you don't have to follow any restrictive rules other than giving free rein to your creativity.

You can invite and challenge friends and family to get involved by designing the logo that best represents the CADIS values, writing the text of the prayer and the musical hymn. And if you're a composer, you can also submit your soundtrack!

How to submit your entries?

? Send an email to anniversary@cadisinternational.org by 29 June. We are waiting for you! You can find the guidelines on the website at this link: <https://www.cadisinternational.org/blog-detail/post/265445/10th-anniversary-of-the-foundation-cadis-international>



A special anniversary requires special participation: yours!

We are organising a contest to create the **Logo**, the **lyrics of the Hymn** and the **text of the official Prayer** for this Anniversary.

How to participate

- Do you like music? Write the anthem text and, if you like, compose the music too (not compulsory).
- Do you like drawing? Create a logo according to the guidelines.
- Are you good at writing? Compose the text of the prayer.

Decide what to propose: one, two or all three. You can participate individually or in a group... And don't forget to invite friends and family. You have time until June 29, 2025.



Find the guidelines on the website or scan the qr-code:
www.cadisinternational.org
anniversary@cadisinternational.org



NEW OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS INAUGURATED

On 27th of May the Camillianum Center in Rome was officially inaugurated. It houses the Camillian Study Centre and the operational headquarters of the CADIS International Foundation and the organisation Salute e Sviluppo.

The Superior General, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, solemnized the blessing on the new premises in the presence of all the members of the General Council, formators and vocational animators of the Camillian charismatic family. The Center welcomes and promotes the cultural heritage and patrimony of the Camillians in the field of pastoral health. It aims to support research of scholars, experts, health workers, and theologians. Thanks to the library's heritage of about 50,000 volumes and numerous journals in different languages.

The Center will be a place of welcome and sharing, organising pastoral theology workshops and seminars. It has ample rooms and spaces for lectures and workshops.





CADIS

Photo credit: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

MYANMAR EMERGENCY

WE DELIVERED 400 FOOD PACKS, AND PREPARING FOR OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND MEDICAL RELIEF. WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

CC: CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE INTERNATIONAL
CAUSE: MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE

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