

Newsletter n. 9 – The Camillian World Seen from Rome...and Rome Seen from the World

January 2015

TIME DEDICATED TO THE SICK IS HOLY TIME, 'PRAISE BE TO GOD'.

'QUALITY OF LIFE'? 'IT'S A LIE

Message of the Holy Father for the Twenty-third World Day of the Sick



‘Occasionally our world forgets the special value of time spent at the bedside of the sick, since we are in such a rush; caught up as we are in a frenzy of doing, of producing, we forget about giving ourselves freely, taking care of others, being responsible for others’. These are words of Pope Francis in his Message for the XXIII World Day of the Sick which will be celebrated on 11 February 2015. ‘I turn to all of you’, began the Holy Father, ‘who are burdened by illness and are united in various ways to the flesh of the suffering Christ, as well as to you, professionals and volunteers in the field of health care’. Taking as a point of reference a phrase from the Book of Job, **‘I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame’, he reflects upon ‘wisdom of the heart’, an approach infused by the Holy Spirit into ‘those who are sensitive to the sufferings of their brothers and sisters and who can see in them the image of God’.**

Arranging his Message into a series of points, the Bishop of Rome states that wisdom of the heart is to serve, to be near, to move out of ourselves, to provide support to our brothers and sisters. ‘Today too, how many Christians show, not by their words but by lives rooted in a genuine faith’, observes the Pope, ‘that they are “eyes to the blind” and “feet to the lame”! They are close to the sick in need of constant care and help in washing, dressing and eating’. This service, he observes, is a ‘great path of sanctification’.

A hypocritical lie ‘lurks behind certain phrases which so insist on the importance of “quality of life” that they make people think that lives affected by grave illness are not worth living!’, the Supreme Pontiff ‘thunders’. He says of this ‘great lie’: ‘Even when illness, loneliness and inability make it hard for us to reach out to others, the experience of suffering can become a privileged means of transmitting grace’. And thus ‘People immersed in the mystery of suffering and pain, when they accept these in faith, can themselves become living witnesses of a faith capable of embracing suffering, even without being able to understand its full meaning’.

‘Occasionally our world forgets the special value of time spent at the bedside of the sick’, is the denunciation of the Pope, ‘ since we are in such a rush; caught up as we are in a frenzy of doing, of producing, we forget about giving ourselves freely, taking care of others, being responsible for others’. For Francis, ‘Behind this attitude there is often a lukewarm faith’. And thus the Pope exhorts: ‘I would like once again to stress the absolute priority of going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm’. In addition, Jorge Mario Bergoglio highlights ‘how many Christians show, not by their words but by lives rooted in a genuine faith’ their witness at the side of the sick. They are living a ‘great path of sanctification’ because although ‘It is

relatively easy to help someone for a few days', it is 'difficult to look after a person for months or even years, in some cases when he or she is no longer capable of expressing gratitude'.

The Supreme Pontiff expresses another warning: 'True charity is a sharing which does not judge, which does not demand the conversion of others'; 'it is free of that false humility which, deep down, seeks praise and is self-satisfied about whatever good it does'.

FROM THE CAMILLIAN WORLD

THE PHILIPPINES

On 2-6 February 2015 the General Assembly of the Province of the Philippines will be held. This has been announced by the Provincial Superior **Fr. Rolando Fernandez**. The Superior General, Fr. Leocir Pessini, and Fr. Aris Miranda, the General Consultor for Ministry, will also be present.

TAIWAN: Chinese Christmas and New Year



Fr. Didonè has informed us about the celebrations that took place during the Christmas period in Taiwan. They began on 22 December with a rich recreational programme for children and elderly people. At Taipei in the community of religious a crib was organised. Many people stopped to admire it, taking part in various moments of planned prayer as well.

On 24 December at Tayin in the new Church of St. Camillus for the first time the four neighbouring Catholic institutions – St. Mary's Nursing College, the nursing college of the diocese, the St. Camillus Centre for the Handicapped, and the Home for Elderly People – engaged in shared moments of celebration. On 2 January at the cultural centre of Ilan a picture exhibition was put on, the work of the patients of the home for the elderly. For the whole of the month of January, once a week, meetings will be organised to bring help to those people of the area who are most in need.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY

SIERRA LEONE – REOPENING OF THE HOSPITAL OF MAKENY



14 January 2014.

On 7 January 2015 the **Holy Spirit Hospital in Sierra Leone was reopened**. [The first goal of the Camillian Task Force in Makeny](#) has been achieved thanks to the work of the team that flanked and supported the diocese and the management of the hospital. On 11 January a cargo plan landed in Freetown containing most of the materials of the laboratory which will help in carrying out tests to achieve a rapid identification of patients who are infected with the Ebola virus. The laboratory material became operational on

At the present time the Camillians are present through the service and professionalism of **Anita Ennis**, the Vice-President of the international Lay Camillian Family, and of **Fr. Anthoni George**

THE PROVINCE OF ITALY - VERONA



On Monday 2 February 2015 our religious brother Marco Moioli will place in the hands of the Provincial Superior Fr. Vittorio Paleari his solemn profession. This will take place in the Rectory of Santa Maria del Paradiso (Verona).

BURKINA FASO – BENIN – TOGO

At the end of their recent fraternal visit to the religious brothers and Camillian communities of Burkina Faso, of Benin and of Togo, Fr. Leocir Pessini, the Superior General, and Fr. Laurent Zoungrana, the Vicar General, addressed two messages of thanks and good wishes for an ever more productive presence of the Camillian charism in the land of Africa.

Read the [Message to the Camillians of Burkina Faso.](#)

Read the [Message to the Camillians of Benin-Togo.](#)

RESTYLING OF THE WEB SITE: www.camilliani.org



[The coordinates which formed the basis for the renewal of the official web site of the Order were:](#)

1. Attention paid to the memory of our past (**HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, OLD THINGS, HISTORICAL-ASCETIC CALENDAR OF THE ORDER, STORIES AND FACES OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE**)
2. Sensitivity towards current activities (**NEWSLETTER**)
3. Immediacy in sharing through social networks (**FACEBOOK, TWITTER, GOOGLE +, YOUTUBE**)
4. Care in pointing out new developments as regards ministry and the charism (**NEW THINGS**)
5. The spiritual dimension (**PRAYERS TO ST CAMILLUS**)
6. Reassessment of certain important figures of our tradition (**SAINTS AND BLESSEDS**)
7. Updating on subjects and topics dear to our Camillian identity to be produced by the various bodies connected with the Generalate Curia (**PUBLISHING, NGO, CAMILLIAN TASK FORCE, CAMILLIANUM**)
8. Current affairs (**PRESS INFORMATION, THE EBOLA EMERGENCY**)
9. News about the current affairs of the Order and the Church in general (**NEWS** as highlighted (3) and in reports (4))

Future Projects

In the immediate future our activity will be concentrated on '*geo-localisation*': a very big word to point out to the internaut three very clear realities of our Camillian identity: '**who we are**', '**where we are**', and

‘what we are doing’. This is a simple way of offering a kaleidoscope of the large number of activities that our religious brothers are engaged in as a response to the needs for health and salvation as far as the remotest parts of the globe.

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE



As was widely reported in the press and in a number of news bulletins, in the evening of Saturday 20 December 2014, at 22.09, one of the three elliptic **goggles** of the cupola was the subject of an attack by vandals, with the breaking of glass which fell down in a very bad way into the nave, near to the altar and the simulacrum containing the mortal remains of St. Camillus.

[The damage done to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene](#) is being dealt with very well: the police have carried out their investigations; the **FEC** (the Fund for Buildings of Worship – the Ministry for the Interior), as the legitimate owner of the *property*, has made its presence felt; the Ministry for Arts has demonstrated promptitude and skill in assessing the damage and identifying procedures to repair it; and the Vicariate of Rome through its representatives has demonstrated solidarity, encouragement and concern for the pastoral activity that we engage in at the **Church of St. Mary Magdalene**.

VALLE DELL'INFERNO. 2 February: anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus



2 February 2015, memorial of the day of the conversion of St. Camillus, is the 440th. anniversary of his conversion. The community of Macchia-Monte Sant'Angelo organised a series of events and celebrations to solemnise this event.

[Read the programme here .](#)

DAUGHTERS OF ST. CAMILLUS - MOTHER ZELIA IN THE PHILIPPINES



[440th. anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus.](#) Mother Zelia, the Superior General of the Daughters of St. Camillus, and the Superior Sr. Rosanna, visited the sisters of the Camillian community in the Philippines.

[PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY](#)

MONSIGNOR EDOARDO MENICHELLI, already aggregated to the Camillian Order, will become a Cardinal.



The Archbishop of Ancona-Osimo EDOARDO MENICHELLI is one of the twenty new Cardinals on whom Pope Francis will confer the Cardinal's hat on 14 February 2015 at his second consistory. Msgr. Menicelli, specifically because of the esteem and love that he demonstrated in a practical way towards St. Camillus and the promotion of the Order in the diocese of Chieti/Vasto, of which he was the bishop, was aggregated to the Order of the Camillians by the Superior General, Fr. Frank Monks, on 14 July 2004.

To this new Cardinal our best wishes from our Institute with the promise of a special prayer to the Lord through the intercession of St. Camillus that he may continue with solicitude his ministry as a pastor, above all else with the sick and those who with their knowledge and due conscience take care of them!

CONSECRATED LIFE

The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life offer a course for those providing and those receiving formation in Rome on 8-11 April 2015. Enrolments must be sent in by the end of January.

[Download here](#) the letter of Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo in Spanish

[Download here](#) the form for pre-enrolment

CAMILLIANUM

The course 'CARING FOR NON SELF-SUFFICIENCY' will begin on Saturday 31 January at the [Camillianum](#), the International Institute for the Theology of Pastoral Care in Health. Download here the [course programme](#), the [information brochure](#) and the [enrolment form](#)

PUBLISHING



We would like to call attention to the publication of a new short book on the life of the Blessed Rebuschini published by **Casa Editrici Velar**. Its title is '**Beato Enrico Rebuschini. Angelo dei Sofferenti**' ('**Blessed Enrico Rebuschini. Angel of the Suffering**') and the author is **Fr. Antonio Casera**. 'Following in the footsteps of St. Camillus de Lellis, Enrico Rebuschini, a Camillian priest, bore witness to the charity of mercy, exercising it in all the fields in which he worked. His steady resolution to spend his life giving God to his neighbour, seeing in him the very face of the Lord, committed him to an arduous ascetic and mystical journey which was characterised by an intense spiritual life, by an extraordinary love for the Eucharist and by unceasing dedication to the sick and the suffering. His example constitutes an impelling invitation to be attentive to the suffering and the sick in body and spirit'.

DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL CONSULTA



In response to the request made by the three Provincial Superiors of Italy and by those directly involved, the resignation of **Fr. Vincenzo Castaldo** as Master of Novices, and the proposal to appoint **Fr. Mario Agasantis** as the new Master of the Novitiate, were both accepted.

The location of the novitiate was moved from the community of the *N. D'Onofrio* Centre of Spirituality (Bucchianico-CH) to the community of the St. Camillus Sanctuary of Bucchianico (CH).

The new Master of Novices will have the cooperation of other religious brothers – from other Provinces as well – in order to strengthen what is supplied at the level of formation and the charism.

In response to a request made by the Vice-Provincial of India Fr. Baby Ellickal and his council, **the residence of Snehagram a Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu**, under the community of Trichy, has been erected canonically.



Babychan Pazhanilth, a religious of the Vice-Province of India, has been appointed coordinator for formation and the animation of vocations for the Asian region.

Denis Kaboré, a religious of the Vice-Province of Burkina, has been appointed coordinator for formation and the animation of vocations for the African region.

AGENDA OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

As was announced in the previous newsletter, the Superior General and the members of the General Consulta will meet at the generalate house of the sisters Ministers of the Sick of St. Camillus on **21-24 January 2015** to engage in a wider analysis of planning and programming. 24 January will be dedicated to a **meeting with the Superior Generals and their respective General Councils of the Daughters of St. Camillus and of the women Ministers of the Sick.**

Leocir Pessini, together with Fr. Aris Miranda, the General Consultor for Ministry, **on Sunday 25 January will leave for the Philippines** where he will meet our religious brothers of that Province who will be meeting for their General Assembly.

DECEASED RELIGIOUS



‘See, now they vanish, the faces and places, with the self which, as it could, loved them, To become renewed, transfigured, in another pattern’ (T.S. Eliot)

[Our religious brothers of the Province of Spain announce the death of Fr. Francisco Alvarez](#), which took place on Friday 9 January 2015 after a long illness and after receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. On Saturday 10 January at 18.30 the Eucharist of suffrage was celebrated. Br. Ignacio Santaolalla and Fr. Aris Miranda also took part, representing the Central Government of the Order, with Fr. J. Michel Favi representing the *Camillianum*. The coffin of Fr. Francisco was then taken to in Galicia – his birthplace – where on Sunday 11 January the funeral will be celebrated and the burial will take place. Cf. **Message of the Superior General to the Spanish Religious Brothers.**



The Sisters *Daughters of St. Camillus* inform us of the death of **Sr. Innocenza Baronio**, aged 92, after 63 years of religious consecration, and of **Sr. Camila La Hoz**, of Peruvian nationality, aged 86, after 51 years of religious profession.

‘Now they live in Christ whom they met in the Church, followed in their vocations, and served in the sick and the suffering. Trusting that the Lord, the Holy Virgin our Queen, St. Camillus and our deceased religious brothers will welcome them in their midst, we commend them in our prayers, remembering them with affection, esteem and gratitude’.