

## **FIRST MEETING OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR MINISTRY**

October 16-17, 2015

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Day 1 – objective: To know our task and responsibility as member of the secretariat

The quorum started with an opening prayer and a welcome of the members by Fr. Aris as in-charged of the Secretariat for Ministry.

#### **A. Attendance**

1. Fr. Enrique Gonzales
2. Br. Julien Gbaguidi
3. Br. Joseph Khiyaniri
4. Fr. Norbert Riebartsch
5. Fr. Gabriel Garcia
6. Fr. Antonio Puca

#### **B. Specific Areas of Responsibility (AOR)**

1. **South and North Americas:** Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, USA, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador.
2. **West Africa:** Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Togo, Central Africa, Benin, Haiti
3. **East Africa:** Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Madagascar
4. **Europe:** Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Poland, France, Spain, Holland, Germany, Georgia
5. **Asia-Pacific:** Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Australia, Philippines
6. **Italy:** North Italy, Rome, Sicily-Naples

#### **C. Tasks and Responsibility of the Members of the Secretariat**

1. *Problem:* What does it mean to be a “Coordinator for Ministry” within the specific AOR and its rapport with the major superiors (provincial or delegate) and those in-charge for provincial secretariats for ministry?
2. *Response/s:* The role of area coordinators for the Secretariat should be better understood as animating and promoting the provinces’/delegations’ programs and initiatives in line with the Camillian Project. The Consulta during its regular

meeting on October 12, 2015 has reiterated and clarified that the members of the secretariat are primarily task to help, support, formulate and promote initiatives of the Secretariat for Ministry and at the same time are encourage to initiate activities/ programs upon due coordination to the respective provincial/delegate superiors or to somebody designated by such task within the parameters of the Camillian Project. In a more concrete terms, their role is understood in the following courses of action:

- a. gathers and transmits information on the pastoral initiatives of the Order;
  - i. Problem: Between the Consulta and the Provinces/Delegations, there is a seeming gap of communications and the difficulty to obtain and verify precise information due to absence of a system of communication, language barrier and cultural differences particularly in the ways and means of doing things.
  - ii. Proposal: In response to the problem, a) there is a need to design a well-thought and participative method/s of gathering information from the ground; b) the need to elaborate guide questions for data gathering based on a well-defined but simplified categories or types of our ministerial presence; and c) to define the scope and limitations of the areas of ministry where we need to focus our attention and promote its corresponding initiatives.
- b. promotes studies, experiences, conventions and seminars for the purpose of enrichment and updating;
  - i. it has been suggested that in the field of promotion of our ministries, there is a need to pay with much attention to its transversal nature – its interconnectedness with the other sectors or secretariats of the Order such as Formation & Vocation Promotion and Mission. Collaboration with the above-mentioned sectors is highly recommended.
  - ii. there is a need to pay attention to the “Letters” of the General Superior and his Consulta on pertinent issues or concerns. An example of is the Letter of the General Superior to the Care of our Aged Confreres. This regards the future of the Order and not only the specific situation of Europe. A conference or a course has been thought of.
- c. seeks to keep alive the interest for a service to the sick which corresponds to the needs of the time and place.

\*The quorum began with an opening prayer led by Bro. Joseph Khiyaniri. Then, Fr. Aris made a recap of the minutes of the first day.

#### A. Refugee Crisis in Europe

\*There was a continuation of the discussion on the Letter of the General Superior on our response to the refugee crisis in Europe. The entire vision of our response is to help these refugees to be able to go home when war and violence ceased. There are evident challenges in responding to the appeal of the General on behalf of the refugees such as the small number of religious in some communities, the overwhelming regular commitments in our respective ministry and the advanced age of religious. However, it has been encouraged that this should be treated with openness, avoid being indifferent to the situation and find ways of making our presence be felt in this crisis. It has been encouraged also to confront the crisis together with other interested organizations in a spirit of collaboration particularly with the local church and the local government. Other provinces/delegations who are not directly affected by this crisis are encouraged to participate either by contributing human and financial resources.

#### B. Evaluating and Reflecting the pluriformity of the Camillian ministry

##### 1. Chaplaincy Situationaire (initial study)

\*Chaplaincy is at the heart of the Camillian ministry. It is a more privileged type of ministry. It occupies 35% of the total number of forms of ministry. However, it is facing serious concerns such as the following:

- a) lack of enthusiasm among the young religious to chaplaincy and the tendency to marginalize it.
- b) reducing chaplaincy ministry as means for economic sustainability of the province or delegation rather than as an expression of our charism and spirituality
- c) lack of visibility of chaplaincy in our own publications and promotions such as during the 4<sup>th</sup> centenary celebration of the Order
- d) while we form chaplains professionally in our pastoral care institutions, very few among them are Camillians and at the same time there is a growing demand for Camillians coming from outside for chaplaincy ministry.

\*To counteract this situation it has been suggested to strengthen our animation promotion of chaplaincy ministry among our ranks (confreres) and to recover the Camillian spirituality and ministry thru the following:

- a) to produce a manual of chaplaincy ministry of the Order by forming a technical working group who will draft it.

b) to continue the vision of the fourth centenary celebration of the death of St. Camillus in a more concrete, practical, less formal and commemorative mode.

## 2. Healthcare Facility

\*This refers to **hospitals** (facilities that offer a 24 hour access to healthcare services), **clinics** (facilities that offer access to ambulatory and diagnostic healthcare services), and **social care institutions** (facilities that offer social and non-medical assistance such as hospice care, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers – physical, mental, social).

\*A thought-provoking question was presented to the members of the secretariat: In the midst of the ongoing crisis in some of our hospitals, the commercialization of health, the demand for quality and professional services, the lack of public funds and access of people to healthcare, the lack of religious professionally prepared as administrators, and the cost of offering quality services, do you think so that a hospital is no longer a viable and sustainable form of Camillian ministry?

\*Our responses and proposals:

a) the high rate of poverty in the developing countries and the lack of access to healthcare services to the majority poor populace are enough motivations that persuade us to keep our hospital ministry and improved its services.

b) there is a need to strengthen the identity of our healthcare facilities in such a way that it will make a difference to the lives of the people.

c) there is a need to animate our personnel and our lay collaborators (LCF) by giving them continuous formation to our Camillian charism and ministry

d) there is a need to animate our religious towards increasing their sensibility and awareness of the great importance of this type of ministry by engaging in a dialogue, listening and discussing with provincial/delegate superiors or religious in charge of the respective secretariat for ministry.

e) there is a need to let the religious (members) of the community be informed and be involved in the discussions regarding matters concerning a specific ministry; however, information on critical issues should be relayed in a discreet and prudent manner as long as it will contribute to the solution to the problem.

The quorum started with reciting the prayer of the Camillian Project. After the prayer, a recap of what has been discussed in the preceding day was done. On the question of our response to the refugee crisis in Europe, an additional proposal was presented, that is, to develop a project design together with the three provinces of Italy and the Camillian Task Force as soon as possible.

### 3. Parish and Rectory

Based on available data, there are already more than 70 Camillian parishes and rectories all over the world. Following the operational recommendation of the Camillian Project, there is a need to elaborate a guideline on the Camillian parish/rectory ministry. This guideline aims at developing a distinct Camillian identity to our parish ministry. This will clarify some of the doubts and challenges in considering this ministry as vital and relevant to our charism of witnessing the merciful love of Christ to the sick and the suffering.

In view of this, the following issues surfaced during the discussion:

- a) For those who have been working in the parishes, there is a tendency to be influenced by the diocesan lifestyle which sometimes create conflict of relationship within the religious community where the religious belong.
- b) Not all religious are convinced that parish or rectory ministry is an essential Camillian ministry or is not proper for us Camillians.
- c) Some upholds that parish ministry should be taken only as an alternative ministry and not as a preferred ministry.
- d) Parish ministry is also a way of immersing ourselves into the local church and a way or venue wherein we could be more get in touch with the situation of suffering in the communities.
- e) The best way to imprint a Camillian identity into a parish is to strive to go beyond the ordinary duties and activities of a parish by creating programs or services that focus on promoting health of the individual and the community. This could be even more enhanced if we formed and trained some members of the parish on pastoral healthcare.

These issues then necessitates the elaboration of a guideline so that the parishes and rectories will become an avenue for promoting the Camillian charism and spirituality. This will be developed by a technical working group (parish priests) in which the result will be presented during the meeting of Camillian parish priests and rectors in April 2017.

### 4. Education and Formation Institutions

We identify these as centers for learning, research and studies in the field of human sciences, anthropology, and pastoral healthcare. These are our own college of nursing,

medical school, school of pastoral health theology, pastoral healthcare centers (for the humanization of healthcare).

#### 5. Pastoral Healthcare Animation at the Diocesan and Episcopal conference level

We identify this as new opportunity to work with the local church, to assist or help establish a pastoral health care commission at the diocesan or episcopal confederal level.

Apart from our deep involvement at the level of the church, there is also a growing need to engage at the level of the political community particularly in the government ministry of health or at an international level such as the World Health Organization by influencing health policies and laws. This must be given equal concern in our initiatives of promoting the charism of the Order.

A less structured form is through engaging civil society groups or faith-based organizations particularly groups that organize pilgrimages of the sick people by accompanying them giving spiritual-pastoral services.

#### 6. CTF

There is a need to promote CTF as part of the regular ministry of the province and delegations which means in their programming of activities of the province/delegation this must be included. They are encouraged to assign somebody to follow up and promote this ministry in the province/delegation.

### C. FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. APRIL 2016 - Forum dei Direttori dei Centri pastorali, Camillianum, Università Camilliane e Camilliani medici / **Conference of Camillian Pastoral Centers and Universities' Directors, Camillianum, Camillian Physicians**

2. NOVEMBER 2016 - Incontro dei cappellani e dei coordinatori di pastorale della salute (diocesi / conferenze episcopali) / **Meeting of chaplains, pastoral health coordinators (diocese/ episcopal conference)**

3. APRIL 2017 - Incontro dei Parroci e Rettori Camilliani / **Meeting of Camillian parish Priests & Rectors**

There is a suggestion to find an alternative venue of Rome like Spain. An immediate contact to Br. Bermejo is recommended.

The members of the secretariat are encouraged to know the people whom to be invited in their respective AOR.

### D. Our Task Ahead: ANIMATION TO THE PROVINCES AND DELEGATIONS

1. The Consultor in charge will inform in writing the provincial/delegate superiors of the outcome of this meeting and encouraging them to help the member representative of the secretariat to assume their duties with ease and confidence.
2. The members will begin contacting the respective provincial/delegate superiors and dialogue with them informing of your plans and soliciting them to indicate someone who could be your contact person.
3. In order to maintain regular flow of information and networking, the members are encouraged to communicate via email their plans and progress.
4. There is a need to present an annual budget plan of its activities to the Consulta by the Secretariat and request their support to finance at least the travel expenses of the members during their annual meeting in order not to burden the province/delegation of the respective member.

#### E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Secretariat will be on June 2016 in Lima, Peru.