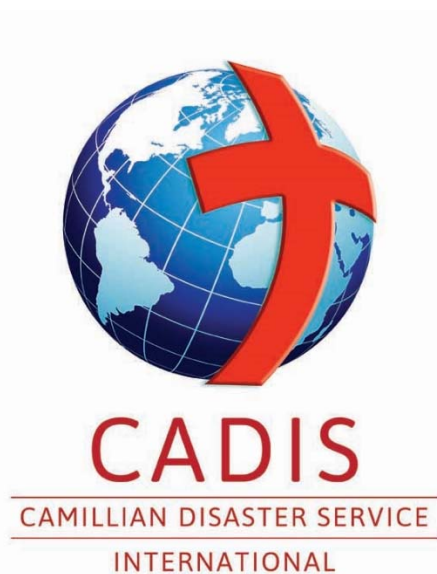


## FROM CTF TO CADIS: A New Evolution of the Camillian Disaster Ministry



Soon, the Camillian Task Force (CTF) will be known as the Camillian Disaster Service International (CADIS) Foundation. CADIS is established by the *Casa Generalizia* of the “*Ordine dei Chierici Regolari Ministri degli Infermi – Camilliani*”. This is a shared expression of the Order’s commitment to humanitarian interventions such as emergency, rehabilitation and development initiatives aiming to promote resilience to the most vulnerable populace and communities. Guided by the Catholic social principles and the Camillian core values, CADIS envisions “fullness of life in a resilient community”. It promotes and inspires the development of a community based integral health programs for the well-being of disaster stricken communities through compassionate, competent and

coordinated interventions.

Rendering service to the victims of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies such as wars, epidemics, and natural disasters has been at the heart of the Camillian ministry and witnessing. Since 1589 beginning with the epidemics in Rome up to the present, the Camillians have remained faithful to their fourth vow of serving the suffering humanity even at the risk of their own lives. In fact, during the 24-year Generalate of St. Camillus, a significant number of religious died as martyrs in places marred by epidemics and pestilence in Italy. In 1994, the Order has instituted May 25 as the Feast of the Martyrs of Charity in honor of the 300 Camillian martyrs of charity who died by witnessing the fourth vow.

In 1995, a fresh beginning was called anew by the 54th General Chapter held in Buccianico, to establish a Task Force that would respond to the socio-health emergencies of the time. In 2000, a central commission was created by the General Council with a specific task of studying and organizing a special team of lay and religious ready to intervene in any event of disasters which later became known as the Camillian Task Force (CTF). Since CTF was not yet a duly constituted legal humanitarian organization, it has been placed under the jurisdiction of the *Curia Generalizia* of the Camillians. Then, it became a humanitarian office of the Order under the supervision of the Secretariat for Mission. Since that period, the CTF has responded to more than 20 disasters in 11 countries highly prone to natural and man-made disasters. It has served more than 30.000 vulnerable families living in the geographically isolated and displaced areas (GIDA) delivering relief and rehabilitation services. It was able to mobilize over 1.500 volunteers including the Camillian religious particularly in the last five years.

From its simple beginnings, the Camillian Task Force has an audacious intent to institutionalize its presence in the field of disaster intervention. The frequency and growing

magnitude of natural hazards calls for a creative engagement of the CTF with the vulnerable communities it serves with passion and focused commitment, rooted as it were on the prophetic spirit of St. Camillus de Lellis. In September 2014, CTF has drawn out its six-year strategic plan during the leaders' conference held in Bangkok. In May 2015, the CTF strategic plan was presented to the assembly of the provincial and delegate superiors in Warsaw with a specific goal of soliciting support for the institutionalization of the said organization. In the same year, the Consulta has approved the motion to establish a Foundation that will hold responsibility and promote initiatives related to post-disaster response, which is known as the Camillian Disaster Service International (CADIS). Its Statutes and Articles of Association is currently filed before the Interior Ministry waiting for its final registration.

CADIS will also be a learning organization, constantly nourishing the heart for affective compassion, continuously equipping the head with know-how for intelligent, effective caring and ceaselessly retooling the hands for skilled service giving. It is an organization that provides an enabling environment for the religious and lay Camillian to witness to suffering connecting peoples to hope, with the moral courage and *heart* of a missionary, the *head* of an expert and the *hands* of a skilled field worker in the frontier of disaster intervention. Thus, it will become a catalyst for transformation embracing *creativity* and change while maintaining *fidelity* to the transformative spirit of St. Camillus de Lellis.

CADIS will be governed by a Board whose members and officers will be coming from the members of the Consulta, the Camillian family (lay, men and women religious), and the representatives of the humanitarian organizations or offices established by the Camillian provinces and delegations. It has also an executive body (director, resource mobilization officer and finance officer) who manages and coordinates its operations, projects and interventions all over the world. Its full operation is targeted to commence by the first half of 2016.