

## Camillians - India

PATRON OF THE SICK, HOSPITALS AND NURSES





**Novena to St. Camillus de Lellis**  
**Patron of the Sick, Hospitals and Nurses**



**Camillians - India**  
St. Camillus Vice Province  
Bengaluru-35, Karnataka

*Published on the 4<sup>th</sup> Centenary of  
the death of St. Camillus (July 14, 2014)*





**Novena to  
St. Camillus de Lellis**  
(English)

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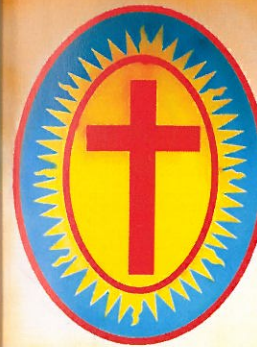
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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

One of the missions that Jesus entrusted His disciples, as narrated in Mt.10:8, was to heal the sick, raise the dead and to cleanse the lepers. St. Camillus, the Patron of the Sick, hospitals and healthcare workers embraced this mandate to his heart and cared the Sick with the love of a mother. Therefore, it is fitting to bring out a Novena to St. Camillus, interceding his prayers for our beloved sick brethren.

The Novena to St. Camillus in English is the fruit of the labour of many generous hearts. At the very outset, I thank the Lord Almighty for His graceful inspiration to bring about this Novena. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, the Archbishop of Bangalore Archdiocese for the Imprimatur. I extend special thanks to Rev. Fr. Tom O' Conner MI for his patient and skillful proof-reading and suggestions. I also thank all my Camillian confreres for their sincere efforts in writing, editing and the like.

I would like to thank Mrs. Fincy Biju (layout and design) and Alwaye Press (printing) for helping us out in publishing this Novena, and wish them the constant intercession of St. Camillus.

I wish and pray that by praying this Novena through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus, the Sick people may attain wholeness and well-being from their suffering and infirmities. May St. Camillus intercede for you in your moments of pain.

*Baby Ellickal MI*

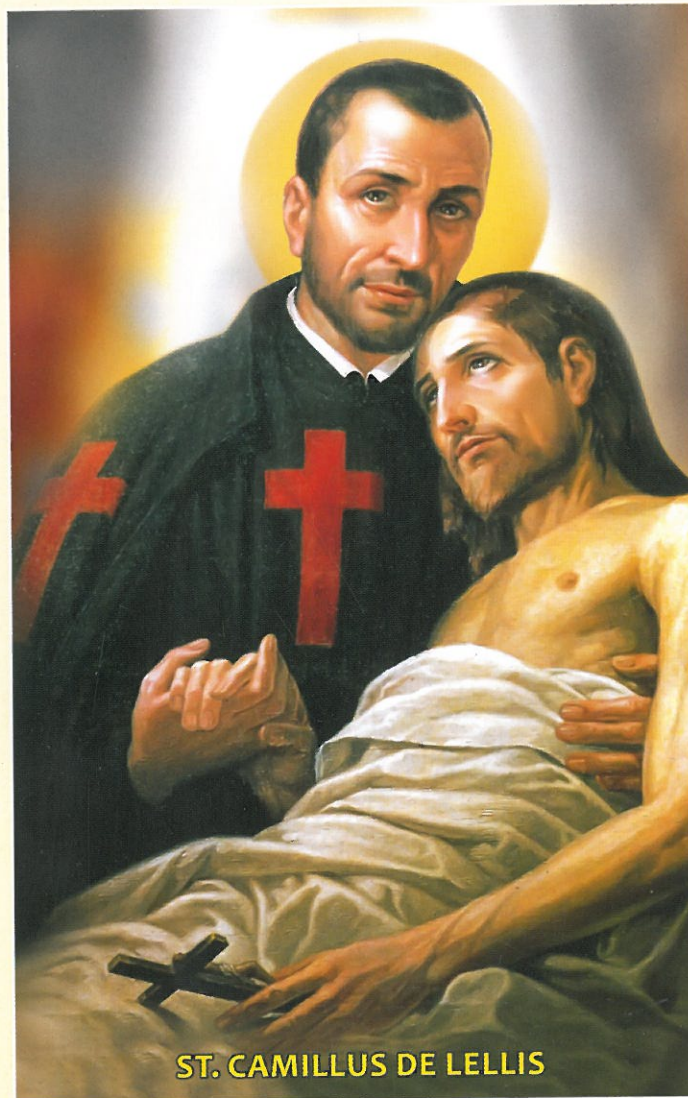
**Fr. Baby Ellickal MI**

Vicar Provincial, St. Camillus Vice Province (India)



# HISTORY AND LIFE





ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

## St. Camillus de Lellis

### *Birth, Early Life and Conversion*

Camillus, son of Giovanni de Lellis and Camilla de Compellis, was born on a Sunday, May 25, 1550 at Bucchianico in Italy. Camillus was welcomed with great joy, also with much anxiety, for his birth was preceded by a strange dream that profoundly disturbed his mother. She saw her son leading a group of men, all of them wearing a cross on their chest. She thought it was the sign of those condemned to death in the gallows. Her son, she feared, would end up a leader of a gang of criminals. Camillus had to grow up absolutely neglected in his education and spiritual development, as he had lost his mother when he was just a child, and his father when he was a boy.

Camillus followed his father in a military career until 1574, and over the course of these years, lived recklessly with a compulsion for gambling. A leg injury resulting in numerous hospitalizations caused him a great deal of grief. He resigned himself to a life as a





construction worker at the monastery of the Capuchins in Manfredonia, Italy, after leaving the military. The Friars gradually discovered the natural goodness of the man beneath the rough exterior, and in 1575, at the age of 25, Camillus experienced a spiritual conversion and resolved to reform his life and dedicate himself to the service of God.

The kindness of a Franciscan friar induced him to apply for admission to become a Franciscan, but due to the sore in his leg he was refused. He then betook himself to Rome, to St. James' Hospital to treat his leg. After a few months he got better and began to work there as a helper. Still the desire to become a priest continued to remain in his mind. Once again being inspired he got back to the same Order but a few months later the wound reappeared and he was rejected from the Order.

### *A New School of Charity*

Back again to the hospital, Camillus understood that he had been called to dedicate his life to the service of the sick and the poor and that was what he did for the rest of his life. For bettering the condition of the sick and the poor at St. James' hospital, Holy Spirit helped Camillus to gather a few of his friends to care for them with love. And Fr. Philip Neri - who later became a saint - was his confessor and guide. Winning the admiration of the institution by his selfless



commitment to the sick and prudent behaviour, he was appointed as superintendent of the hospital. On the advice of his friends and by the help of his spiritual guide, St. Philip Neri, he determined to become a priest. He began his studies at the Jesuit College in Rome. After two years, on May 26, 1584, he was ordained a priest.

Camillus chose a red cross as the distinguishing badge for the pious group he organized and called it 'Ministers of the Infirm'. On March 18, 1586, Pope Sixtus V confirmed the congregation and allowed them to bear a Red Cross on their habit. In 1591 Pope Gregory XIV erected the congregation into a religious Order, and in the same year on December 8 the first 26 members of the Order gave themselves completely to service of the sick, making their perpetual commitment at the church of St. Mary Magdalene. And it became the Mother House of the Order for all time. After leading the movement throughout Italy, Camillus died on July 14, 1614, at the age of 64. In 1742, Pope Benedict XIV proclaimed Camillus de Lellis 'Blessed'; in 1746 he canonized him, calling him the "Founder of a new school of charity".

### *Voice of the Crucified Lord*

Camillus experienced much troubles and rebellious attitudes from many, even from his spiritual director,





on his intention of starting an Order. So disheartened at one point he plan to quit. He was on his knees in front of the crucifix, his most cherished gift given him by a benefactor. There he received grace and strength with an assurance from the Lord; the crucifix detached one of the arms to hold him and a voice said to him, "Don't be afraid. Continue what you have started. This is my work, Camillus, not yours." Strength and determination returned to the soul of Camillus.



### Five Graces Bestowed on St. Camillus

St. Camillus had five extraordinary infirmities by which the Lord was pleased to refine him as gold in the furnace (*cf Sir.2:5*). Camillus called these infirmities as "graces" bestowed by the Lord. The infirmity he had on his leg and his other ailments contributed to make his life one of uninterrupted suffering, but he would never permit anyone to wait on him. He always reached out to the sick amid his ailments. Thus himself experiencing the pain he was able to understand the suffering of the sick, and become a wounded healer.



- **The grace of a wound:** The wound on his leg was strange and extraordinary, deep and so large that it extended nearly round the leg! The discharge from his wound was not fetid; rather, a woman in Genoa, who washed his bandages, declared that the water she had used smelt sweet. (*cf. St. Camillus De Lellis, by Fr. Sanzio Cicatelli, pp.162-3, Camillian Publication, 1980*)

It continued to afflict Camillus for forty-six years, and when scarcely able to stand would crawl out of his bed to visit the sick. Thus he was an extraordinary man at the service of the sick. He said, "A good soldier should die in the battle field, a sailor in the sea and good servants of the sick in the hospital."

- **And the other four graces:** The second grace was a bad rapture, which obliged him to always wear an iron truss which gave him such great pain as no one could imagine. He bore it at least for thirty six years. The third grace, which he bore for twenty five years, was two very hard corns that he had under his bad foot, and caused him to lame. The fourth grace began during his illness in Naples, the stone which troubled him and obliged him often to undergo surgery for it. And the fifth was a strange kind of disgust for food, so that he felt sick even as he heard of any food! However he compelled himself to eat, saying "This is in recompense for the inordinate pleasure I once took in eating." (*cf. Ibid, pp.163-5*)





*An Angel of the Sick and Dying*

Camillus was not only a good and experienced master in the technique of assisting the sick, but he was a genuine man of charity; a physician for soul and body and an engaging personality; when his tall figure bent over feeble and suffering patients, it diffused peace and courage. When Camillus was occupied with a patient, as hundreds have witnessed, he was so intensely absorbed in his service that all else was forgotten. Camillus was no sentimentalist, nor was his charity inspired by human or natural motives. There was nothing in the hospitals of the sixteenth century that offered any appeal to the senses. On the contrary, there was much that was repulsive. You had to fight your instincts, your natural aversions and feelings in order to keep tending the sick. Grace alone had shaped this change in Camillus. He called the sick 'Lords and Masters' and served them so; he urged his followers to serve every sick person with the love of a mother who serves her only child who is sick.



*"You Did It to Me"*

Out of the love of God and in expiation of his sins, he bravely subdued whatever repulsion he experienced, willingly suffered the penance of this hard life and calmly received insults and contempt. Camillus himself saw, served and loved Jesus in the sick with such great faith that often, lost to all around, he would fall into an ecstasy before the most hideous and deformed images of his Creator in the sick and suffering. When engaged in looking after the needs of their bodies, Camillus never lost sight of the soul. After looking after the body, he nourished the souls as well with the Gospel. Camillus showed great diligence when he was preparing those dying for their last journey. The people called Camillus the 'angel of the dying' and his followers 'the fathers of a happy death.' In the sick-room his very presence brought peace and order.

*Death of a Saint*

He lived the last six months of his life intensely preparing himself for Heaven. Even in those months of fervent preparation his mind turned to his beloved sick, so much so that he requested the help of his brothers to bring him to the Holy Spirit Hospital. The visit seemed to refresh him anew. Passing along the wards, he greeted, one by one, his 'Lords and Masters' and blessed them. 'I must take leave now... but my heart will always remain with you', he told them.





Then, overcome with emotion, he was carried home where he awaited his passage to Heaven. At his own request he received Holy



Viaticum. Having received the last anointing from the Superior General, he addressed to his sons, present and future, this final recommendation; "Perfect charity towards God, towards the sick and towards one another; absolute fidelity to the Church, to the Rules and to Poverty; unconditional confidence in Providence whose sons you are among the poor and the sick." On the evening of July 14, 1614, he sank into a death-like slumber. With a mild and joyful countenance he laid his head upon the Crucifix as to seal by this final gesture his fidelity to the divine command from the Crucified Lord: "Persevere... this is my work." "The wound on his leg had lost all its disgusting appearance and looked simply like a large scar." (*St. Camillus De Lellis, by Fr. Sanzio Cicatelli, pp.193-4, Camillian Publication, 1980*)

### Beyond the Tomb

The death of Father Camillus cast an atmosphere of loneliness over everybody. The poor and sick were inconsolable while Rome grieved bitterly the passing

of the Man of Charity. All Italy mourned his loss, especially the cities where the Saint had founded houses and left lasting impression in the hospitals. As his remains lay in state, the Romans invoked loudly the lost Father, Benefactor and Saint. His contemporary Fr. Cicatelli MI testifies that "...it appeared as the whole city had come to see him. 'Let us go and see the Saint,...' said they; the church was crowded with persons of every kind, who pushed each other about and pressed up to the body, to kiss the hands, the feet, and the face, to touch it with their rosaries, with handkerchiefs, with flowers; ..." (*Ibid, pp.193-4*).

Fr. Cicatelli continues to testify the holiness of Camillus who worked miracles not only while alive and after being buried, but even while the body was exposed for the public before the funeral: "... the most remarkable circumstance was the number of possessed persons, both men and women, who filled the air with their shrieks ... Some of them would not approach the bier; others shut their eyes and would not look at him; all of them declared that the sight of him seemed to burn them and torment them..." (*Ibid, p.194*).

On the third day he was buried in the church of St. Mary Maddalena, Rome, close to the high altar, on the Gospel side. The reputation of his wondrous charity did not end with the grave. The poor, needy and afflicted flocked to his graveside to implore his help and intercession; to them Camillus was still alive.





## **History and Life**

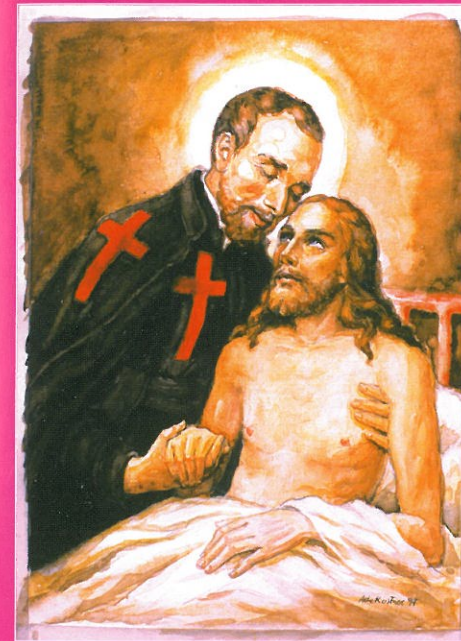
"On the eleventh day after his funeral the faithful began to make votive offerings to him, and the first that was given was a silver leg as if the first cure that our Lord granted through his intercession was that part which has so exercised patience during his life."  
(*Ibid*, p.195)

When after ten years, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1625, his tomb was opened for the cause of his canonization his body was found "quite fresh and perfect, like a living body and a surgeon who was there felt moved to make an incision into the side, from which there came forth a great quantity of liquid with a most fragrant smell."  
(*Ibid*, pp.195-6) This did not cease to flow for the next six days when exposed for the veneration of the faithful. (*cf Ibid*)

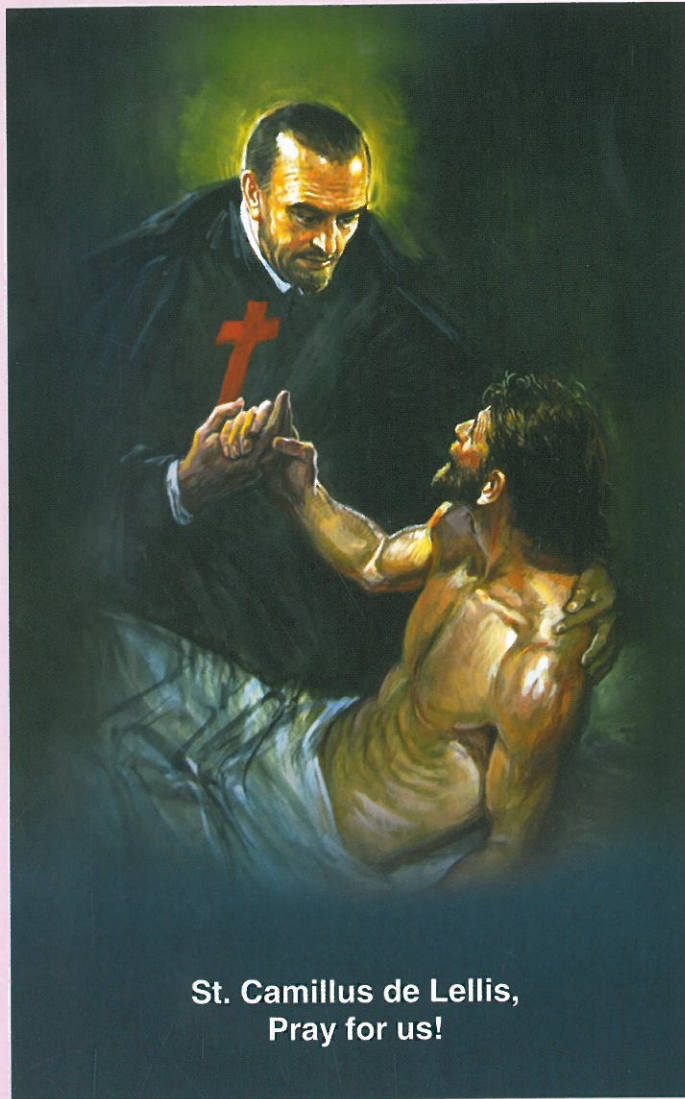
St. Camillus has left his heart (which remains uncorrupted even today) in the world for us symbolically (*picture on page 59*). It continues to throb, live and love many sick people through Camillians (Ministers of the Infirm) across the world.  
(*Fr. Siby Augustine MI*)

**"... and I resolve to serve the sick  
for whole my life  
even at the risk of my life...."**

*[The Camillian Fourth Vow]*







St. Camillus de Lellis,  
Pray for us!



## Novena to St. Camillus de Lellis

### *Sign of the Cross*

**Cel :** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All :** Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**Cel :** Our Father, (*all together*) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### *Hymn (optional)*

*A suitable hymn (invoking the Holy Spirit, or to St. Camillus) may be sung.*





### Prayer of Praise

*[Praise to the Holy Trinity for the Gift of St. Camillus and the Charism]*

**Cel :** O God our Father, we thank you for giving us St. Camillus de Lellis as a perfect example of witnessing to the world the ever present love of Christ for the sick. In him you have taught us that suffering and illness are channels of God's grace.

Jesus the Crucified, we praise you for having enabled St. Camillus to identify himself with you and the suffering brethren, and in him you have gifted with a unique legacy of charity and meaningful suffering.

O God the Holy Spirit, our helper and guide, we glorify you for having filled the heart of St. Camillus with an extraordinary love for the sick and the poor that in his 'New School of Charity' you have opened to the world of suffering the streams of the compassionate love of Christ the Crucified.

O Most Holy Trinity, through the powerful intercession and by the virtues of St. Camillus, grant us a compassionate heart for the sick and consolation in our illness.

**All:** Amen.

*Prayers Proper for Each of Nine Days  
(See Pages 27 - 40)*



### Litany of St. Camillus de Lellis

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

St. Camillus, specially chosen by God

Vessel of God's compassion for the sick

Instrument of God's fatherly care for the sick

Patron of the sick

Founder of the Ministers of the Infirm

Patron of the hospitals and health care

professionals

Recipient of God's mercy

Recipient of grace in suffering

Lover of the Cross

Faithful disciple of the Crucified Lord

Father of good death

Father of the Red Cross

Founder of the 'New School of Charity'

Faithful servant in the mystical vineyard

Genuine sacrifice of love





True witness to Christian charity  
 Motivated by the voice of the Crucified  
 Model of total service to the sick  
 Model of poverty  
 Model of ardent faith  
 Model of total submission to God's will  
 Model of merciful love  
 Example for all health care workers  
 Example of true conversion  
 Example of genuine Christian charity  
 Example of prayerfulness and trust  
 Example of devotion to Mary, our Mother  
 Humble servant of Christ in the sick  
 Comforter of the sick and the dying  
 Consolation in suffering  
 Refuge of the sick and the afflicted  
 Beacon of hope for the hopeless

Pray for us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Lord*  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord*  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us*



**Cel:** Pray for us St. Camillus, our heavenly patron,  
**All:** *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

### Intercessions

**Cel:** Let us implore God our Father, source of all charity, to help the needy through the intercession of St. Camillus, our heavenly patron.

**Response:** *Father, give us your love.*

- For all the sick, especially the poor
- For those in affliction, danger or distress
- For those assailed by family troubles
- For those who are depressed and despairing
- For those sick and orphan children
- For those living with terminal infirmities and loneliness
- For those troubled by natural or man-made disasters
- For those helpless in suffering
- For those troubled by undiagnosed illnesses
- For those having no access to treatment
- For those widowed or lonely
- For those mentally challenged and mentally ill

Father, give us your love





- For those living in hatred
- For those exploited sick, women and children
- For those growing old, especially the abandoned
- For those in their final agony
- For those living in the fear of death
- For the souls in purgatory
- For those who serve the sick
- For all Camillian religious and Lay Camillian Family
- For all our benefactors, friends & family members
- For those who show mercy to the sick and the suffering
- For doctors, nurses and all care-givers
- For the hospitals and other healthcare institutions

*(Personal/general intentions may be added).*

### Prayer for all the Sick

**Cel:** Heavenly father, *(all together)* by the virtue of the passion of your Son and our Lord, restore the health of the sick, and grant the suffering brethren, patient endurance. We thank you, Jesus, for your love that 'bore our weakness and carried our sickness away' (cf Mt 8:17). Look upon all the sick with compassion

Father, give us your love



that in times of pain and illness they may find consolation in your passion and hope in your resurrection. Have mercy on us and on all the sick. O God the Holy Spirit, pour into the hearts of the sick, your heavenly love that they may always find refuge and consolation at the foot of the Cross, especially at the time of pain, illness and suffering. May the dying be comforted and the souls of all the departed find eternal peace and rest. We make this prayer through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

### Hymn (optional)

*A suitable hymn (for healing, or, for the sick) may be sung.*

### Concluding Prayers

**Cel:** O glorious St. Camillus, *(all together)* God called you to serve the sick and to bear witness to His infinite and merciful love. Share with us your compassion and love. Intercede for those who greatly suffer due to their illness; may they find consolation and hope in the midst of their suffering. Help us to understand the mystery of suffering as a means of redemption and the way to heaven eternal. Grant that nurses, doctors and healthcare workers who accompany the sick in their suffering, may take good care of those they serve, with a generous and compassionate heart.

**Cel:** May God the Father of mercies be blessed for ever for the love he lavishes on us, especially during





our illness and suffering. May Jesus his Son help us to celebrate our life here on earth, even amid sickness and sorrow, hoping in his resurrection that he attained through his inevitable and willing passion and death. May the peace and love of the Holy Spirit overwhelm our hearts and minds that we may never be desperate in our time of sickness and suffering. May our hope-filled acceptance of suffering be a source of inspiration and hope for all those who suffer. May perpetual care of Blessed Mary, our Mother; the constant intercession of St Camillus, our heavenly patron and the companionship of all the angels and saints help us to live this life meaningfully, longing for heaven.

**All:** Amen.

*(If the celebrant is a priest, the following blessing is given)*

*May the blessings of the Almighty God, † the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us forever.*

**All:** Amen.

### Final Hymn (optional)

*A suitable hymn (of thanksgiving, or, motivating) may be sung.*

*"Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for ... I was sick and you visited me, ..." (Mt.25:34-35)*



## DAY 1 INSTRUMENT OF COMPASSION

**Cel:** O, most compassionate Lord Jesus, we praise you for the compassion you have shown to St. Camillus. You have called him to participate in your suffering and that of the poor and the sick. Grant that through his intercession, we may always be compassionate towards the sick and the helpless, and draw them to your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, so open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you gave yourself into the hands of the Crucified Lord as a genuine instrument of his compassionate love. Opening a 'New School of Charity' through you, the Father taught the world to care for the Sick with the affection of a mother who cares for her only child who is seriously ill.

Intercede for us, your children, O St. Camillus, that we may become perfect instruments of God's compassion in serving the sick as our lords and masters.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention *(silently mention your intention)* through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*

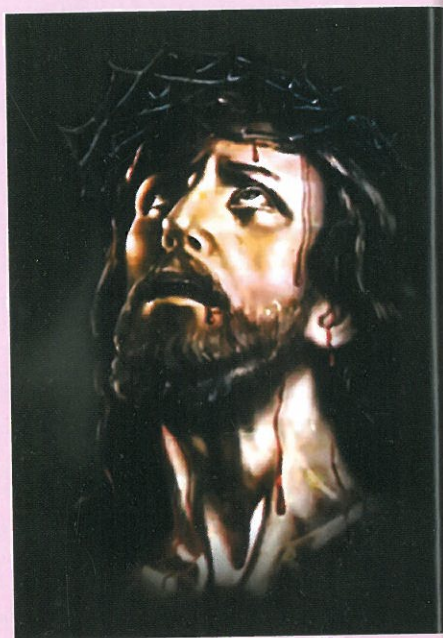




## DAY 2 SUFFERINGS ARE BUT GRACES

**Cel:** O most amiable Jesus, we praise you for your infinite patience during your passion. Grant that through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus who patiently put up with many infirmities during his life without ceasing to serve the sick, we may also obtain the grace to patiently lift others up in times of great distress and suffering. We pray for those who are suffering from terminal illnesses. Grant them strength that they may look on their illnesses and diseases as channels of grace, however hard it may be. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, you were so joyful to identify yourself with the crucified Lord that you accepted your severe illnesses as 'graces' from the Lord. In spite of unbearable pain and



discomfort these illnesses inflicted, you cared for the sick with 'more hearts in your hands', giving us a model and inspiration in accepting our sufferings as channels of grace. Through your own testimony you taught us to offer our every illness and pain for our own sanctification and for the consolation of the sick and suffering.

Intercede for us, your children, O St. Camillus, that we may accept the challenges and sufferings of life as channels of grace, for the consolation and healing of the sick, for salvation of souls and for the greater glory of God.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*

**"By his wounds you have  
been healed"**

(1 Pet. 2:24)





### DAY 3 SALVATION OF SOULS

**Cel:** O most beloved Jesus, we thank and praise you for giving St. Camillus a thirst for the salvation of souls and a holy perseverance in serving them. Grant that we may imitate this unquenchable thirst of St. Camillus to gain souls for heaven and to follow you no matter how difficult it may be. Help us to encourage others by our lives to live in perfect faithfulness our call to gain souls for you. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, your thirst for the salvation of the souls you served was so ardent that you spent hours before the crucified and the Eucharistic Lord. Longing passionately for the salvation of souls, you worked so hard even at their death bed preparing them for real conversion and thus for a sincere confession before their death.

O 'father of good death', help us to care for our own souls; give us ardent thirst for the salvation of souls. Help us to sanctify ourselves and our brethren that we may one day share Eternal Bliss that you now enjoy.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.* (Back to Page 21)



### DAY 4 MARTYRDOM IN CHARITY

**Cel:** O most loving Jesus, we thank you for the unconditional love you have shown us through your death on the cross. By dying on the cross, you taught us an example to lay down our lives in service to others. Grant that, like a grain of wheat falls and dies to produce a plentiful harvest, (*cf. Jn 12:24-25*) we may go beyond ourselves to love and serve the sick until our last breath. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, you so trusted in the words of the crucified Lord to carry on the work you were entrusted with, so that you faithfully adhered to your call to serve the sick as your 'Lords and Masters' even amid extreme physical pain and external challenges. With the zeal of a martyr, you lived your life in total commitment to serve the sick even in times of plague and flood, in danger to your own life. Thus you became



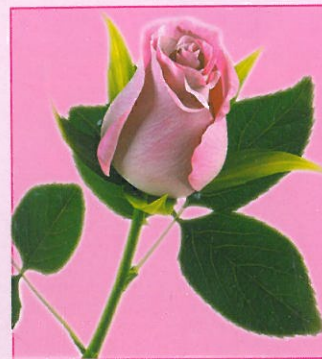


a living example of the Camillian 'fourth vow' of serving the sick even at the risk of one's own life. God, in return, glorified your filial trust and martyr's vigour through his miraculous interventions of healing the sick and converting adamant sinners!

Intercede for us, your children, O St. Camillus, that we may grow in perfect trust in the Lord and serve the sick with the fire of the martyr's zeal in us.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*



**"Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal"**

(Jn12:25)



## DAY 5 TREASURES IN HEAVEN

**Cel:** O most bountiful Lord Jesus, we thank you for giving in St. Camillus an example of a dedicated follower of yours. Help us to dedicate our lives for the improvement of healthcare situations and hospitals and make them the mystical vineyards of exemplary charity. Thus, we and all other care-givers may transform our service into treasures that await us in heaven. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, you were so moved by the words of Jesus "I was sick, and you took care of me; ... when you did it to the least of your brethren you did it to me". These words of Jesus at the last judgment kept you on fire and inflamed you each day with the spirit of charity and selfless care for the sick, which in turn became for you great treasures in heaven.







Through your powerful intercession, instil in us, O St. Camillus, the spirit of ardent charity and care for our neighbour. Help us to go beyond mere pragmatism and humanitarian concerns. May we realize deeper and deeper that by serving the sick we minister to Christ's mystical body itself. Help us to live and serve the sick in the hope of heaven.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*



**"My Father will honour  
anyone who serves me"**

(Jn 12:26 b)



**DAY 6**  
**MOTHER MARY: THE GRACE OF GOODNESS**

**Cel:** Lord Jesus, humble and meek, we praise you for teaching us to be always humble. Through your blessed mother you have taught us to submit ourselves in total humility to the will of the Father. You invite us to participate in the grace of goodness that flowed forth from Mary's heart in serving her kinswoman Elizabeth (*cf. Lk 1:39-41*). Lord, as in the Blessed Virgin, transform our hearts too into vineyards of the fruits of the Holy Spirit that we may be God's effective vehicles of the grace of goodness. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, you taught us to love our Blessed Mother just like a little child. You so loved the Blessed Virgin, the Health of the Sick, that you could never be parted from her affection. Trusting firmly in her powerful mediation, you constantly urged your brother religious and the sick you served to seek her perpetual company and to honour her by praying the rosary (*cf C68*).

Recognizing and loving her as our mother, and invoking her as the "Queen of the Ministers of the Infirm" and "Health of the Sick" we accept her as a perfect model of spiritual life and mother of compassionate service. Commend us and all the sick,







O St. Camillus, to the maternal care of our Blessed Mother.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*



## DAY 7 FILIAL TRUST

**Cel:** O most powerful Jesus, we thank you for your infinite goodness and the gift of trust which you have granted to St. Camillus. Help us Lord, not to trust in the might of this world, but rather, we may look upon you as our only source of all help. Grant that through the intercession of St. Camillus, we may be freed from our addictions, unnecessary and unruly passions and desires. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, you surrendered yourself into the hands of your Father in heaven, that you did not accumulate wealth. You lived an exemplary life of poverty, proclaiming to the world the providential care of the Father that feeds even the birds of the air and adorns the lilies of the field. You so firmly trusted in Jesus' words "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (*Mt. 6:33*) that God cared for you and for the sick you served even by miraculously providing bread and other material needs.

Help us, O St. Camillus, to trust in the caring love of the Father (*cf 1Pet 5:7*), who knows what his children want even before we ask.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. (Back to Page 21)*





## DAY 8 HEART OF GOOD SAMARITAN

**Cel:** O dearest Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gift of life and the comfort you offer to the dying. Grant that through the intercession of St. Camillus, those critically ill and the dying may experience the presence of their Father who suffers with them. In the Good Samaritan we see your care assuring that no one is left alone in times of suffering, rather, everyone is precious to you. O source of life, we entrust all the dying into your hands. May they find eternal joy with you in heaven. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, by your exemplary imitation of Jesus' compassion for the sick you brought the Heart of Jesus to the bedside of the sick. You taught afresh every health care professional and the whole healthcare world the Gospel message of the Good Samaritan. You still continue to remind us that



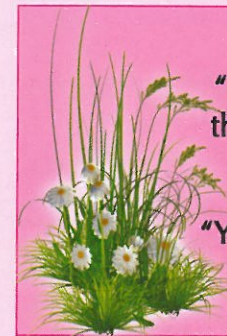
all hospitals and healthcare avenues are 'vineyards of God's love' and every sickbed is an 'altar of Christ's sacrifice'.

Help us and all the Camillians, O St. Camillus, to open our hearts as the Good Samaritan did, so that every healthcare facility will become an 'inn of maternal love and tender care'.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

*(Back to Page 21)*



**"Who did become a neighbour to the man attacked by the robbers?"**

**"One who was kind to him".**

**"You go, then, and do the same"**

(cf. Lk. 10:25-37)





## DAY 9 SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING

**Cel:** O most merciful Lord Jesus, we praise you for giving us St. Camillus as a model of a repentant sinner who turns his heart to love you wholeheartedly above all things and to serve you in the sick. Grant that through his powerful intercession, we may also trust in your merciful heart and obtain genuine contrition and be converted as your faithful servants and offer our sufferings as acts of penance and means of sanctification. Amen.

**All:** Glorious St. Camillus, through accepting the suffering caused by the deep wound on your leg you taught us how to understand God's will even in the point of extreme suffering and incomprehensible events of life. The wound on your leg itself has become a guide in discerning God's will in your life. Moreover, you left us an example to willingly participate in the mystery of Redemption in times of illness and suffering by being united to the passion of Christ (*cf C48*).

Help us, O St. Camillus, to accept our suffering, and thus willingly participating in the redemptive suffering of Christ, we may realize the will of God, that is our sanctification (*cf 1Thes 4:3*) and salvation.

O Most Holy Trinity, grant this and my special intention (*silently mention your intention*) through the powerful intercession of St. Camillus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

*(Back to Page 21)*





## A. Prayers

### A.1. Prayers to the Holy Spirit

#### Come, Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

([www.catholiconline.com](http://www.catholiconline.com))

#### Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Come, Holy Spirit, come  
Let thy bright beams arise,  
Dispel the darkness from our minds,  
And open all our eyes.  
Revive our drooping faith,  
Our doubts and fears remove,  
And kindle in our hearts the flame  
Of everlasting Love. Amen!

([www.catholiconline.com](http://www.catholiconline.com))



### My Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with Your holy gifts.

Let my weakness be penetrated with Your strength this very day that I may fulfill all the duties of my state conscientiously, that I may do what is right and just.

Let my charity be such as to offend no one, and hurt no one's feelings; so generous as to pardon sincerely any wrong done to me.

Assist me, O Holy Spirit,  
in all my trials of life,  
enlighten me in my ignorance,  
advise me in my doubts,  
strengthen me in my weakness,  
help me in all my needs,  
protect me in temptations  
and console me in afflictions.  
Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit,  
and pour Your light into my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Assist me to live a holy life  
and to grow in goodness and grace.

Amen

([www.catholiconline.com](http://www.catholiconline.com), Prayer to the Holy Spirit # 1)







**Prerequisites (constants) for a plenary indulgence:**

1. Sacramental Confession 2. Communion and 3. Prayer for the intention of the Holy Father (All to be performed within days of each other if not at the same time).

The formula for obtaining a plenary indulgence is the three constants mentioned above plus any one of the variable works mentioned by the Catholic Church as being worthy of a plenary indulgence.



**A.2. Prayer to Our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified**

(Plenary indulgence granted when this prayer is recited on a Friday in Lent and passiontide, when recited after communion before an image of Christ Crucified. On any other day, the indulgence is partial. Cf. *The Enchiridion of Indulgences*, The Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary, 1968. [www.catholiconline.com](http://www.catholiconline.com))



Behold, O good and loving Jesus, that I cast myself on my knees before you and, with the greatest fervour of spirit, I pray and beseech you to instill into my heart ardent sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm purpose of amendment. With deep affection and sorrow I ponder intimately and contemplate in my mind your five wounds, having before my eyes what the prophet David had already put in your mouth about yourself, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and my feet; they have numbered all my bones (Ps 21:17-18).

(*The Roman Missal [English]*, CCBI, 2011, pp1347-8)







*Mary, Health of the Sick. Pray for us!*

### A.3. Prayer to Our Lady Health of the Sick

O most Holy virgin, Health of the Sick, protect and console all the sick and agonizing. Offer thy merits for them to Jesus, thy Divine Son. Join to them those of thy chaste spouse, St. Joseph and of St. Camillus, whom I invoke and venerate after thee as the principal patrons of all those who suffer by sickness of soul and body, and especially of those in their agony.

Grant, O Mary, that near thee, I may find salvation of soul and health of body, and with me all those whom I recommend to thee with confidence. Amen.

*(Camillians, Piazza della Maddalena-53, Roma)*

### A.4. Daily prayer to St. Camillus

Glorious Saint Camillus, who cared for the sick with the love of a mother, turn your heavenly gaze to all those who are suffering. Intercede to God for them to lighten their pain in body and soul; strengthen them in their solitude and dry their tears; give them strength for the journey and patience in waiting; grant them serene acceptance of each day and trust-filled hope in the future. Like the man on Jesus' right on Calvary, may all the dying be comforted, and all the souls in purgatory find eternal joy and peace.

Grant that we, and all who serve the sick, be inflamed with the same charity that burned in your



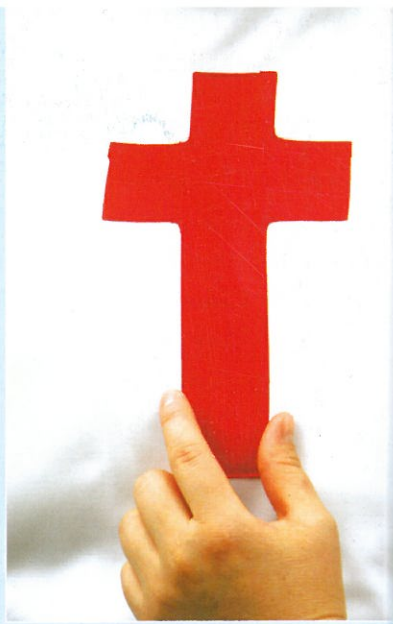


heart, to love and serve the suffering neighbour, even at the danger to our own lives; and be found worthy to live a life of martyrdom in charity. Constantly intercede for us, and for all Camillians, that we may never fail to imitate the merciful love that Jesus Christ, the Good Samaritan of body and soul, has taught us. Amen.

*(4th centenary prayer, edited)*

#### A.5. A Camillian Prayer

O Saint Camillus, you taught us that the “poor and the sick are the heart of God and that in serving them we serve Jesus Christ”. Help us to see the face of Jesus in the sick whom we serve. Give us hearts that love, eyes that understand, words that comfort and a faith that inspires them. May our presence help them to see Christ, feel Christ and know Christ more closely and may they come to believe in Him deeper and deeper. Inspire them to trust in the love of the Father even amid torments and pain, illness and suffering, hoping in the eternal reward that awaits them.



When we are sick enable us to transform our suffering into healing, our fears into trust and our discouragement into zeal for heaven, and help us to treasure each moment of life as a gift from the Lord. Amen.

#### A.6. Personal Prayer of a Camillian

My dear Jesus the Crucified, make me an extension of your Sacred Heart, that I may become for the sick an instrument of your compassion. May I thus impart radiance of joy in their suffering, flames of hope in their desperation and light of faith in their meaninglessness. Grant that, through the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Camillus, and strengthened by my fourth vow, I may serve my sick brethren by consciously living out the ‘martyrdom of perfect charity’. Amen.

#### A.7. Prayer for the Sick Near Death

Almighty and Everliving God, preserver of souls, who corrects those whom You love, and for their betterment tenderly reprimand those whom You receive, we call upon You to grant Your healing, that the soul of Your servant, at the hour of its departure from the body, may by the hands of Your holy Angels be presented without spot unto You. Amen.

(www.catholiconline.com)





### A.8. Prayer for Acceptance of Death

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I accept from Your hands whatever kind of death it may please You to send me this day (night) with all its pains, penalties and sorrows; in reparation for all of my sins, for the souls in Purgatory, for all those who will die today and for Your greater glory. Amen.

(www.catholiconline.com)

### A.9. Prayer for a Happy Death

O God, great and omnipotent judge of the living and the dead, we are to appear before You after this short life to render an account of our works. Give us the grace to prepare for our last hour by a devout and holy life, and protect us against a sudden and unprovided death. Let us remember our frailty and mortality, that we may always live in the ways of Your commandments. Teach us to "watch and pray" (Luke 21:36), that when Your summons comes for our departure from this world, we may go forth to meet You, experience a merciful judgment, and rejoice in



everlasting happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(www.catholiconline.com, Prayer for a Happy Death#7)

### A.10.A Prayer for the Forgotten Dead

O merciful God, take pity on those souls who have no particular friends and intercessors to recommend them to Thee, who, either through the negligence of those who are alive, or through length of time are forgotten by their friends and by all. Spare them, O Lord, and remember Thine own mercy, when others forget to appeal to it. Let not the souls which Thou hast created be parted from Thee, their Creator. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

(www.catholiconline.com)





### A.11. Intercession for the Dead

*[To be prayed for three days at the notice of the death of a confrere]*

(Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord!

Lord, hear my voice!

*Let your ears be attentive*

*To the voice of my pleading!*

If you, O Lord should mark our guilt,

Lord, who would survive?

*But with you is found forgiveness*

*For this we revere you.*

My soul is waiting for the Lord,

I count on his word.

*My soul is longing for the Lord*

*More than watchmen for daybreak.*

Let the watchmen count on daybreak,

And Israel, in the Lord!

*For with the Lord there is mercy,*

*And fullness of redemption.*

Israel indeed he will redeem,

From all its iniquity.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,*

*And let perpetual light shine upon him.*

May he rest in peace.

Amen.



### Day One

O God, Source of pardon and salvation, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary and Saint Camillus grant our confrere (.....), who passed from this world to you, to enjoy the perfect joy of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

### Day Two

Welcome, O Lord, in the community of your saints our confrere (.....); may he who for the love of the merciful Christ has followed the path of perfect charity in our Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, exult with Him in glory. Through Christ our Lord.

### Day Three

Free, we implore you, O Lord, the soul of our confrere (.....), so that dead to this world, he may live in you. Mercifully forgive whatever, for human limitation, he has committed during his life. Through Christ our Lord.



**"Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead will here his voice and come out of their graves: those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise and be condemned"**

(Jn 5:28-29)





## A .12. Prayer of St. Alphonsa

O Lord Jesus, hide me in the Sacred wound of your Heart, save me from my evil desire to be loved and esteemed. Redeem me from my selfish attempts to gain respect and fame. Make me humble until I become very insignificant and a tiny spark in the furnace of the love of your Sacred Heart. Give me the grace to forget myself and other creatures. Most sweet Lord Jesus, Sun of Justice, with the sacred fire of your love, cleanse my heart, enlighten my intellect and make me one with you, Amen.

*St. Alphonsa (1910 -1946), burning in the fire of the love for her bridegroom, Jesus, lived a life of absolute dedication to him even as a child, identifying with him in suffering. She rejected all promises of wealth and beauty that was abundantly lavished on her, only to live 36 years in suffering and agony. Within the walls of Franciscan Clarists (FCC), she, however bloomed like a "passion flower" radiating the fragrance of all heavenly virtues! Thousands visit her tomb at Bharananganam (Kerala, India) and seek her intercession.*



## B. Hymns



### B.1. Little More of Love

Little more of love let there be in our hearts  
Little more of care let there be when we start  
Each of the day caring for the sick  
For our lords and masters they

Precious precious is the body we handle  
More precious precious than the silver and gold  
Become we become in their life a candle  
Melted remolded and be lighted delighted

Camillus our guide and always at our side  
When road ahead is rough and going becomes tough  
Camillus our pride, we shall never slide  
Helplessly in our ride





## B.2. Our Saintly Father

Our saintly father Camillus de Lellis,  
Pray to the Father now and for ever

**Chorus: *Pray for us, O Camillus (4)***

You taught us to love the sick and suffering  
To serve the needy in all our life time  
You became a mother to the sick  
And called them lords and masters

## B.3. Whatsoever You Do

*Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers,  
That you do unto me!  
Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters,  
That you do unto me!*

When I was hungry you gave me to eat  
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink.  
Now enter into the home of your Father.

When I was tired you helped me find rest.  
When I was worried you calmed all my fears.  
Now enter into the home of your Father.



When I was lonely, to me you did speak.  
When I was troubled you listened to me.  
Now enter into the home of your Father.

When I was homeless you opened the door  
When I was naked you gave me your coat  
Now enter into the home of your Father.

When I was laughed at, you stood by my side.  
When I was happy, you shared my joy.  
Now enter into the home of your Father.

## B.4. Amazing Grace

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far  
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.





Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

### B.5. Living Waters Flow On

Living waters flow on  
Sweep away my pain  
Bring your healing to my heart  
Help me love once again

Cares and worries get me down  
Fear of failure fills my day  
When I'm lost and all alone  
Help me Lord to find your way

People knocking at my door  
Strangers seeking love and care  
Never let me turn them down  
Teach me gently how to share

Children come into my life  
With their laughter and their song  
When will I become like them  
Teach me Lord to sing along

Living waters flow on  
Sweep away my pain  
Bring your healing to my heart  
Help me love once again.



### B.6. Yahweh, I know you are near

*Yahweh, I know you are near,  
Standing always at my side,  
You guard me from the foe,  
And you lead me in ways everlasting.*

Lord, you have searched my heart,  
And you know when I sit and when I stand,  
Your hand is upon me protecting me from death,  
Keeping me from harm.

Where can I run from your love?  
If I climb to the heavens you are there,  
If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,  
Still I'd find you there.

You know my heart and its ways,  
You who formed me before I was born,  
In the secret of darkness before I saw the sun,  
In my mother's womb.







## St. Camillus: An Inspiring Saint Ever...

St. Camillus is one of those saints whose life can be an inspiration to all those who care for the sick. The life of St. Camillus contains an intriguing combination of drama, military battles, sickness and diseases, conversion to God and great charity for countless suffering people. St. Camillus is a saint with whom many can identify because for years he was a very worldly man and he also suffered tremendously throughout his life from various ailments. None of his great sufferings kept him away from thinking of others and striving to serve the many sick and dying. He knew he was but an instrument in God's hand and his secret was never to rely on his own strength. He saw in each of the sick the presence of Christ whom he so desired to serve. And at the same time he took the place of Christ, the Good Samaritan, in order to minister to the sick with love and affection and spoke to them of God's immense love.

St. Camillus lived in a particularly complex time in which a deep longing for holiness and a tenacious





resistance to Gospel-inspired living were widespread. With his rich personality and his witness of charity to the sick, St. Camillus teaches us how to make the service of the sick an intense experience of God, leading us to seek the Lord constantly in prayer and in the sacraments. His life seems to repeat the action of the Good Samaritan and the story of the woman described in St. John's Gospel (*cf.* 12:3). He too anoints the feet of Jesus who is present in the suffering brethren with the precious ointment of merciful charity, filling the whole Church and society with the fragrance of his apostolic zeal and spirituality.

*(Fr. Baby Ellickal MI)*



**"More heart into those hands, brothers!"**

(St. Camillus de Lellis)



## Camillians in India

Camillians arrived in India in 1980 when Fr. Antonio Crotti of the Lombardo Venetian (Italy) Province received the permission to begin vocation promotion and formation in the diocese of Mananthavady in Kerala. The first minor seminary at Mananthavady was inaugurated by the then Superior General Fr. Calisto Vendrame on October 25, 1984. From 1986 onwards Fr. Ernesto Nidini was in charge of Indian mission. In January 1997, Camillian Foundation in India became a Delegation, and on July 20, 2009 the Indian Delegation was erected into the status of Vice Province.

Pratheeksha Bhavan (Home of Hope), a house serving a few homeless people in a house adjacent to the minor seminary at Mananthavady, was the first initiative of Camillian ministry in India (1992). In 1996, Camillians began to involve in a ministry of leprosy rehabilitation in Eluru (Andhra Pradesh). In 1997, Camillians decided to take the plunge into a radical and distinctively Camillian healthcare





action – care and support to people living with HIV/ AIDS (PLHIV) in Snehadadan (Gift of Love) in Bangalore. In a context of stigma and taboo associated with the infection Camillians dared to tread the heroic path of loving and caring for them. With the opening of Snehasadan (House of Love) in Mangalore, Snehatheeram (Shore of Love) in Aluva and Snehakiran (Ray of Love) in Secunderabad, Camillian ministry of HIV care expanded.

In 2002 Camillians through Snehasadan in Mangalore began to care for HIV infected orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) and began developing a new intervention model in Bangalore, with the opening of Sneha Care Home for OVC. And it has further grown into Sneha Gram (Love Village) a campus for their rehabilitation.

The Camillian Pastoral Health Centre (2009) aims at animating and promoting holistic, compassionate and humane healthcare, by offering refresher programmes for healthcare personnel and on-going education programmes in value-based medicine.

Apart from these institutionalized care programmes, Camillians are also involved in chaplaincy ministry in India and abroad, community and home based out-reach care and jail ministry.

