

NEWSLETTER 15

LAUDATO SI'

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT:

LOVE THE EARTH AS YOURSELF!

As clearly emerges from the encyclical, *the ecological crisis is essentially a spiritual problem*. The correct relationship between humanity and the earth or its natural environment was broken with the Fall, both externally and inside us, and this fracture is sin.

The fracture in the right relationship between humanity and the earth is due to the growth of individualism in our culture. The *search for individual happiness* has been made an authentic idea of our time. Ecological sin is due to human greed which blinds men and women to the point of them ignoring and neglecting the fundamental truth that the happiness of individuals depends on their relationships with other human beings. There is a social dimension in ecology which the encyclical brings out in a clear way. *The ecological crisis goes hand in hand with the spread of social injustice*. We cannot successfully address one without addressing the other.

Ecological sin is a sin not only against God but also against our neighbour. And it is a sin not only against the other of our time but also – and this is a grave matter – against future generations. In destroying our planet in order to satisfy our thirst for happiness, we bequeath to future generations a world that is damaged in an irreparable way, with all the negative consequences that this can have for our lives. We must act, as consequence, in a responsible way towards our children.

In the middle of the discourse of the text of the encyclical we find the following question: ‘What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal’. *This leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and the values that form the basis of social life*. ‘What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?’ If we do not ask ourselves these basic questions, the Supreme Pontiff says, ‘I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results’ (n. 160).

These questions arise from an observation: today the earth, our sister, which is ill-treated and subject to sacking, laments; and its groans are united to those of all the poor people and all the ‘discarded people’ of the world. Pope Francis invites us to listen to them, calling on everyone and

each person – individuals, families, local societies, nations and the international community – to engage in an ‘**ecological conversion**’, to use the phrase of St. John Paul II, that is to say ‘**to change direction**’, *shouldering the responsibility and the beauty of a commitment to ‘caring for our common home’*.

All of this requires what we could define as an *ecological ascesis*. It is interesting to observe that the great figures of the Christian ascetic tradition were all sensitive to the suffering of all creatures. There are accounts of the lives of saints which present the ascete as a person who weeps for the suffering or the death of every creature and as a person who wishes to lead a peaceful and friendly coexistence with animals. This is not romanticism. *It arises from a heart that loves and the belief that between the natural world and ourselves there is an organic unity and an interdependence that makes us share a common destiny, just as we have the same Creator.*

The encyclical does not fear to denounce in a forceful way the deterioration that has been extended from human relationships to our relationship with nature. Thus, albeit without proposing technical solutions, it offers very concrete points of inspiration for politics and the economy. The novelty of this papal message *is knowing how to conjoin the subject of social justice with the subject of ecology*, which had hitherto been treated in a separate way. This conversion of approach achieved by Francis demonstrates how care for humanity which needs freedom from oppression, from injustice and from violence, is always intertwined with respect for the earth, for the work of man and his ‘culture’, and for the stewardship of the creation. And we must be patient if indeed all of this may irritate those for whom, as Pope Francis says, ‘human life is less important than oil and weapons’.

The text of Francis is rich with themes and inspirations; it is a great gift to the Church and to the whole of humanity, a gift that relaunches the yearning for equality and fraternity which have been obscured by the prevailing of an individualist concept of freedom. But it is also a gift to the earth, a response to the sad supplication that Alan de Lille, a monk of the twelfth century, put in the mouth of the earth: ‘Man, listen! Why do you offend me, your mother? Why do you do violence to me who gave birth to you from my insides? Why do you violate me with the plough to make me render a hundredfold? Are the things that I give to you not enough without you extracting it by violence?’

The message of Francis is urgent and clear; to save ourselves, we humans must save ourselves together with the earth. For years I have repeated to myself a commandment that I place next to those in the Bible: ‘love the earth as yourself!’

Lastly, spirituality must penetrate our ecological philosophy through prayer. The encyclical offers some fine examples of how to pray for the safeguarding of the creation of God. From the prayers quoted at the end of the encyclical, I take the following moving passage:

Bring healing to our lives,
 that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
 that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
 Touch the hearts
 of those who look only for gain
 at the expense of the poor and the earth.
 Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
 to be filled with awe and contemplation,
 to recognize that we are profoundly united
 with every creature
 as we journey towards your infinite light.

COLOMBIA – ECUADOR

On 16-19 June there took place the **spiritual exercises of the Delegation of Colombia-Ecuador**, with the participation of 24 young Camillians. They were animated by a Jesuit priest of great experience. (PHOTO)

On 11 July the **solemn religious profession of our religious brother JAIVER ANTONIO PEREZ TEQUIA**, took place in the city of Cali, at the University Hospital del Valle, where Camillians since the year 2000 have been involved in providing service of religious and pastoral assistance.



BRAZIL

On 24-26 June various religious from the Camillian Province of Brazil took part in a **course of ongoing formation**. The animation was entrusted to Fr. Moacir Casagrande OFMCap who proposed a number of points for thought in the context of the Year of Consecrated Life.



On 1 August 2015 the deacon and Camillian religious **Giovanni Antonio Dias** will be ordained a presbyter. The solemn celebration will be presided over by Msgr. Dom José Lanza Neto, the bishop of the diocese of Guaxupé.

PERU

The Camillian religious of the pan-American area will meet in Lima at the '*De la buena morte*' religious house to take part in various meetings that are planned for each year:

24-28 August: ongoing formation

28-29 August: congress on humanisation of the world of health

30 August: fourth pan-American meeting of Major Superiors

1-5 September: nineteenth meeting on the sector of formation and the pastoral care of vocations

Fr. Leocir Pessini will be present for the congress on humanisation and the meeting of the Major Superiors; **Fr. Lauren Zoungrana** will be present for the sector of formation and the pastoral care of vocations; and **Br. José Ignacio Santaolalla** will be present at the end of the fraternal visit of the Superior General to the Vice-Province of Peru.

THE PHILIPPINES

Our religious brothers of the Camillian Province of the Philippines have announced the beginning of the jubilee year to commemorate the forty-year presence of the Camillians in their nation. The jubilee celebrations will have as their theme a verse from Psalm 69: '*Magnify Him with Thanksgiving*'. This will be an opportunity to thank the Lord and all those who have made possible the development of the Camillian charism in the Philippines. The first date of the celebrations is 18 July 2015, with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist at the seat of the Provincial Superior.

VIETNAM

The Camillian Delegation of Vietnam have announced the solemn religious profession of our religious brothers **Peter Pham Kim Quyen** and **Vincent Vu Quoc Toan**. The celebration took place on 18 July in Ho Chi Minh City.

TAIWAN

On 4 July of this year, after a number of years, the Camillian of Taiwan had the joy of celebrating the **solemn profession of two religious: Paolo Chen (Vietnamese) and Henry II Angupa (Filipino)**. The Archbishop of Taipei, Msgr. John Hung, was invited to preside over the celebration. To receive the two professions there were present the Provincial Superior of the Philippines, Fr. Rolly Fernandez, and the representative of the Provincial Superior of Thailand, Fr. Giovanni Contarin.

Every year at the end of the month of June at Saint Mary's College a celebration is organised for the award of diplomas to students who have finished their **course in nursing**. This college, as a simple nursing school with three-year courses, in the year 2005 began to offer five-year courses under the supervision of the Ministry for Education. Every year more than 800 students receive diplomas and these will enter the world of health care. This year the award of the diplomas coincided with the fifty-first anniversary of the foundation of the school. This took place in the year 1964 as a result of an initiative of our religious brother Fr. Aldo Antonelli.

On 28 June the celebration also took place of the **sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of the evangelisation of the district of Hanshi**, the home of those people who are seen as natives. The evangelisation began starting with charity and the health-care service that was offered to these people by our religious brothers of St. Mary's Hospital of Lotung. Very poor people were treated free of charge and one day one of the people who had benefited from this asked Fr. Ernesto Valdesolo to go to their district and explain in 'whose name' they had provided this free charity. Since 1955 to the present day, in the district of Hanshi, there have been about 600 Catholic Christians. The Archbishop of Taipei presided over the celebration.

UGANDA

Invitation

Blessing of new Seminary and the First Profession

We the Camillian family in Uganda, with immense joy and profound gratitude to God, cordially invite youto the first profession of

Bro. Alikiriza Matia and the blessing of our newly built St. Camillus Seminary, Kimaka, Jinja, on 14th July, 2015 at 10.30 am.

Rev. Fr. Stephen Foster the provincial Superior will bless the Seminary and

Rev Fr. Joseph Kallnaki the Episcopal Vicar for Religious, Jinja diocese will preside over the Holy Mass.

We greatly rejoice in your gracious presence and prayers, please join us on this auspicious day and the lunch thereafter.

Looking forward to welcome you.

RSVP

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Our religious brothers of the Camillian mission in Uganda, on the occasion of the feast day of St. Camillus, share with us another two reasons for their celebrations: the first religious profession of **Alikiriza Matia** and the blessing of the new seminary. This occasion was a propitious one thanks to our religious brothers who in the past and the present have borne witness to the Camillian charism: Fr. Tom O'Connor and Fr. Tom Smith of the Anglo-Irish Province; Fr. Shubin Joseph (RIP) and Fr. Russel Jacob of the Vice-Province of India; Fr. Biju Elenjickal, Fr. Richard Lubaale and Fr. Jofree.

THE PROVINCE OF SICILY AND NAPLES

The Province of Sicily and Naples organised a Camillian camp of service and fraternity for young people who wanted to learn more about St. Camillus and the Camillian religious. The camp was held in the community of San Giorgio and Casoria at the 'S. Maria della Pietà' Hospital.

SPAIN

The Camillian community of Tres Cantos (Madrid) celebrated our Saint Founder on Friday 10 July. About 200 people took part in the event, including workers, volunteers, the Lay Camillian family, those taking part in the summer school on pastoral care and all the friends of the great family of St. Camillus.

The celebration of the Eucharist was presided over by Don Santiago Gonzales and was followed by a festive meeting in the St. Camillus Hall with music and the greetings of the director of the centre, José Manuel Galan, and the mayor of Tres Cantos, Jesù Moreno. In addition, the new religious of the Camillian community of Madrid were introduced to those who were present.

To end this day of celebrations José Carlos Bermejo, the director of the *Humanizacion de la Salud* Centre, gave a final speech on the famous phrase of St. Camillus ‘more heart in those hands!’ <http://www.camilos.es/noticias/vista-individual-de-la-noticia/article/celebracion-de-la-fieta-de-san-camilo.html>

ITALY - RIETI

On Friday 17 July, **the relic of the heart of St. Camillus was welcomed at the city hospital of Rieti. The celebration of the Eucharist was presided over** by H.E. the Most Reverend Msgr. Delio Lucarelli, the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

ROME – THE CHURCH OF ST MARY MADGALENE

On Friday 27 June, in the evening, our beautiful Church of St. Mary Magdalene was the sumptuous context for another concert featuring the music of Vivaldi. Aesthetics, spirituality and a feeling of welcome continue to be the coordinates in which to live the fine tradition of faith that is stewarded in our rectory!

In the Church of St. Mary Magdalene the feast day of St. Camillus de Lellis was preceded by three days of reflection and prayer animated by our religious brothers who are members of the General Consulta. **On 14 July** at 19.00 Msgr. Matteo Zuppi, the Auxiliary Bishop of Rome, presided over the solemn liturgy of the Eucharist, praying together with men Camillian religious, women Camillian religious and the faithful who were present.

For the occasion, the Superior General, together with the women religious the Daughters of St. Camillus and the women Ministers of the Sick, sent to all our religious sisters and brothers a message of good wishes and above all of reflections.

(text in 4 languages)

On 22 July, the feast day of the patron saint after whom the church is named, will be Celebrated: **St. Mary Magdalene. Download the programme here in PDF.**

HAITI – PORT-AU-PRINCE.

On 7 June the lay Camillian Family of Haiti celebrated its tenth anniversary of activities and cooperation with the Camillians, who work above all else in Port-au-Prince.

BURKINA FASO

The Vice-Province of Burkina Faso has announced the ordination of three deacons on 24 June and four priests on 4 July: Fr. Jean Désiré Ouedraogo, Fr. Désiré Pubda, Fr. Fabrice Damiba and Fr. Elie Bouda.

SIERRA LEONE

After five months of intense service in Sierra Leone, Br. Luca Perletti has returned to Italy. Here is an account of the difficult situation at the Holy Spirit Hospital of Makeni.

AGENDA OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

On 8-16 June Fr. Pessini met our religious brothers of the **Delegation of North America in Milwaukee.**

(message ITA/ENG)

From Thursday 18 June to Monday 21 June, together with Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon, the Superior General visited the Camillian communities of Milan: the chaplaincies of **Milan-Vialba (the Sacco Hospital) and of Milan-Niguarda; and the St. Pius X and St. Camillus nursing homes.** On Sunday 21 June, at the St. Camillus Sanctuary, the Superior General presided over the solemn celebration in honour of our Saint Founder.

(Photo)

On 1 July Fr. Leocir and the members of the General Consulta engaged in a day of thought and planning at the **generalate house of the Daughters of St. Camillus in Grottaferrata.**

(Photo)

On 3-12 July, together with Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon, the Superior General visited our **Camillian religious brothers of the Anglo-Irish Province**, taking part in the celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the priestly ordination of Fr. Frank Monks and Fr. Tom O'Connor and presiding over the solemn celebration in honour of St. Camillus.

(Photo)

On 13-15 July the Superior General will visit our **religious brothers of the community of Venice-Lido**, celebrating with them, with the patients and with the health-care workers and those who work with the hospital, the rehabilitation centre for brain and movement difficulties, and the nursing home, the solemnity of the feast day of St. Camillus.

On 21 July Fr. Pessini will celebrate at the **'S. Maria della Pietà' Hospital of Casoria (Naples)**, the sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of that Camillian work.



On 23-26 July the Superior General will meet our **Camillian religious brothers of the communities of Mottinello (Vicenza), of Trento and of the hospital chaplaincies of Padua and of Treviso**, as well as of the 'St. Camillus' Parish of Padua.

On 29-30 July he will take part in the general assembly of the Secular Institute of the Women **Missionaries of the Sick Christ the Hope** in Verona.

DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL CONSULTA

Br. Joseph Khianiri (Kenya) and **Br. Julien Gbaguidi** (Benin) have been appointed coordinators for ministry to represent the area of Anglophone Africa and the area of Francophone Africa respectively.

Our religious brother **Javier Antonio Perez Tequia** (the Delegation of Colombia-Ecuador) has been admitted to the solemn professions of religious vows.

Fr. Alfred Gyorgy – a Camillian religious of the Province of Austria – has been appointed coordinator for formation and animation of vocations for the 'Europe' area (including Italy).

The conventions between Provinces for the *active voice* and *passive voice* of certain religious of the Vice-Province of Benin-Togo with the *mother* Province of Sicily and Naples have been confirmed for the religious: Fr. Armand ASSAVEDO; Fr. Eric Bébel BALLOGOUN; Fr. Yaovi Hubert GOUDJINO; Fr. Yves BONUO; Fr. Karl Jacques ABATHAN; Fr. Magloire HOUNLIHO; Fr. Abel TISSOU; Fr. Christian BAZEMIATA; Fr. Paulin ALLAAMMANOU; Fr. Bernard ASSIMA KPATCHA; Fr. Raoul TEKOU: they will exercise the active voice in the Vice-Province of Benin-Togo and the passive voice in the Province of Sicily and Naples for the three-year period of 2014-2017.

The amendments to the Constitution to be submitted to the CIVCSVA (the Dicastery for Religious), in response to the dicasterial communication of 17 December 2014, for definitive approval, have been presented and approved.

After assessing the official requests of the *mother* Province and the Vice-Province of India, the erection of a new ecclesiastical area of the **Province of India** starting on 2 February 2016 has been approved.

The new ecclesiastical area of the Province of North Italy, has been erected, starting on 14 July 2015. The appointments of the new Province of North Italy have been confirmed: Fr. Vittorio Paleari as Provincial Superior; Fr. J. Cipriano (first councillor), Fr. G. Rigamonti, Fr. B. Nespoli and Fr. L. Testa as Provincial Councillors; Fr. L. Testa as the Provincial Financial Administrator and General Procurator of the Province of North Italy; and in an all-inclusive way all the current appointments (Superiors and local councillors, house financial administrators, those responsible for formation) until the end of the three-year period of 2014-2017 have been confirmed.

Fr. Guy-Flavien Ouédraogo – a religious of the Vice-Province of Burkina Faso – has been appointed Superior and Financial Administrator of the ‘Beato E. Rebuschini’ community until the end of the present three-year period of 2014-2017.

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)

Sister Federica Marchiori (*Religious Daughter of St. Camillus*).

On 10 JULY 2015 Sister Federica Marchiori died at the community of Brescia.

‘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’.

On 14 July St. Camillus wanted to call to his side two of our religious sisters:

Sister Jacinta Kannamkulathel † 14 July Kerala, India (an Indian aged 63 with 33 years of religious profession).

Sister Delfina Paolazzi † 14 July Trento, Italy (an Italian aged 93, with 75 years of religious profession).