



NEWSLETTER OF CAMILLIANS-INDIA

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Mother of Charity

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CREATING A FUTURE TOGETHER

with a shared vision, mission and commitment

A major task for religious today is to become fully aware of living in period of profound transformation. We must make a deep commitment to creative change! To be true to our prophetic vocation and to ensure that the values of the gospel are included. We must be in the forefront of the creative ferment which is shaping the twenty-first century. Let us look at the situation of religious life in India (and in the world) at the moment. What can we learn from our experience and from the experience of religious in other countries? What is happening in the world around us, in families, in young people, and consequently in our own communities today? What new questions do we need to ask? What new steps do we need to take, if any, not merely to survive, but to lead meaningful lives, and make a significant difference in the lives of today's men and women, especially the forgotten and the powerless? After all, one good deed is better than a thousand grand intentions

Here is an invitation to translate our God-experience and our active compassion into understandable signs of God's love today. They do not make sense as mere resolutions or "things to do for a while". To be effective signs and witnesses in a rapidly changing and highly unjust world, we need a vision that provides meaning; a faith that gives us courage; a supportive community that by its very genuineness challenges the system of selfishness on which the so-called "world" is built.

Therefore, our job is neither to condemn the world nor imitate it. Our task is simple and relevant: to be a conscious leaven in the mass, an effective presence that brings hope to the marginalized, transparent human beings in whom others can see what it means to make the human journey lovingly and responsibly. We are called today, in the words of theologian Elizabeth Johnson, to be subversive sages, compassionate healers, social prophets and founders of a revitalization movement. I think our lives can be considered meaningful and our discipleship worth the cost, if people who meet us, irrespective of their background.





LETTERS FROM THE GENERAL CONSULTA

Dear Camillian confreres,

We are living in very intense days with our faith in the Lord Jesus, with our common fraternity and personal emotions, due to the aggravating illness of our superior general Father Leocir Pessini and his subsequent death, which took place on July 24, 2019.

The very touching participation during his funeral on July 26, 2019, highlighted the esteem and affection to the person and work of Father Leocir by various pastors of the Church, the religious of the Order, his many friends, and loved ones.

In the light of this event, we wish to convey to each one of you our utmost and heartfelt sentiments of esteem and gratitude to the intimacy, warm fraternity and the unanimous prayer that you have raised to our Lord of Life, first, by asking healing of Father Leocir, then after the announcement of his death in suffrage of his soul and of course for the good of our Order.

We wish to express our profound gratitude to Father Antonio Mendes Freitas together with the confreres of the Camillian Province of Brazil and to their physicians and healthcare collaborators for the warm welcome, constant care with utmost competence accorded to Father Leocir in an exceptional way during the last months of the treatment and therapy.

The family of Father Leocir - dad Laurindo, mom Therezinha, sisters Salete, and Bernadete –has been a constant presence and a point of reference in his life, especially during this period of illness. Their discretion and dignity in which they have shared their affection and suffering remain a great example that we preserve as a precious heritage of the Pessini family.

Although shaken by this recent event, the journey of the general government of the Order continues. On the 27th of July 2019, during the Consulta meeting, Father Laurent Zoungrana, Vicar General of the Order, as mandated by our Constitution, took over the mandate of Superior General of the Camillians, pronouncing the Profession of Faith.

A discussion on the topic, which is dear to all the religious - the forthcoming general chapter – was undertaken. We have decided to forward to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life the request for the derogation of the rule contained in Article 102 of our Constitution which says that, “the vicar general announces a general chapter within three months of the office falling vacant and convenes it within six months, but not beyond that period of time” to be able to celebrate the general chapter following our customary date on May 2, 2020. However, we submit to the resolution of the Holy See. Furthermore, within a short period, we will give you an adequate notice on the election of the new general consultor (cf. Const. 102).

Trusting in the intercession of our holy Father Camillus, and your fraternal collaboration, kindly receive our cordial greetings!

Sao Paulo (Brazil), 28th of July 2019


General Consultors



Fr. Laurent Zoungrana



Dear Camillian Confreres,

Over the last two weeks, since the death of our Superior General **Fr. Leocir PESSINI**, we have received numerous expressions of Christian condolences and fraternal nearness from both the confreres of our Order of Camillians and from various Church and civil institutions that over the years have appreciated him as a person and his role as a Camillian religious. Amongst them all, we wish to point out to you the telegram that Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State of the Vatican, addressed to Fr. Laurent Zoungrana, our Vicar General, communicating the condolences and the prayers of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

This nearness helps to animate our Christian hope and comforts our journey as the general government of the Order.

At the meeting of the General Consulta of 9 August 2019, in Rome, we proceeded to some appointments as envisaged by our Constitution (Const., n. 102) in our situation of the office of Superior General being vacant.

Unanimously, the General Consulta:

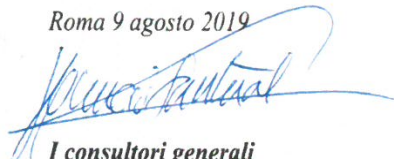
- Elected **Fr. Felice DE MIRANDA** a new member of the General Consulta of the Order.
- Elected **Fr. Gianfranco LUNARDON** the new Procurator of the Order (with the title *Pro-Vicar General*).

As we had already informed you in our last communication of 27 July of this year, we immediately sent a request to the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* (CIVCSVA) for a derogation from the rule contained in article 102 of our Constitution which envisages that 'The vicar general announces a general chapter within three months of the office falling vacant and convenes it within six months, but not beyond that period of time' in order to be able to celebrate the General Chapter as already planned, starting on our most 'customary' date, namely 2 May 2020.

The CIVCSVA, by the rescript prot. n. 45028/2019 of 1 August 2019, signed by His Excellency the Most Reverend Msgr. José RODRÍGUEZ CARBALLO, the Archbishop-Secretary, derogated the time limit laid down by our Constitution n. 102 (P. IV, chap. II) and granted the dispensation to celebrate the General Chapter starting on 2 May 2020, following usual practice.

Grateful for your friendship and cooperation, above all during this stage of the preparations for the General Chapter, and trusting in the intercession of our Saint Father Camillus and in your fraternity, cordially we send you our best greetings!

Roma 9 agosto 2019



I consultori generali



p. Laurent ZOUNGRANA
vicario generale

A LIFE THAT TOUCHED MANY

A TRIBUTE TO FR. LEOCIR PESSINI, MI

Baby Ellickal MI

We are shocked and deeply hurt at the sudden demise of our beloved General Superior, Most Rev. Fr. Leocir Pessini MI. We are united with you today in sorrow at the death of our beloved Fr. Leo. Psalm 116:15 says, "precious in the sight of God is the death of his saints". Fr. Leo was precious in the sight of God. It was a matter of concern to the Lord. Ecclesiastes 3:2 reminds us that there is a time to be born and a time to die. The reality of death, with all its pain and sense of loss, confronts us at this moment. But as we are united in sorrow, we are also united by something else...our faith. Confronted with the reality of death, we must allow ourselves to be confronted with the reality of our faith. Our faith opens our minds to the whole picture about life and what happens after death. Only in the light of our faith can we begin to understand what has happened to and how we are to keep going from here. When in our faith we speak about heaven and resurrection and the next life, we do not speak about these things primarily because they give us consolation and strength.

The farewell that we give to our beloved Fr. Leo today is a temporary farewell. He will live! He will rise! It was his time to pass over to the heavenly realm. Our lives are like a mist in the grand scheme of things. None of us is guaranteed the tomorrow that lies ahead or even the rest of today. We count our lives in years but God tells us in Psalm 90:12, "to number our days". We have lost a loved one and it hurts. And we know it will hurt for a long time.....to comfort.....though we are assured that Fr. Leo is with Jesus, he leaves a vacancy that no one can replace, a gap in our lives, in the life of his beloved ones...also for the great Camillian

We have lost a loved one and it hurts. And we know it will hurt for a long time..... Though we are assured that Fr. Leo is with Jesus, he leaves a vacancy that no one can replace.



Family....and for the countless lives that he touched over the years. God knows about every breath that we draw, every pain that we endure and every groan that we utter. It all means something to him. Now our text says, not that death is precious in our sight but in God's sight. This moment, I say a prayer to the Lord, with the memory of our beloved Fr. Leo, to celebrate a life well lived, a life that served you and followed your leading. We come to be comforted in our sorrows, pains, and we pray that your spirit would cover us with peace that passes understanding. We know that just as you walked with Fr. Leo, throughout his entire life, you are walking with him now in his new home, his truly heavenly home. Grant us now strength and courage to face the new challenges and demands that await is here on earth. Be with all of the family and especially, be with his mother, brothers and sisters, and give them a new sense of your consolation and peace. Be with the members of the General Consulta, Provincials, delegates and members of our Great Camillian Family, and give them an extra source of love, understanding, consolation, courage and peace. Be with our Camillian Family as our beloved brother in you, has moved on to his higher calling and allow us to never forget the contributions and efforts that Fr. Leo made on your behalf in this world. We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers to our Great Camillian Family and especially our spiritual closeness to the General Consulta.

Look at him today and say with faith, Fr. Leo, you do not belong to death. You belong to Christ and so do we! We pray today for Fr. Leo that he may complete the journey to heaven.

We grieve with hope.



SAINT JOSEPHINE VANNINI

Foundress Of Daughters Of St. Camillus (1859 - 1911)

Josephine Vannini who hailed from Rome is the first woman saint in the healthcare ministry. It is from here that even today her daughters set out to various health care activities with flourishing missions in 22 countries of the world.

Judith was born in Rome, on 7th July 1859 to Angelo Vannini and Annunziata Papi and was baptized as Judith Adelaide Agatha on the following day. Young Judith, orphaned by both parents at the age of seven was given shelter in the Conservatorio Torlonia, run by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent at Siena. She abandoned herself completely to God and sought her way of life in prayer, meditation and spiritual direction under the guidance of Fr. Angelo Mondini of the Congregation for Missions. Meanwhile, Judith obtained a diploma to teach in the nursery school and was engaged herself in instructing the little ones.

As Judith was inspired to a virtuous life by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent, the charity of Christ soon impelled her to offer herself entirely to God.

Judith had tried twice to enter the same institute but for reasons of health she was refused admittance. She felt lost, while all her hopes seem dashed until God extended his merciful hand to help this faithful soul, who had never ceased to place her trust in him.

In December 1891, Judith met Fr. Louis Tezza of the Ministers of the sick at a spiritual retreat where she sought his advice in a confessional to discern the will of God for her. Fr. Tezza, who had a long cherished dream to establish a female religious congregation who would dedicate themselves to the care of the sick felt at that moment a light from high and an inner voice which said to him 'could not this young woman be the



soul chosen by God to give life to the work which He had entrusted to him?' Fr. Tezza then shared with young Vannini of his plan and asked her if she felt disposed to collaborate with him. After several weeks of discernment Judith accepted Fr. Tezza's request and in March 1892, she and two companions received the Scapular and Religious habit of the Camillian Tertiaries. She took the name Josephine and was made the Superior general of the

Daughters of St. Camillus on 8th December 1895.

The Spirit Of Mother Vannini

Mother Vannini was gentle, light-hearted caring and firm. She was herself an example of fortitude, brimming over with energy and always full of optimism. She often said..... "What greater Holiness can there be than to fulfill God's Holy will cheerfully and in complete submission?" In

moments of difficulties she would instruct her sisters to repeat the ejaculation.... 'In Te Domine Speravi, (In You I trust, O Lord). Everything hinged upon her constant harping with the sisters and the sick alike on the need for doing everything for the love of God. The Love of Jesus and the giving of self are the means for a Daughter of St. Camillus to attain perfection, dedicated as she is to the salvation of souls. Such a message was both the beginning and the end of Mother Vannini's ascetics through which she still lives among us today.

Birth In Heaven

During these years, Mother Vannini suffered a severe heart disease, but she neither avoided hardships nor neglected her responsibilities, but committed herself totally to the spread of the institute and the spiritual formation of the sisters. Fatigue had sapped her strength and the illness caused her to stop all the good works she had in mind. It was on the morning of 23 February 1911 that her blessed soul took flight to her eternal abode. She was beatified on 16th October 1994 by Pope St. John Paul II. From being a "Daughter of Charity", she was destined to become the "Mother of Charity", in the words used in the decree of opening of the apostolic process on her life of Heroic virtue.

Pope Francis has formally announced in the ordinary public consistory of cardinals on the causes of canonization – a new star will be added to the firmament of the saints on 13th October 2019. In fact, Bl. Josephine Vannini (1859 - 1911), the foundress of the congregation of the Daughters of St. Camillus will be canonized on that day along with four other Blessed.

Charism Of The Daughters Of St. Camillus

The charism of the congregation is a specific one supported by the fourth vow to serve the sick even at the risk of one's own life according to the Spirit of St. Camillus. God caused this tender young plant to thrive and blessed it in its pursuit of good works, but not without subjecting it to many trials,



which even threatened to rend it apart. Today the sisters are engaged in various fields of health care apostolate, such as: Hospitals, Dispensaries, School & College of Nursing, Homes for the aged, Institutions for Mentally and physically challenged children, Leprosy colonies, and Homes for people affected with HIV/AIDS. Today the mighty work of God and the sacrificial life of our sisters have made it possible to expand the special

charism and spirituality of St. Camillus in four continents, six provinces and three delegations. This co-operation and help among the members of the Institute, create unity, better understanding, more knowledge and an occasion to transmit the real spirit and visions of our Founders in the various field of actions the Congregation has undertaken at this present time.

Today the sisters are engaged in various fields of health care apostolate. Today the mighty work of God and the sacrificial life of our sisters have made it possible to expand the special charism and spirituality of St. Camillus in four continents..



Annual meeting of the superiors held

By Johnson Vellachira MI

The annual meeting of the Animators of St. Camillus Province was conducted on July 6, 2019 at Upasana, St. Camillus Study House, Bengaluru. The meeting began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the vice provincial Lijo Pattathil. Johnson Vellachira was elected the secretary of the gathering.

The provincial Baby Ellickal, during his address to the gathering, focused on the camillian prophecy today. His address centred around the theme of the forthcoming General Chapter, "Looking into the past, living in the present, trying to serve as Samaritans and journeying with Hope towards the future". He invited every animator to "make realistic, genuine and critical evaluation of the life of the communities and of the province." Recalling the blessing he personally received from Pope Francis during his encounter with the Camillian Charismatic Family on March 18, 2019, the provincial emphasized the words of the Pope: "It is a matter of looking to the future, open to new forms of apostolate which the Spirit inspires in you and which the signs of the times and the needs of the world and of the Church require."

The provincial also made reference to the post-synod apostolic exhortation Christus Vivit, and highlighted the role of young people in the growth of the Church. Based on the



Lineamenta of the Chapter, he proposed certain "aspects of our province as priorities to be discussed and implemented at the community and province level."

The address of the provincial was followed by the presentation of the finance by the provincial bursar Bijoy Kuliraniyil. He emphasized the need to use the utmost carefulness in management of finance and comply with the stipulated government regulations. Superiors of each community presented the reports of the respective communities. The presentation of all the communities was followed by a general discussion.

Zonal Gathering Of Central Zone

By Savari MI

We the Central Zone had our first zonal gathering of 2019-20 on 8th September at Snehagram. It was a blessed moment for us as we had it on the nativity of our beloved Mother. The gathering began at 2:30 with prayer and there was a fruitful sharing about the book New Charter for Health Care Workers.

Fr. Mathew Perumpil shared his knowledge to the gatherings and the rest of the members had a say with their personal experiences about the topic. The beauty was added to the discussion as four of our members shared their experiences in Thailand as they were fresh from the pastoral



health care meeting. It was beneficial for the members and it paved way for purposeful discussion and also there was a suggestion to

introduce this book even in the formation itself so that we would be well versed in the health care ministry.



New candidates initiated into minor seminaries

By Lijo Pattathil MI & Sojan Koonanickal MI

Every vocation is a gift and a challenge, with graces and opportunities, to be faithful and fruitful more than what is sown. New candidates have been initiated into our minor seminaries at Mananthavady and Eluru by the Provincial Fr. Baby Ellickal.

St. Camillus seminary at Mananthavady is blessed with nine young seminarians this year. These candidates have been welcomed and integrated into the seminary on July 10. Twenty-five new candidates have been initiated into the

minor seminary at Eluru on July 18. They hail from the states of Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The candidates have been welcomed formally into seminary way of life by the Provincial during the Eucharistic celebrations, and the candidates were presented with Red Cross. During the homily, the Provincial emphasized the importance of prayer in living vocation to religious life. He also thanked and appreciated the vocation promoters for their commitment and hard work.



Closer to the Altar

Taking a step closer to the Altar, Valamparakeel Tinto made his perpetual vows and was ordained to diaconate.

By Sumesh *

Tinto Valamparakeel made his perpetual profession on 23rd September 2019 at Upasana, Bengaluru, during the Solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by the provincial superior Fr. Baby Illickal. Vicar provincial Fr. Lijo Pattathil, the superior of Upasana community Fr. Biju Elenjickal and many other Camillian priests concelebrated the Holy Mass, in which the family members of Tinto also participated.

Later, on September 24, the Ordination to the Diaconate was conferred to Tinto by the bishop of Bhadravathi Mar Joseph Arumachadath, at the pastoral Centre of the Diocese. The beloved mother and some cousins of Tinto were present for the celebration along with the provincial Fr. Baby Ellickal, Fr. Jaison and Fr. Sunil.

* Sumesh is a novice of St. Camillus province

Pastoral Healthcare Leaders In Asia Meet

By William Eronimoose MI

A meeting of Camillian Pastoral Healthcare Leaders in Asia-Pacific region was held from 12th August to 14th August 2019 at Camillian Pastoral Care Centre, Bangkok. The 3-day meeting was organized by the General Consulta to discuss about the relevance of formation in the Pastoral Healthcare Ministry in the Post-Camillianum era as Camillianum is to be closed in September.

The Provincial Superior of Thailand Fr. Rocco, during the Holy Mass, welcomed the participants. Fr. Aris Miranda represented Fr. Leocir Pessini, the Late Superior General to give the opening address, pinpointing the interest and hope of Fr. Leo about the future of Pastoral Healthcare in Asia-Pacific. Fr. Aris gave the keynote address, inviting all to reflect on the three questions: why are we here, what are we to discuss and how are we to proceed? He said, "Our responsibility is to look into these realities with two-fold tasks: 1) Aspire, and 2) Create leaders with humility to use the arms of St. Camillus, to reach out to others to create leaders in their turn, leading by examples.

After the introductory talk of Fr. Aris, different pastoral care leaders from different countries presented their report on their Pastoral Health Centres. Pastoral care leaders from Philippines, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Australia and Taiwan came up with presenting the reality, practice, challenges, scope and hope of pastoral care ministry in their respective countries. Their presentation brought out an overall reality of Pastoral Healthcare and the need to prepare Camillians and other priests and religious with training and formation.

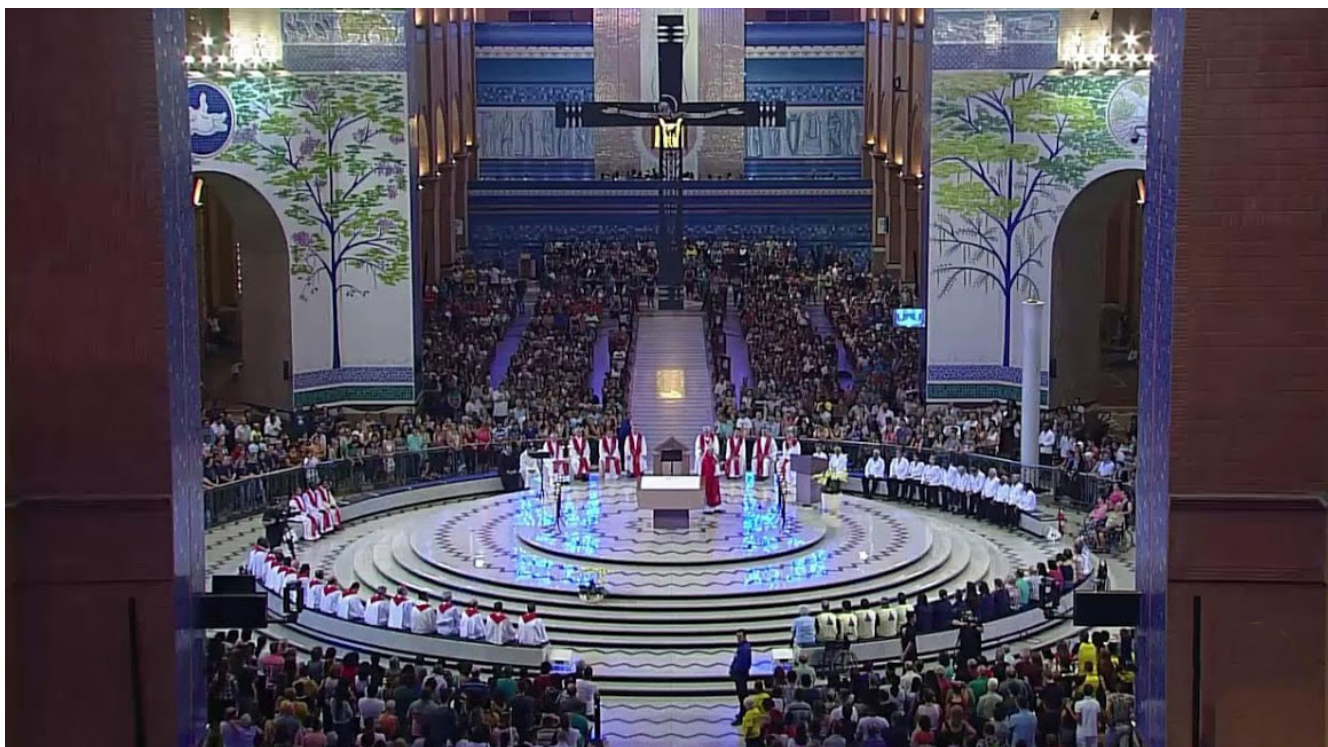
After the report presentations, we moved to some input sessions. Fr. William Eronimoose from India gave the talk on "Culture of Playing God leading to Culture of death: Bioethical issues and pastoral implications in Asia." Presenting various ethical issues, he underlined the relevance of Bioethics Education for the pastoral care leaders. After that, Fr. Mathew Perumpil from India spoke about the Catholic Healthcare Directives, the basic guidelines to be followed in the Catholic Hospitals, as there are no guiding directives in such hospitals. He brought about the need

to prepare the pastoral care-givers in these directives. Fr. Aris spoke about the relevance of care of the earth based on the document *Laudato Si*, which should help all to love, to respect, and to care for our common home.

Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi spoke on the Pastoral Health Care and the relevance of education of the same. He underlined the fact that Service to the sick is integral part of the Church. While taking care of the Corporal works of mercy, the holistic healing should take place, with the mission of seeing Jesus in the sick and being Jesus for the sick. He brought about the specific objectives of pastoral healthcare training with various forms of application and the need to involve others to be trained in Pastoral health care.

After the in-pot sessions, there were group discussions and their presentations. The group discussions were centred on different priorities. Of these priorities, top-three priorities have been chosen: formation in pastoral care ministry, collaboration among the provinces in Asia, and advocacy.





Manage well to serve better

By Teji Anickattuvayalil MI

General Secretariats for Mission and Ministry and the Brazilian Province organized a convention of Camillians in the world on the theme “Manage well to serve better”. The Directors and administrators of Camillian Health care institutions participated in the meeting hosted by the Brazilian Province in Sao Paulo.

I could participate in this convention representing Camillians in India and I felt proud to be present among a great gathering of Camillians in the world doing wonderful service in the area of health. Camillians from 17 countries participated in the Convention and it was organized systematically. Those were the days I felt more proud to be part of a great family of Camillians in the World at the service of the Church.

The objectives were; to ensure a health system, policy and program that allows access to quality health care of the poorest and vulnerable; to reaffirm and enhance the mission of the health facilities faithful to the charism and values of the Institute sensitive to the signs of the times and the needs of the people; to strengthen the identity and roles of lay collaborators as stakeholders of the Camillian Mission, and to build a network of cooperation and collaboration to maximize learnings of qualified services.

The registration of delegates of convention started on 15th evening by the logistic team. Fr. Aris Miranda, general consultor was the moderator on the first day. Dr. Dom Carlos

Lema Garcia, Episcopal Vicar, Sao Paulo, Brazil presided over the Holy Eucharist. The national hymn of Brazil was sung after the Holy Mass in a creative manner and Fr. Antonio Mendes Freitas MI, Provincial Superior, Brazil welcomed and the opening message was delivered. It was followed by the General orientation on the Economy at the service of the Charism and the Mission of the Institute by Jose Ignacio Santaolalla MI, General Bursar. In the following days we were enlightened by various speakers from different countries and there were also group discussion and question answer sessions after each sessions. The Brazilian Model of Administration and Management of Health Care Institutions were informative and moving.

On the fourth day, the guided tour to the Camillian Hospital and University was edifying and inspiring. The Holy Eucharistic celebrations were arranged in different languages on each day. Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of our Lady of Aparecida, Brazil brought joy to the participants and the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Archbishop Dom Orlando. He preached on St Camillus and appreciated the service of Camillians to the Church at large. Thousands of pilgrims participated in it. I could pray for the great family of Camillians and in a special way for Camillians India, being in the Sanctuary of our Lady of Brazil. I could also offer prayers at the tomb of late Superior General Fr. Leo Pessini.



By P. Joshy Kanjirathamkunnel MI
Gergweis, Passau, Germany.

The new School of Charity...

The Camillian call to “heal” is not meant to be limited merely to the administration of the sacraments in hospitals and home for the aged. “Heal the sick” is the mission of the Divine Healer. His healing interactions were neither based on any particular traditions, nor limited to any particular Institutions.

Heal the sick and preach the gospel. No doubt, it is the foundation of the Camillian life. The Camillian vocation to the healing ministry was always limited, mostly in Europe, to the hospital or old age home chaplaincy. Many of the European Camillians are sceptical about their members working in the Parish. The bearers of the red cross working outside the hospital walls is still a taboo in Europe.

The main conflict factor is the tradition. St. Camillus lived in a time in which the salvation of the soul of the sick person was given more importance than his physical, psychological and emotional needs. Due to the poor medical advancement, the chance of getting cured was very narrow. In the hospital many sick people waited with certainty for death instead of getting back to normal life. As the chances of survival was very low, many of the patients admitted in hospitals were preoccupied with their life after. Out of fear of not inheriting the heaven, if they die without receiving the last anointing, the priests were in high demand. Therefore, the hospital chaplains were meant mostly to meet the sacramental needs of the Sick. Administration of the sacraments were considered prior to medical care. Irrespective of their physical conditions, the patients were compelled to the reception of the sacraments. Even the physically exhausted patients were woken up at early hours of the day for the daily holy communion. To prevent the non-baptised infants ending up in

“Infant purgatory” they were baptised on the same day or on the following day after their birth. (Those days the Infant survival was a high-risk). To make sure that every soul reaches the paradise, anointing of the sick was administered to every dying patient. Due to the uncertainty about the cure and survival of the Patients, many were even given the last sacrament at the hospital entrance even before they were admitted into the hospitals.

The Camillian ministry grew up under this tradition. In a period of 450 years, some theological thoughts have changed; the Medical science has advanced and the physical diseases are better treated. Psychic and mental needs of a sick person are given equal importance as his spiritual needs. Healing is understood as holistic. Health is defined not just the absence of diseases but as the balance

of a person’s body, mind and soul.

“Heal the sick” is the core of the Camillian mission. The Camillian call to “heal” is not meant to be limited merely to the administration of the sacraments in hospitals and home for the aged. “Heal the sick” is the mission of divine healer. His healing interactions were neither based on any particular traditions, nor limited to any particular Institutions. Center of his attention was the Person who was longing for healing. Therefore, Jesus was present where the sick people were present: in their own homes - healing of Simon Peter’s mother in law (Mark 1,29- 30); on the road-side - healing of the man with leprosy (Mark 1, 40-44); in private houses- healing of paralyzed man (Mark 2, 1-5); on the lake side- healing of the possessed man (Mark 5, 1-15); in public places- healing of the woman with bleeding (Mark 5, 21-



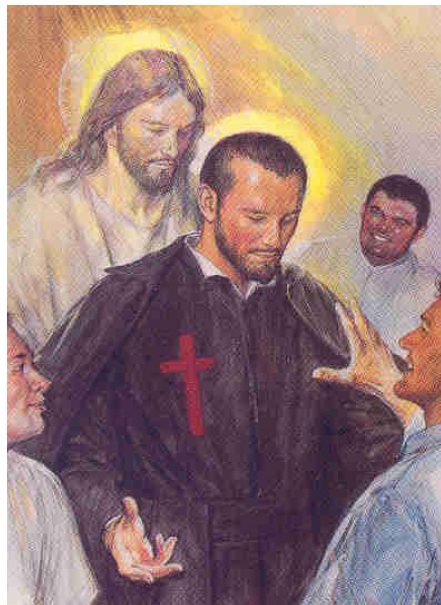
34); on his way- healing of the deaf and mute man (Mark 7, 31-36); in the market-place - healing of the blind man (Mark 8,22-26); in the place of worship - healing of the crippled woman (Luke 13, 10-13). His healing mission had no boundaries.

Moreover, his healing methods were holistic and not simply sacramental. He cared for the mind, body and soul of the person. That is very evident in the healing process of the man with leprosy (Mark 1, 40-44). In the first step of healing Jesus shows sympathy to him. Jesus opens himself completely to this leper. In the second step, Jesus stretched out his hand to the person with leprosy and touched him. We don't touch usually ugly things. By touching him, Jesus want to assure him that his body is not ugly. Jesus wants to make the leper certain about his dignity. In the third step, Jesus tells the leper his desire for him: "I am willing, be clean!". Through his words, Jesus shows him his unconditional love, which heals the leper from the leprosy. In some other healing incident, Jesus cared only for the psychic suffering of a person. In the healing of the man possessed by the demon (Mark 5, 1-20) we find an example for this.

The modern psychotherapy may call this man possessed by the demon as a borderline patient or as someone who suffers under multiple personality disorder. Jesus asks him a very important question: "What is your name?". With his question Jesus wanted to make him aware of his problem: Loss of identity. He does not know any more, who he is. That is why he replied: "My name is Legion, for we are many." Jesus healed him by bringing him to be in touch with his self.

Sometimes Jesus brought healing through forgiveness of sins. "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven (Mathew 9, 1-2)". Jesus' encounter with the paralyzed man was purely spiritual. A Person's misleads can lead him even to paralysis. Forgiveness of sins can make him righteous again.

The healing of Jesus was always comprehensive. The whole person, the body, the mind and the soul were important for him. He knew the integration of mind, body and soul. Through physical healing, he healed



The vocation as a Camillian is not determined by the place of the work, moreover, it is characterised by a person's openness to the people who seek healing, his competence as a messenger of the healing ministry of Jesus, his professionalism as a health-care person and his love and dedication for the Camillian charism

mind and soul of the sick. Through healing of the soul, he brought healing for the mind and body of the person. Jesus met number of such People who required healing everywhere on his way from Galilee to Jerusalem. St. Camillus followed mostly the spiritual aspect of the healing ministry of Jesus. He focused more to the hospital settings as it was the large meeting place of the sick people.

People who seeks healing are to be found everywhere. Many of them live in their own homes, suffering from anxiety, stress, dissatisfaction, defamation and distrust. Immaturity, bitterness und incapability to forgive each other leads to conflicts. Many conflicts end up in divorce and separation, which causes psychic pain of isolation. People live in conflict with

themselves due to their disability to forgive themselves for the mistakes they have committed. People who find it hard to accept their physical figure, their partner, their family, their professional achievements, lives constantly in inner conflict. They suffer from broken relationships. Disappointment with God, faith and church causes spiritual isolation, and pain. Many of these personal ailments leads to depression, which is a common disease in Europe.

A person who suffers under mental agony or spiritual pain, may not always come to the hospital. They may not even visit a psychologist or a psycho therapist. They suffer alone in their homes. They live isolated in the society not being able to maintain stable and lasting relationships. Working in the parish is the easiest way to reach them. As a priest, you have a better chance to win their trust. Gaining the faith is the first step of reaching them. As a priest, you have the freedom to visit them at their homes. If they find you as a trustworthy person, they will take you to their inner world of disturbances and suffering.

After 12 Years of hospital chaplaincy in different hospitals in Austria, I am working in the last 2 years in a parish. In the parish where I live and work, I meet many people who are in need of healing. Unlike in the hospital, it is easier for me here in my parish, to come in contact with people and their suffering - not just physical but a number of areas where they are deeply wounded and in need of healing.

It is the living of the Camillian Charism that differentiate a parish priest from a Camillian priest. The vocation as a Camillian is not determined by the place of the work, moreover, it is characterised by a person's openness to the people who seek healing, his competence as a messenger of the healing ministry of Jesus, his professionalism as a health-care person and his love and dedication for the Camillian charism.

Yes, it is the newness of the old "new Scholl of Charity" even to be involved in the parish ministry, because it is the very nature of the Camillian vocation to be present wherever people are suffering and seek healing.





CTF reaches out to the flood victims of Wayanad

By Nakkuzhikkatt Jofree MI

Kerala is recovering from a major flood, exactly a year after it was hit by another one. While last year's floods were described as a once-in-a-century calamity, this one was an ecological disaster waiting to happen. It was right on our part, the Camillian Task Force, along with the Diocese of Mananthavady, many religious Congregations and a good number of volunteers and friends, to show solidarity with our badly affected brothers and sisters in the districts of Wayanad and Ernakulam.

We could reach out in six ways: 1) **Organizing Medical Camps:** CTF Organized Medical Relief Camps from 12th to 17th August 2019 at different villages of the District of Wayanad. Our Medical Team consisted of 5 medical doctors, 8 nurses, 10 counselors and 17 healthcare volunteers. We could conduct 24 Medical Camps and extend our medical services and treatment to more than eight hundred flood victims in various places. 2) **Distribution of relief materials:** Through kindness and remarkable generosity of our benefactors and well-wishers, particularly, the Decathlon and its staff and the Daughters of St. Camillus, we could contribute new clothes (bathing towels, bed sheets, blankets), utensils, food grains (rice, dal, cooking oil etc.); sanitary items (soap, tooth brush/paste, sanitary pads) to hundreds too. 3) **Cleaning of the Houses/Buildings:** We sent our personnel to the affected areas to help them in cleaning or repairing their houses. Our seminarians were actively involved in it under the leadership of Fr. Lijo Pattathil MI, Fr. Christopher and Bro. Albin. 4) **Relief Camp for the affected:** The door of St. Camillus seminary at Mananthavady was open to the people who were directly affected by the flood.



5) **Psycho-Social Support to thousands:** Our trained psychologists and social workers were active during this flood with their sense of compassion and empathy. They could listen to the cry of the poor victims, being with them and accompanying them in their traumatic experience of this tragedy. They could, to certain extent, console, comfort and support them and encourage them to go ahead with a sense of hope in the future. 6) **Rehabilitating people who lost everything:** It is through the help of benefactors and collaborators of CTF, we decided to rehabilitate two families who lost everything, by building two new houses for them.

Snehatheeram extends its services to the sick at their homes

By Biju Kizhukkarakkatt MI

Nanma is the out-reach program of Snehatheeram. It reaches out to the sick, at their homes and workplace through their various activities. Nanma is the machinery with which Snehatheeram extends its service to those sick who are not admitted to the care and support centre. The following is the detail of some of the services carried out by Snehatheeram through Nanma.

Various Services of NANMA

Home/workplace visits: there are around 150 families of HIV infected persons and people with chronic illness that are directly under the care of Nanma. These families are visited regularly on monthly basis, they have been given monetary help for treatment, medicines and other household needs.

Counselling: an average of around 55 hours of counselling is done on a monthly basis most of which comprises of post-test/follow-up HIV/AIDS counselling. This is done either at Ernakulam general hospital, Snehatheeram or at the home of the HIV infected persons.

Health and Hunger concerns: Medical and nutritional support is also provided to these families. There are about 10 families who get milk and food kit regularly through Nanma. Another 25 families get other nutritional care such as regular supply of rice and groceries. About 30 patients are regularly provided medicines and more than 50 patients occasionally receive support to meet their medical expenses. Support for lab expenses for scanning, mammography and dialysis have been availed to a few patients on a monthly basis.

Awareness programmes: Around 15-20 awareness program are conducted annually, on HIV/AIDS, hygiene, cancer prevention, rehabilitation, parenting and family wellness.

Patient Liaison: Patient liaison is also done by Nanma by helping the patients get organizational and departmental services such as pensions, grants, nutrition and Karunya fund. Nanma arranges for the patients to be taken to hospital to determine the level or extend of their disabilities to avail them with pension. The families of the deceased are helped to get the death certificate from Panchayaths. When orphan kids are transferred from one institution to another Nanma helps them obtain the necessary certificates. Cancer and kidney patients are helped to get the necessary certificate to claim for Karunya fund.



Ambulance service: an average of 10 ambulance free service is provided by Nanma monthly for patient transportation. Legal aid: when there is case of the abuse of women or children, legal aid is facilitated for the victim through Nanma.

Education support for poor children: Poor children especially HIV affected or children of cancer patients are financially supported by Nanma for their education. In the current year, around 30 students received support.

Network: this is done mainly to raise funds for poor patients. Generally merchant association, employees of shipyard, panchayaths, anganwadies, schools and St. Vincent De Paul society are part of this network who regularly help poor patients and their family through Nanma. Network is also done with centres which shelter destitute and orphans. This year 8 patients have been send to other care centres through Nanma.

Blood donation campaign: an average of 5 camps a year have been conducted under the auspices of Nanma. About 150 patients got benefit this year. Mainly cancer patients are the beneficiaries. From June 2019 to August 2019 around 51 patients have received blood.

Kesadanam: around 600 people have donated their hair this year. The hair is handed over to Amala Medical College, Thrissur. Manufacture and distribution of wig to cancer patients happen there.

Self-help group: Two persons have been given loan to start a small business. Two girls have been financially helped for their marriage. One person was helped to build toilet.

Feast of St. Camillus celebrated



Feast of St. Camillus was celebrated in all the communities in different ways. Upasana community celebrated it on July 14, with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the rector of Dharmaram College Fr. George Edayadiyil CMI. Prior to the feast, there was novena in honour of St. Camillus with carefully selected themes and intercessory prayers for the sick and the suffering.

Snehagram celebrated the feast on July 15. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the bishop of Dharmapuri Lawrence Pius. The celebration was coupled with a simple farewell ceremony to

Fr. Mathew Perumpil, who had been instrumental in actualizing Snehagram. The provincial Fr. Baby Ellickal was also present during the celebration. A cultural programme organized by the residents added colour to the event.

The feast was celebrated at St. Camillus college, Janampet on July 17. The provincial Baby Ellickal was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass, in which the community of the Daughters of St. Camillus also participated.

The feast of St. Camillus and Annual Day of Snehasadan were celebrated on July 20. The thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the bishop of Mangalore Peter Paul Saldanha, in the presence of

Fr. Baby Ellickal, many religious and priests, well-wishers, benefactors and neighbours.

The feast was celebrated with great devotion and fervour in a special and spiritual way at Snehatheeram community at Aluva on July 15. Fr. Vijil Kizakkarakattu Oprem, the director of Eceo Jeevana, Athani, Ernakulam was the main celebrant and Fr. Shaju Vadakkel, Oprem superior of Eceo Jeevan delivered the homily. After the Holy Mass, the new Ambulance of Lay Camillian family was blessed.

With inputs from Koickal Vince MI, Vellachira Johnson MI, Koonanickal Sojan MI, Elenjickal Biju MI & Anikkattuwayalil Teji MI.

What is Camillian Prophecy Today?

By Bacil Singh MI

Every Chapter gives an opportunity to flip the pages of the congregation to see and introspect the growth and the ways to improve. As preparation for the 59th General Chapter of the Order of the Ministers of the infirm (Camillian) May 2020, St. Camillus Province - India is hosting its Provincial Chapter on 2 February 2020. The theme of the Provincial Chapter will run with the theme of the General Chapter of the Order, that is, "What is Camillian Prophecy Today? Looking into the Past, Living in the Present, Trying to Serve as Samaritans and Journeying with Hope towards the Future".

The first meeting of the Provincial Chapter Preparation Committee was held at Upasana, St. Camillus Study House. The Chapter Preparation Committee members comprised of Fr. Baby Ellickal, Fr. Biju Sebastian, Fr. William, Fr. Sebastian Christi, Fr. Bacil Singh came together on 12th September, 2019.

The Meeting began with a Prayer by Fr. William and he was appointed as the coordinator of the chapter preparation committee. The Chapter Preparation committee members



made clear deliberations and discussions on Provincial Administration, Spirituality and Community life, Formation, Ministry, Financial Administration, Mission and the Matters pertaining to the life of the Confreres to help the confreres to contribute to the Chapter preparation. A questionnaire will be sent to all the confreres in view of getting their feedback and suggestions in order to develop the Lineamenta - a preparatory document for the local community chapter.

NEWS BRIEF.....



Kochukudiyil Vineesh arrived in Italy on September 17, 2019, to help the North Italian Province for the next six years. Initially he will be placed in Verona for learning the Italian language and then, he will be working as chaplain in any of the hospitals in Italy.



Perumpil Mathew left for USA on September 10, 2019. On the occasion of his Sacerdotal Jubilee, he decided to go on a sabbatical year, to rejuvenate himself through some spiritual and pastoral trainings and renewal programs. He will be in the U.S for six months, in view of renewing the CPE supervisory licence.



“For, we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life”. (2 Cori. 2: 15, 16)