



# THE CAMILLIAN HOLINESS

*A long love story*



## Introduction

# THE CAMILLIAN HOLINESS

**O**ur history is a long love story: from Christ to us, through Camillus'charism, who has made a holiness imbued with charity flourish in the Church and in the world..

**Who are the saints?** The hidden guides of the history of our Order. The new ways to reach Christ. Those who accompany us to live "the parable of the Good Samaritan" in our daily lives. They are the friends of God, the confidants of God, the lovers of God, because they are continually turned to him, in the service of the brothers, like the sunflower in the sun. They are men inhabited by God.

The word **holiness** makes us think of something unreachable and yet it is our primordial vocation. Holiness makes us happy and fulfilled.

We are exhorted to **rediscover** our call to holiness and to bring out the holiness of our confreres, who have written and still write the history of our Order. We are called to be proud and happy to be accompanied and guarded by these brothers of ours, who have made their lives the main way to reach the holiness of the "next door".

Father Walter Vinci  
*general postulator*



ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

## SAINT CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

Camillus de Lellis was born in Bucchianico (Ch) on 25 May 1550. Lazy and quarrelsome, his father decided to start him on a military career. But in 1570 an ulcer on his foot forced him to abandon the military world and go to Rome and the Hospital of St. James of the Incurables. After he had been healed of his malady he was employed as a servant at the hospital, but this experience was a short one – he was sent away because he did not want to work much. He went back to bearing arms as a mercenary soldier. Camillus then began to wander around Italy until he underwent a radical inner conversion to the ideals of the Gospel. Subsequently he dedicated himself to service to the sick ‘even at the risk to his life’. He founded the Order of the Ministers of the Sick (the Camillians). He died in Rome on 14 July 1614. He is the patron saint of the sick, of health-care workers, of health-care institutions, and, in Italy, of military health care.



**SAINT  
GIUSEPPINA VANNINI**

## **SAINT GIUSEPPINA VANNINI**

**G**iuseppina Vannini was born in Rome on 7 July 1859. After becoming an orphan she was admitted to the Torlonia Conservatory which was run by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. She asked to be admitted to their Order but was subsequently sent away on health grounds. At a spiritual retreat she met the Camillian religious Father Luigi Tezza. Sharing his ideals of charity, she later founded a religious Institute for women inspired by the charism of St. Camillus de Lellis – the Daughters of St. Camillus de Lellis. Giuseppina Vannini died in Rome on 23 February 1911. She was canonised by Pope Francis on 13 October 2019.



**BLESSED LUIGI TEZZA**



**BLESSED  
LUIGI TEZZA**

Luigi Tezza was born in Conegliano (Treviso) on 1 November 1842. A vocation to religious priesthood made itself felt early on and as a result he entered the Order of the Ministers of the Sick in Verona. In Rome, in 1892, together with St. Giuseppina Vannini, he founded the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Camillus. A man of deep spirituality and amiability, he lived faithful to the crucified Christ and obedience even during the most difficult moments of his life. He died in Lima (Peru) on 26 September 1923. He was beatified by St. John Paul II on 4 November 2001.



**BLESSED  
M. DOMENICA BRUN BARBANTINI**

**BLESSED**  
**MARIA DOMENICA BRUN BARBANTINI**

**M**aria Domenica Brun Barbantini was born in Lucca on 17 January 1789. She married at the age of twenty-two and was left a widow after only five months of marriage while expecting a child who would later die at the young age of ten. After the death of her husband, she chose 'the crucified Jesus as the only spouse of her soul' and devoted herself completely as a true 'angel of charity' to works of charity and especially to care for poor sick women abandoned in their homes. In 1819 she founded the women 'Ministers of the Sick'. She died in Lucca on 22 May 1868. She was beatified by St. John Paul II on 17 May 1995.



**BLESSED  
ENRICO REBUSCHINI**

**BLESSED  
ENRICO REBUSCHINI**

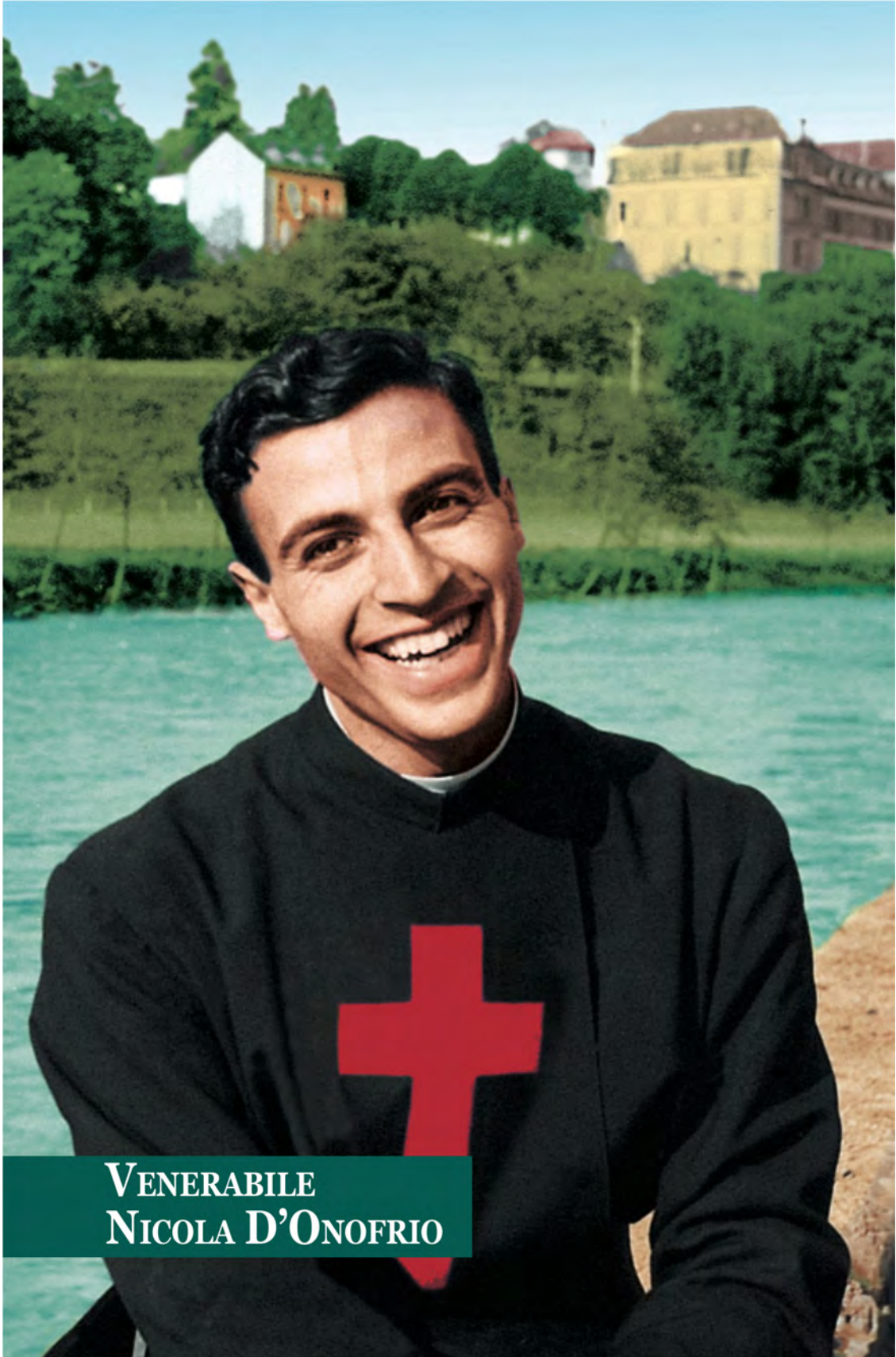
Enrico Rebuschini was born in Gravedona (Como) on 28 April 1860 to a well-off family. In 1885, after obtaining his diploma as an accountant and after long resistance by his father, he went to Rome as a student of the Collegio Lombardo. After three terms of study at the Gregorian University he returned to his family because of a serious illness. On 27 September 1887 he entered the Order of Camillians in Verona and was ordained a priest on 14 April 1889. He devoted his entire life as a priest to the sick. A peaceful and sensitive man, he welcomed the sick. He died in Cremona on 10 May 1938. He was beatified by St. John Paul II on 4 May 1997.



VENERABILE  
MARIA ARISTEA CECCARELLI

## VENERABLE MARIA ARISTEA CECCARELLI

**M**aris Aristeia Ceccarelli was born in Ancona on 5 November 1883. As a young girl and thereafter she favoured long 'heart to heart' moments with Jesus, her great confidant. Forced to do so by her parents, on 9 October 1901 she married Iginio Bernacchia, and subsequently had to bear his blasphemies and betrayals. She moved to Rome and the violent behaviour of her husband became worse. However, the Lord attracted Maria Aristeia to the contemplation of his passion. In 1925 she entrusted herself to the guidance of a Camillian religious and dedicated herself to the apostolate of the Order of St. Camillus, visiting many sick people, comforting them spiritually, and becoming a supporter of Camillian vocations, defining them as 'her children'. Her patience, meekness and prayer obtained the conversion of her husband who died reconciled with God. At the end of a life of unspeakable sufferings borne with exceptional faith, she died on 24 December 1971. Pope Francis recognised her heroic exercise of the virtues on 19 March 2022.



VENERABILE  
NICOLA D'ONOFRIO



## VENERABLE NICOLA D'ONOFRIO

**N**icola D'Onofrio was born in Villamagna (Ch) on 24 March 1943. Brought up in the Christian faith by his poor family, at a young age he providentially met a Camillian student and was greatly attracted by the 'red cross' that characterised his habit. After various forms of resistance by his family he entered the Order of the Ministers of the Sick while still a teenager. Seized by the charism of St. Camillus, he lived his time in formation in total evangelical radicality: 'Our vocation is truly great. To us are entrusted the poor sick, the pupils of the eyes of God'. His twenty years of life were all condensed in his words: 'Jesus I want to love you, I want to make you loved!'. Pope Francis recognised his heroic exercise of the virtues on 5 July 2013.



**SERVANT OF GOD  
GERMANA SOMMARUGA**

## **SERVANT OF GOD GERMANA SOMMARUGA**

**G**ermana Sommaruga was born in Cagliari on 25 May 1914. At the age of eighteen months she became an orphan on the death of her mother and together with her family she moved first to Genoa and then to Milan. As a teenager she received as a present a biography of St. Camillus de Lellis and immediately he became her passion. In 1935 she began her novitiate with the Daughters of St. Camillus in Rome but on 6 January 1936 she had an insight: to go back to the world and create a community of lay consecrated women true to the spirit of St. Camillus. As a teacher she began to implement this project, keeping in contact with the Camillian Fathers. In 1948, with her first women companions, she created the Secular Institute of the Women Missionaries of the Sick. She followed the formation of new adherents, spreading the thought and the life of St. Camillus. By now elderly, in 1988 she was admitted to a nursing home where she died on 4 October 1995.



**SERVANT OF GOD  
BROTHER ETTORE BOSCHINI**

## **SERVANT OF GOD BROTHER ETTORE BOSCHINI**

Ettore Boschini was born in Belvedere di Roverbella (Mantua) on 25 March 1928. At the age of ten he was already a stable boy in his place of birth. He had a troubled adolescence, with girls, blasphemy and bad company. His conversion took place suddenly during a Marian pilgrimage and from that moment onwards Our Lady became his only true love. His health was bad but the irrepressible wish to consecrate himself to God led him to enter the Order of Camillians so that he 'could care for the sick'. After a long period in hospitals he began his 'season in Milan': he looked after homeless people at the central station of that city. On the night of Christmas 1977 the homeless of Milan became his real family – he opened the first dormitory in the basements of the central station of the city and offered the whole of his life according to the charism of St. Camillus. He died in Milan on 20 August 2004.



**SERVANT OF GOD**  
**ALEXANDRE TOÈ**

## **SERVANT OF GOD ALEXANDRE TOÉ**

**A**lexandre Toé was born in Boromo (Burkina Faso) on 2 December 1967. The fifth of eleven children, at the age of twenty he fell in love with the Camillians and lived a year of spirituality with them. He was an intelligent and brilliant young man and animated by a spirit of service. Almost at the same time as taking his first vows (8 September 1991), he was diagnosed as having hepatitis B, which his Superiors thought could be best treated in Italy. In Rome he attended the Theological University with excellent results and on 16 October 1994 made his first perpetual profession. His illness advanced quickly and Alexandre came to sign a pact with our good God and Our Lady: 'I have decided to be joyous until the end...as long as you are at my side'. He died on 9 December 1996 in Rome.

## **...IN THE HISTORY OF THE ORDER**

Servant of God  
Fra Bernardino Norcino 1525

Servant of God  
Giovanni Battista Marapodio

Servant of God  
Giacomo Giacopetti

Servant of God  
Martino D'Andreas Perez

Servant of God  
Camilla Rosa Maria Grimaldi

Servant of God  
Girolamo Tiraboschi

Servant of God  
Padre Saverio Pietrangeli

Servant of God  
Padre Pedro Marieluz

Servant of God  
Padre Rocco Ferroni



Servant of God  
Camillo Cesare Bresciani

**CAUSES  
ENTRUSTED TO OUR POSTULATION**

Servant of God  
Dr. Giancarlo Bertolotti  
Diocese of Lodi  
*Entrusted to us in April 2022*







## **POSTULATION GENERAL**

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