

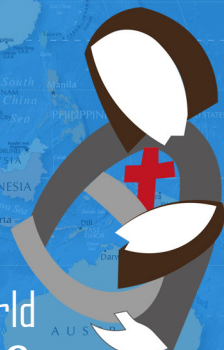


Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome, and Rome seen from the world

N. 88



CONTENTS

The image of Our Lady
Health of the Sick

Ongoing Formation
Workshops

Meeting of the General
Consulta with the
Councils of Italian
Provinces

“Fascination and
disillusionment in
following Christ”.

40 years of Camillian
Pastoral Centre in
Verona

XVIII Congress on
Palliative Care

Indian Province
organizes a Provincial
Assembly

Being a Camillian
religious and a bishop

Photographic Reportage

CADIS Leadership
Conference

Departed Confreres



Feast of Our Lady, Health of the Sick

The feast of Our Lady health of the sick was celebrated at Maddalena in Rome on November 16, 2023. The Eucharistic celebration that began at 7.00 p.m. was presided over by His Excellency Mons. Baldassare Reina, vicegerent of the diocese of Rome, and was concelebrated by camillian religious in the community of Maddalena.

During his homily, Mons. Baldassare highlighted the theme of encountering God in suffering. Referring particularly to the first reading from the book of prophet Isaiah, he pointed out that we often do not encounter God in healing, but in suffering. The suffering servant of Isaiah prefigures Jesus whose suffering and death brought us salvation.

He said that this is fundamental to Christian faith. “Often, we think of faith as something magical, something that always brings healing to us. But Christian faith focuses on another aspect... Our faith is a journey in which we are invited to seek God in suffering”, he underlined. Thus, “the Cross of Christ becomes the centre of our faith. Jesus took upon himself the passion and death to make us understand that our suffering are occasions to mysteriously encounter Father.” Mons. Baldassare stressed that this was also experienced and taught by St. Camillus who always sought to encounter Christ the Crucified in his own suffering and in the sufferings of others. This is the foundation of Camillian ministry to the sick and suffering.

The history of the image of Our Lady, Health of the Sick

On 15 May 1616, Ms. Settimia De Nobili, wife of Mr Giovanni Paganelli, a Roman citizen, died in Montecitorio, a few steps from the church of the Magdalene.

The lady had been assisted in her infirmity by Father Cesare Simonio, a zealous Minister of the Infirm, brought up in the school of St Camillus, who was particularly dear to him for his great love of the sick and of Our Lady. Fr Simonio also served as rector of the Magdalene church, but his greatest task was the care of the dying in their homes.

Ms. Settimia kept the picture of Our Lady in great veneration in one of the rooms of her house. It is not said when and how she got it, but during her long infirmity the pious lady found her greatest comfort by praying continually under the gaze of the devout image.

Father Simonio, who was called to visit the sick woman to confess and comfort her, was taken up by the great admiration and devotion for the beautiful painting, eventually expressing the opinion and desire to place it for public veneration in the Magdalene church.

The lady said she was willing to hand over the image, but only after her death.



It is likely - and here documented history gives way to tradition and the easy interpretation of the chronicler - that Fr. Simonio asked for the information about the painting. He thus learnt that the precious painting had belonged to Pius V (1566-1572) and that he had kept it in his rooms in the Vatican. Consequently, it began to be thought and said that the same image was the one before which the holy Pontiff, praying, would have known about the victory at Lepanto (7 Oct. 1571).

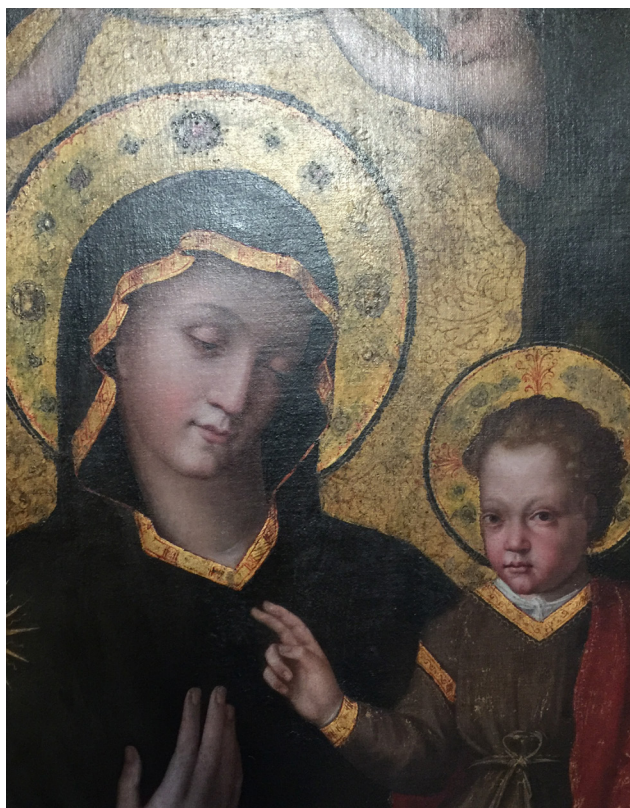
It is, however, probable that since it is a subject (Our Lady of St. Luke) that is widely diffused, the tradition is, in effect, more related to St. Pius V than to this or any other copy, with well-founded certainty.

The story resumes with certainty, from the day the image was entrusted to the Magdalene church and the religious of St. Camillus.

In a notarial deed of 19 February 1614, Ms. Settimia De Nobili ordered that, on her death, the picture of the Madonna with the Child Jesus on her left arm be bequeathed to the church of La Maddalena dei Chierici Regolari Ministri degli Infermi. The devout image - it was stipulated - must be handed over to the Fathers before the donor's own funeral.

Ms. Settimia died on 25 May 1616, assisted to her last breath by Fr Caesar Simonio. The next day, in accordance with his instructions, the picture of Our Lady was taken to the Magdalene Church and placed on the high altar.

Our Lady of Health at 'Maddalena'



The painting was officially received by the Provincial of Rome and Prefect of the house, Fr. Francesco Pelliccioni. It was placed on the high altar. The altar, so far, was still a poor thing. On it, the only valuable ornament was the beautiful 15th century statue of the titular St Mary Magdalene.

The picture, with its shelf, was placed on the back wall of the altar. As was the custom for the most venerated images, a veil was placed in front of it, which was raised during Holy Mass and other celebrations held at the altar. Fr. Simonio spread the cult of the devout image, invoking Our Lady to help the sick with the comforting title 'Sanctae Mariae Sanitatis', Holy Mary of Health. On his own initiative or upon request, Fr. Simonio sent copies of the beautiful image to Italy and abroad.

Two copies of the '*Madonna della Salute*' - of which they were very devoted - were taken to Spain by Cardinals Gaspare Borgia and Bernardo Sandoval, later archbishops of Toledo. But where the devotion to Our Lady of Health developed most was naturally at *Maddalena*. Devotees increased daily and came to give her public testimony of gratitude, offering votive offerings, candles and flowers. The Ministers of the Infirm and devotees of Our Lady had her

invoked by their sick and their relatives for help and comfort in infirmity and agony.

The congregation of the faithful around the devout image increased day by day, and ex-votos for grace received were already hanging and multiplying on the sides of the picture. The title "Our Lady of Health", invoked as a spontaneous and confident cry from the hearts of the sick, had a wide echo, and was particularly dear to everyone.

With a plebiscite of gratitude, her solemn coronation by the Vatican Chapter was requested and solicited by the faithful. The ceremony took place in 1668, and marked a major date for the ancient Magdalene church, which was on the verge of being renovated from the ground up.

Pope Clement IX (Giulio Rospigliosi) was no stranger to the event. Already as a Cardinal, and Protector of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, he used to visit and linger at length in prayer at the altar of Our Lady of Health, to whom he was particularly devoted. And not only then, but also as Pope Clement IX, he repeatedly returned to *Maddalena* to pray before the devout image, which took so much consideration from that time onwards that the Fathers were compelled to urge the construction of the new church, both to prepare a glorious sepulchre for the Founder, and to give Our Lady a more dignified altar, and the faithful the possibility of accessing it in greater numbers to satisfy their piety and devotion.

Also the Roman Senate, as a testimony to their devotion to Our Lady, asked Clement IX, in the name of the Roman people, to be allowed to make an annual offering of a silver chalice and four large candles, with the solemn ceremonial established for the same circumstances.

The Pope granted the favour with a Brief of 14 September 1668, recognising the request as just to honour a church so devoutly and widely frequented by the faithful, as well as a debt of devotion proper to Our Lady of Health. The feast of Mary Magdalene (22 July) of each year was fixed for the ceremony.

Ongoing Formation Workshops organized in East Africa



The General Consulta for Formation Fr. Baby Ellickal and the Regional Secretary for Formation in East Africa Fr. Fredrick Mukabana, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Formation in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, successfully organized two Ongoing Formation Workshops for Camillian religious of East Africa, in the months of August and September 2023. The theme of the workshops was, “Embracing Synodality in Fraternal Living and Witnessing our Camillian Charism”.

The first workshop, designed specifically for the young religious below 10 years of perpetual profession, was held at the Pastoral Centre of the Society of the Apostles of Jesus in Jinja, Uganda, from August 21st to 26th, and witnessed the participation of 24 dedicated religious from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The workshop began with the celebration of Holy Eucharist, presided over by the Superior General Fr. Pedro Tramontin, and concelebrated by the Vicar General Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon and Fr. Baby Ellickal.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin expressed his admiration for the commitment displayed by the attending religious, applauding their courage in coming together from various countries for this special occasion. He encouraged all participants to make the most of this ongoing formation program and to carry back home new insights and experiences to enrich their respective countries and missions. He shared his immense joy in meeting the young religious of East Africa, a long-cherished desire of his. Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon provided spiritual guidance by drawing inspiration from the day’s Gospel.

He urged attendees to embrace the example of Mother Mary who was encouraged not to fear as she was to conceive through the Holy Spirit, reminding them that the Lord is always with them.

Fr. Baby Ellickal made significant contributions by ensuring participants a clear understanding of the theme of Synodality, which calls for Communion, Participation, and Mission. He emphasized the importance of listening, learning, and doing for a shared joy. Furthermore, he provided comprehensive insights into various aspects of the life, spirituality, qualities, and writings of St. Camillus. Fr. Richard Kyazze highlighted the importance of self-awareness in addressing contemporary challenges, especially the different forms of addiction affecting religious men and women.

This event was organized under the leadership of Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath MI, the Superior of the mission in Uganda, and the dedicated confreres in Uganda.

The second workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 28th to September 1st, and was designed for the members with over 10 years of perpetual profession. The participants received a warm welcome from the confreres of Kenya, extended through the Provincial Delegate of the Kenyan Delegation Fr. John Ndwiga Njiru. During the opening remarks, Fr. Baby Ellickal expressed his gratitude to the attendees for coming together, setting aside their daily ministry for this important ongoing formation opportunity. He encouraged all the participants to recognize the valuable contributions made by East Africa to the entire Order, emphasizing the need for mutual growth through sharing of both human and economic resources. He urged everyone to assess their strengths, weaknesses, and be vigilant regarding potential threats, emphasizing the importance of

seeing, judging, and acting in harmony. Fr. Baby further delved into the theme of Synodality, emphasizing its core components: Communion, Participation, and Mission. He stressed the importance of understanding that a Synodal Church is one that listens and learns, highlighting that Synodality is a divine call emanating from the dynamic vision of the Trinitarian God. Recognizing the signs of the times and fostering discernment are central to the heart of Synodality, achieved through the shared gift of discernment. Indeed, Synodality is a vital call for religious life in the present era.

Bro. Givemore Shonhayil provided valuable insights into the understanding of sexuality, encompassing its biological, emotional/pleasure, and personal/relational aspects. Participants also gained understanding on topics such as gender, sexual orientation, levels of sexual energy, and sexual attraction. Additionally, members were enlightened on children's rights, including protection, the right to life, development, and participation, while also

addressing indicators and the effects of child abuse.

Fr. Cosmas Kagwe focused on fraternal living and Charism rooted in the Camillian constitution. Attendees gained insights into the religious person through psychological, biological, sociological, and cognitive dimensions. The presentation also emphasized understanding the religious person within the framework of central elements, including the image and likeness of God, human relationality, embodied subjectivity, fundamental equality, and originality. Further guidance was provided on strategic planning, encompassing strategy formulation, implementation, control and evaluation, anchored in key themes of Vision, Mission, and Values.

This event was meticulously organized under the leadership of Fr. Fredrick Mukabana, the Regional Secretary of Formation for East Africa, Fr. John Ndwiga Njiru, the Provincial Delegate Superior of Kenya, and the dedicated confreres in Kenya.





Meeting of the General Consulta with the Provincial and the Councils of Italian Provinces

by **Fr. Medard Aboue MI**, *General Councilor*

A meeting of the General Consulta with the Provincial Councils of the three Italian Provinces was held at Maddalena on 28 October 2023. The initiative strongly desired by the Provincial Superiors of Italy is part of the dynamics of the meeting of the Consulta with the Major Superiors of the Order, in the month of June 2023, during which they reflected together on the strategic plan that the Consulta has prepared

for the whole Order. The meeting recorded the presence of everyone except Brother Paul Kabore (General Councilor), Brother Luca Perletti (North Italian Province) and Fr. Albino Scalfino (Roman Province) for justified reasons.

The various topics on the agenda were addressed in a calm discussion full of collaboration and planning vision in line with the objectives of the Order's

strategic plan for the period 2022-2028. The initiative of this gathering in pure synodal style is positively appreciated by all and is hoped that the path undertaken will continue to be explored in a climate of mutual trust among the religious in the Provinces so that everyone becomes protagonists of the indispensable revitalization process and restructuring of the Provinces of Italy and of the entire Order.



“Fascination and disillusionment in following Christ”. National Meeting for Formators, Vocations Promoters and the students

The meeting was characterised by an atmosphere of exquisite fraternity and friendship, as well as shared attention to the proposed topics

by **Fr. Sergio Palumbo MI**

The first inter-provincial Formation meeting organised by the three Formation Secretariats in Italy concluded at the “Nicola D’Onofrio” spirituality centre in Bucchianico, on 28th September 2023. There were 15 students including temporary professed, novices, aspirants and postulants, and 8 religious (including formators and vocations animators) from the respective Italian Provinces, who participated in the programme. Fr. Baby Ellickal, General Consultor for Formation, participated in the gathering. From the outset, the days of the meeting were characterised by an atmosphere of exquisite fraternity and friendship, as well as shared attention to the topics proposed by the formators themselves: *“Formation today: Ministry and Mystery”* - Fr Baby Ellickal; *“Jeremiah’s vocation: I am young and cannot speak”* - P. Umberto Andreetto, Provincial Councillor for Formation, North Italy; *“With the tenderness of a mother. Formed at the School of Camillus”* - Fr. Angelo Brusco, Formator of the professed, North Italian Province; *“Consecrated Life and the Internet”* - Fr. Sergio Palumbo - Coordinator for Formation and Vocation Animation, Europe Region.

The talks fitted well into the formative context, trying to meet the programme’s stated objectives. These included, as Fr. Baby Ellickal’s report



underlined, promoting and regenerating a sense of belonging to the Camillian Family, fostering mutual knowledge, improving the quality of our spirituality and our Camillian charism, defining criteria for future collaboration between the Provinces. These objectives were followed by some questions, which were fundamental for the orientation of the meeting and the formative journey: What formation in Consecrated Life today? What models of formation are we moving towards? How do we position ourselves in the face of the complexity and novelty of pathways and learning processes linked to the fascinating and complex world of the Web?

Inevitable is the theme of the “call” in which Fr. Andreetto, in

his talk, presented its fascination and inadequacy: “If the call is authentic, that is, expressly willed by Jesus, and not the result of dynamics linked to intrapersonal or interpersonal experiences that can generate our more or less healthy needs - hence the importance of healthy discernment - it brings with it a disruption of life and of the plans to be able to realise it. What does ‘authentic call’ mean? It means that God bursts into our lives, without it being part of our plans or desires, because He is not dependent on us or our search: God’s irruption tells of God’s priority over our will and desire. A call is authentic because it places God at the centre of one’s vocation as the absolute reason for one’s choice of life; thus the charism and spirituality of the

Founder are themselves clothed in authenticity.

Fr. Angelo Brusco's presentation was original, and through the style of narration, he unravelled his theme by highlighting the main features of the 'call' of the giant of charity. Taking his cue from a book by psychiatrist Eugenio Borgna, he introduced the dimension of tenderness as follows: "Tenderness, he writes, is the most fragile and evanescent of emotions (...). Tenderness, at first sight, may seem weak, but in truth it is an emotion that walks with hope and kindness, and all together they can make the human being truly human."

Fr. Palumbo's talk on digital dynamics within religious communities opened up reflections that should also be taken into account in formation programmes: "I believe that in our religious communities today a fraternal digital correction is necessary and must be exercised. A digital social control among people living in community, in work environments, in the family, helping each other to recognise when one goes beyond the limit in the abuse of the smartphone. Such correction is

not a reprimand *sic et simpliciter*. Correction is not hitting, but embracing. It is not to hurt, but to save. It is not putting oneself on a pedestal, but looking into one's face. Seeing a person we care about bent over their smartphone must not leave me indifferent. I have to find the way and the measured words to talk to him. Talking about it helps, talking about it saves."

Participatory and reflective was the reaction of the students who, divided into 2 groups, confronted each other expressing their thoughts. The need for a formation centred on the mystery of God's will for each one, the necessity of having full-time formators, possibly not invested by other commitments, a relationship of transparency between formator and the candidates, represent some of the points that emerged from their work (a full version will be published in the Acts of the Gathering).

Here are just a few proposals that emerged at the end of the meeting:

1. In the planning of ordinary and extraordinary formation, pay attention to academic life, to avoid encountering

2. problems on the curriculum;
2. To bring together the two perspectives of service and pilgrimage, an experience in Lourdes could be a good proposal, perhaps after the feast of St. Camillus in July;
3. In order to deepen the topics dealt with, we believe it would be appropriate to take advantage of the possibility of face-to-face meetings; in our opinion the online mode does not help much;
4. Experiences of inter-provincial missions, with the collaboration of all the religious, starting from our healthcare and parish ministries to reawaken Camillian spirituality in our realities;
5. A weekend of fraternity with the possibility of getting to know each other by telling each one's vocational and personal story.



40 years of life and activities of Camillian Pastoral Centre in Verona, Italy

by **Fr. Danio Mozzi MI**, Director of the Centre



We celebrated the 40 years of activity of the Camillian Training Center of Verona on Saturday 21 October 2023.

The proceedings were opened by Fr. Giuseppe Rigamonti, Provincial Superior of the North Italian Province, who reminded us of how much the Archbishop of Milan, Msgr. Mario Delpini, is grateful for the three-year course in pastoral counselling conducted at Rho by the Camillians.

Fr. Virginio Bebbler, CEO of the *Opera San Camillo* Foundation, reiterated the importance of the

work of the Camillian Training Center and emphasised that today it is necessary for the care of the human formation of the healthcare workers of our Camillian structures.

Councilor Elisa La Paglia, delegate of the mayor of Verona, brought greetings from the municipal administration, assisted by councilor Luisa Ceni, fond of the Camillians. Dr. Cirillo Stocco, professor of systemic counseling, demonstrated the participation of the president of the National Coordination of Professional Counsellors, CNCP, a national association that recognized our

counselling programs in 2005. The first presentation was by Father Angelo Brusco, founder and first director of the CCF, founded in 1983 at the behest of the Provincial Chapter of the Lombardy-Venetian Province to promote paths of personal growth, through the approach of the human sciences in the helping relationship, in leading working groups and teaching pastoral care in health, in particular the intensive course in Clinical Pastoral Education.

Fr. Angelo Brusco recovered the motivations that allowed the birth of the CCF, recalling when,

fresh from studies in Canada and the United States, he wanted to establish the first courses, also open to outsiders, with a consistent participation from the diocese of Verona, to the point of also embracing students from abroad. The training programs have increasingly grown, contemplating the accompaniment of the dying and those who are experiencing the time of mourning. In recent years, the Camillian Center has promoted a free help desk, with the collaboration of the training team and the students in supervised practice.

The management of the Center passed in 1989 to Father Germano Policante who greeted the assembly with recognition and

satisfaction, then to the late Father Flavio Danzi, who died last year. A special video message came to us from Father Silvio Marinelli, director of a similar center in Guadalajara, Mexico. Father Pedro Tramontin, Superior General, offered us an overview of the current situation of the Camillian pastoral centers in the world, while Don Massimo Angelelli, director of the National Office of Pastoral Health of the CEI, urged us to reflect bluntly on the current needs in the pastoral health care in Italy.

We awarded the diplomas to the students of the three-year integrated humanistic counselling course who completed their course this year.

Monsignor Domenico Pompili, bishop of Verona, joined us during the buffet, testifying to his keen interest in learning about our structure and in supporting our training commitment which will soon see us involved in the pastoral care of the extraordinary ministers of communion and the Veronese priests who will be called to accompany cancer patients to their homes.



by Bro. Carlo Mangione MI

Brother Salvatore Maria Camillian for ever



Brother Salvatore Maria Barbagallo made his solemn profession in the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm on Saturday, 7th October 2023 in the Church of Divine Love in Naples.

His Excellency Monsignor Franco

Beneduce, Vicar General of the diocese of Naples, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. The Provincial Superior of the Camillians of Southern Italy, Brother Carlo Mangione, received the profession. Many relatives and friends of the newly professed were present. A good

number of brothers from the communities of Campania, Apulia and Sicily joined in this great joy. Representing the Superior General was Consultor Fr. Medard Aboue. The parish priest of Brother Salvatore's home parish with a representation of the faithful were also present.

Great joy for the Camillian religious of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province

Great joy for the Camillian religious of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province. On Thursday 26th October 2023, in the community of Divino Amore in Naples, there was a provincial assembly with an active participation of confreres. The presence of the Superior General of the Camillian Order Fr Pedro Tramontin and the General Consultor Fr Medard Aboue' made the day even more solemn. At 10.00 a.m. the Superior General blessed the novitiate house, with words of great affection and encouragement to those present. In preparation for the pastoral visit which will begin in November, the assembly took place At 11.00 a.m., presided over by the Provincial Superior, Brother Carlo Mangione. At 12 noon, there was the rite of entrance into the novitiate of two young men, Enzo and Saverio. The Provincial Superior presided over the function.



XVIII Congress on Palliative Care

An extraordinarily successful initiative that promoted dialogue, reflection and sharing of knowledge on palliative care

by Juan Pablo Hernández



The San Camillo Centre in Tres Cantos, Madrid, in the Spanish province, On 4 and 5 October, hosted the 18th Palliative Care Congress, a highly successful initiative involving over 600 people interested in caring for the terminal phase of life.

It was an extraordinarily successful initiative that promoted dialogue, reflection and knowledge creation on palliative care. The congress began with a talk by Dr. Jacinto Bátiz, doctor and director of the Institute for Better Care at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Santurce (Vizcaya), who spoke about palliative culture and the palliative care model in Spain.

Subsequently, intensive workshops were organised to address death wish, farewell,

management of refractory symptoms, end of life in people with disabilities, anthropology of death and physiotherapy in palliative care. A diverse range of topics contributes to the growth of palliative culture at the end of life in the various fields of interest of the participants.

The hallmark of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, originally known as the 'Fathers of Good Death', is their commitment to caring for the most vulnerable people until the end of their lives, offering comfort and embodying the face of Christ. It is a great opportunity to continue our mission based on the quality of experience and the long tradition of our institution. We thank all the people who have made this congress possible and those who dedicate their lives to the service of the terminally ill.

Traditionally, at the close of the Palliative Care Days, a ritual was held to commemorate the care of people in the terminal phase of life. On this occasion, a video was shown representing the hands of all those who share the Camillian charity, 'caring and teaching to care'. From hearts that feel the call to get close to those who suffer, welcoming their person and their life, putting all their attention, knowledge, attitude and competence at their disposal. At the end of this video, we received with gratitude and great surprise the message of Pope Francis to conclude the Congress, encouraging us to take care of the terminal phase of life with greater passion.

Canonical Visit of Superior General to Argentina

by Fr. Francisco Berola, MI

The Superior General of the Order Fr. Pedro Tramontín, and the Vicar General Fr. Gianfranco Lunardón, made their Pastoral Visit to Argentina.

Fr. Pedro and Fr. Gianfranco arrived in Argentina on Monday 9 October, beginning their visit at the Community of Ávalos, currently belonging to the Brazilian Province. The visit lasted until 11 October and ended with a Mass and a subsequent fraternal agape, attended by members of the Argentinean Lay Family and the *Centro di Ascolto San Camillo*, with the participation of Fr. Francisco Berola, representative of the Community of Vagues.

The following morning they left for Vagues, where they visited and got to know the House, its residents and employees. After a fraternal lunch, in the afternoon there was a meeting between the four religious of the house and the visitors, during which we introduced ourselves to each other and got to know each other better. Father General and



the Vicar presented us with the guidelines of the Strategic Plan, which they are about to present officially. Once we receive the Strategic Plan, we are invited to formulate our own specific plan for our Delegation.

In the afternoon of 12 October, feast of the Virgin of Pilar and Aparecida, patroness of Brazil, we closed the day with a Mass attended by the local community of the Daughters of St. Camillus.

The following day, in the morning, the religious of the House of Buenos Aires arrived and we shared a formative meeting held by the Vicar General, Fr. Gianfranco Lunardón, who spoke on 'The Community'. The proposed focus was to understand the Community as a vital space of 'faith experience', whose foundation is the Mystery of Christ. He guided us in reflecting on the Constitution and the legacy of St. Camillus himself, who in the "Formula of Life" and in his "Letter Testament" insists not so much on the preservation of the charism, but on the "form" in which the charism is lived, and this "form" is fraternal life in community, which he invited us to live as an "opportunity" and a "challenge".

With a lunch together with the two communities, Father General brought the visit to an end and returned to Buenos Aires, stopping at the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján, patroness of Argentina.



Indian Province organizes a Provincial Assembly

by Fr. Bobit Thomas MI



A General gathering of St. Camillus province of India was held on 3rd November 2023 at St. Camillus Provincialate, to discuss and decide on the project of Amalgamation of Anglo-Irish province with the Indian Province. Those who were not able to attend meeting in presence participated it online.

Fr. Sebastian Christi was elected the moderator of the Meeting and Fr. Bobit Thomas the Secretary. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the provincial Superior presented briefly the Status of Irish province, the Juridical structure and the Process of Amalgamation, and concerns

of the Irish Confreres. This presentation included responses, concerns, recommendations and suggestions of the Irish and Indian confreres.

There was also a discussion regarding the Ugandan Mission, currently of the Irish Province, that will eventually become a mission of Indian Province. There were suggestions and proposals on how to assist the mission so as to develop it into an autonomous province or vice province in 10-15 years' time.

Fr. Baby Ellickal spoke from the perceptive of General consulta. He said that it is a draft of General

consulta and part strategic plan to restructure our Order with emphasis on two aspects: a) vision of re-vitalization through building unity among the religious with an emphasis on missionary aspect of the Order; b) re-structure Camillian Order through merging of small provinces/delegations to make them larger provinces.

The proposal of amalgamation of Anglo-Irish Province with St. Camillus Province India has been approved by the general assembly with 59 religious voting in favour.



A Camillian Touch in Manipur

by Fr. Abin Kettupurackel, MI

Manipur, a breath-takingly beautiful state in the North-Eastern part of India, is now profoundly wounded and its people are painfully divided on ethnic and communal lines.

I had an enriching as well as touching experience with the people torn by ethnic violence that broke out in the state a few months back. At the same time, as one of the youngest camillian religious in India, I consider it my

great privilege to serve the people of Manipur with CTF (Camillian Task Force). In fact, I was waiting for a call from the coordinator of CTF to work with team to do something for the victims in all possible way I could.

The tension that is going on between the tribes *Meiteis* and *Kukis* is affecting both the tribes physically, psychologically, spiritually, socially and financially. We were able to concentrate on physical, mental

and financial aspects of the affected people. The ethnic violence causes the people to leave their belongings and move away from their own villages, and so, most of the people are finding refuge in the camps. There is no hope of returning to their homes (most of them were burnt into ashes). Many of them lost their dear ones, job, all what they had for living. Children lost their schooling and thus their future. People live in fear. Peace has no place there. Both the tribes are trying to protect their own people with arms, and it results in continuous violence and retaliations.

CTF Manipur mission is being coordinated by Snehadan Hospital Bangalore, Arch Diocese of Imphal and Feeds Educational Trust at Kangpoki.

Our team consisted of Fr. Siby Kaitharan, Fr. Jomin Vempenickal with nine women religious including doctors and nurses. Residing in the district of Kongopi we visited the most affected villages and camps to distribute medicines with the consultation of the doctors. We could reach out to more than 3000 affected people. Though I am not a medical expert, my helping hand was a support for my team members and could make their job easier.

People's living style, their food habits and culture, our long and continuous travel to the interior villages were hard for me, but I could take these experiences in a missionary spirit. I forgot the word 'tired', instead, I was largely inspired by the spirit of the entire team in caring the suffering people with compassion.

It was an opportunity for me to be a real Camillian and to

exercise my charism of mercy towards the suffering. It was also an opportunity for me to learn about disaster management. I learnt how to work in a team. I realised that in order to work in such a context I need to come out of my comfort zones and living 'standards', and be down to the earth to understand and to embrace the poor and the suffering.



Being a Camillian religious and a bishop

Mgr. Prosper Kontiebo was born on 25 September 1960 in Boassa, in the Archdiocese of Ouagadougou. He made his Perpetual Vows in 1988 in the Order of Clerics Regular Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians) and was ordained a priest on 7 July 1990.

He has held the following positions: various positions at the Saint Camille Scholasticate; Vice-Provincial superior of the Order of Clerics Regular Ministers of the Infirm in Burkina Faso; Member of the College of Consultors; Member of the Episcopal Council.

I am Monsignor Prosper KONTIEBO, a Religious Camillian who has been Bishop of the Diocese of Tenkodogo in Burkina Faso for eleven years.

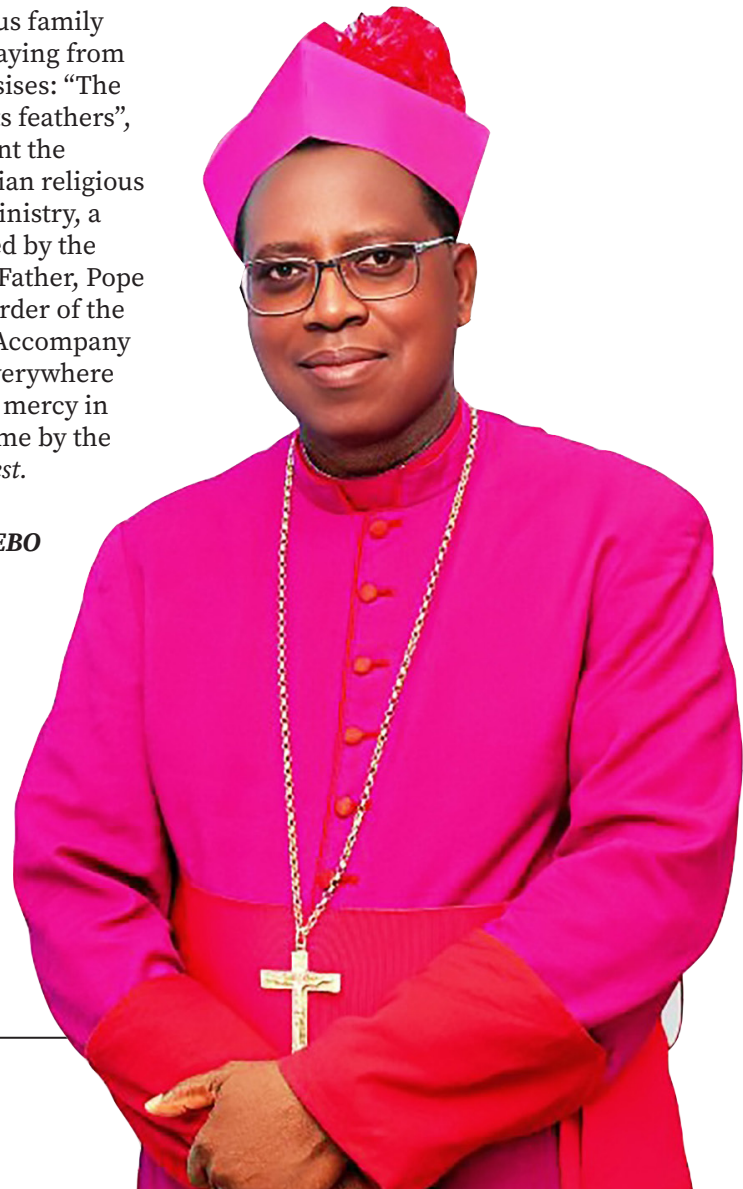
On 11 February 2012, World Day of the Sick, Pope Benedict XVI appointed me as the first bishop of a new diocese in Burkina Faso: Tenkodogo, which covers an area of 10,047 km² and has a population of nearly one million, 13% of whom are Christians. Eleven years later, on 16 October 2023, Pope Francis transferred me to Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, as Metropolitan Archbishop. It was with great surprise and emotion that I learnt the news, and I accepted it, not without fear, trusting in God who has called me and sent me to serve his vineyard. I take on my mission by imprinting the Camillian charism. The appointment of a Camillian in Tenkodogo was welcomed by the population with great hope in the field of health.

During the eleven years spent in Tenkodogo, the diocese was able to set up a care centre for wandering mental patients (a section for men and a section for women), a medical centre in

Garango, and a Camillian medical centre in Tenkodogo (in the making). God's mercy must be visible for the sick in this remote area of Burkina Faso.

Assuming my responsibility as bishop and Camillian religious, my wish is to see the concrete support of my religious family in my ministry, as a saying from the Savannah emphasises: "The guinea fowl is fat in its feathers", to show how important the support of the Camillian religious is for my episcopal ministry, a support also motivated by the esteem that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has for the Order of the Servants of the Sick. Accompany me so that I can be everywhere a missionary of God's mercy in the task entrusted to me by the Church. *Deus caritas est.*

+ Prosper KONTIEBO



Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Fr. Hubert Goudjinou M.I. celebrated his 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination in his home parish on 24 September, 2023. The presence of his elderly parents, brothers and sisters, and a host of grandchildren and friends, livened up the Eucharistic celebration with dancing and singing. Singing, dancing and applause accompanied the celebration. At the end of the celebration, which lasted about two and a half hours, a delicious lunch was offered by Fr. Hubert's family. The cutting of the cake, the souvenir photo with the parents and Fr. Hubert's dance with his mother made this celebration truly special, indeed very special.



On 30 September, Fr. Marius celebrated 25 years of Camillian priesthood in his home village. The four-hour celebration was surrounded by 60 concelebrants, 50 religious men and women and a multitude of friends, family and faithful. Singing and dancing enlivened this very long and beautiful celebration. At the end a delightful and festive lunch brightened up the celebration.



Photographic Reportage



1) Celebration of Camillian Family Day on 14th July 2023 in Nairobi; 2) Father Samule Oleck, MI, blesses the water drilling site during the inauguration of a water project in one of the Camillian parishes in Kenya: Mary Help of Christians Parish, Ndundu, Archdiocese of Nairobi, on 27th October 2023; 3) Camillian confreres in Kenya during the spiritual exercise in July 2023; 4 & 5) The formation in-charge visits Tanzania and Uganda.



CADIS Leadership Conference held in Bangkok



Thirty-seven delegates from 17 countries have participated in the annual leadership conference held at the Camillian Pastoral Care Centre in Thailand. Brazil, Haiti, Poland, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Benin, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Uganda, the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, Thailand and Australia are united around this year's theme: 'Onwards in building eCon-resilient vulnerable communities'.

The opening of the conference took place on Monday 13 November with the Holy Mass and presentation of the week's intensive and participatory programme: workshops, training and sharing of country reports from CADIS activities. The discussion also involved partners who have become part of the Foundation over the years and are building an important link to reach as many people as possible through structured programs and activities led by teams of professionals.



During the first day of the discussions (14 November), Dr. Pretesh Kiran gave a workshop on 'Disaster Preparedness and Resilience (DPR)'. An associate professor at St. John's Medical College at the Department of Community Health in Bengaluru, India, he specialized in research, preventive and promotive health, health education, disaster preparedness and medical rehabilitation, medical education, peer education and social audit.



<https://www.cadisinternational.org/en/news/welcome-and-opening-of-the-8th-cadis-leadership-bangkok-conference>





Bro. Marino Zeni (1930 - 2023)

He was born on 26 August 1930 in Montagnaga di Baselga di Piné (TN), to father Pietro and mother Maria Avi. He entered the apostolic house in Castellanza (VA) as an aspirant on 20 October 1954. He began his canonical postulancy on 25 March 1955, feast of the Annunciation. He then entered the novitiate on 25 September 1955 in Verona in the house of San Giuliano, where he made his temporary religious profession on 26 September 1956. Assigned to the St Camillus House in Milan, he held the post of cellarer from the beginning of October. On 27 September 1959 he made his solemn profession in St Camillus Church in Milan. On 10 October 1969 he moved to the Casa di Cura San Pio X in Milan, a healthcare facility of excellence that had just started up, and enrolled in the nursing school at the Fatebenefratelli St. John of God Hospital, and at the end of the school year he obtained his diploma as a general nurse. On 21 November 1970 he was again transferred to Alberoni in Venice for nursing service in the ward. On 12 May 1972 he moved to the S. Camillo nursing home in Cremona. For about ten years he worked in the men's ward, then on night duty on the first men's floor. On 29 March 2000 he was sent to Bologna to serve as sacristan at the Church of S. Maria della Pioggia, administered by the local Camillian community. In October 2003 he returned to the house in Cremona, where he provided various services, in particular tending the house garden. He died on the morning of 2 October 2023, memorial of the Guardian Angels.

Brother Marino, a man of few words, passes into historical memory above all for his night service, to which he devoted himself with great seriousness. In a note by one of his local superiors, he is described as "always vigilant, attentive, generous, dedicated to the most seriously ill, he does not leave the ward for any reason. He often passes through the rooms to see how his patients are, to whom he never leaves anything lacking". The text adds particular praise for 'his professional, religious and human qualities. The sick seek him out, request him with confidence and admire him for his modesty, humility and generosity in carrying out his task as night nurse'.



Fr. Jorgy Lugo Macías (1973-2023)

Fr. Jorgy Lugo Macías was born on 3 March in Pitalito (Huila), central Colombia. Son of Luis Alberto Lugo Rojas and Genoveva Macías Serrezuela, Jorgy entered the San Camilo Seminary in Bogotá on 20 January 1997 at the age of 23. He began his novitiate on 09 January 1999 at the Father Pedro Marieluz House in Chosica - Lima (Peru), and made his first religious profession on 06 February 2000. He made his perpetual profession in Bogotá on 06 February 2005. He was ordained a priest on 29 October 2005 in the parish of San Calixto de Timaná (Huila).

With his jovial and dynamic spirit, he exercised his ministry with joy and generosity. He was well received and much appreciated in the various hospitals and parishes where he worked and where he is still remembered today. He was a good community brother, ready to serve and share, sometimes with an almost childlike spirit. Always in good health, but in recent years he had some problems that became more acute in the last few months and gradually exhausted his strength. With admirable perseverance he served as chaplain at St. Clare's Hospital until his strength allowed him to do so.

He spent the last months in his community, in the care of his brothers and sisters and visited by family and community members. After a couple of hospitalisations, it was decided to continue his care at home with palliative care. On 12 September, he joyfully welcomed the Superior General and Vicar General on a pastoral visit, receiving the Holy Olesus. After a difficult and tiring week, entrusted to Brother Camilo and Deacon Brayan, while the other religious were engaged in spiritual retreats and the Delegation Assembly, Father Jorgy rendered his spirit to the Heavenly Father on the morning of 22 September, accompanied by some confreres of the community.



Fr. Niversindo Antônio Cherubin (1931 - 2023)

Niversindo Antônio Cherubin, son of Raymundo Cherubin and Yolanda Cherubin, was born on 30 September 1931 in Gaurama, RS. He entered the novitiate on 11 February 1950, made his first religious profession on 11 February 1951 and professed his religious vows on 11 February 1954 in Mottinello, Italy. On 17 June 1956, he was ordained a priest in Italy.

As time went by, Fr Cherubin distinguished himself for his ability and dedication to hospital administration. Cherubin distinguished himself for his ability and dedication to work in the field of hospital administration. He was also appointed by St. Paul VI, and later confirmed by St. John Paul II, as a member of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum (1977-1984), an activity that led him to travel to many countries around the world to develop the Church's charitable activities; Coordinator of the Vocation Promotion of the Province (1981-1987); Coordinator of the Camillian Charity of the South. He was Provincial Councillor several times.

Niversindo was committed to the field of education, so much so that he always tried, with his knowledge and experience, to contribute to the training and qualification of health professionals: he was president of the Brazilian Institute for Hospital Development and Research (1972); he created the Faculty of Hospital Administration (1973); he was director and professor of the Faculty of Hospital Administration at the Centre for Health Administration, in Morumbi (1973); he received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the São Camilo University Centre of São Paulo (2010); he received the title of citizen of São Paulo. He was also the author of several works related to hospital administration and the history of the Santas Casas de Misericórdia. After a long period of treatment, Fr Cherubin died on the afternoon of 15 September 2023 at the São Camilo Hospital in Granja Viana.



Fr. Giuseppe Cinà (1934-2023)

Born on 24 May 1934, almost the same day as St. Camillus, in Naples, he entered the Roman Province in 1945, began his novitiate in 1949, made his simple profession on 7 October 1950 and solemn profession on 31 May 1955. Deacon in 1957 and Priest on 14 July 1957. In August 1977 he was appointed Superior at Villa Sacra Famiglia, and on 3rd May 1980 became Provincial Superior of the Roman Province. In 1987 the Camillianum, International Institute of Pastoral Health Theology, was established, where he offered his full collaboration as ordinary professor and dean of the Institute from 1991 to '98 and from 2000 to 2007. In 1989, he was elected Vicar General of the Order. In 1991, he obtained a second doctorate in Sacred Theology at the Gregorian University on the meaning of suffering in the writings of Viktor Frankl.

Fr. Cinà was always distinguished by his brilliant and eclectic mind: knowledge of various languages, playing the piano, daily theological and literary study, teaching, especially on the meaning of suffering, and his profound writings, offering a contribution to the pastoral theology of health. As a Camillian religious, he was proud to have experienced in his long life almost all the roles that can be taken on: formator, director of a work, chaplain, parish priest, councillor and provincial, co-founder and dean of the Camillianum, university professor and lecturer throughout Italy and abroad, preacher of retreats; all of which showed his availability and versatility. He was always faithful to community acts and Christian and priestly duties, setting a good example. Fr. Cinà belonged to that group of Camillian religious who translated Vatican II into our Order and reformed the Constitutions (1983), helping us to return to the sources of our charismatic history and, at the same time, to move forward, fitting into the complex post-modern world. He integrated his half Sicilian-Napolitan paternal origins (the Cinà family) and half Swiss maternal origins (the Pipus family), displaying uncommon energy, joviality and a sunny smile combined with great intellectual precision in analysing problems.



Fr. Luigi Secchi (1961 - 2023)

Born in Sassari on 19 February 1961, Luigi entered the Roman Province on 10 September 1977, novitiate in 1980, made temporary profession on 6 September 1981. He made Perpetual profession on March 1, 1987. He was ordained a Priest on 17 September 1988.

In poor health and attentive to clinical examinations, at the beginning of October 2023, he was admitted to St. Camillus Hospital for further investigations. The examinations found that his clinical picture was so compromised that he was placed on the waiting list for a liver transplant, but, suddenly and prematurely, he passed away on 28 October 2023 at the age of 62.

Father Luigi's life is full of opportunities and interpersonal relationships that he was able to weave, from the simplest to the prelates of the Roman Curia. A kind and affable religious, he was always courteous and attentive in his hospitality. He conveyed enthusiasm on topics close to his heart, but always open to dialogue. In many provincial chapters, he always performed the service of chapter secretary with marked elegance and propriety of language. In the 'school' of Fathers Bruno Brazzarola and Giuseppe Bressanin, he served as General Postulator for almost twenty years. He followed the cause of beatification and canonisation of Nicola D'Onofrio, published on him and other Camillian religious in the odour of sanctity, and accompanied the postulation of Maria Aristeia in their initial stages.

A Sardinian by birth and character, he almost always lived in the Eternal City without ever denying his origins and reflected them in his resilient and courageous character in the adversities of life.



Bro. Francis Goulon (1937 - 2023)

Francis GOULON was born in Nancy on 27 October 1937. In 1956 he entered the Seminary for 'adult vocations' at St Jean, to discern his vocation. The following year he was struck by a form of infectious jaundice that lasted six months. This opened his eyes to his vocation: he wanted to dedicate himself to the sick. He decided to contact the Camillian religious. However, on 5 January 1959, he had to go to Algeria (still a French colony) to do his military service. The chief chaplain, Père Lespinay, sent him to Grande Kabylie with medical duties for wounded and dying soldiers in the field hospital. Although he was not prepared for this work, his absolute dedication was recognised. In 1961 he became a Camillian postulant and on 27 December of the same year he entered the Camillian novitiate in Lyon. He made his temporary religious vows on 28/12/1962 and was then sent to the St. Camille hospital at Bry-sur-Marne, where service to the sick became the heart of his daily experience. In 1964, he moved to Arras, where he obtained his nursing diploma.

Brother Francis served again at Bry, then at Niderviller, and in 1982, after a short stay at the Maison St. Camille in Lyon, he took up the post of nurse at the Hôpital Central in Nancy, continuing at the Institut St. Camille in Velaine-en-Haye, where he also taught catechism to children. His last assignment was at the retirement home in Lyon until 2002, when he retired to the community. In 2013, health conditions forced Brother Francis to move to the EHPAD St. Camille in Lyon.

Brother Francis lived his nephrological illness with courage, accepting the fatigue and commitment of frequent dialysis. In his later years, mental problems also disrupted his life. He loved humour, without ever losing sight of the seriousness of his identity and role as a religious brother-nurse. The confreres were a new family for him and the beds of the sick had become 'the altar around which he performed attentive and caring service'.



Fr. Mieczysław Tymkowski (1931 - 2023)

Father Mieczysław Tymkowski was born on 17 December 1931 in Kromolice (Poland). His primary school education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. After the war, he completed his education and joined the missionary priests of the Holy Family in 1958. In 1966 he left the congregation and decided to join the Camillian Order.

On 7th December 1967 he began his canonical novitiate in Taciszów and made his first religious profession on 8th December 1968. He completed his theological studies at the Franciscan seminary in Kłodzko. On 15 May 1971, he made his perpetual vows and was ordained a priest on 13 June 1971.

During his many years of priestly service, he was superior (Taciszów, Tarnowskie Góry, Piastów), parish priest (Taciszów, Tarnowskie Góry), novice master (Taciszów) and master of seminarians (Piastów). For many years he was also chaplain at the Bielański hospital in Warsaw. Since 2000 he has lived in the community of Zabrze, where he actively helped in the ministry of St. Camillus Parish. In the last year he fell seriously ill and spent the last months of his life in the Camillian Care Centre in Hutki. There he died on 30 October 2023.

From his seminary days until the last moments of his life, he was a pious man, modest, patient and willing to help. He was an example of priestly and religious life for our younger brothers.



Fr. Faustino Pisetta (1923 - 2023)

He was born in Fornace (TN) on 3 July 1923, to father Quirino and mother Domenica Pisetta. He entered the seminary at Besana Brianza (MB) on 12 October 1935. He entered the Novitiate on 7 September 1940 in Verona, in the house of San Giuliano, where he made his religious profession on 8 September 1941 and solemn profession on 8 September 1944. He was ordained deacon on 13 March 1948 in Milan, and ordained priest on 22 May 1948, in Milan Cathedral. On 21 July 1948 he was appointed chaplain in the Sanatorium of Galliera Veneta (PD). On 2 April 1951 he was chaplain at the Sondalo Sanatorium, Pavilion 2. On 17 November 1959 he was transferred to the community of S. M. del Paradiso in Verona. On 24 October 1962 he remained at S. M. del Paradiso to serve in various substitutions. On 15 February 1963 he began his service at St Mark's Hospital in Mestre (VE). In May 1964 he moved to the chaplaincy of the Borgo Trento Hospital in Verona. On 9 December 1977 he was transferred to the University Civil Hospital in Padova, and remained there for 30 years.

He died in the early hours of 31 August 2023, almost two months before the celebration of his 100th birthday, in which the mayors of Verona and his home town wished to pay him homage in person.

Father Fausto, better known as Father Faustino, is the last in a long line of religious from the Trentino village of Fornace, including a brother and three cousins, brothers to each other. In spite of his youthful history of illness - probably tuberculosis - to treat which he was preferably assigned to the chaplaincies of sanatoria, becoming the first Camillian to reach the century mark in northern Italy. Trained in Tridentine theology and morality, he retained a certain traditionalist trait and an infinite devotion to Our Lady, with a particular fondness for Medjugorje, leading his prayer group every Thursday and, of course, remaining fond of Radio Maria. He lived the last prolonged part of his life in a wheelchair, always with the rosary in his hand, in the mental lucidity and serenity that distinguished him.