

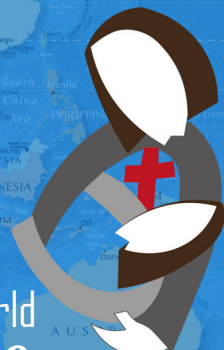


Ministers of the Infirm

# Newsletter

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

N. 89



## Contents

My sojourn in Asia: activities and observations	2
Meeting of the Regional Secretariat for Ministry	5
Meeting of the Central Commission for Mission	7
Bro. Ettore Boschini: closure of the diocesan inquiry	8
'New Year of Solidarity' for the youth	9
Camillians in Spain: 'H Day' in Alcalá de Henares	10
Indian province organizes Fraternal Gathering	12
Camillian Renewal Course in Manila, Philippines	14
Camillians in Brazil: Blessing of the new seminary at Belo Horizonte	15
Mons. Prosper: the new metropolitan archbishop of Ouagadougou	16
Benin-Togo: ordinations and professions	19
Thailand: Priestly Ordination of John Chatchawan	20
Vietnam: solemn religious profession	22
Departed Confreres	23



**Fr. Pedro Celso Tramontin, MI**  
*Superior General*  
*Ministers of the Infirm*

## God becomes small and fragile

I greet all of you on my behalf, on behalf of the general consulta, and the members of the *Santa Maria Maddalena* community, our general house, here in Rome.

This year, once again, we have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas, an opportunity to renew our faith in our God “who became man and dwelt among us.” I would like to emphasize a particular aspect regarding the birth of Jesus that draws my attention. God’s sign is the child in his humility and simplicity. The God who comes is small and fragile so that we can understand him, welcome him, and love him. Jesus, born humble and poor, inspires us, challenges us, and calls us to follow him and collaborate in transforming the present world into a more just and fraternal one.

During this year, we the general consulta had the opportunity to visit some of our provinces, delegations, and missions, and we witness how you live out the charism of mercy towards the sick and the needy. I can say that your dedication, your commitment in serving those who suffer, is a bright testimony of love and compassion. This is the mystery of the Incarnation, which calls us to follow in the footsteps of St. Camillus, our founder, who knew how to embody the Gospel of charity in his life and mission. We have seen the beauty of our charism and the generosity that characterizes your work. Your daily efforts, offering care and comfort to those in greatest need, are a beacon of hope that illuminates the darkness of suffering and makes us Ministers of the Sick, signs of God’s merciful love.

I take this opportunity to thank each of you: for your consecration, for your ministry, for the inspiration you give, and for contributing to the good of the Order and the Church. I hope that you continue to witness to the world, with joy and hope, the blessing that the Christmas celebration brings us. I wish you and your communities a peaceful Christmas, full of moments of sharing and fraternity, and a New Year filled with achievements and blessings.

## My sojourn in Asia: Activities and Observations

By **Fr. Medard ABOUE, MI**  
*General Consultor for Ministry  
& General Spiritual Assistant of LCF*



*Asia zonal ministry meeting in Bangkok*

**A**s the General Consultor for Ministry, I visited our Provinces in Thailand and the Philippines and the Delegation in Vietnam, from November 20 to December 2, 2023. The visit was organized in collaboration with the Councilors for the Ministry of the provinces and delegations in the Asia Zone and served as a framework for consultation and reflection on the implementation of the 'Strategic Plan of our Order 2023-2028' (living the charism with passion). This Asia Zone consists of the Camillian Provinces of Thailand, the Philippines, India, and the Delegations of Taiwan and Vietnam. With the same objective, we will plan visits to other Zones. On Monday, November 20, I was welcomed at the Camillian Pastoral Center in Bangkok (CPCB) by the Director Fr. Anusorn Nikhet Tiger and his team.



*At the Camillian Pastoral Centre  
in the Philippines*

The following day, November 21, the meeting of the Secretariat for the Ministry of the Asia Zone took place. The Provincial Superior of Thailand, Fr. Paul Cherdchai, Fr. Luke Tiger Anusorn Nikhet,

and Fr. Jojo (Thailand), Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil (India), Fr. Paul Nguyen (Vietnam), and I participated in the meeting. Fr. Rodolfo Dan Cancino (the Philippines) and Fr. Jacob Wong (Taiwan) could not be present for the meeting. After prayers and welcoming words, we reflected on the three agenda items: a) Living the Ministry with passion as per the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan of the Order; b) Presentation of the Ministry experience in various countries of the Zone; c) Proposals for greater collaboration among us. The summary of the discussions is contained in the minutes, which will be shared with the Consulta and the Major Superiors of the Zone. I visited some of our communities and works in Thailand, the Philippines (from November 24 to 26), and Vietnam (from November 20 to December 01, 2023).

### **Some observations:**

1. I visited three of the seven countries in the Zone where we are present. However, the following observations consider the entire Asia Zone due to the similarities in the ministry model that past and present missionaries have imparted. I have an idea of our presence in Taiwan from my visit in 2018. And I have extensive knowledge of our ministry in India thanks to the presentation by Fr. Teji, the Provincial Councilor responsible for the Ministry, who was present at the meeting. I spoke with the Provincial Superior of the Philippines and the Councilor responsible for the Ministry during my stay in Manila. They spoke to me about the missions in Indonesia and Pakistan, which are canonically dependent on the Philippines.





*With special children in Thailand*

2. First of all, I thank the Lord for the smooth progress of my sojourn, having been able to follow and participate in the various events planned by the confreres despite short nights and endless travel. I would like to thank the Superior General Father Pedro and the Consulta with whom I was in constant contact.

3. I want to thank the Major Superiors of the Asia Zone who welcomed me with open hearts and did everything necessary to ensure that everything went well. They supported the meeting of the Secretariat for Ministry. Along with the Councilors responsible for Ministry and the Directors of the Camillian Pastoral Centers, they organized my visits to their provinces well and showed me the various areas of our ministry. I was very much edified by what I saw and observed. I encourage them to continue in this manner and to dare even more for the greater development of our charism in Asia. My heartfelt thanks to the members of the Secretariat of the Asia Zone.

4. Wherever I went, I saw how well we are involved in the

field of pastoral health care of the episcopal conferences and the dioceses. This gives us a leadership opportunity to promote our ministry, which is often not given sufficient attention by the pastoral action of the Church in general. Additionally, we have pastoral training centers in some countries that are functioning quite well.

5. In my visits, I saw Camillians working mainly in the social field, alongside the sick, disabled, elderly, and the most impoverished. The poor and the sick are welcomed, assisted, and cared for, often for free. This lends credibility to our presence and explains the fact that Providence provides for our needs through the generosity of many benefactors, often local. Even though the Church in these countries, except the Philippines, is a minority among the major spiritual and religious traditions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and even state atheism, our confreres have gained credibility in the field of service to the sick, disabled, and the poor. We owe a great thanks to the missionaries who continue to communicate this

evangelical conviction to local vocations. We encourage them to pay even more attention to vocation promotion to continue our testimony in Asia and the world. In our centres, I met the staff trained in our spirituality and charism.

6. In our discussions, in addition to encouraging each other, we pondered on how to share with the whole Order about our ministry activities in Asia and other parts of the world. This emphasizes the importance of internal and external communication. Together we examined initiatives to be undertaken to improve the sharing of best practices in various Provinces and Delegations.

7. With the confreres and especially the Spiritual Assistants of the Lay Camillian Family, I insisted on creating and training LCF groups to promote and share our charism and spirituality with the laity. I met the president of the LCF in Thailand Mrs. Tanaporn, who is very much engaged in volunteering at our social centres in the city of Rayong.





**From top (clockwise):** with special children in Thailand; at the Camillian pastoral centre in the Philippines; with the staff of St. Camillus clinic in Vietnam; at St. Camillus Clinic in Vietnam; with the provincial delegate Fr. John Toai





## Meeting of the Secretariat for the Ministry in the Francophone Africa region

By Fr. Jean de Dieu BAGO, MI

On the initiative of the General Consultor for the Ministry, Fr. Médard ABOUE, and in collaboration with the Provincial Superiors of Burkina Faso and Benin-Togo, a meeting of the two Camillian Provinces in the Francophone Africa region was held on December 18, 2023, in the auditorium of *Saint Camille* Hospital in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Initially, provincial councillors for the Ministry and directors of pastoral health training centers from both Provinces were expected to attend. However, the meeting was extended to include chaplains from public and private hospitals and parish priests. The

aim of the meeting was to reflect on the implementation of the Order's Strategic Plan. The agenda included the following points: a) Living the ministry with enthusiasm according to the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan of the Order; b) Presentation of ministry experiences in the provinces of the region; c) Proposals for increased collaboration between the provinces.

From the discussions on various points, a better understanding of the Order's Strategic Plan and the urgent need for greater collaboration between the two provinces emerged. Considering the human resources and healthcare facilities available

“

**If we create collaborative interests, we will be able to bring together and better leverage the available expertise in both provinces. It is clear that we should work together because unity makes us stronger and more meaningful. Together, we can achieve a lot.**



in both provinces, there was a question on how to strengthen cooperation. In response to this question, it was proposed and entrusted to the provincial councillors responsible for the Ministry the responsibility to meet more frequently to discuss and facilitate the sharing of experiences, expertise, and financial resources.

The General Consulta aims to encourage this dialogue for increased collaboration between the provinces. To facilitate this dialogue, greater communication is needed among those responsible at all levels in the provinces. In this regard, Fr. Medard reiterated that the General Consulta hopes that collaborative initiatives can emerge from the grassroots and thus will always have the support of the Consulta.

In conclusion, the idea of the meeting was well-received. It is a framework for exchange that must be promoted. If we create



collaborative interests, we will be able to bring together and better leverage the available expertise in both provinces. It is clear that

we should work together because unity makes us stronger and more meaningful. Together, we can achieve a lot.





# Online Meeting of the Regional Formation Secretaries

By **Fr. Baby Ellickal, MI**

*General Consultor for Formation*

The General Consultor for Formation organized a meeting of the regional formation secretaries, on November 28, 2023, via Zoom. The participants included Fr. Baby Ellickal (General Consulta), regional secretaries: Fr. Joey Woothichai (Asia), Fr. Jean Dieudonne Bei (West Africa), Fr. Sergio Palumbo (Europe), and Fr. Fredrick Mukabana (East Africa).

*The points of discussions and sharing included:*

1. Establishing a Camillian Vocation Day - This day aims to dedicate a specific time for prayer for vocations, aligning with the Lord's instruction to "Pray

the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

2. Organising various regional level gatherings for the young camillian religious, for the temporary professed, for all regional formation secretaries, for the formation secretaries, for all the formators and vocation animators;

3. Organizing a one-month 'spirituality and charism' course at Bucchianico: In line with the recommendation of the General Chapter (2022) and the strategic plan of the current General Consulta, we have decided to relaunch the one-month

Spirituality and Charism program in 2025. It would be an opportune moment to begin it in 2025, being the Jubilee year for the conversion of St. Camillus.

4. Creating a unified 'reporting format' for all the formators in the Order - The General Consulta for Formation will create a model format and share it with all members;

5. Establishing effective communication network among secretaries, formators and vocation animators;

6. Organizing on-going formation programmes at regional levels.

---

# Online Meeting of the Central Commission for Mission

By **Bro. Paul Kabore, MI**

*General Consultor for Mission*

The Central Commission for Mission held its first meeting via Zoom on November 17, 2023. All the members were present for the meeting. While Fr. Pietro Magliozzi joined the meeting together with Bro. Paul, the other 4 members joined from their own respective communities.

Brother Paul delivered his message and presented the objectives of the meeting. He briefly expressed his gratitude to the confreres who had freely agreed to support the Consulta in its missionary drive, despite their responsibilities in their respective provinces. He went on to emphasize that the meeting was intended to be a fraternal one, and that it would serve as an opportunity for the members of the committee to get to know each other better.

Brother Paul also outlined the committee's 7 specific objectives. After this brief address, each member of the committee introduced himself and described his missionary journey. The presentation revealed that:

- All committee members have at least 10 years of mission experience, either in interprovincial

collaboration or in the management of their own foundations.

- All members have more than 25 years of experience in religious life.
- All members are in mission.

Each member expressed his overall impression of Camillian missions. Their opinions include:

- There is not enough communication between missionaries and those in charge.
- Missionaries feel abandoned by the authorities.
- Lack of encouragement for missionaries in their efforts.
- Thinking of what the Order would be like if there had been no missionary expansion, we understand how urgent it is to reawaken the missionary zeal.
- Mission remains a great challenge for the Order because the latter's survival depends on it.
- There is a need to promote fraternity in our missionary communities.
- We need to work so that our foundations are not under the direction of a single religious.



## Brother Ettore Boschini: Closure of the Diocesan Inquiry for Beatification and Canonization

By **Fr. Walter Vinci, MI**  
*General Postulator of the Order*

**A**fter six years, a relatively short period, the diocesan phase of the Beatification and Canonization process of Brother Ettore Boschini has concluded.

Teresa Martino, head of Brother Ettore's 'centre', explains, 'Hospitality and Providence were the two pillars of Brother Ettore's charism. He welcomed the poor, especially the 'unwanted': the destitute, the hungry, the dirty, the malodorous, the rejected because of sores or tattered clothes. For all, Brother Ettore was a father, a refuge, a point of reference. He clothed the poor in clean garments and dignity.'

This solemn moment was experienced at the institution he founded, Casa Betania in Seveso, together with its residents, on Saturday, November 25. The event was brief and intense: a Liturgy of the Word followed by a short reflection from the Archbishop, who reiterated some of Brother Ettore's thoughts. Then, the legal aspect was addressed: the Archbishop formally resumed the titular of the process (formally entrusted to the Archdiocese office in recent years) and acknowledged that the office's work had been carried out consistently. The notary read the minutes of the last session and the "closing instrument," followed by the sealing, with wax and seals, of the packages containing triplicate copies of the documents. One set is destined for the diocesan Historical Archive of Milan, and two are for the Vatican Dicastery. Finally,

as a seal of the celebration, a choral prayer was offered at Brother Ettore's tomb. The entire documentation was handed over to the Carrier, appointed by the Archbishop himself, in the person of Fr. Walter Vinci, the Order's General Postulator. On December 22, it was delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The General Postulator, along with Teresa Martino, strongly desired to mark this beautiful and important moment not only for the institution founded by Brother Ettore but for the entire Camillian Order, especially in its North Italian Province.

On Saturday, November 18, the residents of the institution organized an Anomalous Flashmob. Testimonies about Brother Ettore were shared in the following days, and on Saturday, December 2, a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration of gratitude was

presided over by Fr. Pedro Tramontin, the Superior General of the Order.

A beautiful event was organized by the Youth and Vocation Ministry of the Camillian Province of Northern Italy on Sunday, December 3, in Rozzano, focusing on the figure of Brother Ettore.

Now, the Beatification and Canonization process of Brother Ettore continues in the Roman phase, overseen by our General Postulation in the person of Fr. Walter Vinci.

Monsignor Delpini affirmed: "Holiness is not an oddity, a departure from the ordinary, but a principle of communion. If we also go to the centre, towards the Lord, there we live the communion of saints, both ordinary and extraordinary, who encourage us."



*Fr. Walter, Fr. Gianfranco, Teresa, & Fr. Pedro, after the Solemn Eucharistic celebration on December 2, 2023.*

## Sicilian-Neapolitan Province: 'New Year of Solidarity' for the Youth

By **Fr. Salvatore Giuseppe Camillo Pontillo, MI**  
*In-charge of the Provincial Secretariat for Formation*

The Sicilian-Neapolitan Province of the Camillians offers young people the opportunity to participate in the 'New Year of Solidarity' (Capodanno di solidarietà) this year.

It is an initiative in continuity with the summer service camp held annually on the days of St. Camillus. Therefore, these days from December 29, 2023, to January 2, 2024, organized in the festive atmosphere of the Christmas season, will allow participants to experience, through a series of encounters, visits to the sick, the poor, and people in difficulty in our Camillian facilities.

There will be the opportunity to serve: a) at the "Casa Sollievo San Camillo" in Acireale on a particular day of the year when everyone aspires to be with their loved ones or friends. In this place, one becomes family and friends for these people; b) at the "Casa della Carità," where AIDS patients await someone to brighten their festive days, even with just a visit and a smile; c) At "Giovanni XXIII," a psycho-pedagogical institute for young people excluded from society due to their disabilities, to reengage and rediscover their preciousness. Rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes in the area, with the charism of St. Camillus, enhance the beauty of their existence.



**CAPODANNO DI SOLIDARIETÀ**  
PER I GIOVANI

RELIGIOSI CAMILLIANI  
COMUNITÀ DI ACCOGLIENZA  
"VIENI E VEDI"  
ACIREALE(CT)

CON I FRATELLI  
AMMALATI, SENZA FISSA  
DIMORA E IN DIFFICOLTÀ

DAL 29 DICEMBRE 2023  
AL 2 GENNAIO 2024

PER INFO RIVOLGERSI A  
PADRE SALVATORE PONTILLO 3297859012  
FACEBOOK SAN CAMILLO CI PARLA ANCORA

These works predominantly survive on Providence, so these days will also be an offering to all participants, allowing them to experience the beauty of generosity not only in food and accommodation but also in hospitality for a greater opening of their hearts.

The goal of these days will be to leave a mark on the participants so that, upon returning to ordinary life, they can feel strengthened and enriched by words and faces that will enable them to reach the depths and meaning of many aspects of their lives. And to all participants in the 'New Year of Solidarity', the wish of St. Camillus is to be "like a strong perfume that wherever it settles, leaves its trail."

“

**The goal of these days will be to leave a mark on the participants so that, upon returning to ordinary life, they can feel strengthened and enriched to understand the depths and meaning of many aspects of their lives**



## Camillians in Spain celebrate ‘H Day’ in Alcalá de Henares

by Juan Pablo Hernández

**S**an Camillo Center, on November 27, held its emblematic ‘H Day’, a day of meeting, sharing, and collective reflection on our sense of belonging to an institution that follows in the footsteps of Saint Camillus, serving with love and passion, bringing the heart into their hands. The city of Alcalá de Henares was the stage for this significant gathering.

Forty people participated in this event, including members of the Tres Cantos Community and staff from various areas of the center, such as the Residence of the Assisted Living, the Palliative Care Unit, the Centre for Humanization of Health, the Centre for Listening, the Camillo de Lellis Foundation, and the San Camillo Assistance Foundation.

The Provincial Superior and Director of the center, Brother José Carlos Bermejo, inaugurated the event by offering a historical overview of the Camillians in the city. He emphasized: “It is beautiful to feel connected, as companions of the San Camilo Center, with a history of caring for the sick, especially at the end of life, and with a presence that evokes our identity and variety of services: care for the terminally ill, training connected with university, home care, and a strong emphasis on the spiritual dimension of accompaniment.”

In the next part of the day, the meeting continued with an intervention by Father Arnaldo Pangrazzi, who gave a lecture on the “Artistic Dimension of Care in St. Camillus.” Subsequently, the group enjoyed a guided tour of the city led by an expert



“

**It is beautiful to feel connected, as companions of the San Camilo Center, with a history of caring for the sick, especially at the end of life, and with a presence that evokes our identity and variety of services**

*- Bro. José Carlos Bermejo, MI*

who explained many of the characteristic places.

After lunch, the group had the opportunity to share their successes, progress, and the main challenges of the services of the San Camillo Center. The day culminated in a Eucharistic celebration, thanking God for the opportunity to share this day and remembering all those who could not participate due to their work commitments in the center.

Alcalá de Henares is the place where the Camillians have consolidated their presence by founding a study house for the professed, essential to ensuring the expansion and prosperity of the Order. It was established in 1652 thanks to the generous donation of Calamaza. The city, known for being the site of a prestigious university founded by Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros in the early 16th century, has become a crucial point in Camillian history.”





## A new generation of volunteers joins the 'San Camillo Centre' in Seville, Spain

**S**an Camillo Centre for Listening in Seville witnessed a special event, bringing together new aspirants with the aim of strengthening and promoting the 'service of assisting' in this emblematic Camillian religious community.

The event that took place on November 10 began with a warm welcome, followed by a detailed presentation by the board of directors. Participants received a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the Centre, regarding crucial aspects such as the structure involving individual and group counselling, supervision, as well as the requirements and commitments that volunteering in this noble endeavour entails.

The meeting took on a special character, emphasizing the commitment to promote humanization and care in accompanying individuals during processes of grief and crisis. The Camillian religious, fundamental pillars of this initiative, were present to support this commendable effort. Father Allan Chávez, the community's superior, expressed his enthusiasm for the entry of



new members into the team, emphasizing the importance of this service in today's society. Father Jesús María Zurbano, also present at the meeting, shared his vision of the crucial role played by the Centre in the community, emphasizing the need to provide emotional and spiritual support to those in need.

---

## San Camillo Centre for Listening awarded in the VI Edition of the 'Premios Solidarios'



**C**aixaBank celebrated the sixth edition of the "Premios Solidarios" in a prominent ceremony held at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. These awards, created by the bank, aim to support the philanthropy of its clients and highlight projects that have a positive impact on society.

The jury, composed of prominent personalities, meticulously selected four initiatives that stand

out for their leadership, innovation, sustainable commitment, and future projection. Among the awardees of this edition is the Listening Center San Camillo in Madrid, founded by the Provincial Superior, Brother José Carlos Bermejo. This center was recognized for its innovative vision in creating a service that, since 1997, has provided selfless assistance to people facing difficulties related to health, loneliness, or the loss of a loved one. Consolidating its model and expanding its network of specialized centers, the center assists more than 1,800 people every month.

The prestigious award, presented by CaixaBank, highlights the admirable work of providing support in situations of complicated mourning. In the ceremony held in Bilbao, José Manuel Martínez, director, and Silvia Blanco, administrator, had the honor of receiving this recognition on behalf of the Listening Center San Camillo, reaffirming its exemplary commitment to the community.



## Indian Province organizes European Zonal Fraternal Gathering at Maddalena

By Fr. Prakash Thomas, MI



The first fraternal gathering of the Indian Camillians working in Europe was held at Maddalena in Rome on 8th and 9th November 2023. This gathering was organized with an intention to foster the unity and fraternal life of our confreres in different parts of Europe, and to create an effective platform for coming together as a community. The gathering included the

celebration of the Holy Eucharist, moments of sharing, visit to some Roman sites, and fraternal meals. Fr. Baby Ellickal, who celebrates the Silver Jubilee of his priestly ordination this year, presided over the Holy Mass.

The following confreres participated in the gathering: Arlappa Mundlagiri, Baby Ellickal, Binoy Thakidipurath,

Binu Vellamattathil, Doise Mullankuzhiyil, Joshy Kanjiraathamkunnel, Prakash Kuttiyath, Sibi Chennatt, Siby Kanjirathummootil, Suneesh Memana, Vincent Kakkadampallil, and Vineesh Kochukudiyil.

There was a fruitful session of sharing, in which everyone participated with enthusiasm and interest.





# St. Camillus Province, India: Priestly ordination of Albin Thomas Munjanattu

By Fr. Valamparackel Tinto Augustine, MI



**A**lbin Thomas Munjanattu was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Mananthavady Diocese His Excellency Mar Jose Porunedom at Fathima Matha Forane church at Chungakunnu, Kerala, on 28th December 2023. Fr. Albin offered his first Holy Qurbana on the same day in the presence of his family members, general consultor Fr. Baby Ellickal, the provincial superior Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the council members of the province, many camillian confreres, and a large number of priests and religious.





## Camillian Renewal Course in Manila

By **Eleonor Manansala**

**A** Camillian renewal course was held at St. Camillus Center for Humanization in Health in Quezon City, Manila (Philippines) on October 2-7, 2023. It was a weeklong event where Camillians experienced the spirit of synodality by engaging in dialogue not only with the confreres, but also with lay speakers who are experts in their fields.

Journeying through the theme “Consecrated Life in the Synodal Church,” this year’s program renewed the Camillians back to the joy of the Gospel - rediscovering the beauty of religious life, community life, evangelical counsels as well as new trends and updates about the Church, ministry, vocation promotion and evangelization, among others.

The Renewal Course began with a spiritual recollection conducted in two sessions. In the first session, Fr. Eric Anthony S. Escandor, SJ, director of Arvisu House (the Jesuit pre-Novitiate) and the vocation director of Jesuit Philippine Province, shared his reflection on “Prayer and Discernment.” In the second session, Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, professor in the Faculty of Sacred Theology at the University of Santo Tomas, shared his reflection on this year’s theme “Consecrated Life in the Synodal Church.” Part of his reflection focused on communion, an important ingredient in synodality, reiterating that community is not only a group of individuals living in a common place but their common endeavor to achieve common meaning, common good and common conscience.



During the Course, the Superior General Fr. Pedro Tramontin, MI, who was in Peru at that time, delivered virtually a compelling presentation on the directions of the Camillian Mission worldwide. He shared insights from his visits to various provinces and delegations and announced his upcoming visit to the Philippines next year. The essence of his message emphasized drawing inspiration from the spirituality and charism of St. Camillus, the founder of the Camillian Order, encouraging all Religious to remain dedicated to their mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God, especially in serving the sick.

The resource persons and the topics discussed during the renewal course are the following:

- Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD - “Mission Today and the Conversions it Requires.”
- Msgr. Perdo Quitorio III, head of Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Media Office - “Evangelization in Social Media”.
- Fr. Danilo Flores, J.U.D. - The updates of Book Six of the

Code of Canon Law.

- Prof. Pablito Baybado, Ph.D. - “Result of the National Consolidation of the Synodal Consultation.”
- Fr. Jayson B. David, SDB, & Ms. Celine Acosta - “Establishing a Vocation Culture and Vocation Ministry”
- Dr. Maria Theresa Gustilo-Villasor, Ph.D. - “A Hero’s Journey in the Psychospiritual Quest”

Apart from the intense intellectual discussions, the renewal course included: a visit to the historic city of Manila; concelebration of Eucharist for the sick followed by the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; delightful dinner featuring delicious Filipino cuisine; and a pilgrimage to the Antipolo Cathedral, International Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage where the participants celebrated Holy Mass for the Sick followed by a procession in honor of Our Lady.



## **Camillians in Brazil: Blessing of the new seminary at Belo Horizonte**

By **Fr. Eloi Bataglio, MI**

**T**he dedication of the oratory and altar of St. Camillus, and the blessing of the new seminary at Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais (Brazil) took place on December 8, 2023, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Mass was presided over by the Bishop Emeritus of Sete Lagoas Mons. Aloisio Jorge Pena Vitral. Provincial superior Father Mateus Locatelli MI, the religious and seminarians who make up the formative community of Belo Horizonte, as well as Camillians from other communities, religious from other congregations, and lay faithful were present for the ceremony.





## **Monsignor Prosper Kontiebo:** **the new metropolitan archbishop of Ouagadougou**



By **Fr. Malgoubri Stéphane, MI**

**M**onsignor Prosper KONTIEBO, a Camillian religious, celebrated the Holy Mass with the rite of taking possession of the episcopal seat as the new metropolitan archbishop of Ouagadougou, on December 16, 2023, at the *Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception* Cathedral in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

The Mass began with a paralyturgy that included the welcome of the new Archbishop and the presentation of the 'welcome water' by the faithful and local clergy. The 'welcome water', known as "zoom koom," was offered by two children dressed in traditional attire.

The canonical rite of taking possession was presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio in Burkina Faso, Monsignor Michael Crotty, in the presence of Cardinal



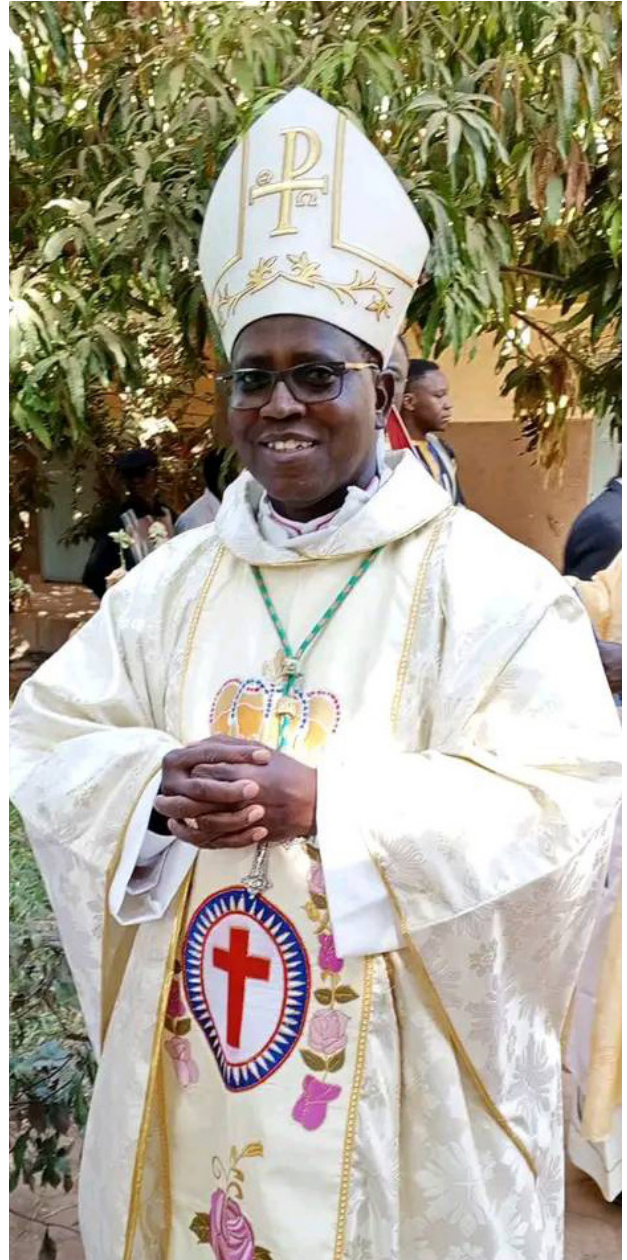
Philippe Ouedraogo, the emeritus archbishop of Ouagadougou. During the homily and words of gratitude, the new archbishop emphasized synodality, the need to walk together, consultation, and the involvement of everyone in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. He requested the support and collaboration of all for a fruitful pastoral ministry. He expressed gratitude to the

Camillian religious, thanking the Superior General and the Consulta, emphasizing that he relies on their support and prayers in the exercise of his episcopal ministry in Ouagadougou.

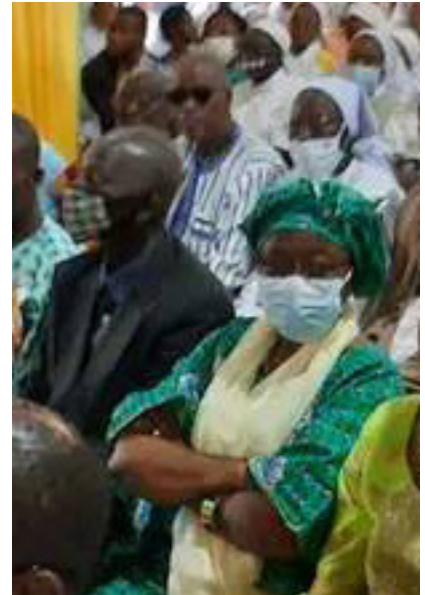
The celebration saw the participation of numerous faithful, bishops from the episcopal conference of Burkina Faso and Niger, the archbishop of Chambéry (France), rectors of major seminaries, superiors of religious congregations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Togo, and Benin. There were also present administrative, political, and religious authorities of Burkina Faso.

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, Monsignor Prosper celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at the cathedral, attended by numerous faithful, priests, and religious.











## Priestly and Diaconate Ordinations Celebrated

The Camillian province of Benin-Togo solemnly celebrated priestly and diaconate ordinations on September 23, 2023 at Sègbanou.

Father Karl Jacques Adéyèmi ABATHAN, Provincial Superior of Benin Togo, welcomed His Excellency Bishop Roger ANOUMOU of Lokossa and all participants in this solemn Eucharist. The Mass was presided over by Bishop Roger ANOUMOU and concelebrated by around fifty priests. Several religious brothers and sisters were also present

at the Mass. In his homily, the bishop invited the candidates for ordinations to unity, following the example of the first community in Jerusalem, to synodality, a new vision of the Church in this time, and to holiness, the primary vocation of all the baptized.

During the Eucharistic celebration Pacôme Koamivi DASSOU from the Saint Antoine de Padoue parish in Adakpamè, Archdiocese of Lomé (Togo), and Aurlus Aepinus ADJIBODOU from the Saint Jean Baptiste parish in

Cotonou, Archdiocese of Cotonou (Benin), were ordained deacons, and deacon Habib ADJOGLO from the Saint Antoine de Padoue parish in Houègbo (Benin) was ordained a priest.

Brother Carlo Mangionne, Provincial Superior of the Sicilian-Neapolitan province, conveyed the maternal affection of the entire mother province to the newly ordained. The day after, Father Habib ADJOGLO celebrated his First Mass in the formation house.

---

## Temporary and Perpetual Profession of Vows

Daniel LOKO, Ethéolde KPOTOEDO, Jean -Pierre LANKLOUNON professed their temporary vows, and Pacôme DASSOU and Aurlus Aepinus ADJIBODOU their perpetual vows, on Saturday, September 16, 2023 in the Saint Camille Formation House in Sègbanou. In addition to this noble step towards the Lord, this day was memorable for the entire Province of Benin-Togo, because Father Léon ELEGBEROU celebrated his 25th anniversary of religious profession.

The Eucharistic celebration witnessed a sumptuous presence of around forty priests, including Fr. Karl Jacques Adéyèmi ABATHAN, the provincial superior (chief celebrant), Fr. Hubert GOUDJINO, Fr. Léon, Fr. Epiphane NAYETON (Episcopal Vicar responsible for consecrated life in the archdiocese of Cotonou) and Fr. Benjamin FAGNINO (Superior of the House of Formation).



## Camillians in Thailand: Priestly Ordination of John Chatchawan WAPEETAO

By Fr. Paul Cherdchai MI

Deacon John Chatchawan WAPEETAO of Thailand province was ordained a priest by His Excellency Joseph Chusak SIRISUT, the Ordinary of Nakorn Ratchasima Diocese, on December 05, 2023 at Camillian Social Center, Chanthaburi.

About 600 lay faithful, and hundreds of men and women religious including all Camillian religious of the Province participated in the ordination ceremony.

The newly ordained Fr. John Chatchawan has been assigned to assist the formation in the minor seminary at Sriracha.





---

## Kenyan Delegation

---

### PHOTOGRAPHIC REPORTAGE:

**1, 2, & 3.** Conferring of the ministries acolyte and lector to the temporary professed at St. Camillus Seminary, Nairobi on 30th Nov, 2023; **4.** Ongoing construction of the Parish Church at St. Camillus mission Rodi in Homabay Diocese, Kenya; **5.** Fraternal moments at the visit of the Delegate to the Novitiate in Thailand.





## Perpetual Profession of Paolo Nguyen Vu Duc Khoi and Giuseppe Tran Thanh Tai on December 08, 2023





## Fr. Walter Antonio Dall'Osto (1944 – 2023)

**H**e was born in Caltrano (VI) on January 13, 1944, to his father Germano Dall'Osto and his mother Rosina Dall'Osto. On Sept. 5, 1964, in his twenties, he entered as an aspirant in the "Stella maris" house in Borghetto Santo Spirito (SV), where he began his novitiate on Sept. 29, 1965. On October 1, 1966 he made temporary profession in Forte dei Marmi (LU), then was sent to Verona S. Giuliano for theology. On June 26, 1969 he obtained his certificate as a general nurse at the Nursing School of the Hospitaller Institutes of Verona. On December 8, 1969, he made his solemn profession in Turin, Italy, at St. Joseph's Church. In the church of the Civil Hospital of Verona on June 21, 1970 he was ordained Deacon and Presbyter on June 20, 1971 by Msgr. Giuseppe Carraro.

He began his ministry at the Villa Lellia house on Nov. 9, 1972, but from Feb. 1 to October 1973 he moved to the Generalate in Rome for the professional nursing course at the Fatebenefratelli Hospital School of Nursing. On October 10, 1973, he was assigned to the house in Forte dei Marmi. On Nov. 1, 1975, he was transferred to Turin, to the Villa Benso, to attend a two-year rehabilitation course and as chaplain at Colle della Maddalena.

On July 20, 1977 he received the appointment of Superior in Forte dei Marmi (LU), got confirmed for the following three years, and in September, became the Director of the St. Camillus Nursing Home. On May 2, 1980 he was appointed Piedmontese Provincial Councilor, responsible for the Commission for Ministry. On May 25, 1983 he was appointed Provincial Superior of Piedmontese, and got confirmed in the following three-year term. On Oct. 1, 1983, he transferred the Provincial's office to Villa Benso in Turin, where, since May 29, 1986, he also assumed the office of local superior.

When his term as provincial ended, he was appointed provincial councilor on June 14, 1989, and got confirmed in the following two three-year terms. On July 24, 1989, he became the superior of the St. Camillus Residence in Genoa, got confirmed in the following three-year term. On July 24, 1995 he was appointed superior of the Midian community in Turin, and on June 29, 1995 also provincial bursar, a position he would hold for eleven years. On September 10, 1996, however, he had to move to Villa Benso as superior and formator, in charge of the Pastoral Center. From 1998 to 2012 he was provincial councilor without interruption, while



in 2009 came the appointment as director of the St. Camillus Health Presidium, of which he has been fiscal manager since 2010 and president since 2013. Finally, on June 13, 2017, he was appointed Superior of the Villa Lellia House in Turin. When his term expired in 2022, he became bursar and 1st Counselor of the house, continuing to celebrate Holy Mass at the nearby Christian Brothers Retirement Home.

In June 2023 he had a car accident causing him to fall ill. Because of this, he had a period of hospitalization at the S. Camillo Nursing Home in Cremona, after which he returned to Turin for rehabilitation and greater closeness to his family. Having assessed the impossibility of functional recovery, admission to the RSA in Capriate S. Gervasio was necessary on November 28, where he died at 7:20 a.m. on December 21, 2023.

Father Walter was a man of prayer, a person with a delicate, mild, and elegant trait even though he was of Venetian origin, welcoming and caring, sweet, and yet also introvert, never prevaricating in discussion, attentive to the other person's point of view; jovial with some of his confreres with whom he shared trips to foreign countries. An adult vocation, he tried to strengthen his own Camillian charism also through a specific healthcare training first, and then managerial, always holding over time roles of responsibility, which he somewhat lacked once he retired.



"If anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
the old has gone,  
the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17).

*Happy New Year 2024*

**Published by**  
Ufficio Comunicazione,  
Piazza della Maddalena, 53,  
00186 Roma; Tel.: +39 351 318 6090  
Email: [comunicazione@camilliani.org](mailto:comunicazione@camilliani.org);  
Website: [www.camilliani.org](http://www.camilliani.org).