



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

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

N. 91



Message of the Superior General



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

**“
Father Alexandre
Toé is an example
for all of us and
supports us in our
journey towards
eternal life.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I send you my warm greetings at the beginning of this Lenten season, a favourable time to prepare our lives to receive the grace and mercy of the Lord. Conversion is not a one-time event that occurs once and for all, but rather a dynamism that must be renewed in the various moments of our existence.

Therefore, Lent is a time for rediscovering our truth and authenticity. Is a time to rediscover the truth inherent in our own being, according to the heart of God, starting from the contemplation of the saving mystery of the Cross of Christ.

And it is precisely during this time that I have the joy of announcing to you that the official opening of the “Process on the life, virtues, fame of holiness, and signs” of our confrere Father Alexandre Toé will take place on March 15th in the Tribunal room of the Vicariate of Rome, where he lived, especially during the last months of his life, and where he died on December 9, 1996.

The opening ceremony of the “Cause of Beatification and Canonization” will begin at 12:00 with the reading of the Decree of introduction and the “nulla osta” of the Holy See, the installation of the tribunal, appointed by the Cardinal Vicar, and the

swearing-in of the members of the tribunal and those of the general postulation of our Order.

This is a great joy for our entire Camillian family. Father Alexandre Toé is an example for all of us and supports us in our journey towards eternal life. We feel that he is our sincere friend, our confrere, whom we can trust because he wanted the good of all. In his diary, he wrote: “My God, I make this declaration of love to you. I love you and I want to love you even more. I want to love everyone with a true love. Be in my heart and I will be in yours” (*Diary of July 17, 1993*).

In prayer, we thank the Lord for this great gift that He has given to our religious family. May we also, following his example, make our declaration of love to the Lord by serving all those He has entrusted to our care, seeking holiness every day. In the coming days, we will send you the poster, prayers, and detailed invitation so that you too can participate, pray, and celebrate together this moment of Grace for our Camillian family.

With fraternal affection, I greet you in the name of the Lord.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI

Rome, February 29, 2024



“

**I am yours
irrevocably;
I will follow you,
I will walk
towards you
despite winds
and tides,
with my
weaknesses
and my misery
because it is You
who have called
me and You
always await me.**

Servant of God **Alexandre Toé**

Called to Life

“I was born on December 2, 1967, in Boromò (Burkina Faso) to Samuele Toé and Giuditta Parè; I was baptized on December 25, 1967, and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 8, 1986.

I started primary school in October 1973 in Ziga (Ouahigouya), where I attended only the first two years. In fact, I completed it in Koudougou, where I received the C.E.P.C. (Certificate of Primary

Studies) in June 1979. I started the second cycle of secondary school at “Placide Yameogo” in October of the same year. In June 1983, four years later, I received the B.E.P.C. (Conclusive Diploma of the 1st Cycle of Secondary Schools) and admission to the 2nd cycle at “Philippe Zinda Kabore” High School in Ouagadougou, graduating in 1987 by passing the baccalaureate exam (B.A.C.)” *(Short biographical profile written by him on the occasion of his priestly*

ordination on July 1, 1995).

He had his parents as role models and from a young age looked favourably upon the poor and the disadvantaged. Intelligent and at the same time friendly, he achieved excellent results at school and was always ready to help his classmates in difficulty. His outgoing and lively character, however, created some disciplinary problems for him. Even at home, his support for younger siblings never wavered,

and for this, he was considered a model boy.

Various family events led him to Ouagadougou. He had developed the habit of praying both in the morning and in the evening, never abandoning, in his free time, the reading of an old Bible. In 1985, he began attending catechism classes after Sunday Mass to prepare for receiving the sacraments of Christian initiation. He was a very active young man in the parish, engaging in numerous activities.

Vocation journey

“During my third year of high school, I began to seriously consider the Lord’s calling that I had already perceived in 1982. I was fascinated by the Camillian religious life at a spiritual retreat led by a Camillian priest. Contacts made during the 1986-1987 school year helped me definitively orient myself towards the Camillian ideal.

Accepted into the Camillian Student Community on August 12, 1987, and after obtaining the B.A.C. (baccalaureate diploma) in June of the same year, I officially entered the year of spirituality on September 7, 1987,” (*Short biographical profile written by him on the occasion of his priestly ordination on July 1, 1995*), despite being directed to pursue medical studies and despite the sisters’ contrary opinion. At the end of this year, he began studying philosophy at the “St. Jean” seminary. On September 8, 1991, he made his Temporary Profession during the Eucharistic Celebration at the Parish of San Camillo De Lellis in Ouagadougou.

The ideal... To be holy

“I am yours irrevocably; I will follow you, I will walk towards you despite winds and tides, with my weaknesses and my misery because it is You who have called me and You always await me” (*Spiritual diary, January 18, 1995*). His ideal of sanctity can be summarized in three points, which he developed during the



Lord,... I do not know if the end is near. Accept me without judging me, and if you judge me, do not condemn me. I belong to you entirely! I offer you the suffering of my body and my spirit. Six years: illness that does not heal. You know that it is not easy, you see my efforts not to withdraw from anything. Give me the grace to offer you the best of myself in this priesthood.

Spiritual diary, July 6, 1996

spiritual exercises from January 5 to 9, 1995, in preparation for his diaconate ordination.

Prayer

“In my prayer, I would like to be simple with the Lord like a friend by His side, offering Him my distractions, my labours, my worries, and my bad will. The praying man is the one who journeys with the Church, which is a people of prayer; who knows how to pray in every situation of life; how to pray for the situations experienced by others; how to implore the Lord for what they need. The praying man is the one who presents humanity to God.”

Brotherly Love

“Brotherly love is a gift from God. It is the love of another that

makes me exist. It is the love that constitutes the heart of religious life and the truthfulness of its witness. “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).”

Fraternity in Service

“Received love makes us exist, but given love elevates our existence. The Christian, the man, the religious, the priest who no longer know how to give themselves in love are dead. Fraternal service is the most important thing on which we must insist in our spiritual life. It is a human, Christian, and religious duty.”

He died in Rome on December 9, 1996.

Prayer for the beatification of Alexandre Toé

O Father, we thank you for the gift you have given us in your servant Alexandre Toé, a disciple in love with your beloved Son and a true son of St. Camillus (de Lellis); following his example, grant us the grace to be willing to be shaped by your Holy Spirit of love, and if it is according to your will, grant us the grace we ask for through his intercession (...), so that we may always give glory to You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Online meeting of Camillian ‘doctors’ to reactivate the “Task Force”

by Fr. Wenkouni Mathieu OUEDRAOGO M.I.

The Secretariat for Missions together with the Camillian Disaster Service International (CADIS) organized an online meeting of Camillian doctors doing services in various provinces of the Order, on February 15, 2024. The objective of this meeting was to rethink and restart the “Task Force” to respond to current global emergencies.

Bro. Paul Kabore, the General Councillor for Missions, in his opening address pointed out the importance of this meeting as a sign of interest in revitalizing Camillian charism.

Fr. Aris Miranda, the director of CADIS, presented the reasons for revitalizing the “Task Force,” highlighting the current context characterized by numerous disasters and wars. He provided statistical data on emergencies in recent years and emphasized the importance of responding to such challenges with a Camillian commitment.

Several participants shared their Task Force experiences, highlighting the need for an interdisciplinary approach and willingness to contribute significantly.

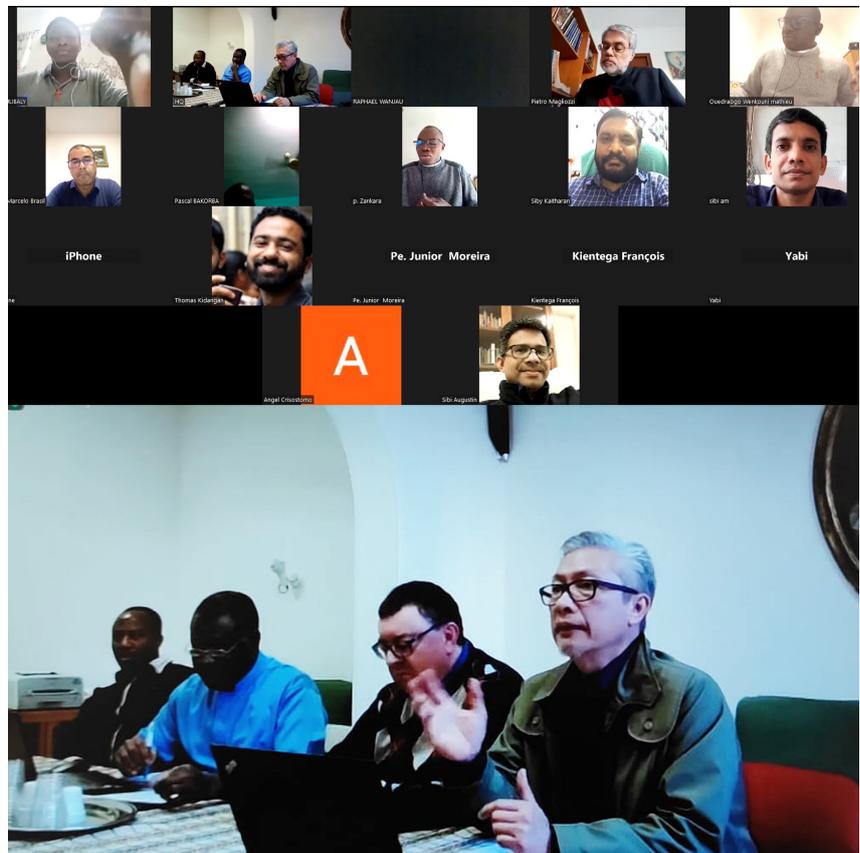
Father Médard, the General Councillor for Ministry, clarified that the new Task Force would be different from that of the 2000s, with members operating in their daily workplaces and intervening only in emergencies.

The proposals included the creation of a Camillian ‘forum’

(online) for managing post-traumatic syndrome, activating collaborations with other organizations and religious congregations, and forming a prepared team.

Fr. Aris summarized the interventions, emphasizing the importance of continuing to work together and better structuring future meetings. In sum, the meeting highlighted the willingness and commitment of the participants to revitalize the “Camillian Task Force” to address global emergencies with an approach based on the Camillian charism and mission.

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Message from the Secretariat for Ministry on the Occasion of the XXXII World Day of the Sick

by **Fr. Medard ABOUE MI**
General Councilor for Ministry

Dear confreres, on this year's World Day of the Sick, the Holy Father offers us a very important message titled "It is not good for man to be alone". Healing the sick by healing relationships.

Our Camillian ministry offers us daily the opportunity to experience the depth of this message. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the enforced solitude we experienced allowed the entire world to better understand the importance of caring for human relationships. Those of us who had the concrete experience in the wards or with the illness itself during that period perceive even more today the importance of Pope Francis' message. Caring for relationships is more than fundamental to our service to the sick and our own consecrated life.

Caring for relationships in our communities, delegations, and provinces is fundamental to the revitalization of our Order, as indicated by the Consulta as one of the two pillars of the Strategic Plan. Caring for relationships in our ministry, understood as a helping relationship, needs no further demonstration. I wish to insist on its importance not only with those who suffer but also with their families, with volunteers, and with the staff in the corridors of healthcare facilities, social care facilities, rectories, parishes, and families. Good care of our relationships with them multiplies infinitely the prophetic goodness of our ministry.

Let's see some excerpts from Pope's Message:



We are created to be together, not alone.

The experience of abandonment and loneliness scares us and is painful and even inhuman.

It becomes even more so in times of fragility, uncertainty, and insecurity, often caused by the onset of any serious illness.

Brothers and sisters, the first care we need in illness is the closeness full of compassion and tenderness. Therefore, caring for the sick means first and foremost caring for their relationships, all of their relationships: with God, with others – family, friends, healthcare workers –, with creation, with oneself.

Caring for relationships is the first therapy that we must all adopt together to heal the diseases of the society in which we live.

Let's look at the icon of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), at his ability to slow down and

draw near, at the tenderness with which he soothes the wounds of the suffering brother. And so, we cooperate in contrasting the culture of individualism, indifference, and rejection and in fostering the culture of tenderness and compassion.

The sick, the fragile, the poor are in the heart of the Church and must also be at the center of our human attentions and pastoral concerns.

Let's not forget it! Let's entrust ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, and to Saint Camillus, our founder, to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

Next year we will celebrate the 450th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Camillus. Let's prepare for that event to continue joyfully wearing that garment with the red cross on the chest.

Wish you a meaningful celebration of the Word Day of the Sick!

Fr. Giovanni Maria Rossi: a life dedicated to sacred music

by **Luciana Mellone**

The Liturgical Office of the Archdiocese of Bologna (Sacred Music section) organized a training conference for choristers, animators, and instrumentalists for the Liturgy, to commemorate, 20 years of the death of Father Giovanni Maria Rossi (September 1, 1929 – February 7, 2004), a Camillian religious who dedicated his life to music, understood also as a tool to support the sick.

Father Giovanni considered art as one of the means to uplift the spirits of people, especially the sick. “I am made of music,” he used to say. However, he didn’t pursue studies out of personal passion alone but also and above all to help others. For this reason, he specialized in music therapy, a



method of healing through sound that he used in the service of the sick. The artist, the shepherd, the religious all merged into a single person completely oriented towards the Other and others.

Conclusion of the pastoral visit of the Provincial Superior



The confreres from the communities of Campania and Puglia gathered together on February 19, 2024 to mark the conclusion of the pastoral visit of

the Provincial Superior Brother Carlo Mangione.

After the invocation to the Holy Spirit, Father Carmine Mazza,

the Provincial Superior of the Theatines and diocesan delegate for consecrated life in the Diocese of Naples, offered an original and at times “provocative” reflection on Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2024. Following a break, the Provincial Superior Brother Carlo Mangione shared his impressions on the pastoral visit that took place from October to February in the Sicilian-Neapolitan province of the Camillian religious. The session was concluded by the General Councillor Father Medard ABOUE, who invited everyone to read and meditate on the order’s strategic plan for living in communion with all confreres scattered around the world.

Care without restrictions: A Shift Towards a Person-Centered Culture

by **Juan Pablo Hernández**

Since 2019, the Centro San Camillo has been engaged in a secure process of eliminating restrictions. As a result of this work, to improve the quality of care and consolidate a comprehensive care model free from restrictions, the centre has received the “No Sujetes” certification from the Dignitas Vitae Association. Francisco Javier Rodríguez, head of care management, and Laura Steegmann, nursing director received this recognition from Ester Mico, the representative of *Dignitas Vitae*.

After overcoming the stages of awareness and implementation, this process now concludes with consolidation, an accreditation that acknowledges the San Camillo Center’s journey in providing unrestricted care. We always prioritize the dignity of the person and foster their care.



“This represents a shift in the care model, as we have moved from a protective culture to one centered on the person,” emphasizes Laura Steegmann. The certificate indicates that the necessary changes have been made in the organization to meet the evaluative requirements of the NO SUJETES program.

“Something made possible thanks to the involvement of the center’s team of professionals, to whom

we are grateful and congratulate for their work,” added Francisco Javier Rodríguez.

And all the staff at the care center had to undergo various training activities to learn to provide care without physical or chemical restrictions and to recognize the rights of elderly people in situations of dependency, disabilities, or mental health problems.

Renewal of the vocation promotion team of the province

The Camillian religious of the Spanish province continue to work for the youth and vocation promotion ministry: the promotion of the charism, work with young people, and the invitation to community life are the pillars of this mission.

To continue with this exciting project, we are encouraged to translate the key elements of the Camillian charism into a new language and update them to meet the needs of today’s world.

The spirit continues to call young people to care for the sick and those who suffer, bringing them the love of Christ in the form of care through the hands of all those who decide to share in the mission of the Camillian religious.

At the beginning of 2024, we renewed the team, thanks to the work done by Father Francisco Berola, who is now appointed as the superior of the Vagues community in Argentina, his hometown. We thank him

for the dedication of his life, accompanying the young people who have approached to discern their vocation. We welcome Father Augustín Bado to this mission, who enthusiastically embraces this new ministry of vocation promotion in the service of people who feel called to respond to the Camillian charism through religious life. Together with all the religious of the Spanish province, we continue to bear witness to the possibility of responding to God’s call in His Church.

Pastoral Healthcare Day: Exploring Abuse and Vulnerability

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, the Center for Humanization of Health of the Camillian religious in Spain celebrated the second Pastoral Healthcare Day with the participation of about 60 people in person and around 80 people connected through the center's YouTube channel.

The event was inaugurated by distinguished figures from the religious as well as pastoral healthcare world, among whom stand out the Delegate for Pastoral Healthcare of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, Father José Luis Méndez; the Deputy General Secretary of the Confederation of Religious in Spain, Mrs. Silvia Rozas; and the Director of the Center for Humanization and Provincial Superior of the Spanish Camillian religious, Brother José Carlos Bermejo.

Under the evocative title “Go and DO NOT do the same”, the Pastoral Healthcare Days were structured as a reflective space around the various ways of using violence and abuse that affect vulnerable and fragile people.

The Days began with the panel “Go, and (do not) do the same”, which saw the participation of experts such as Mrs. Rosa Ruiz, doctor in systematic theology and psychologist, head of the research department of the Camillian center, who shared with the audience an in-depth analysis of the biblical narrative of the ‘good Samaritan’; Miguel García-Baró, doctor in philosophy and member of the Royal Academy of Moral

and Political Sciences of Spain, who reflected on the values and virtues for a culture of care and encounter; Cristina Inogés-Sanz, theologian, who spoke on the theme of the values and virtues that are shattered in situations of abuse.

After the break, the day continued with a reflection on the theme “Experiences of Repair” moderated by Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi, Camillian religious. Experiences in various projects were addressed, such as the “Repara Madrid” program with the intervention of Juan Carlos Estévez, an expert in abuse counseling; the research project “Jordán” on the structural causes of abuse in the Church with the presence of Valeska Ferrer, coordinator and lead researcher of the project on the structural causes of abuse in the Church; and

Guadalupe Rivera, a penitentiary psychologist, who referred mainly to the theme of assistance to perpetrators, authors of abuse. At the end, Ángel Gavilondo sent a greeting to the participants of the day through a video, emphasizing the value and social content of the events.

The day ended with a celebratory moment organized by the spiritual assistance service of the San Camillo center with the participation of professionals and patients from the center.

The Pastoral Healthcare Days left a profound reflection and a call to action to promote a culture of care and encounter, to address comprehensively the challenges related to mistreatment and abuse in contemporary society.



Indian Province Organizes Ongoing Formation Workshop

by **Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh MI**
Provincial Secretary



St. Camillus province, India organized an ongoing formation workshop at St. Camillus provincialate, Bengaluru from 8 to 11 February, 2024. The theme of the workshop was “A Quest for wholeness: Towards a Meaningful Religious Life in Modern Society”. All confreres from Camillian communities in India participated in the workshop. The event was particularly graced by key figures of the Order, including General Councilor for Formation Fr. Baby Ellickal, provincial superior of Indian province Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, Coordinator of Asian Formators’ Forum Fr. Woothichai Joye (Thailand), and the provincial delegate of Tanzania Fr. Josph Mashauri.

In his inaugural address Fr. Bijoy emphasized the significance of ongoing formation in nurturing our religious consecration. He said that ongoing formation is

not just about acquiring new knowledge and skills; it is about cultivating excellence in our personal and professional lives, ultimately benefiting those whom we serve.

The Superior General of the Order Fr. Pedro Tramontin, in his key note address, shed light on various challenges the religious life today faces, and underscored the critical importance of ongoing formation. He stressed the need to renew our consecration through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He highlighted some of the key principles of religious life such as: constant search for God, radical following of Jesus, continuous discernment, creative fidelity, journey ‘out’ of oneself, active living of liturgical moments, community living, formation in the socio-cultural context, doctrinal and professional updating, and free time for personal and spiritual growth.

In the first session, Fr. Baby Ellickal spoke on the legacy of St. Camillus that relives in the lives of Camillians. He pointed out some of the general qualities and traits of St. Camillus such as: faith and trust in Divine Providence, his intimate relationship with God, love for the Crucifix of Christ, love for the Eucharist, devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary, selfless service, humility, courage, determination, leadership, and commitment to holistic care of the sick. He made meaningful connection between these qualities and our camillian vocation to serve the sick witnessing the merciful love of Christ.

In the second and third sessions, Fr. Biju Sebastian MI delved into the topic “Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their lasting effects on adult life”. Fr. Biju provided a comprehensive overview of ACEs, which encompass traumatic or

stressful events experienced during childhood, such as abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, or exposure to violence. These experiences can profoundly impact an individual's mental, emotional, and physical well-being throughout adulthood. The session highlighted various ways in which ACEs manifest in adult life, including disturbances in thinking, emotional regulation, relationships, and behavior. Fr. Biju also conducted a practical session on stress management. The interactive nature of the session facilitated engaging discussions and practical demonstrations, showcasing the applicability of stress-relief techniques in daily life.

The three sessions on the second day were dedicated to the topic "Psycho-spiritual challenges of Religious life". Fr. Joe Mannath SDB, a prolific writer, professor, and a renowned spiritual guide, was the resource person. He explored the themes like psychosexual integration and



celibacy, happiness, handling negative emotions, developing soft skills, leadership in religious context and formation processes. Some of the significant insights shared during his sessions included: ways to handle sexual feelings, the significance of celibacy and its purpose in religious life, challenges and benefits of friendships, importance of simplicity, commitment, and service in living a celibate life.

On the third day of the workshop,

Fr. Sabu Thomas from the Sacred Heart College in Kochi, Kerala, engaged with the topic "Artificial Intelligence Tools - General Introduction and Hands-on activities". Fr. Thomas explored various AI tools, their specific functionalities, providing the participants with hands-on experience through activities.

The programme was concluded on the fourth day with the celebration of the World Day of the Sick (February 11) and fraternal gathering.

Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination

Fr. Baby Ellickkal celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination with a joyous Holy Mass on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru.

The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of Camillian Confreres, Camillian sisters, relatives of Fr. Baby, well-wishers, and esteemed guests. Following the Mass, a heart-warming felicitation ceremony took place, during which Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the provincial superior, honoured Fr. Baby for his dedication and exemplary leadership.



Center for Listening receives award from NEDA

By Eleonor Manansala



On October 2, 2023, the St. Camillus Center for Humanization in Health (SCCHH), PH - Center for Listening (CfL) received a recognition award during the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) Recognition, Awards, and Incentives System for Excellence (RAISE) ceremony for calendar year 2022-2023 held at Chardonnay by Astoria. The SCCHH PH was

recognized as one of the reliable institutional partners of NEDA's advocacy for its employees' welfare and development by providing free active listening services to its employees (from both the central and regional offices) who may be experiencing emotional and/or psychological distress.

In 2019, during the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic,

the Camillian Fathers in the Philippines established the St. Camillus Center for Humanization in Health, PH - Center for Listening (SCCHH, PH - CfL). The center was created to help Filipinos strengthen their emotional and mental aspects through listening sessions and where an individual can be free to express his/her negative emotions with no judgment from the listener. The listening sessions are conducted so that the individual who is suffering from distress due to extreme negative feelings and emotions can eventually manage and process it. In addition, another program that is offered at the SCCHH, PH - CfL is the "Self-Care Power Hour" where its lead counselor and director for wellness, Ms. Janelle M. Villamor, instructed the participants to various self-care activities. Ms. Villamor has a Master's degree in Psychology with special training in counseling and grief support and who greatly advocates the power of self-care.

Priestly Ordination of Fr. Andrew Kang

"Go and Do Likewise." A brass band was playing music, generating a fiesta vibe outside the Nuestra Señora dela Annunciata Church in Bosoboso, Antipolo City. Well-wishers were eagerly chatting and exchanging stories, their bright radiant faces exuding with excitement and joy as they gradually filled the church. This was the day when Rev. Andrew was going to be ordained as a priest.

At 9:00am on December 2, 2023, the liturgical procession began with the angelic voices



of the Annunciata choir in the background. Most Reverend Ruperto Cruz Santos, DD, Bishop of Antipolo and CBCP Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris-Philippines was the main presider of the Holy Mass, with Camillian Fathers as concelebrants.

During the homily, Bishop Santos said that the “priesthood mirrors what God does for us, to us, and with us.” First, God is faithful that He fulfilled His promise to save mankind through the immaculate conception of Mother Mary, who, through her, was born Jesus Christ. Because of God’s love, He sends “laborers for his harvest” through the priests. A priest is a blessing from God, a proof of God’s love for his people. Thus, Fr. Andrew is a blessing. Second, God needs priests who will carry out His will and shepherd the flock to His kingdom. Fr. Andrew’s ordination is a time to serve and to save, to carry the red cross as he ministers to the elderly and the infirm. Lastly, “God is with us [priests].” He always accompanies priests and never abandons them.



Priesthood is not a walk in the park, there will always be humps and bumps along the way. In times of hardships and trials, God is always present to support them. He lifts them up when they are down.

Fr. Andrew’s parents, relatives and friends from both Korean

and Filipino communities, fellow Camillians led by the Provincial Council, Korean priests and Annunciata parishioners were present to share this special moment with him.

After the Mass, Fr. Andrew conveyed his message of thanks to all the people who stood by his side throughout his priesthood journey. Fr. Evan, the provincial superior, also relayed his message followed by Fr. Cido, provincial secretary, who announced the new assignments of Fr. Andrew: Assistant chaplain in Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao City and Regional Vocation Director in Mindanao. Fr. Andrew joined the Korean Sisters when they rendered a Korean song dedicated to him.

Fr. Andrew is the second Korean Camillian priest in the Philippine Province. He celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass in Jeomchon Catholic Church, Mungyeong-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea on December 9, 2023.



Indonesian Delegation Welcomes the Superior General and Councilors

by Fr. Luigi Galvani MI

In 14 years of its presence, the Indonesian Delegation had the joyful opportunity to welcome three Superior Generals.

The first was with Fr. Renato Salvatore on November 15-18, 2012 who arrived on the occasion of the blessing of the first Camillian Seminary in Nita, Maumere. We still remember with great joy his words of encouragement and appreciation: “In a span of three years, he said, the delegation was able to put up its first formation center counting only on its good will, hard work and also on its own financial resources”.

The second visit was by late Fr. Leo Pessini on November 12-16, 2015. He was also impressed by the positive development of the delegation, especially in the area of formation. “You have done so much in a very short time,” he said

at the conclusion of his pastoral visitation.

The third was the recent pastoral visitation of Fr. Pedro Tramontin together with the two Councilors, Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon and Fr. Baby Ellickal, on December 7-16, 2023. Certainly, the Superior Generals were eager to see closely the development of the Delegation which, today, can count on four formation communities, Ruteng, Kupang and Maumere, and one pastoral and social community, Misir, Maumere.

Upon their arrival in Bali, on December 8, 2023, they flew to the community in Ruteng to meet the 18 aspirants and their three formators. During their presence, they did the meaningful ceremony of pinning the “red cross” on the chest of the 18 aspirants making them feel that they belong more

deeply now to the Camillian Family.

On December 10, they travelled to Kupang, island of Timor where they stayed in the novitiate house with the 11 novices and their master and assistants. They visited also the construction of the new St. Camillus Pastoral and Social Center in Lasiana, a three-story building that was sponsored by CEI and other generous benefactors.

The last and main part of their visitation (December 12-16) was dedicated to the two communities in Maumere: the Seminary in Nita and Social Center in Misir. Maumere represents the “heart” of the Indonesian Delegation. In fact, here was the beginning of the mission in 2009 and here, today, is where the majority of the Camillian manpower is concentrated with nine perpetually professed, 23



temporary professed and 37 postulants in Philosophy. In the four days presence in Maumere, the three visitors were quite busy in meeting personally all of the religious and seminarians. Joys, difficulties, suggestions and recommendations were naturally the matters of their encounters especially with the perpetually religious.

In the morning of the last day, a General Assembly was organized for all the perpetually professed religious at the St. Camillus Social Center. It was an occasion during which Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon

offered an interesting reflection about community and spiritual life. Then Fr. Baby, consultor for formation, followed with a sharing about the importance of the initial and permanent formation for our religious. Then, the Father General intervened, proposing wise recommendations for a better dynamic organization of the Delegation, like: need of a permanent Delegation secretary, organizing an archive, keeping the books of religious, of intentions of Masses, of minutes of community meetings, chronicles and financial reports. Lastly, he gave the good news of the official erection of the Novitiate community of Kupang.

In the afternoon of the same day, all the religious gathered at the St. Camillus Seminary in Nita for a concelebration of Holy Mass, presided over by Father General, which concluded officially the pastoral visit. A fraternal dinner was organized with a “despedida” program during which the superior delegate, Fr. Alfons, expressed words of gratitude to the important visitors. “It is nice,” Fr. Alfons said, “if we can contribute in fulfilling the dream of our founder St. Camillus in spreading, one day, his Institute in all the countries of the world.” “To dream and hope is always possible,” he concluded.

XXXII World Day of the Sick in Flores, Indonesia

The Camillians present in the diocese of Maumere, on the Indonesian island of Flores for almost 15 years, celebrated, on Sunday, February 18, 2024, the 32nd World Day of the Sick not only with the patients of the city’s large hospital where Camillians are responsible for pastoral service, but also by bringing their presence of compassion and tenderness to various dozens of sick and elderly people from some parishes. In this way, they wanted to concretely interpret Pope Francis’ message “It is not good for man to be alone”.

The concelebration in the hospital chapel was lively and particularly touching, where two newly ordained Camillian priests and a deacon were the special animators of the event along with sixty seminarians. The latter enriched the Eucharistic liturgy with precious songs and then assisted the seven young Camillian priests during the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing to about 250 patients.

Great joy and emotion were



felt by several patients for the visit of these young priests and seminarians, making them forget, at least for a moment, their suffering, loneliness, and isolation.

Even the medical and nursing staff present at the celebration admired the beautiful group of young enthusiastic Camillians of their vocation and capable of

being an example and presenting themselves as a great family with “one heart, one soul, and one spirit”, in bringing attention to those who suffer and feel alone. This is the characteristic that once again makes them “living messengers” of their founder, St. Camillus, who wanted them to be “as many Jesuses” in serving the sick and the poor.

Camillian Province of Thailand: Solemn Religious Profession

by Fr. Sante Tocchetto MI

February is the month of the conversion of St. Camillus, and it is also a good opportunity for camillians to reflect and understand that we all need to convert day by day.

Here in Sampran, in the Church dedicated to St. Camillus, on February 17th, we celebrated and experienced a special moment of grace: three young men decided to dedicate their lives permanently to the service of our Charism. PHANVILAI WEERAWAT Michael, KAEWPHUANG WORAWAT Andrew, and WANGTHIYOO RITTHIPON Joseph made their solemn profession of the 4 vows: poverty, chastity, and obedience in order to serve the sick even at the risk of their own lives.

The celebration was organized in collaboration with the entire religious community and the staff of our Elderly Care Center. We had excellent collaboration from benefactors and Catholics from the parishes of St. Peter and the Ascension; the choir honoured the celebration with its performance, which I would define as angelic, and also with the help of many families who committed to preparing food for all the participants.

There was a large participation of (over 50) priests, male and female religious, and faithful of over 500 people. The celebration was presided over by the Provincial, Fr. Paul Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, who, in his sobriety, emphasized

the importance of the choice and the value of the 4 vows. As always, the moment of detachment from the world was emphasized, giving the professed the opportunity to greet their families... emotions made all wet their faces with tears!

We thank the Lord for giving us, in such a difficult time for vocations, this great gift because “the harvest is always plentiful, but the laborers are few”; “let us pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.”

To the three new brothers and their two Vietnamese companions: Nguyen Vu Duc Khoi and Tran Thanh Tai, who professed earlier,

we wish a fruitful pastoral life lived in the joy of serving the Lord in the weakest.

On February 18th, we had another moment of grace, as the four new Vietnamese priests celebrated their first Holy Mass in our community. Fr. Nguyen Thien Thai, Fr. Nguyen Phi Ky, Fr. Luu Ngoc Hung, and Fr. Pham Van Truong were ordained last December and wanted to be present at the solemn professions of their Thai brothers. All four received much of their training here in Sampran and still feel very connected and grateful. We also offer them all our support and wish them a prosperous apostolate.



(ฉลองวดีน่อยนักบุญคามิลโล สามพราน และพิธีปฏิญาณตนตลอดชีพอย่างสง่า)

@Champ Pandabambam ส.17 ก.พ.2567



(ฉลองวัดน้อยนักบุญคามิลโล สามพราน และพิธีปฏิญาณตนตลอดชีพอย่างสง่า)

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Thailand Province celebrates Fraternity Day

by **Fr. Paul Cherdchai MI**
Provincial Superior

The Camillian province of Thailand organized a fraternity day on February 26, 2024 at Camillian Pastoral Centre in Bangkok. The main agenda of this gathering, in which all the members of the province participated, was the presentation of the Strategic Plan 2023-2028 of the Order.

The day began with morning prayers. In the first session, Fr. Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, the provincial superior, presented an overview of the Strategic Plan. During the second session, there was a synthetic reading of some objectives with the three-year plan of Thai Province 2023-2025. Priority of implementation of certain objectives of Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and three-year plan 2023-2025 were evident and numerated such as: unity and communion; fraternal community; Charism and ministry focusing on the best



practices on palliative care; and financial transparency.

The Eucharistic Celebration was also the important part of this gathering with the four newly-

ordained priests from Vietnam. On this special occasion of grace, 50 children living with disability in our center joined the Mass and received the blessing from the new ordained.



Brazilian Province



Fernando Viera and Gutemberg Ribeiro made their first religious profession on January 28th in São Paulo, Brazil.



Three young men, Alisson, Bruno, and Ricardo, began their novitiate on February 3, 2024 in Pinhais, Brazil.



35TH MLADIFEST:

MEDJUGORIE YOUTH FESTIVAL

An experience that will change your life

August 1-6, 2024

Guided by Camillian Religious in Italy

The Mladifest, the Medjugorje Youth Festival has been held in every August for over three decades. Thousands of young people gather to honour the Gospa (Our Lady of Medjugorje). Each year, long lines form at the confessionals, and numerous faithful take part in the celebrations and the festival.

For some years now, some Camillian religious have been participating in the event, inviting young people who are connected to our ministerial realities. This year, the invitation is extended to the Three Italian Provinces to live together a strong interprovincial experience, which is also a visible vocational promotion.

Such a large gathering of young people who pray together and receive sacraments is second only to the World Youth Days, strongly desired by Saint John Paul II.

The Medjugorje Youth Festival is the largest annual international gathering in Europe, born out of the will of Father Slavko Barbaric, who began to gather and welcome some young people, particularly to speak to them about the Marian spirituality of Medjugorje.

This year too, thousands of young people will listen to catechesis and testimonies, pray, and participate in the evening prayer program.

For more information contact:

sergiopalumbo26@libero.it (Rome)

tortoredo@gmail.com (Naples)

salvatore.pontillo@gmail.com (Sicily)



Through the desert
God leads us to freedom

Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. Hos 2:16-17). God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life.

[from the message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024]