



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome and Rome seen from the world

N. 102



IN THIS ISSUE

Health	3
Pastoral Healthcare	5
Walking together in the Camillian Jubilee	7
A Jubilee that unites continents	10
Plenary Indulgence for Camillian Jubilee	12
A tribute to the conversion of St. Camillus	14
Events & News	16
New Initiatives	18
Journey of new vocations	20

Edited by:

Ufficio Comunicazione
Piazza della Maddalena, 53
00186 Roma; Tel.: +39 351 318 6090
Email: comunicazione@camilliani.org
Website: www.camilliani.org



Reflections & Directions: Message of the month

Conquered by Christ, Pilgrims of hope in the footsteps of St. Camillus in the world of health care

Dear confreres,

We are witnesses and protagonists of this great event of the celebration of the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 of the universal Church with the theme “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom. 5:5). Many still remember the Great Jubilee of the Holy Year 2000 that ushered us into the 21st century and the tremendous enthusiasm that kindled in everyone as we entered the Third Millennium of our era.

This Jubilee of the first quarter of this century throws us into the same dynamic of awakening the beauty of God’s love in each of us. And in this Holy Year 2025, we Camillians are doubly gratified because we are happy to celebrate both the Ordinary Jubilee of the Church and the Jubilee of the 450th anniversary of the Conversion of St. Camillus, which took place on that distant February 2, 1575. We do so by thanking the Lord who gave the Church and the world this giant of Christian charity.

For some time we have been preparing for the event that is finally at our doorstep. This February 2, 2025 in San Giovanni Rotondo and Manfredonia, the places of the saint's conversion, with grateful and joyful hearts, we will enter into the jubilee celebrations, following the general program prepared by the Central Commission.

Sanzio Cicutelli, the historian of the life of St. Camillus, as if to read a certain similarity between the conversion of St. Paul and that of the saint from Bucchianico wrote in his Life of Fr. Camillus de Lellis: "While he was thus thinking, behold, in the manner of another St. Paul, he was suddenly assailed from Heaven by a ray of inner light so great for his miserable state that, because of his great contrition, his heart seemed all crushed and broken with sorrow. There, kneeling on a stone, he began to weep bitterly over his past life, with unusual sorrow and tears gushing from his eyes. With words interspersed with many sobs, he said, "Ah, wretched and miserable me, what great blindness have I had in not knowing my Lord sooner? Why have I not spent my whole life serving Him? Forgive me Lord, forgive this great sinner. Give me at least the space for true penance and to be able to draw from my eyes as much tears as will suffice to wash away the stains and ugliness of my sins." On that day, Camillus was indeed, as the motto of the Jubilee reminds us, "Conquered by Christ" (cf. Phil. 3:12), and throughout his life he strove to achieve perfect communion with God,

sacrificing everything for Him in humble and compassionate service to the sick.

In each place of our presence, many celebratory events will mark the time and come to remind us of the relevance that Camillus' 450-year-old conversion still has through the commitment of those who allow themselves to be conquered by his charism and spirituality today. Times have changed, and with them the ways in which we serve the sick, but the strength of the charism remains. So, in addition to celebrations and festivities, we will not forget that our charism and spirituality lead us to be like soldiers always at the front, continuing to heal and console, comfort and relieve, prevent and heal.

The Jubilee will end on December 8, 2025 at the Maddalena Church in Rome from where Camillus spread the fragrance of his holiness until his death on July 14, 1614.

Our greatest wish is that each of us will enter this Jubilee and emerge from it renewed in our consecrated lives to continue to be signs and pilgrims of hope in the world of health.

Happy Jubilee Year to all.



Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior general

FEBRUARY 11, 2025: XXXIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Living Christian Hope through three words: Encounter, Gift, and Sharing

By **Fr. Medard ABOUE, M.I.**

General Councilor for Ministry

On this 33rd World Day of the Sick, the Holy Father invites us to reflect on the theme: “Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5), and it strengthens us in tribulation. This theme creates a link between the theme of the Ordinary Jubilee Year that we celebrate in 2025 and the reality of suffering. It also establishes a connection between the 450th Anniversary of the Conversion of St. Camillus and the theme of suffering itself.

When illness visits us, it automatically brings with it the weight of suffering, often raising profound questions about the meaning of existence. Suffering casts shadows that darken both our immediate and distant horizons. Life’s rhythm slows down, strength diminishes, time either rushes by or drags on, depending on the diagnosis. Sometimes, everything around us seems to come to a halt. This is not to mention the new way of life imposed—a race against time filled with countless medical visits, diagnostic tests, prescribed medications, and unforeseen expenses. It is a profound upheaval that leads to many questions, the most persistent and repeated being: “Why, Lord, has this illness and suffering come upon me?” In response to this question, the Church, while encouraging medical treatment—deeply rooted in its two-thousand-year-old tradition—calls on believers and all people of goodwill not to lose hope in God’s healing power. Living one’s illness and suffering in the light of Christian hope is not a matter of naïve optimism, but rather an act of realism and faith in the face of the undeniable truth that human intelligence must eventually come to terms with its finitude and helplessness in the face of unceasing suffering and the inevitability of death.

Christian faith teaches us that Christ, through the mystery of His suffering, death, and resurrection, remains the only true hope that does not disappoint. As Pope Francis states in his message for this day: “Indeed, only in the resurrection of Christ does every human destiny find its place within the infinite horizon of eternity. Only from His Paschal Mystery do we receive the certainty that nothing, ‘neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:38-39). Just as human beings, in their attempt to avoid all suffering, seek to evade anything that could bring them pain, they risk falling into an empty existence... It is not the avoidance of suffering or fleeing from pain that heals a person, but rather the capacity to embrace tribulation, to mature through it, and to find meaning in it by uniting with Christ, who suffered with infinite love.” (cf. Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 37)

Uniting one’s suffering with that of Christ is not just a theoretical concept. On the contrary, it is a concrete experience that Pope Francis summarizes for us in three simple yet essential words: encounter, gift, and sharing. For many people of faith, suffering has sometimes become a profound occasion for an encounter with God—an encounter that changes everything, altering perspectives and transforming individuals into authentic witnesses of the Kingdom of God. Such was the case with St. Camillus de Lellis, whose 450th anniversary of conversion we celebrate this year. His conversion took place in the Valley of Hell, between San Giovanni Rotondo and

Manfredonia, on February 2, 1575. The opening of this Jubilee, held precisely at these sacred sites on February 2, has provided the Camillian world with an opportunity to deepen its focus on keeping its gaze fixed on Christ in its mission of service to the sick and the poor. Beyond St. Camillus, other well-known saints, such as Maximilian Kolbe, Padre Pio, and many others, found in their encounter with God the source of their hope amidst suffering. In our time, figures such as Nicola Perin, Carlotta Nobile, Angelica Tiraboschi, and Fr. Salvatore Mellone—whom Pope Francis highlighted in 2018 as models for young people—continue to inspire us (cf. *Avvenire*, October 30, 2019).

Moreover, while the hope for physical healing often arises naturally in the midst of suffering, it is essential to recognize that true Christian hope extends beyond mere bodily healing. Healthcare workers, volunteers, and chaplains frequently hear patients say: “Hope is the last thing to die.” When this phrase genuinely reflects Christian hope, embracing even the possibility of death as a passage toward the eternal vision of the Father, we must acknowledge it as a special gift of grace—a gift that comes from faith in God.

This gift of hope enables us to go beyond a purely human understanding of existence and to see life in a holistic manner, accepting God as the Lord of the universe, who never abandons His creation—especially in times of trial. The Christian hope for fullness of life in Christ, which Benedict XVI calls “the great hope,” teaches us that neither sin, nor suffering, nor death will have the final word—for all things belong to Christ, who gave His life as a sacrifice for humanity’s perfect communion with its Creator. Finally, moments of suffering and illness often reveal themselves as times of fraternity and sharing. The hope for healing unites patients with their families, healthcare professionals, volunteers, chaplains, and all who assist them. It is the common thread that binds everyone together, strengthening their efforts and commitment to one another. Since



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no one wishes to be abandoned in suffering, but rather to find caring hands, listening ears, and understanding hearts, we must strive to build human communities around the sick, nurturing not only physical healing but also the seeds of salvation.

This is precisely the foundation of Camillian spirituality, which teaches that caring for the sick must be carried out with the deep conviction that one is serving Christ in the suffering person, and that the sick person, in turn, should see in the caregiver the presence of Christ ministering to them. It is a great grace when our relationships of service to the sick reach this profound level of spirituality—a level from which naturally springs “the hope that does not disappoint,” because it truly strengthens us in times of tribulation.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes and Health, and of St. Camillus, our heavenly patron, may the celebration of this 33rd World Day of the Sick, within this Jubilee Year, strengthen the roots of our spirituality and allow us to become ever more pilgrims of hope for our brothers and sisters, the poor, and the sick.

A Journey of Hope in Care and Accompaniment

The III Pastoral Healthcare Day offers us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of hope in illness and in serving those who suffer. This year, the celebration is closely linked to the Jubilee theme “Pilgrims of Hope”, which calls us to be tangible signs of consolation and support in situations of fragility.

Pope Francis, through his bull “Spes non confundit”, invites us to rediscover hope as the foundation of our faith, capable of illuminating even the most difficult moments of life. In this spirit, the Spanish Church guides us in a reflection that intertwines the spiritual dimension with concrete action, emphasizing the importance of encounter, gift, and sharing in the journey alongside the sick.

In this article, Br. José Carlos Bermejo M.I. explores the significance of hope in illness and the healing process, offering valuable insights into its transformative power in personal and community life.

By **Br. José Carlos Bermejo M.I.**

Director of the Center for the Humanization of Health - Madrid

On February 6, 2025, we celebrate the III Pastoral Healthcare Day, linked to the celebration of the World Day of the Sick within the Spanish Church. We know that our tradition unites us with the Universal Church, which celebrates this day on February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, while also maintaining the “Easter of the Sick” on the sixth Sunday of Easter. I would like to share a few key points:

The Theme. This year, the Pope’s message invites us to be “angels” of hope for one another, messengers of God in the world of health. He tells us that walking together is “a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.”

In the Spanish Church, the central theme is hope, with the motto of the Jubilee Year: “Pilgrims of Hope”, and that of the campaign for the sick: “In hope, we were saved” (Rom 8:24).

Hope in the Jubilee Year: Spes non confundit. We are living the joy of the Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis through the bull *Spes non confundit* (Hope does not disappoint - Rom 5:5). Francis affirms: “Hope is indeed born from love and is founded in love” (*Spes non confundit*, 3). St. Paul, as the bull states, is very realistic (*Spes non confundit*, 4): “He knows that life is made of joys and sorrows, that love is tested when difficulties increase, and hope seems to falter in the face of suffering.” Yet, we also know that proven virtue generates hope (Rom 5:4). He exhorts us: “The first sign of hope must be translated into peace for the world, which is once again immersed in the tragedy of war.” (*Spes non confundit*, 8).

The beautiful encyclical **Spe Salvi** (2007) by Pope Benedict XVI stated: “We need smaller and greater hopes to sustain us day by day. But without the great hope, which must surpass all others, these are not enough. This great hope

can only be God, who embraces the universe and can offer us what we cannot achieve on our own.” (Spe Salvi, 31).

Spe Salvi proposes places for learning hope, namely: Prayer, Action, Suffering, Judgment that will establish good.

Hope in Illness. A sick person, quoted by Giuseppe Colombo in the book “Illness: A Time for Courage”, once said: “Hope is like blood: you can’t see it, but it must be there. Blood is life. So is hope: it’s something that flows within, that must circulate, and makes you feel alive. If you don’t have it, you are dead, you are finished, there is nothing left to say... When you have no hope, it’s as if you no longer have blood... Maybe you are whole, but you are dead.”

Regarding the sick, *Spes non confundit* states: “Works of mercy are also works of hope, awakening feelings of gratitude in the heart. (...) There must be inclusive attention toward those who, facing particularly difficult conditions, experience their own fragility, especially the sick or people with disabilities that significantly limit personal autonomy. Caring for them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that requires coordinated actions from the entire society.” (*Spes non confundit*, 11).

Hope as an Anchor of Salvation. “The image of the anchor is powerful in helping us understand the stability and security we possess when we rely on the Lord Jesus, even in the midst of life’s stormy waters. The storms can never prevail, for we are anchored in the hope of grace.” (*Spes non confundit*, 25).

Hope at the San Camillo Center. At the San Camillo Center, we have conducted various studies on hope. During the pandemic, we focused on this theme and published the book “The 7 Surnames of Hope.” This includes:

- Trust: so visible in daily life
- Patience (Hypomoné): hope of healing, of being cared for, of being accompanied
- Memory: remembrance and hope
- Healing power: the therapeutic value of hope
- Tenacity: strength to continue without giving up
- Perseverance: persistence until the end
- Abandonment: allowing oneself to be cared for, loved, and comforted

In 2016, we studied “The Components of Hope in Terminal Illness” as a way of facing reality, an inner strength, and a way of living the present, always in relation with others and the transcendent. In 2017, we validated the EEET Hope Measurement Scale, confirming hope as a relational concept.

St. Camillus de Lellis placed his hope in God, as evidenced in his spiritual testament, and on his deathbed, he stated: “Another doctor awaits me.” As the First Letter of Peter exhorts us, we are invited to be “always ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us” (1 Pt 3:15). And we know he adds: “but with gentleness and respect” (1 Pt 3:16). May this Pastoral Health Day bring us well-being, solidarity, and celebration!



Walking together in the Camillian Jubilee

The Camillian Jubilee 2025 is a time of grace that unites the Camillian Family and the entire world in the memory of the conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis, which took place 450 years ago. Along this jubilee journey, celebrations, events, and reflections intertwine to renew the charism of service to the sick and suffering, illuminating Camillian communities across the globe.

This section gathers the most significant moments of this jubilee's beginning: from the solemn opening in San Giovanni Rotondo to the spread of the jubilee spirit in different nations, culminating in the gift of Plenary Indulgence granted by the Apostolic Penitentiary. Concluding this section is the profound homily of Cardinal Edoardo Menichelli, offering a deep reflection on the meaning of St. Camillus' conversion and its relevance for our time.

United on this journey, let us be inspired by the testimonies and celebrations experienced in the different Camillian realities, aware that the Jubilee is an opportunity to rediscover our vocation and bring the Camillian message to life within the Church and the world.

A Beginning of Grace: The Opening of the Camillian Jubilee 2025

The year 2025 began for the Camillian family with an event of extraordinary significance: the opening of the Camillian Jubilee, marking the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis. Three days of prayer, reflection, and communion launched a year filled with profound meaning—not only for the Order but for all those who share the charism of service to the sick and suffering.

From February 1 to 3, the places of St. Camillus' conversion—San Giovanni Rotondo, the Valley of the Inferno, and Manfredonia—became the spiritual heart of the celebrations, attended by confreres, religious sisters, healthcare workers, and faithful from across Italy and around the world.

February 1 – Reception of the relic and the beginning of the Jubilee journey

The first day opened with a deeply spiritual moment: the reception of the relic of St. Camillus' heart at the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza in San Giovanni Rotondo. A powerful symbol of his boundless love for the sick, the relic arrived from Messina to accompany the Camillian family on this journey of faith.

In the late afternoon, the Sanctuary of Santa Maria delle Grazie hosted a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Monsignor Franco Moscone, in the presence of the Superior General, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, and the General Consultors. The atmosphere of prayer prepared hearts for an encounter with the true protagonist of this Jubilee: Christ, who transformed the life of St. Camillus.



February 2 – Anniversary of the Conversion: a time of memory and renewal

On the morning of February 2, the Camillian family gathered in the place that most profoundly marks the turning point in the Saint's life: the Valley of the Inferno. Here, among the very stones that bore witness to his tears of conversion, a commemorative event recalled that distant day in 1575, when Camillus, touched by divine grace, decided to change his life.

This moment was sealed with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Edoardo Menichelli, concelebrated by the Superior General and the General Consultors. The Cardinal's words deeply moved all present, reminding them that conversion is not merely a historical event but a daily call to renew one's commitment to service and charity.

In the afternoon, a conference explored the deeper meaning of the Saint's conversion, with contributions from experts and active participation from attendees. Provincial Superior of Camillians in South Italy Brother Carlo Mangione warmly welcomed everyone to the sacred sites, emphasizing the relevance of St. Camillus' message for the Church today.

February 3 – Following in the Footsteps of Camillus at Manfredonia

The Jubilee pilgrimage concluded at Manfredonia, the city that welcomed St. Camillus in the first steps of his new life. At the cemetery church—formerly a Capuchin convent—Fr. Pedro Tramontin presided over a Eucharistic celebration, reminding all that every Camillian is called to rekindle the same passion as their founder in serving the sick, “with the affection of a mother for her only sick child.”

In the afternoon, the pilgrimage continued to Monte Sant'Angelo, to the Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel, a place deeply connected to the history of Camillian spirituality. Here, the Camillians entrusted the Jubilee journey and the mission of the Order to the protection of the Archangel Michael.

A Year of Grace to live together

These three days marked the beginning of a Jubilee journey that will unfold throughout 2025, with numerous events engaging Camillian communities across five continents. The relic of St. Camillus' heart will continue its pilgrimage, visiting parish communities and Camillian institutes, serving as a visible sign of the Saint's love that still pulses within the Church today.

Each community is called to actively embrace this time of renewal, through local celebrations, pilgrimages, and moments of prayer.

May this Jubilee be a time of conversion, growth, and renewed missionary zeal. May St. Camillus accompany us on this journey, teaching us always to see in the sick and suffering the face of Christ.

Upcoming Jubilee Events

- Camillian March to the Sites of Conversion (May 9-11)
- Camillian Jubilee Symposium in Rome (May 25-29)
- Jubilee of Youth with Pope Francis (July)
- Jubilee of Consecrated Life in Rome (October 8-9)
- Closing of the Jubilee Year at the Church of La Maddalena in Rome (December 8)

Let us spiritually unite in this Jubilee journey and make visible, through our lives, the mercy and charity of St. Camillus!

A Jubilee that unites continents and communities

The Camillian Jubilee 2025 is not just a celebratory event but a spiritual experience that transcends borders and cultures, uniting the Camillian Family in the spirit of conversion and service. From the Church of Santa Maria Maddalena in Rome to mission centers around the world, each community has begun this year of grace with meaningful celebrations, deeply rooted in their local contexts yet bound by a single charism: the care and love for the sick and suffering.

We have gathered some testimonies from various Camillian communities, showcasing how the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus has been embraced with joy, prayer, and renewed commitment. From Africa to Asia, from America to Europe, each community has experienced this Jubilee beginning as an opportunity to rediscover its role in the Church's mission and to reaffirm the relevance of the Camillian message in today's world.

A spiritual journey through the celebrations of the Camillian Jubilee across different continents, reminding us that wherever there is a Camillian, there is a tangible sign of God's mercy.

Haiti celebrates the Camillian Jubilee: A Journey of light and conversion

By **Fr. Webly Lagrenade MI**

Dear Beloved in Christ, may the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. Today, February 2, 2025, our Church is celebrating. We celebrate five significant events in its life. First, the Presentation of the Lord at the Temple; then, the Feast of the Candlemas, symbolizing Christ as the True Light, the One who comes to enlighten the nations. Today also marks the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, 40 days after giving birth to her Son, Jesus. In the fourth place, we celebrate the 29th World Day for Consecrated Life. Finally, this day reminds us of the conversion of our Patron Saint Camillus de Lellis on February 2, 1575, marking the beginning of the Jubilee for the 450th anniversary of his conversion. February 2, 1575 – February 2, 2025, 450 years since Camillus' conversion at the age of 25. He met the Lord, and his life changed.

Our meditation focuses on the theme of "encounter" – the encounter between God and man, the encounter between man and man. In the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, it was God himself who came to meet fragile humanity, represented by Simeon and Anna, who were waiting to see the consolation of Israel. The feast



of Candlemas, which we celebrate today, also symbolizes our encounter with Christ, the True Light, who comes to illuminate and enlighten our world filled with darkness and sin.

We also celebrate the 29th World Day for "Consecrated Life." We give thanks to God for this wonderful gift He has given to the Church and society. The vocation to consecrated life is the result of a calling and an encounter with the Lord. God calls, and, in full freedom, man responds within the Church. This is the opportunity for us to pray for and with the consecrated, especially those who carry out their mission in our fragile

and precarious context, so that, without tiring, with faith, hope, and charity, they may continue to bear witness to the mercy of God in our world.

Saint Camillus, whose 450th anniversary of conversion we celebrate, was also consecrated. His conversion on February 2, 1575, was the result of a conversation, an encounter he had the evening before with another consecrated man, Father Angelo (a Franciscan). This religious, docile to the Holy Spirit, was able to find the right and profound words to touch the heart of young Camillus and shake his conscience. The event that took place on the road to Manfredonia was a decisive moment in his life and in all he accomplished for the sick. Like Saint Paul, his life was transformed after encountering Christ. This Jubilee that the Order proposes to us begins today and will end on December 8th. It is therefore an opportunity for us to reflect further during this Jubilee year on the urgency and necessity of our own conversion and to commit

ourselves to a more authentic, transparent, and coherent relationship with God. Through this Mass, we ask Christ, the True Light, to help us, as He did for Camillus, to move away from the darkness of sin and evil. By doing so, we can turn our backs on lies, hatred, pride, selfishness, and malice, and go towards our brothers and sisters, the sick. In this dynamic of conversion, our country, Haiti, will be transformed, and justice, love, solidarity, peace, joy, and security will ultimately prevail.

“May the Virgin Mary, who had the great privilege of presenting to the Father Jesus Christ, her Only Son, as a pure and holy offering, guard us in thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of consecrated life and for the wonders she has accomplished for the good of all humanity.” May the graces of this Jubilee come upon you and your families now and forever! Amen! Happy Jubilee to all!

On the occasion of the official opening of the Camillian Jubilee Year, a spiritually meaningful ceremony was celebrated, with the community coming together in prayer and reflection. Below, we share an account of what was experienced in Haiti during the Jubilee opening, a moment of great participation and reflection.

On February 2nd, the father superior lit the Paschal Candle, the lamp symbolizing faith, hope, and charity that must burn in our hearts. It was placed in the prepared spot near the tabernacle and the image of Saint Camillus, along with a relic. During this time, we meditated with a hymn to the Holy Spirit.

Afterwards, the whole community prayed together the official prayer of the Camillian Jubilee. The final blessing was given with a relic of Saint Camillus, followed by thanks from the Superior Father, and photos with the Camillians in white habits with the red cross, the Servant Sisters of the Sick, the Jubilee Committee, hospital collaborators, and the faithful of the chapel “Our Lady of Health.”

The committee has identified significant dates in the life of our Patron to plan activities that spread the Camillian spirit among our collaborators, especially in activities with the sick and the faithful of our prayer community, in both the spiritual and pastoral aspects. The launch went well, and I am confident that we will do our best to live this time of revitalization of the Camillian charism in the world.

Thank you for living the Jubilee of the conversion of Saint Camillus with dignity, and let us make the most of this grace.

- Fr. Daudier MI

A time of Grace: Plenary Indulgence for the Camillian Jubilee

At the heart of the 2025 Camillian Jubilee, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted the possibility of obtaining a Plenary Indulgence to those who, with sincere hearts and under the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer according to the Pope's intentions), participate in the Jubilee celebrations and unite spiritually in the journey of conversion following in the footsteps of Saint Camillus de Lellis.

It has been confirmed that the Plenary Indulgence can be obtained not only in the Church of Santa Maria Maddalena in Rome and in the Camillian Jubilee temples, but also in all churches, oratories, and chapels where members of the four congregations inspired by the charism of Saint Camillus live and serve:

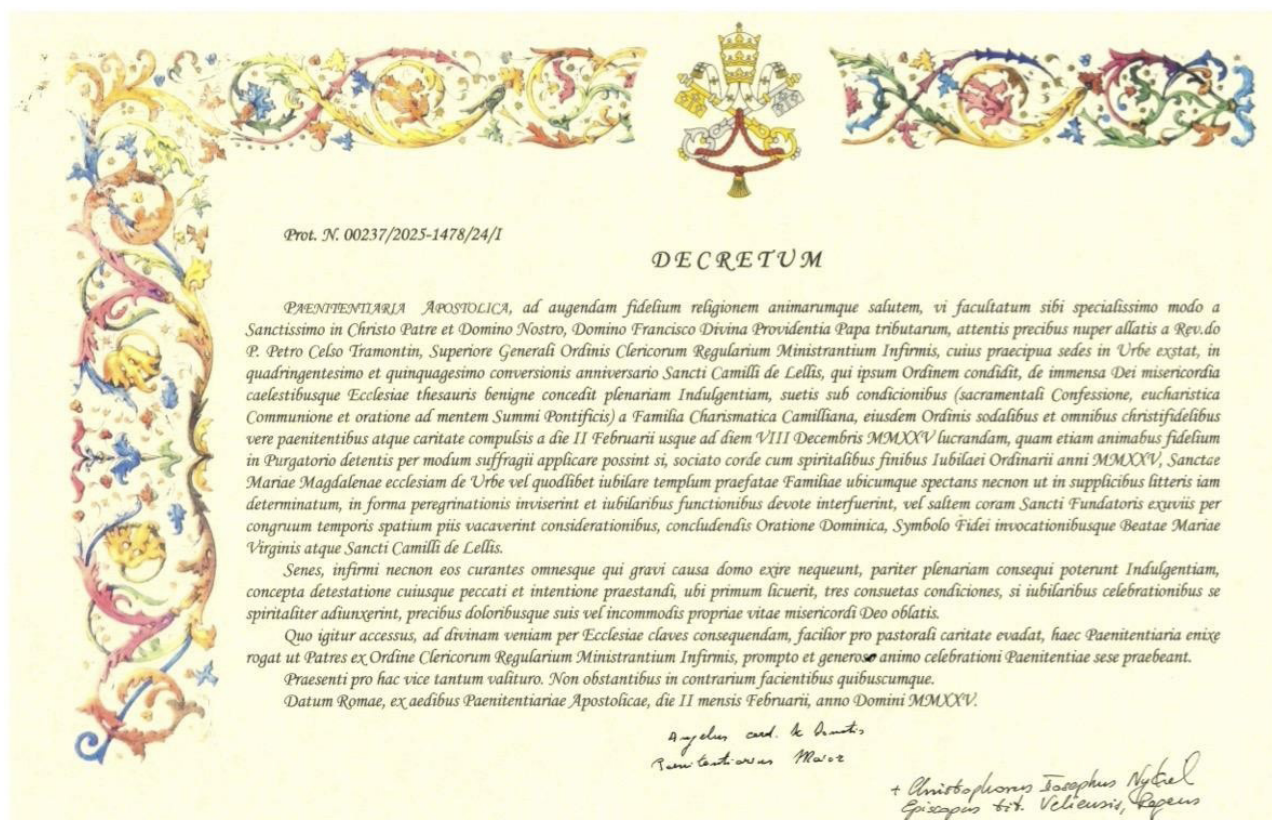
- Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians)
- Daughters of Saint Camillus
- Ministers of the Infirm of Saint Camillus
- Missionaries of the Infirm "Christ Hope"

These places are not considered "Jubilee churches", but they remain sacred spaces where, through prayer and the intercession of Saint Camillus, the faithful may obtain the gift of the Plenary Indulgence.

A free gift for all the faithful

As an additional sign of the Church's benevolence, the Decree of Plenary Indulgence has been granted free of charge, without any requirement of an official fee.

This Jubilee is an extraordinary opportunity to rediscover the depth of God's mercy, to live a true conversion of the heart, and to strengthen our commitment to serving the sick and suffering. Saint Camillus continues to guide us—let us take advantage of this time of grace to renew our vocation with faith and zeal.



THE DECREE

“The Apostolic Penitentiary, in order to foster the piety of the faithful and the salvation of souls, by virtue of the special faculties granted to it in a most particular manner by the Holy Father Francis, by divine providence Supreme Pontiff, having considered the recent petitions presented by the Reverend Father Pedro Celso Tramontin, Superior General of the Order of the Clerics Regular, Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians), whose principal seat is in Rome, on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Camillus de Lellis, founder of the same Order, grants with benevolence, from the abundance of divine mercy and the heavenly treasures of the Church, a Plenary Indulgence under the following conditions:

The members of the Camillian Charismatic Family, the religious of the Order, and all faithful who are truly repentant and moved by charity, from February 2 until December 8, 2025, may obtain this Plenary Indulgence, which may also be applied to the souls of the faithful departed in Purgatory, under the following conditions:

- *Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Sacramental Confession)*
- *Participating in the Holy Eucharistic Communion*
- *Praying according to the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff*

The Plenary Indulgence may be obtained by visiting, in the form of a pilgrimage and with a

devout heart, the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Rome or any other Camillian Jubilee temple, and by participating in the Jubilee celebrations, or at least by praying before the relics of Saint Camillus de Lellis, dedicating a suitable time to meditation, and concluding with the recitation of the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Camillus de Lellis.

Provisions for those unable to attend

Elderly persons, the sick, and all those who, for serious reasons, are unable to leave their homes may likewise obtain the Plenary Indulgence, provided that, detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling the three usual conditions as soon as possible, they spiritually unite themselves to the Jubilee celebrations, offering to the merciful God their prayers, their sufferings, and the hardships of their lives.

To facilitate access to divine mercy through the ministry of the keys of the Church, the Apostolic Penitentiary warmly exhorts the Fathers of the Order of the Clerics Regular, Ministers of the Infirm, to make themselves generously available for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation”.

Given in Rome, at the seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on February 2, in the Year of Our Lord 2025.

A Tribute to the Conversion of St. Camillus

Homily of Cardinal Edoardo Menichelli

In the heart of the celebrations for the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus, a solemn Eucharistic celebration was held in San Giovanni Rotondo, presided over by Cardinal Edoardo Menichelli. In a moving and profound homily, the Cardinal retraced the meaning of St. Camillus' conversion, linking it to the present time and to the call to holiness and to the service of the sick.

The central message of this reflection is clear: conversion is not only an event of the past, but a continuous call to let oneself be transformed by the grace of God and to incarnate the Camillian charisma in today's world. Through the story of the saint's life, the Cardinal's words resonate as an invitation to the entire Camillian Family to rediscover their commitment to the "school of charity" and to radically live their service to the sick.

We publish below the full text of the homily, as a starting point for meditation and renewal for the Jubilee journey.

I am deeply moved as I celebrate the Holy Eucharist here, in this place of sanctity, to remember and meditate on the conversion of St. Camillus: a singular grace of God for a singular vocation to embody a prophetic service to the sick.

I greet the Bishop of this Diocese and my brother Bishop from Brazil. I am very grateful to you, Father Pedro Tramontin, Superior General of the Clerics Regular Ministers of the Sick, more affectionately known as "Camillians", for this invitation to pray with you and for you who cherish the memory of holiness and the charismatic witness of St. Camillus. I will tell you, dear Father, that as an Aggregate to the Camillian Order I renew my commitment to an imitative devotion that I have always cherished and cultivated towards Saint Camillus, especially during my ministry in the Diocese of Chieti-Vasto

and in the dear town of Buccianico.

Dear friends, in preparing this reflection of mine I realized that there is a coincidence that links the memory of the conversion of St. Camillus to our time: at that time Pope Gregory XIII proclaimed a Holy Year, today we are living the Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis. If we then add your Camillian Jubilee Year, we are still within a story of conversion, conversion of a grace of God that calls for the renewal of life in holiness, that urges us to be a "prophecy" for the historical period in which we live and invites us to read our vocation evangelically within the history in which it is embodied.

**What was missing in and from Camillus's life? All the choices he had made had generated loneliness, discouragement, inner distress and poverty that even led him to beg.*

His uneasiness finds its way to God and everything inside him falls apart. The old monk who witnesses his suffering, here in San Giovanni Rotondo, suggests something different to him about his life and tells him kindly but firmly: "God is everything; the rest is nothing. Saving your soul is the only commitment".

Through those words, the sweet and strong grace of God passes and Camillo, in a new story of life, finds dignity and new hope. He finds God and loves him through an inner struggle, he touches pain, even personal pain (there is also the plague on his foot that torments him) and above all he loves him in the service of the sick people in whom he sees and serves the Crucified.

God's touch and His grace need our freedom: only in this way does God design and deliver a vocation and a project of beauty and mercy and, through contrasts and difficulties (the cross is always part of God's plan: it is purification and love - in addition, Camillo also has his "conversation" with the great Crucified One!) the charisma becomes holy and

fruitful a touchable ministry, almost a sacrament of love, of evangelical mercy. The conversion is total: from mercenary to “servant” of life and of the sufferings that afflict it.

This conversion of St. Camillus urges me to link it to what the Italian Church proposes to us today (day of life) to rediscover the sacredness of life from its germination (fertilization and conception) to its end with death. Life does not need adjectives to be qualified. It remains and is only “life”.

The touch of God received, makes our saint plunge into a human and social dimension marked by a lack of dignity: sick people and places of care. The charisma given by the Spirit becomes, in him, obedience and testimony of the “I was sick and you visited me” as we read in the Gospel of Matthew (25:36) and also becomes a social revolution with respect to the healthcare of that time. I remember with emotion what Father Emidio Spogli often told me: “Saint Camillus carried out the first healthcare reform!”. Today too we need another St. Camillus!

At the center of the charisma: the sick human person where Christ is present.

From then on the great evangelical history of the Camillian Family began: men and women, sons and daughters, you, who here today remember a conversion and renew a following of faithfulness to thank God and motivate yourselves in the “school of charity”.

Within the following of faith there is the need to preserve the past and to incarnate oneself in the times of history. Looking at the conversion of St. Camillus we find two inseparable binomials:

- The first is spirituality-faith and charisma. This “inseparability” places us in a continuous conversion. The center of faith and spirituality is Christ: a personal relationship with Him is therefore necessary. Christ doesn’t ask us to understand him, to reason about him: he asks us to welcome him, to allow him to enter our life and free it from the “illnesses” that invade our conscience and soul, and also free it from the ritual customs with which we are tempted to cover it. We therefore need to nourish ourselves with God’s love.

The experience of old Simeon, just heard in the Gospel passage of the liturgical Solemnity of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, helps us on this

journey: Christ is the salvation to be welcomed, the joy that gives fullness, the presence that brings beauty and clarity to life. If and when Christ is the love of our life, if and when, like the disciple Peter, we hand over our freedom to Christ and say to him “at your word - at you” (Lk 5,5), every spiritual adventure will be fruitful. This is where the experience of St. Camillus becomes possible and imitable. It may happen that, as I read a few years ago in a study on the relevance of the works of mercy, that “the Samaritan’s donkey is lamed”: the important thing, dear friends, is that the Samaritan is not lamed. No difficulty stopped St. Camillus: he was driven by the love of Christ to whom he had given free access to his life. Within this relationship of love, God dispenses His gift, the charisma becomes illumination, a Gospel interpretation of life and therefore the presence of salvation and testimony of mercy.

Here we have the second pairing between charisma and the history of salvation, between the charismatic and the family that has and guards the inheritance of God’s gift and that has the duty to intercept, to grasp “God’s imagination” and to bring it down into human time for a renewed fruitfulness of grace. The gift of God is not a “fossil” for a museum, but “new wealth” for the garden of God, for the benefit of his children who live in it and walk towards glory and redemptive fullness.

In these two pairs, every vocation must find its truth: the priesthood, married life, and consecrated life, with the methods that the gift of God requires and expects.

We leave you, dear friends, with a question: what does God want from us today? This is the theme. Every vocation requires the step taken by the first apostles: to pray to the Holy Spirit: only He can give the “necessary wisdom”. My prayer intention today, here, is for this and for you, sons and daughters of St. Camillus.

May the maternal diakonia of Mary, to whom St. Camillus turned, help us all. Mary’s many forms of diakonia are to be imitated: her relationship with her Son (and what a Son!), her spousal relationship with Joseph, her family (and what a Family!), her presence at the wedding at Cana when the newlyweds had run out of wine, her adoring silence, her presence at the foot of the cross, the community of the early Church that gathers in prayer.

Amen

Camillians in Georgia: A mission that never stops

There are places in the world where being sick means becoming invisible, where poverty leads to isolation, and where the most fragile are forgotten. It is precisely in these places that the charism of St. Camillus becomes more alive and necessary. For 27 years, four confreres—two Polish and two Georgian—have chosen to be a tangible presence alongside those who suffer, in places where access to healthcare is a privilege for the few and where hope often seems an impossible luxury.

Father Pawel Dyl, Father Zygmunt Niedziwdz, Father Lasha Manukian, and Brother Paata Chiubinidze are not just missionaries; they are faces, hands, and hearts that fight daily against abandonment, bringing care, relief, and dignity to children, the elderly, and the disabled who would otherwise have no support. In a country marked by instability and economic crisis, their rehabilitation and assistance centers have become a vital point of reference for those who have nothing left.

This is their story: a testimony of faith lived through service, of charity put into action, and of hope that, as St. Camillus taught us, never gives up.



“Our Mission in Georgia: Standing by the weak in difficult times”

When we arrived in Georgia 27 years ago, we knew our mission would be challenging, but we could not have imagined just how difficult it would be. Georgia is a country rich in culture and traditions but also marked by profound social inequalities. Economic and political tensions make life even more uncertain for the most vulnerable, especially the sick and disabled.

Here, medical care is not accessible to everyone. In the most remote villages, healthcare facilities are almost nonexistent, and even in cities, not everyone can afford the treatment they need. For poor families, having a child with a disability often means a destiny of isolation and suffering. Without support, many children remain confined at home for years, deprived of any possibility of rehabilitation or a dignified life.

“Every day, close to those who suffer”

We have seen heartbreaking situations with our own eyes—children left without care because their families cannot afford a specialist visit, elderly patients forced to endure pain because there are no facilities to take them in, people with disabilities confined to their homes without means of mobility or adequate assistance.

In this precarious context, our Diagnostic and Rehabilitation Centers in Tbilisi and Akhaltsikhe

have become a point of reference for them. We offer outpatient care, physiotherapy, speech therapy, and psychological support to anyone in need. But we know it is not enough: our dream is to do even more, to reach more people, and to bring hope to those who are forgotten. For this purpose, we are building a Disability Center in the city of Kutaisi. The “thousand arms” of St. Camillus never tire.

A concrete help in times of uncertainty

The political and economic instability in Georgia makes our work even more challenging. The cost of medicine is rising, public funding is scarce, and many families find themselves without any kind of support. In these difficult times, solidarity becomes even more essential. Thanks to the support of the Order, volunteers, and benefactors, we continue our mission with the hope inherited from our Founder—one that transcends the logic of the global economy.

We, the Camillians—two Polish priests, Fr. Pawel Dyl and Fr. Zygmunt Niedziwdz, and two Georgian confreres, Fr. Lasha Manukian and Brother Paata Chiubinidze—are here for as long as there is even one person in need. We will continue to fight to offer dignity, care, and love to the sick and poor of Georgia.

We are convinced that in an uncertain and troubled world, the Merciful God continues to act just as He did with St. Camillus 450 years ago.

Camillus on Stage: A New Play for the 450th Anniversary of Saint Camillus' Conversion

By **Fr. Pietro Magliozzi MI**



On the 450th anniversary of the conversion of Saint Camillus, theater becomes a tool for reflection and spiritual deepening. Among the Jubilee initiatives, a new theatrical production dedicated to the Saint brings his story to the stage in an engaging and original way. The performance, met with great participation and appreciation, offers a fresh perspective on the human and vocational journey of Camillus de Lellis, making his message accessible to a wider audience. This project, through culture and

memory, helps to keep the Camillian charism alive

At the Piccolo Teatro dello Scalo (Chieti Scalo, Via Pescara 205/A), the theater company Il Canovaccio, composed of the Laboratorio Teatrale Stabile del Piccolo Teatro dello Scalo and Ex Machina Teatro di Chieti, under the direction and authorship of Gian Camillo Marrone, staged a theatrical production about Saint Camillus de Lellis titled: “Camillus, Providence of God” on January 25 and 26, 2025. The performance

took place during the drama season “Theater, a Window on the World”, which also features other plays on themes such as war and imprisonment. The play is primarily inspired by the work of Canadian author Susan Peek, “A Soldier Surrenders”, a historical novel about pre-conversion Camillus and his turbulent vocational journey. A book aimed at young people searching for their own vocational path, it was originally written in English (A Soldier Surrenders, 2011) and later translated into Spanish (La Rendición de un Soldado, 2012). Only recently has it been translated into Italian by Fr. Magliozzi and published by Ed. Segno in December 2024.

The cast, consisting entirely of Abruzzese actors—a first for a play about Camillus—includes: Samuele Marrone (Camillus de Lellis); Diego Ciaschetti (Curzio Lodi); Stefano Di Salvatore (Brother Angelo); Rosario Cicellini (Giovanni de Lellis, Camillus’ father); Luca Serritelli, Francesco Prodon, and Antonella Giancateri (men and women from the slums of Naples); Gaia Lanterni (a hospital worker at San Giacomo, Donna Carla); Lighting and sound by Fabio Consorte.

The production saw a full house on both nights, with some attendees unable to get seats. The narrative is built around a storyteller, Curzio Lodi, a friend and later a confrere of Camillus, who recounts the saint’s life after his passing.

Post-performance feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the fresh perspective on pre-conversion Camillus, a departure from the usual cliché. But above all, the play moved many to tears, even after leaving the theater. The emotional portrayal of Saint Camillus’ extraordinary conversion resonated deeply with the audience, serving as a new sign of God’s providence—an invitation to reflect on the Year of Saint Camillus’ Conversion through the medium of theater.

Given its success, the play is expected to be performed again in April and taken beyond Chieti to wherever it is requested. The first destination will be Bucchianico, the birthplace of Saint Camillus.

A Priest for the triple Jubilee: The Ordination of Father Isaac Okello, MI

By Gyaviira Matovu Charles, MI

The year 2025 marks a significant milestone for the Camillian mission in Uganda, celebrating 25 years of service under the theme, “In the Footsteps of St. Camillus.” Simultaneously, the global Camillian Order commemorates 450 years since the conversion of St. Camillus de Lellis with the theme, “Conquered by Christ,” while the Universal Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of “Pilgrims of Hope.” Amidst these Jubilee celebrations, the Camillian mission in Uganda is blessed with the ordination of a “Triple Jubilee Priest,” Fr. Isaac Okello, MI.

On January 10, 2025, Fr. Isaac Okello was ordained by Rt. Rev. Joseph Echiru Oliach, Bishop of Soroti Catholic Diocese. The ordination took place during a Eucharistic celebration at St. Joseph’s Parish, Ngora, marking the conclusion of the Soroti Catholic Diocese Men’s Conference. In his homily, Bishop Echiru highlighted the importance of priestly vocation, stating, “The priestly formation and vocation is a serious journey, for serious men, prepared for a serious ministry in a serious Church.”

The following day, January 11, 2025, Fr. Isaac celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass at his parents’ home in St. Benedict’s Parish, Amicu. The mass was attended by numerous priests, religious, Camillian family members, and a large gathering of the faithful. The homilist, Rev. Fr. Martin Ekwangu Ecodu, a diocesan priest and one of Fr. Isaac’s former formators at St. Paul’s National Major Seminary, congratulated him on his ordination. Fr. Martin emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong spiritual life, serving the sick selflessly, and adhering to the charism of the Camillian Order.



Fr. Isaac Okello is the sixth Camillian priest from Uganda and begins his ministry surrounded by the love and support of the Camillian community and the faithful. As a Triple Jubilee Priest, he embodies the words of the Holy Father, “Hope never disappoints.” He is called to be an instrument of hope among the sick, a pilgrim of hope, and a servant of Christ, living conversion in the footsteps of St. Camillus.

May God’s grace sustain Fr. Isaac in his ministry: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9).