



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

N. 109

The Camillan world seen from Rome...and Rome seen by the World



Fraternity,
Listening and Hope



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Edited by:
Communications Office
Piazza della Maddalena, 53
00186 Roma; Tel.: +39 351 318 6090
Email: comunicazione@camilliani.org
Website: www.camilliani.org

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Dear Confreres,

Peace and joy in the Lord Jesus!

With this monthly message for September 2025, I wish to reach you at the beginning of the new three-year period (2025-2028) inaugurated with the appointments of the major superiors – provincials, vice provincials, and delegates. I thank you all for your service in the provinces, vice provinces, and delegations, trusting that the Holy Spirit will sustain you and give you renewed enthusiasm.

With the provincial and delegation councils already established, you are entering a new season of fraternity, responsibility, and mission. In some provinces, new paths have already been set in motion, with appointments, transfers, and initiatives; others are preparing to embark on this same journey.

Together with some members of the General Consulta, I had the joy of visiting the Province of Benin–Togo, from August 4 to 20. It was an experience that I will carry in my heart: a young, lively, and growing reality, with 85 religious with perpetual vows, 14 with temporary vows, 7 novices, 19 postulants, and 9 aspirants. Among these confreres, I was able to touch with my own hands the gift of our charism lived and made concrete in hospitals, parishes, chaplaincies, and various pastoral services. The testimony of my confreres reminded me of the strength and relevance of our Camillian vocation.

What particularly struck me was seeing how this Province has already begun drafting its own Strategic Plan, in harmony with that of the Order. It is a sign of maturity and responsibility, but above all of faith and courage: it means looking ahead with vision, without limiting ourselves to responding to the urgent needs of today.

I would like to strongly emphasize a crucial point: every province, vice province, and delegation is called to equip itself with a strategic plan.

Without a shared vision, we risk walking in circles. Without a clear direction, we take refuge in routine, repeating gestures and choices without asking ourselves if they are truly a response to the challenges of our time. The Order's Strategic Plan is not an administrative formality: it is a gift and a responsibility that guides us like a

compass in our community discernment.

Developing a plan means opening ourselves to the Spirit, listening to the signs of the times, and daring to take new paths. It means asking ourselves:

- To where is the Lord calling us today?
- What future do we want to prepare for the sick, the poor, and the suffering?
- How can we live our fourth vow with renewed passion and creativity?

The strategic plan helps us to proceed with a new method:

- Clarity of mission, to always preserve our identity and vocation.
- Unity of direction, so that every community and confrere may walk together toward the same goal.
- Courage to dream, so that we are not satisfied with mediocrity but dare to do “great things for God and for the sick,” as St. Camillus taught us.
- Concrete tools for action, to transform dreams into real steps, into projects that change people’s lives and allow for continuity beyond the religious who change roles, allowing for the continuity of processes.

The world around us is changing rapidly: healthcare systems, social and cultural contexts, even the fabric of the Church. Without discernment, we risk being unprepared or irrelevant. With a plan, however, we remain firm in our charism and, at the same time, open to the future with hope.

A shared project offers new energy: it strengthens the sense of belonging, ignites creativity, and promotes shared responsibility for all, not just superiors. It helps us move from dreams to action, preventing words from remaining empty promises.

St. Camillus was a man of vision. He did not stop at imagining, but organized, built, took risks, and achieved. To be his true ‘children’ today, we must learn to have the same prophetic audacity and the same practical approach.

For this reason, I invite you to make the drafting of the strategic plan in your provinces, vice-provinces, and delegations a priority, if this has not already been done: appoint a commission, dedicate time and energy, and let yourselves be guided by the Spirit. The General Council is at your disposal to accompany you on this journey.

Before taking leave, I would like to inform you that, precisely with a view to ever more effective synergy and planning among all the components of our Order, the General Consulta will meet online on October 16, 2025, with the newly appointed major superiors, and on October 17, 2025, with all the major superiors.

Let us entrust our commitment to Mary Most Holy and to St. Camillus: may they support us with their intercession and help us to serve the sick with “more heart in our hands,” today and always.

p. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superiore generale



Fraternity, listening, and renewed hope

Pastoral visit of the Superior General to the Province of Benin-Togo

By p. Josué Loko MI

From August 4 to 20, 2025, the Camillian Province of Benin-Togo experienced a time of grace and communion with the pastoral visit of the Superior General, Father Pedro Tramontin, accompanied by his consultants: Father Baby Ellickal, responsible for formation, Father Médard Aboue, in charge of ministry, and Brother Paul Kabore, representative for missions. The delegation's arrival, scheduled for 12:15 p.m. at Bernardin Gantin Airport in Cotonou, took place

at 1:00 p.m. on August 4, where a large group of confreres warmly welcomed the Superior General and Father Baby. The community of Sègbanou then hosted a welcome ceremony, officially beginning a journey rich in encounters and sharing.

The visit continued the following day with the community of Zopah, in Calavi, and intensified in the following days with a stop in Zinvié, where the delegation also met with the Daughters of St.



Camillus and the Lay Camillian Family. In Davougon, the Superior General had the opportunity to dialogue with the Bishop of Abomey, while in Djougou he met the local bishop, strengthening the bond between the Camillian mission and the local Church. After a brief stop in Davougon, the visit continued to Lomé, where a significant meeting was held with the Lay Camillian Family of the city. On August 16, the community of Cotonou welcomed the delegation and hosted a meeting with the Metropolitan Archbishop, while in the following days, in Sègbanou, a visit was made to the Oasis d'Amour Association of Tocan, founded by Grégoire Ahongbonon.

The highlight of the visit was the General Assembly on August 19, followed by the concluding Eucharistic celebration at the Formation House in Sègbanou. The liturgy, experienced with

participation and intensity, left those present with a deep sense of unity, spiritual renewal, and shared commitment to the service of the sick, in the footsteps of St. Camillus' charism. In the afternoon of the same day, the Superior General met the Provincial Council for a constructive and fraternal dialogue.

The visit ended on August 20 with morning Mass, followed by the delegation's departure for the airport. This time of encounter left a deep mark on the life of the Province: an atmosphere of joy, fraternity, and hope that continues to inspire the daily journey of the Camillian religious. May the intercession of St. Camillus accompany every step, for an ever more faithful and generous service to our suffering brothers and sisters.



Meeting of Formators and Vocation Promoters of the Americas

By **Felipe Rodrigo de Almeida**

From August 26 to 29, formators and vocation promoters from different parts of the Americas gathered in Belo Horizonte to reflect, share, and chart new paths for the Camillian mission. A mosaic of faces, languages, and charisms enlivened the days, with the participation of the Brazilian Camillian Province, the Vice-Province of Peru, the Delegation of Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, together with the Daughters of St. Camillus, the Ministers of the Sick of St. Camillus, the Camillian Missionaries, and the Camillian Missionaries Mary Mother of Life.

The meeting addressed the challenges of formation in our time with courage and depth. The topics proposed touched on complex and current issues: histrionics and clericalism among young people, vocation inconsistency, new dynamics related to morality and sexuality, fragility in choices, and the path of adult vocations. Ample space was also devoted to mental health, with reflections on its implications for the formation process and strategies for the integral care of the person.

The conferences, led by Fra Vagner Sanagiotto, O.Carm, and Fr. Rafael Solano, offered provocative and enlightening insights, becoming true laboratories of discernment. More than just lessons, they were shared experiences of listening and discussion, capable of generating new perspectives for vocation accompaniment.

Alongside reflection, there were moments of prayer and group work, which gave concrete form to ideas and strengthened the sense of community. In this atmosphere of fraternal dialogue, common visions and practical proposals emerged to strengthen the Camillian mission in the American continent.

The presence of different congregations and distant countries reminded everyone that vocation is a gift for the Church and for the world, to be lived with authenticity, inner freedom, and dedication to the care of life. United by the charism of St. Camillus, religious men and women renewed their commitment to the formation of men and women capable of responding generously to Christ's call.





The Laudato Si' Amphitheater

A place to celebrate life

By Juan Pablo Hernández

On the occasion of the feast of St. Camillus, July 11, the new Laudato Si' Amphitheater was inaugurated at the San Camilo Center in Tres Cantos, an open-air space designed to host moments of formation, celebration, and community animation. The event, introduced by Brother José Carlos Bermejo, Provincial Superior of the Spanish Province, was a moment of deep emotion and reflection. In his speech, Brother José Carlos

emphasized the symbolic and spiritual value of this place, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical and the Franciscan spirit that accompanied St. Camillus de Lellis on his journey of service to the sick.

The amphitheater, built thanks to the contribution of 0.7% of IRPEF (personal income tax), was designed to be fully accessible and integrated into the Center's garden, surrounded by nature. With over 160 seats,

it is a multipurpose space capable of hosting educational activities, religious celebrations, and community meetings for residents, staff, and visitors. Its architectural and artistic elements evoke the Camillian history, universal brotherhood, and the humanization of care, offering an environment that encourages contemplation and dialogue.

During the inauguration, Brother José Carlos also recalled

some episodes from the life of St. Camillus, in particular his attempts to enter the Order of Capuchin Friars, a sign of his deep harmony with Franciscan spirituality. This connection is reflected in the choice of the name *Laudato Si'*, which refers to Pope Francis' encyclical—now in its tenth anniversary year—and which calls for care for creation and responsibility towards our “common home.” Among the most significant symbolic elements of the amphitheater is the bas-relief depicting Achilles and Priam, taken from the *Iliad*, which offers a powerful reflection on pain, compassion, and human dignity in the context of suffering.

“We want this space to be a celebration of care, beauty, and life in all its forms. Here, one can breathe respect, encounter, and hope,” said Brother José Carlos Bermejo, expressing his desire for the amphitheater to become a place that generates relationships and meaning. Its construction was made possible thanks to the collaboration



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of numerous individuals and organizations, who contributed their passion and expertise to the design, financing, and construction. The new amphitheater was created with

the vocation of being a point of reference for the community, rooted in the Camillian charism and Franciscan spirituality, and open to new forms of encounter and sharing.



The Camillian Spirit in Vietnam: Testimony of Faith and Service

From June 29 to July 9, Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi MI had a pastoral and formative experience in the Vice Province of Vietnam. His stay was a valuable opportunity to meet and share with local Camillian religious, strengthening the fraternal bond and charism of the Order in a rapidly growing context. The following article offers an in-depth look at the vitality of the Camillian presence in Vietnam and the evangelical witness that flows from it.

During my years of formation in Rome, I had the opportunity to meet several Camillian religious from Vietnam, both at the Camillianum and in other academic centers. Later, we were reunited in the community of Tres Cantos, in Madrid, where some of them had come to collaborate with the Spanish province. At the same time, they took advantage of their stay to continue their theological studies in *Comillas* or to do practical internships at the Camillian Humanization Center.

As time passed, I was able to perceive and confirm in them a series of common traits that define them as a religious community: a relational style marked by kindness and closeness, a deeply rooted Camillian spirit—especially in service to those who suffer—and a spiritual life lived with seriousness and consistency. Their active presence in community life and their cordial attitude make them particularly appreciated both in the religious and welfare fields.

This character is also reflected in the history of their country, Vietnam, marked by profound

socio-political transformation. After a century of French presence in Indochina and various episodes of resistance, the country experienced a long war, which ended in 1975 with the withdrawal of the United States and reunification under the communist regime in Hanoi. Although state control remains strong, especially with regard to religion and healthcare, the last two decades have seen a certain openness, accompanied by remarkable economic and technological growth.

Vietnam, with over 100 million inhabitants, has emerged as a growing economy, distinguished by its exports of rice, coffee, tea, and other agricultural products. Development in sectors such as robotics, engineering, and space science makes it an increasingly competitive country. On a religious level, although officially atheist, Catholic practice is intense and visible, with churches packed from the early hours of the morning and a significant number of religious and priestly vocations. This spiritual dynamism makes it one of the most promising countries for the Church.

In this context, the Camillian presence in



It is a model of committed, generous, and deeply evangelical religious life, which is a true source of inspiration for the entire Camillian Order.

Vietnam has gained strength. In 2024, it has become a vice-province and has religious not only in its own country but also in Thailand, Spain, Taiwan, and Italy. It has a solid number of religious with perpetual vows and in formation, many of whom already have professional training in nursing, medicine, physiotherapy, or music, thus fulfilling one of the requirements for entry into Camillian religious life in the country.

The services offered by the Vietnamese Camillians are varied and deeply rooted in the charism of the Order: hospices for the terminally ill, orphanages, residences for people with HIV/AIDS, and diocesan clinics, all run without any state support and sustained exclusively by benefactors. Particularly striking is the completely free nature of their services, as well as the direct involvement of all religious—both professed and novices—in welfare and domestic activities.

Their lifestyle is austere and communal. There are no hired staff to cook, clean, or shop; all these tasks are performed by the religious themselves, who also actively participate in the care of animals, internal organization, and liturgical life. The daily routine begins at 4:00 a.m. with prayer and ends at 9:00 p.m. with rest, after an intense day of study, work, or apostolate.

This rhythm of life, deeply Camillian, privileges action, service, and community. However, there is also a perceived need to cultivate more critical thinking, personal identity, and the expression of interiority, aspects that could further enrich their human and spiritual growth. Nevertheless, the witness they offer is admirable: a model of committed, generous, and deeply evangelical religious life, which is a true source of inspiration for the entire Camillian Order.





National Meeting of the Lay Camillian Family in Argentina

By **Juan Pablo Hernández**

From August 15 to 17, the city of Resistencia, in the province of Chaco (Argentina), hosted the national meeting of the Camillian Lay Family, an intense experience of fraternity, prayer, and sharing. For three days, participants from different regions of the country experienced moments of deep spirituality, alternating between celebrations, formative conferences, and missionary activities in their respective local headquarters.

Among the most significant moments was the presentation of Bro. Antonio Alegre, a Camillian religious from the Argentine delegation (Province of Spain) and national councilor

of the Camillian Family, who offered a reflection on sanctifying grace, inviting those present to recognize God's transforming action in everyday life and to renew their commitment to serving the sick and the most vulnerable.

The program also included other valuable contributions. On the first day, Fr. Ricardo Fiat SJ explored the theme of reconciliation, emphasizing forgiveness as a path to personal and community renewal. In keeping with the Church's Jubilee Year and the celebration of the 450th anniversary of St. Camillus' conversion, participants made a pilgrimage to the Parish of San

Javier, passing through the Holy Door and participating in the Eucharist.

The meeting concluded with the constitutive assembly of the new National Commission of the Lay Camillian Family, which will guide the journey for the next three years (2025–2028). Carla Bravo was re-elected president, supported by Noemí Escalada (vice president), Mirian Corso (secretary), and Marcela Vera (treasurer). Bro. Antonio Alegre will continue to offer his spiritual guidance, confirming his central role in the growth and consolidation of the Camillian mission in Argentina.

A Path that Widens: New Responses to the Call

The Camillian family continues to grow and bear witness to the vitality of St. Camillus' charism in different parts of the world. Recent celebrations in Brazil, Uganda, and Kenya tell stories of young people who have responded generously to the Lord's call, embracing consecrated life and service to the sick.

On August 30, 2025, in the parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), the religious Matheus de Freitas Guedes received diaconate ordination from Monsignor Júlio César Gomes Moreira, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Belo Horizonte. Surrounded by family, confreres, and members of the Lay Camillian Family, Matheus took up the service of the Word, the altar, and charity, inspired by the verse from Luke 4:18: "He has sent me to bring good news to the poor in spirit." This is an important step that strengthens the mission of the Brazilian Camillian Province in witnessing to God's compassionate love.

In Uganda, on August 15, on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed



Virgin Mary, Godfrey Kikonyogo made his perpetual profession at St. Camillus Seminary in Kimaka-Jinja. The celebration, presided over by Fr. Shiju Kureekkattil, represented the culmination of a vocation journey lived with dedication and depth. The homily of Fr. Siby Areeparambil encouraged the newly professed to live the Gospel with authenticity, in the spirit of the Camillian fourth vow: to serve the sick even at the risk of one's own life. His witness renews the commitment of the Camillian mission in Uganda to form men of faith and compassion.



Also in Uganda, on August 16, in Tororo, the priestly ordination of Fr. Francis Akewa was celebrated, presided over by Archbishop Emmanuel Obbo of Tororo. In an atmosphere of profound spirituality, Fr. Francis received the sacrament of Holy Orders, becoming a “servant of mercy” in the Camillian tradition. The following day, he celebrated his first Mass of thanksgiving, surrounded by family, confreres, and friends, a living sign of the joy that accompanies every authentic vocation.



Finally, on July 13, the Camillian community of Karungu (Kenya) celebrated the feast of St. Camillus with the temporary profession of two novices: Mwanja Nzangi Eric and Osoro Marube Boniface.

The previous evening, Superior Fr. Emilio Balliana welcomed four new Kenyan novices, who will soon be joined by three other young men from the Delegation of Tanzania. These new arrivals confirm the vitality of the Camillian mission in Africa, where the charism continues to generate vocations and hope.

These moments of grace, experienced with joy and gratitude, remind us that vocation is a gift for the Church and for the world. The Camillian family continues to grow, animated by the desire to serve the sick with love, fidelity, and dedication, in the name of Christ and following the example of St. Camillus.



Fr. Ramiro Carlos Pastore [1935-2025]

Father Ramiro Carlos Pastore, son of Romano Pedro Pastore and Irene Luzia Meneguzzi, was born on July 23, 1935, in Antônio Prado, Rio Grande do Sul. He entered the São Camilo Seminary in Iomerê, Santa Catarina, on February 10, 1948. On December 8, 1953, he entered the novitiate, on December 8, 1954, he made his first religious profession, and on December 8, 1957, he professed his perpetual religious vows in São Paulo.

He studied philosophy and theology at the Camiliano Pio XII Institute in São Paulo. On December 8, 1959, he was ordained a deacon in São Paulo, and on June 29, 1960, he was ordained a priest in Iomerê.

Immediately after his ordination, he worked as vicar of the parish of Santa Terezinha, in Jaçanã - SP (1961); he was assistant in formation and teacher at the San Pio X Institute (1962-1967); he was chaplain of the Nove de Julho Hospital, in São Paulo (1968-1971); he was Superior and Formator at the São Camilo Seminary in Iomerê (1972-1973); he was Novice Master and Superior of the São Pio X Community in São Paulo (1974-1984).



Father Ramiro was also Provincial Councilor, responsible for the formation area of the Province (1976-1980); he was treasurer of the Camiliana Cooperative (1981-1983); he was Superior of the São João Batista Community and Master of Professed in Pinhais (1985); and was Chaplain of the Hospital de Clínicas in Pinhais (1985). He was also Superior of the Maior São Camilo Seminary in Ipiranga and Chaplain of the Hospital Leão XIII (1986-1989).

He was Superior of the Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Pompeia Community (1989-1992) and Provincial Secretary (1989-1992). He also worked as economic assistant to the Province (1989-1992). He was chaplain of the Clinical Hospital of Pinhais (1992-2015) and professor at São Camilo College, teaching biology (1992-2004).

He was Superior of the São Camilo Seminary (2004-2010) and master of professed priests in Pinhais (2007-2010).

On August 2, 2016, Father Ramiro was transferred from the São Camilo Community in Pinhais to the priests' ward at the São Camilo Hospital in Granja Viana, in the São Pio X Community, in Cotia- SP. On July 5, 2024, he was transferred to the religious ward of the São Camilo Pompeia Hospital to receive medical care. Especially since 2024, his health had become more delicate. On August 23, 2025, very weak and unresponsive to treatment, he died from complications of pneumonia.

During his long and fruitful ministry, Father Ramiro devoted himself above all to formation and hospital chaplaincy. We praise God for the life and witness of our confrere and ask for the grace that his example of dedication may inspire us to see in every brother the face of Christ himself. May Fr. Ramiro, having served Christ especially in the sick, hear from the Lord that beautiful call: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Mt 25:34).



Camillians

Piazza della Maddalena, 53
00186 Roma
Tel.: 06 899 282
www.camilliani.org



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