

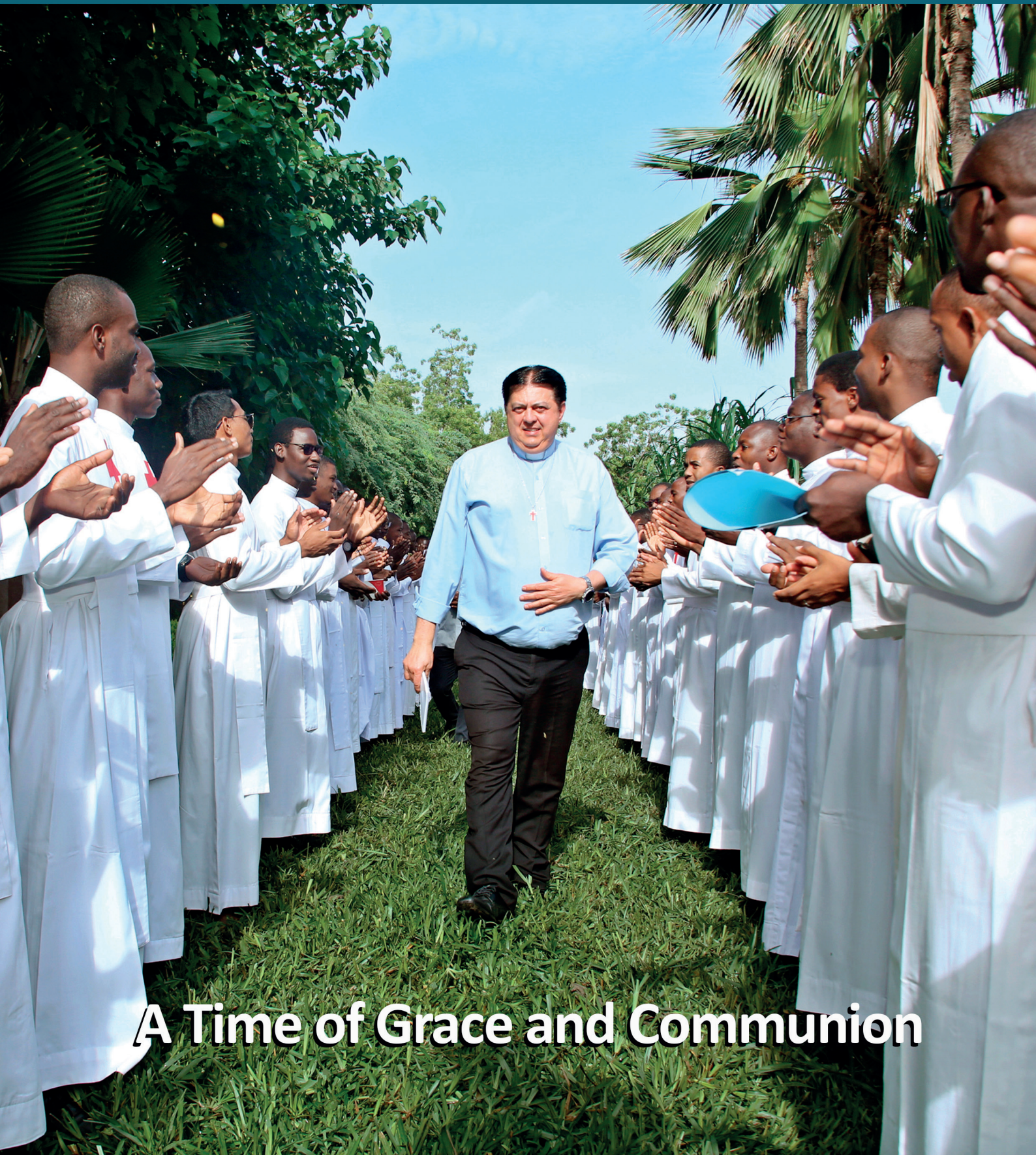


Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

N. 110

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



A Time of Grace and Communion



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Cover photo: Fr. Pedro is welcomed by the
Camillian Province of Burkina Faso

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Joy and Holiness

Dear confreres,
Peace and joy in the Lord Jesus!

On October 16, in accordance with the liturgical calendar, we celebrate the memory of St. Giuseppina Vannini, who, together with Blessed Luigi Tezza, founded the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Camillus. It is a precious opportunity to gratefully remember the great spiritual and exemplary heritage of Camillian holiness. We celebrate a domestic, everyday holiness, imbued with mystical spirituality towards the Lord Jesus and attentive and solicitous in deciphering and caring for the needs of the poor and the sick.

We become saints by living the beatitudes: if we truly begin with the contemplation of Christ, we must know how to see him above all in the faces of those with whom he himself chose to identify. The text of Matthew 25:35-36, so precious to our Camillian identity and spirituality, is not a simple invitation to charity: it is a charismatic and prophetic page that sheds light on the mystery of Christ and the mystery of man. We become saints because the Church has always taught that holiness is a universal calling and possible for everyone. The life of holiness is closely connected to the life of mercy: a saint is someone who knows how to be moved (cf. Lk 15:20) and to act (cf. Lk 10:33) to help the poor and heal their misery; those who “are able to live with joy and a sense of humor, without losing their realism, enlighten others with a positive spirit full of hope” (Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, n.122).

What model of holiness should inspire our lives? A holiness that is joy. Holiness is not a mountain to be climbed alone, relying on one’s own strength: the everyday saints that the Lord places beside us are a help, a comfort of the Lord’s grace that helps us to walk, to move forward, to embrace our condition, whatever it may be.

While the world in which we live pushes us to withdraw into ourselves, the Spirit of Christ makes us walk courageously in the face of reality, without being scandalized

by our frailties and limitations. This is the authentic source of the Christian mission: we can fearlessly proclaim the liberation of the Gospel in everyday life, in front of our companions on the journey, because we experience the promise of Christ himself, who promised that he would be with his own “until the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).

All the talk about holiness that contrasts love for God with charity towards our brothers and sisters keeps us far from the Gospel: Jesus’ words (cf. Mt 25), which invite everyone to recognize him in the sick, in the stranger, in those who are hungry and thirsty, are not generic exhortations but must be taken literally by those who want to follow Jesus himself.

There are some who, from love for the poor, have come to love Christ; there are others who, from love for Jesus, have come to love the poor: St. Camillus de Lellis and all those who have faithfully followed him over the centuries exemplify both perspectives, revealing a face marked by the joy of love and evangelical joy.

Camillus exhorted his companions: “Let your whole appearance show cheerfulness and joy rather than sadness or disordered affection.” He urged his religious to be bold in exercising charity towards the sick; he encouraged them with words and animated them with images that could accompany and sustain them in the joy and fatigue of their consecration. Every occasion was an opportunity to remind his religious of the joyful “aesthetics” of charity.

The poetry of charity springs from this: “Blessed are you, Fathers and Brothers, who have made this choice of life because this Religion precedes all others... Blessed and happy are the Ministers of the Sick who will know the great good of their vocation! Blessed are you, Brothers, and thank God that you have been given the great gift of charity to the sick, for which you are sure to gain heaven. Blessed and happy are those Ministers of the Sick who will taste this holy heavenly liquor, the works of charity in hospitals. Blessed and happy are those Ministers of the Sick who will spend their lives in this holy service with their hands in the dough of charity!”. These were all profound experiences and relationships that Camillus carried within him, a poor man who had enjoyed all that happiness, wisdom, poetry, and bliss, so full of eternity.

“Those who wish to do good knock at the door; those who love find the door open,” said Rabindranath Tagore. The good we want to do for others is always the result of an idea of good. The benefactor, especially if well trained, already knows what the poor sick person needs: support, encouragement, care... But love is different: it puts itself where the other person is. “If anyone forces you to go one mile with him, go two,” Jesus invites us in the Sermon on the Mount (cf. Mt 5:41).

Saints surprise and unsettle us because their lives call us to leave behind our comfortable and numbing mediocrity, to first understand and then respond to the immense difficulty that every person in need experiences when they have to ask for help. The commandment of love does not simply tell us to love, it also prescribes that we do so with style, that is, with fullness of “joy,” with a happy confidence that leads us to glory in the Gospel we proclaim. It

is an unshakeable trust in the faithfulness of the faithful Witness, who gives us the certainty that nothing “can ever separate us from the love of God” (Rom 8:39). Joy enables us to perform works of mercy with all our heart and at the same time with all our mind: only on this condition, like the Good Samaritan, will we be able to stop and love because we see, and we will be able to see because we love, without prejudice, and the love of charity will necessarily be followed by joy.

In a note that Blessed Luigi Tezza kept among his writings, he reproduced in personalized terms what St. Francis de Sales, whom he favored in the field of spirituality, had already preached: “Not to some alone, but to all, God said: sancti estote (be holy). Holiness must therefore be accessible to all.” “What does holiness consist of? In doing a lot? No. In doing extraordinary things? Not even that. It would not be for everyone or for every moment. Therefore, holiness consists in doing good well, in the condition and state in which God has placed us. Nothing more, nothing outside of that.”

I wish to express my gratitude and encouragement to all of you who are dedicatedly walking the path of holiness through your ministry, especially towards the sick and the poor of our time. With your lives, you bear witness to the merciful love of the Lord and the profound joy of living the Camillian charism.

May your journey always be sustained by grace, illuminated by hope, and animated by the evangelical joy that springs from the gift of self. In every gesture, in every word, in every silence filled with compassion, the beauty and strength of the Camillian vocation is renewed.

May the Lord Jesus, the authentic source of joy and mercy, nourish our passion to serve the sick as an expression of ‘the greatest Love’, inspired by the joyful form of service witnessed by St. Camillus!

With fraternal affection.
In St. Camillus.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin
Superior General



A time of grace and communion

The province of Burkina Faso welcomes the Superior General

By **Fr. Sawadogo Boudnonma Juste**

From September 3 to 24, 2025, the Camillian Province of Burkina Faso experienced with profound joy the canonical visit of the Superior General, Father Pedro Tramontin, accompanied by three consultors: Father Médard Aboué, in charge of ministry; Father Baby Ellickal, in charge of formation; and Brother Paul Kabore, in charge of missions.

Arriving in Ouagadougou on September 3, the Superior General was welcomed at the airport by the Provincial Superior Fr. Guy Flavien Ouedraogo, the Archbishop of Ouagadougou Monsignor Prosper Kontiebo, some members of the Provincial Council, and confreres. After a brief period of rest, the first working session with the

Provincial Council and the consultors was held the following day.

The visit to the communities and social-health facilities of the Province began on September 5. Accompanied by the consultors, the Provincial Father, and Fr. Jean de Dieu Bago and Fr. Camille Sawadogo, members of the welcoming committee, the Father General was received fraternally in each community. In each place, there were meetings with the confreres, moments of listening and dialogue, and opportunities to get to know the daily life of the communities up close, in an atmosphere marked by joy, communion, and a family spirit. Some religious also had the opportunity to meet the

Father General personally, in a spirit of closeness and fraternal attention.

The confreres on mission in Ghana, in the communities of Navrongo and Bolgatanga, received a fraternal visit from the consultor in charge of missions, accompanied by Fathers Juste Sawadogo, member of the welcoming committee and Provincial Secretary, and Aristide Kere.

Three words summarized Father General's central message for the Province: joy, fraternity, and hope. Joy, as an inner attitude, an expression of enthusiasm in serving God and living the Camillian vocation despite challenges. Fraternity, as the foundation of authentic relationships, the cement of unity and the engine of spiritual and apostolic life. Hope, as trust in the future and fidelity to the mission, in the certainty that, guided by the Holy Spirit, the province will continue to grow and prosper.

During his visits, Father General encouraged the religious to strengthen fraternity in community life, to promote sincere collaboration, and to persevere in their missionary commitment. He expressed deep gratitude for the efforts made by each one for the growth and prestige of the Province, emphasizing its riches: religious vitality, the diversity of the confreres' skills, and the solidity of its structures.

He also expressed satisfaction with the development of a strategic plan, the fruit of discernment and planning, strongly encouraging its implementation. However, he insisted that the true engine of religious life remains community



life, the source of unity, apostolic dynamism, and fidelity to the spirit of the Camillian vocation.

On September 24, Father General left Burkina Faso. He was greeted at the airport by Monsignor Prosper Kontiebo, Fr. Médard Abouè, Brother Paul Kabore, Provincial Father Guy Flavien Ouedraogo, Provincial Vicar Fr. Paul Ouedraogo, and several members of the welcoming committee.

The Province of Burkina Faso expresses its deep gratitude to Father General and his Consultors for their fraternal closeness, encouragement, and guidance. Father General's visit was an experience rich in light and spiritual renewal, lived in an atmosphere of communion, joy, and serenity.

His words continue to resonate as an urgent invitation to make community life the heart of the Camillian vocation and fraternity the most eloquent witness of the mission.



Hope on the threshold of pain

LX A.I.Pa.S. Conference

By Fr. Alfredo M. Tortorella



The Camillian religious present at the conference

The 60th Conference of A.I.Pa.S., the Italian Association of Pastoral Care in Health, was held in Assisi, at the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, from October 6 to 9, 2025, with the theme “Living Hope Together on the Threshold of Pain. Rom 5:5.”

A.I.Pa.S. is an association founded in the 1970s through the pastoral collaboration of four religious orders historically involved in hospital chaplaincies:

The theme of this year's conference, “Living Hope Together on the Threshold of Pain. Rom. 5:5,” featured speakers from the world of healthcare who shared important insights related to hope.

the Friars Minor, the Capuchins, the Fatebenefratelli (Brothers of St. John of God), and the Camillians, who were soon joined by diocesan priests and deacons, religious sisters from various congregations dedicated to social and health care, and lay people engaged in hospital volunteer work, pastoral care in health, and health professions.

The Association aims to support and promote the

human person in every phase of health care and management, offering ongoing training to its members and those who participate in it, and updates on issues related to pastoral care, culture, and health legislation. It encourages the exchange of experiences and spiritual communion among its members, stimulates the pastoral action of the Church, working in communion with the CEI Office of Pastoral Care in Health, and developing and experimenting with models and projects for evangelization.

The theme of this year's conference, "Living Hope Together on the Threshold of Pain. Rom 5:5," saw the participation of speakers from the world of health care through important insights related to hope: the jubilee theme was addressed with a look at the spirituality of various religions and an overview of theology and pastoral care. Medical and paramedical topics ranged from health rights according to the synergy between environment and person, to holistic accompaniment in high-risk pregnancies. There were also valid and touching testimonies of the welcoming of children with rare syndromes and how, from a psychological and moral point of view, pain has been transformed into a message of hope. These moments of reflection were complemented by various moments of prayer, many of which took place in



The outgoing president, Don Isidoro Mercuri Giovinazzo, and the newly elected president of AIPAS, Fr. Danio Mozzi.

the splendid Basilica of *Santa Maria degli Angeli*, restored for the Jubilee of Hope and the upcoming 2026, the eighth centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. All these moments fostered fraternity among all those present.

A.I.Pa.S. therefore renewed its governing body during the conference, bidding farewell and thanking Don Isidoro Mercuri Giovinazzo, the outgoing national president, and welcoming Camillian Father

Danio Mozzi, who, with a new group of councilors, was elected to lead the association for the next three years.

The hope is that A.I.Pa.S. will become even better known in the world of cutting-edge healthcare and that local churches will be able to draw on the expertise and availability of its members for regional or diocesan training and cultural promotion events on the subject of pastoral care in health.



Shared Visions

Meeting of Camillian Formators and vocation promoters in Italy and French-speaking Africa

Both meetings offered participants concrete tools, shared visions, and renewed momentum for vocation. In keeping with the charism of St. Camillus, Camillian formation continues to be a demanding and fruitful journey, capable of generating hope and prophetic witness in today's world.

By **Communications Office**

The month of September witnessed two important formation events for Camillian formators, animators, and formees in Italy and Burkina Faso. Two different contexts, one vision: to deepen the Camillian vocation as a journey of conversion, fraternity, and hope.

From September 4 to 6, Bucchianico hosted the third national meeting of Camillian formators and vocation promoters in Italy. The theme, "St. Camillus, a converted man and pilgrim of hope," guided three days of listening and discernment. Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon, Vicar General, opened the proceedings with a reflection on formation

as "shaping," inspired by Jeremiah's potter: God who shapes our fragility to make it capable of beauty and service. Fr. Umberto Andreetto then addressed the theme of fraternity as a place of closeness and conversion, recognizing the challenges and lights of community life. In a second presentation, Fr. Lunardon proposed a prophetic reading of the fourth Vow as a concrete expression of self-sacrificing hope, capable of illuminating even the most difficult contexts. To close the gathering, Fr. Renato Salvatore invited us to read the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel, reminding us that hope does not



Fraternity in formation: young Camillians in Bucchianico



Formators and vocation promoters of the Camillian charismatic family in French-speaking Africa

disappoint and that good sprouts even in the most fragile places.

From September 24 to 26, at the Benedictine monastery of Koubri, in Burkina Faso, a formation meeting was held for animators and formators of the French-speaking Camillian region of Africa. Thirteen religious men and women from Benin, Bolivia, and Burkina Faso, representing five Camillian institutes, participated. On the first day, led by Father Pierre Yanogo, the participants reflected on the contemporary reality of young people, seeking to understand who the young people are today approaching consecrated life and how to relate to them effectively. The importance of the family – biological and spiritual – as the foundation of vocation emerged. On the second day, Father Joseph Compaoré presented seven models of formation, highlighting how the model of integration is the most suitable

for consecrated life. In vocation evaluation, he emphasized, the presence of positive signs counts more than those of negative ones. On the third day, with Don Hermann Yaogho and Father Kiswendsida Jean Dieudonné, the purpose of formation was explored in depth: to make each candidate a living icon of Christ. The centrality of the novitiate, human and Christian maturity, and the importance of an integral educational project were discussed. The “Camillian touch” of formation was reiterated, which preserves religious identity, the centrality of the sick, and attention to the poor.

Both meetings offered participants concrete tools, shared visions, and renewed enthusiasm. In continuity with the charism of St. Camillus, Camillian formation is confirmed as a demanding and fruitful journey, capable of generating hope and prophetic witness in today’s world.



“St. Camil” Listening Center

A new frontier in the humanization of healthcare

By **Juan Pablo Hernández**

In an increasingly frenetic and fragmented society, where human relationships risk becoming superficial and daily stress creeps into the lives of many, the value of authentic listening once again becomes an urgent and profound need. It is in this context that the project “St. Camil Listening Centre, Barcelona” comes to life, thanks to the vision of the Provincial Superior of the Spanish Province, Br. José Carlos Bermejo, and the guidance of Father Biju Mathew.

On September 18, an informational meeting with potential volunteers marked the launch of a concrete and innovative initiative, fully in line with the Camillian charism and the commitment to the integral care of the person, especially in moments of fragility and suffering. The day witnessed the participation of the Center for the Humanization of Health and the Listening Center of Madrid, represented by Professor Consuelo Santa María, who gave a formative conference on the profound meaning of listening as a human and therapeutic act. “Listening is much more than hearing,” she said, “it means connecting with the heart of the other person without judging, with a sincere desire to understand and accompany them so that they can find their own answers.”

The Listening Center is a private, free, and accessible space where people can express themselves freely, without judgment or prejudice. Unlike a professional therapeutic service, its mission is not to provide diagnoses or psychological treatments, but to offer active listening, understanding, and human accompaniment. Volunteers, trained in empathic communication and emotional support techniques, learn to be present, to welcome the silences and emotions of others, and to foster a process of reconnection with their inner resources.



Informational meeting with the volunteers

The Listening Center is a confidential, free, and accessible space where people can express themselves freely, without judgment or prejudice.

During the meeting, the many situations in which accompaniment can prove decisive were illustrated: from loneliness to migration, from economic crises to bereavement, from emotional breakdowns to identity conflicts, to self-harming thoughts and the consequences of traumatic events. In all these contexts, the Listening Center is a place of welcome, relief, and hope, where words have value and listening becomes an act of love and social commitment.

Sessions can be held individually or in groups, according to each person's needs. The aim is to promote emotional and social well-being, identify situations of risk and, if necessary, refer people to specialized services. The role of the companion is not to give advice, but to be a living and respectful presence, capable of sharing the other person's journey with empathy and discretion.

The project represents a new frontier in the humanization of healthcare, in tune with the challenges of our time and with the vocation of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm.

The Listening Center in Barcelona is located at San Pere Mitja 18, 08003, at the Camillian Religious Community.



The order's website gets a facelift

The official website of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm (www.camilliani.org) is now online with a completely revamped graphic design and updated structure, designed to offer a simpler, more harmonious browsing experience that is closer to the heart of the Camillian mission.

The restyling stems from the desire to enhance the Order's digital communication, making its content more accessible and the discovery of St. Camillus' charism more immediate. The site offers sections dedicated to the history of the Order, the General Curia, Camillians around the world, pastoral and welfare activities, official documents, news, and testimonials, with a particular focus on Camillian spirituality and daily commitment to the sick.

The new interface, intuitive and visually appealing, facilitates consultation and invites visitors to be inspired by the active compassion that animates the Camillian family. It is a space designed for religious, lay people, volunteers, and all those who seek hope, service, and faith.

In addition, the site is available in five languages—Italian, English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese—to promote more inclusive and global communication, in keeping with the Order's international presence.

This is a step forward in communication, to continue to bear witness to the Gospel of compassion with a burning heart and hard-working hands.



13th World Day of the Victims of Disasters

By **Giulia Calibeo**

On October 12, 2025, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Rome, the Camillian Family gathered to commemorate the victims of natural disasters and to renew their commitment to survivors and the most vulnerable communities. For thirteen years, CADIS (Camillian Disaster Service International) has been carrying out this service with dedication, remembering those who have lost their lives, supporting those who are struggling to start over, and honoring the volunteers who courageously choose to accompany pain with hope.

The theme that guided this year's day—'Defending dignity, strengthening resilience: our

sacred commitment to the most vulnerable'—expresses the heart of the Camillian mission: to serve Christ in the sick and suffering, where life is most exposed, most fragile, most forgotten.

During the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Fr. Aris Miranda, director of CADIS, together with the Superior General, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, it was recalled that behind every statistic there are faces, stories, and unheard voices.

This is a profound reminder of Camillian spirituality, which recognizes the poor and suffering not only as recipients of help, but as authentic teachers of faith. As Pope Leo

XIV writes in the document *Dilexi Te* (paras. 102–109), the poor are silent evangelizers, capable of leading us to conversion through their trust in God and their vulnerability, which unmask the false securities of the world.

For CADIS, disaster risk reduction is not just a technical task. It is a moral and spiritual imperative that challenges the conscience and vocation of every operator, volunteer, and religious. Protecting human dignity, accompanying the most fragile, building resilient communities: these are actions that embody the Camillian charism and translate compassion into service.

Benin-Togo: new steps of grace for the Camillian family

By **Fr. Josué Loko**

September 11, 2025, was a day of grace and celebration for the Camillian Province of Benin-Togo, which solemnly celebrated the welcoming of eleven new religious and the silver jubilee of five confreres. The Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Provincial Superior Father Coovi Jean Pierre Pius Bida, brought the community together in an atmosphere of deep communion and spiritual joy.

During his homily, the Provincial Superior offered an intense and provocative reflection on the Gospel of the day (Lk 6:27-36), inviting those present to live forgiveness and love towards their enemies as the foundation of consecrated life. He emphasized that without this radical love, the religious vocation risks losing its authenticity and prophetic power. “We are not Camillian religious if we are not poor, chaste, if we do not entrust ourselves to the Father in a relationship of self-giving that becomes obedience,” he affirmed vigorously, recalling the profound demands of the Camillian commitment.

The liturgy continued with the rites of temporary and perpetual professions and jubilee renewal. Six novices—Ernest Godo, Régis Hounye, Jean Méleck Houetehou, Polycarpe Kouta, Hobin Kpegounou, and Maël Dakpo—made their temporary profession “for one year,” receiving the religious habit and the Constitution of the Order. Five brothers—Emmanuel Awokou, Romus Gnahoui, François Obossou, Rodrigue Nouatin, and Alfred Zoha-Zohoun—made their perpetual profession, accompanied by the litany of the saints, the presentation of the Crucifix, and a fraternal embrace.



The new professed members of the Benin-Togo Province

Particularly touching was the renewal of vows by the jubilarians: Fathers Médard Aboue, Erick-Bebel Balogoun, José-Michel Favi, Daniel Barrigah, and Brother Darius Gbedji renewed their religious commitment with gratitude and determination, remembering with affection their confrere Alphonse Marie Azamati, promoted among the jubilarians and returned to the Father's House on February 18, 2003. Each one received the papal blessing, a sign of ecclesial communion and lived fidelity.

The Camillian Province of Benin-Togo thus continues its journey of growth and witness, bringing the charism of St. Camillus to the heart of Africa with a burning heart and hard-working hands, at the service of the sick, the poor, and the suffering.



*"Nothing is small before the Lord when one
works with great love for Him."*

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