



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

N. 113

The Camillian world seen from Rome... and Rome seen by the world



A New Year of Hope



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Dear Confreres,

With a heart full of gratitude, I address each of you at the beginning of this new year. We have just concluded the Jubilee Year, a time of grace that allowed us to rediscover the beauty of our vocation and the strength of our fraternity. It was an intense year, marked by celebrations, meetings, reflections, and moments of spiritual renewal. In every community, in every corner of the world where Camillians are present, we experienced the breath of the Spirit who guided and sustained us.

The Jubilee was not only an event to remember, but a seed planted in the heart of each of us. Now, at the beginning of this new year, we are called to make it sprout and bear fruit. Gratitude for what we have experienced is transformed into responsibility: the responsibility to continue to bear witness with joy and courage to the charism of St. Camillus, to be signs of hope and love for the sick and the poor, to build fraternal and welcoming communities.

The new year opens before us like a blank page, ready to receive the signs of our faith and our dedication. There will be no shortage of challenges: the world continues to be ravaged by conflict, injustice, and suffering that affects the most vulnerable. But this is precisely why our presence is necessary and precious. Every gesture of care, every word of consolation, every act of fraternity becomes a ray of light that illuminates the darkness.

I invite you to live this year with a positive and confident outlook. Let us not be discouraged by difficulties, but learn to recognize the signs of good that are already flourishing around us. Our mission is not a solitary one: we are part of a large Camillian family, united by the same vocation and sustained by the same grace. Together we can face challenges and transform them into opportunities for growth and witness.

The Jubilee reminded us that fraternity is at the heart of our religious life. Without fraternity, our mission loses its strength and credibility. For this reason, I urge you to lovingly nurture fraternal relationships in your communities. Patience, listening, and mutual forgiveness are concrete tools that enable us to build authentic communities that are capable of welcoming and supporting others.

Fraternity is not an abstract ideal, but a daily reality that is built with simple and concrete gestures.

Every time we choose to put the other at the center, every time we renounce judgment in order to open ourselves to understanding, every time we generously share our time and energy, we are building fraternity. And this fraternity becomes a living witness to the Gospel.

Dear confreres, I hope that the new year will be a time of renewed joy and spiritual fruitfulness for each of you. May you find in prayer the strength to face challenges, in community the support to walk together, and in mission the passion to serve with love. May each day be an opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and charity.

I encourage you to keep alive the memory of the Jubilee Year, not as a past event, but as a source that continues to nourish our journey. Let the grace we have received become energy for the present and for the future. We are called to be men of hope, builders of peace, witnesses of mercy.

At the beginning of this year, I entrust each of you to the protection of Mary, Mother of Health, and to the intercession of St. Camillus. May their example and closeness accompany and sustain us. I thank you from my heart for the dedication, generosity, and passion with which you live your vocation. You are a precious gift to the Church and to our religious family.

With fraternal gratitude and affection, I greet you with a blessing.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin

Superior General



A Solidarity New Year's Eve in the Footsteps of Saint Camillus

For many, these days have been a family experience; not a perfect family, but a family in which Christ is the center and unites diversity, characters, and paths.

By Fr. Mariano Pio Servadei

From December 29 to January 2, in Acireale, at the works of the Camillian Religious of Southern Italy, there was something different from the usual festive atmosphere. No dazzling lights, no rush to find the perfect New Year's Eve dinner. Here, during the days when the world celebrates the new year, they chose to live an experience of service and fraternity in the Camillian style: a Solidarity New Year's Eve. Not just a simple "organized event," but a gathering of people, in which each person brought their own fragility and their desire for good.

The words that come up most often, listening to the feedback from those who participated,

are 'gratitude' and "hope." Gratitude for having experienced firsthand that faith is not theory, but a concrete relationship. Hope, because serving those who have less does not take anything away, but restores dignity, perspective, and humanity. One of the participants put it simply: "The dignity of those who have little makes me go home more Christian than before." This is not rhetoric: it is the discovery that the other is not a recipient of our goodness, but a teacher of humanity.

For many, these days were a family experience. Not a perfect family, but a family in which Christ is the center and unites diversity, characters, and

paths. The encounters were beautiful, not only at *Casa Sollievo San Camillo* but also at *Villa Serena in Sant'Alfio*, the nursing home of the Daughters of St. Camillus. Someone recounts having experienced a harmony that does not arise from "we are all equal," but from mutual gift-giving: "I experienced harmony in diversity and the joy of being together." A family even for those who have lost their family or have it far away. A home made up of small gestures: cooking together, organizing, preparing, welcoming, listening.

There is also the dimension of the vocation to service that makes the heart leap: "I received more than I gave." It is the paradox of the Gospel: giving opens your hands... and you find them fuller.

For others, it was a real inner turning point: "I discovered that time not given to the Lord is time lost." Service, lived in simplicity, then becomes concrete prayer. "The joy of little things." No big special effects, then, but the silent light of those who meet and look into each other's eyes.

Many recount the precariousness they encountered together in the lives of the brothers and sisters of *Casa della Carità* and *Casa della Speranza*. Not as heroes, but as companions on the road.

"Everything we have experienced is God's passage in our lives."

And the wish that arises from this is simple and powerful: to be able to recognize this passage every day, without distraction.

What does it mean to choose a New Year's Eve like this? There was the fear of not being up to the task, of not feeling welcome, even the fear—said with a smile—of eating too much compared to others. Then the arrival, the discovery of welcoming people, a peaceful atmosphere, a service done together. And the conclusion, which remains in the heart:

"We must not be afraid to give ourselves to others, because the biggest risk is finding a little bit of ourselves."



For those who experienced this New Year's Eve, it was not a diversion, but a passage of God. Not an emotional interlude, but a breath of fresh air to return to ordinary life with new enthusiasm.

There is also a phrase that sums up the Camillian style well: "Everything that the world discards, we collect as a treasure." Herein lies the heart: seeing value where others see waste. Not out of pity, but out of faith.

In the end, one shared certainty remains: Christ was there. In the hands that served. In the eyes of those who were welcomed. In the simple joy of those who discovered that the Gospel is tremendously concrete.

And so, in Acireale, the new year did not begin with loud fireworks, but with a more discreet light: the light that arises when someone decides to make room for another and discovers that God passes through that face.

A different New Year's Eve, yes.

But above all, a true New Year's Eve that saw, in the words of St. Camillus, "More heart in our hands."

San Camillo Center celebrates the 12th Volunteer Day

Their testimonies highlighted the richness of a vibrant, diverse volunteer program capable of generating a significant human and spiritual impact on the daily life of the Center.

By Juan Pablo Hernández

On Sunday, November 30, the *San Camillo* Center in Tres Cantos celebrated its 12th Volunteer Day, a well-established event that brought together dozens of volunteers and coordinators to reflect together, express gratitude, and renew their commitment to the humanization of care, a distinctive feature of Camillian spirituality. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a morning dedicated to dialogue, formation, and recognition of the shared journey. After an introductory greeting by Francisco Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources, Rosa Ruiz led the main presentation, inviting participants to rediscover hope as an attitude that sustains and nourishes volunteer service, summarized in the theme: "Volunteering: Let hope come!".

During the session dedicated to the "State of the Art of *San Camillo* Volunteering," the heads of the various areas presented the evolution and prospects of the groups active in the Center. Marisa Magaña, director of the Listening Center, Xabier Azkoitia, head of end-of-life accompaniment and residential volunteering, and Pablo Posse, volunteer coordinator for the Care Center's activities, illustrated the work carried out in the areas of loneliness at the end of life, palliative care, residence, listening, animation, and administration. Their testimonies highlighted the richness of a vibrant, diverse volunteer program capable of generating a significant human and spiritual impact in the daily life of the Center.

The closing remarks were given by Brother José Carlos Bermejo, General Director of the San



Camillo Center, who addressed the volunteers with words of deep gratitude and closeness. Defining volunteering as “pure gold, gold for this Center,” he emphasized how those who accompany others freely embody the charism of St. Camillus in a privileged way, concretely bringing “the heart in their hands.” In his reflection, he highlighted the value of volunteering as a form of solidarity-based citizenship capable of counteracting unwanted loneliness, as a way to heal one’s own wounds by becoming “wounded healers,” as a spiritual ecology that invites us to care for one another, as a path of synodality based on listening and encounter, and as an actualization of the Camillian charism, made up of cordiality, compassion, and humanized care. He also recalled that volunteering is a concrete way of following Jesus, “cultural revolutionary and great humanizer.”

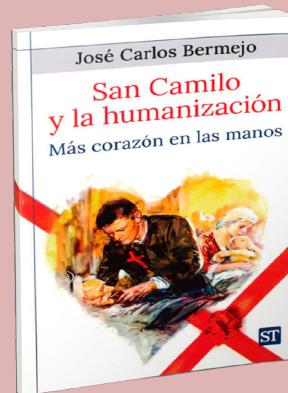
Referring to the theme of listening, which was also central to the recent Synod of the Church, Bermejo stated that “those who listen to others listen to God,” emphasizing the value of Listening Centers as prophetic signs in a society often wounded by indifference. He then announced that 2026 will be the “Year of Beauty” for the Center, an invitation to recognize and promote the beauty that comes from care, encounter, and generous service.

The day ended with a welcoming ceremony for new volunteers, who formalized their commitment by receiving their San Camillo Volunteer Identity Card, followed by a fraternal lunch that strengthened the sense of belonging and community.

New publications

San Camillo e l’Umanizzazione: by José Carlos Bermejo

In his new book *San Camillo e l’Umanizzazione* (St. Camillus and Humanization), José Carlos Bermejo offers a contemporary and passionate reinterpretation of the figure of Camillus de Lellis and the legacy that his Order continues to uphold: caring for others and teaching others to care in accordance with the Gospel. With clear and thoughtful narration, the author traces the birth of the congregation, the original fraternity around Camillo, and the vocational journey that led him, including his Capuchin experience, to develop a new way of understanding care.



The book illuminates the most significant moments in the history of the Ministers of the Sick and their contribution to the renewal of healthcare, highlighting Camillian creativity in dignifying and alleviating suffering. An original chapter is dedicated to the different names that the Order has taken

on over time, each bearing an identity and spiritual trait.

Bermejo also addresses central themes of religious life—the role of brothers, clerics, and community identity—offering food for thought on current challenges and possibilities. The text concludes with a lucid look at Camillus’ fragility as a “wounded healer,” an invitation to recognize one’s own shadows in order to grow in human and professional maturity in the service of the sick.



Music and solidarity

Piazza San Camillo fills with harmony during the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

On Monday, December 8, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, *Piazza San Camillo* at the San Camillo Center in Tres Cantos was transformed into a place of encounter, emotion, and shared commitment thanks to the Music for Solidarity concert.

In a festive and deeply humanizing atmosphere, staff, volunteers, residents, religious, and friends of the Center gathered for an hour of music dedicated to supporting people affected by disasters in Spain and around the world, in keeping with the spirit of solidarity promoted by CADIS International and the Camillian charism.

The event featured the extraordinary participation

of Manoj George (India), an internationally renowned violinist and composer, winner of three Grammy Awards for his contribution as a violinist, conductor, and arranger in world-class productions. His talent, combined with a deep artistic and human sensitivity, enveloped the square in an atmosphere of light, intensity, and beauty.

Alongside him was Fr. Mathew Biju, a Camillian religious from the community of Sant Pere de Ribes (Barcelona), promoter of the initiative and CADIS representative for the Spanish Province. His presence and message highlighted the essential link between art, spirituality, and solidarity, founding values of the Camillian tradition.

Music thus became a bridge of fraternity, recalling the motto that has accompanied the Camillian mission since its origins: "More heart in our hands." The meeting highlighted the importance of combining beauty, compassion, and concrete commitment, especially on a day as significant for the Camillian family as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

With this celebration, the San Camillo Center renews its vocation to be a space where life, culture, and hope intertwine in the service of the most vulnerable, in the footsteps of the legacy of St. Camillus de Lellis.

Seeds of the Future: Building a Sustainable Tomorrow

By Nadia Guzman

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, the Missionary Day of Sharing and Reflection of *Salute e Sviluppo ETS* took place in Rome, an event that brought together members of the Association, supporters, partners, and institutional representatives to take stock of the projects carried out and outline future prospects. The meeting opened with institutional greetings from the Superior General of the Order, Father Pedro Celso Tramontin, who offered a message of inspiration and encouragement. This was followed by speeches by the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Italy, Ms. Cyrille Ganou Badolo, and HRH Prince Nicola Talluto, both expressing gratitude for SeS's ongoing commitment. The Ambassador of Burkina Faso's thanks were particularly significant, given the numerous vital projects that the Association carries out in his country.

Next, Fr. Felice de Miranda, President of *Salute e Sviluppo ETS*, retraced the history of the Association from its origins in Turin in 1996 to its transfer to Rome, from its recognition as an NGO by the MAECI to its registration in the Single Register of the Third Sector. He illustrated the main areas of intervention—the fight against hunger, education, and health promotion, with particular attention to children—emphasizing that SeS's action stems from evangelical motivations and develops thanks to the presence of Camillian communities in developing countries, according to criteria of subsidiarity, innovation, and enhancement of local cultures.

The presentation continued with a speech by Dr. Mariella Fresu, SeS Program Director, who illustrated a repertoire of significant projects, highlighting the breadth and complexity of



Institutional greeting by Fr. Pedro Tramontin



initiatives around the world. She described the Comprehensive Development Programs, dedicated to the multisectoral growth of territories—from health interventions in the Central African Republic to educational projects in Burkina Faso and agricultural initiatives in the Bagré area—and the Specific Programs, designed for immediate responses, such as the SAD Fund, the AMOC Fund, the Emergency Fund, and the Small Camillian Projects. This structure allows SeS to intervene effectively both in the long term and in emergency situations.

The highlight of the morning was the speech by Prof. Gian Battista Parigi, Past President of the International Cooperation Center of the University of Pavia and member of the CEI Committee for Charitable Interventions for the Development of Peoples. The professor explored the theme of sustainability in cooperation projects, interpreting it as a “tension maintained over time” and as a process that must be rooted in the beneficiary communities. He invited participants to consider what remains of a project after external interventions have ended, emphasizing the importance of institutional, socio-cultural, economic-financial, environmental, and technological sustainability. He highlighted that only the active involvement of communities

can guarantee true “community sustainability,” capable of promoting dignity and freedom, in harmony with the Social Doctrine of the Church and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The morning ended with a space for dialogue, during which participants were able to ask questions, offer suggestions, and share testimonies. This moment strengthened the sense of community and shared responsibility in the mission of Salute e Sviluppo ETS. The Association’s team expressed heartfelt thanks to all those present, the authorities, the speakers, and above all the supporters, recognizing them as the true driving force behind the organization. They are the ones who transform the “Seeds of the Future” into concrete actions, capable of generating hope and dignity for thousands of people in developing countries.

The meeting ended with a convivial moment, which encouraged further exchanges in an atmosphere of fraternity and renewed commitment to building a sustainable tomorrow. The complete recording of the Missionary Day is available on the SeS YouTube channel, and the invitation to follow the Association’s social media channels remains open to stay up to date on current initiatives and projects.

The Camillian Family Celebrates New Vocation Milestones

By Communication Office

The Camillian family begins the new year with gratitude, as six of our confreres take important steps in their vocation journey: three diaconal ordinations in Burkina Faso and three priestly ordinations in India.

On December 8, 2025, in Burkina Faso, Camillian religious Sébastien Barahebura, Éric Ouedraogo, and Jérôme Zoungrana were ordained deacons. Through this sacrament, they are configured to Christ the Servant and entrusted with a ministry rooted in proclaiming the Word, serving at the altar, and being close to the marginalized. Their diaconal mission invites them to embody the Gospel through humble, attentive, and compassionate service.

St. Camillus province of India celebrated three priestly ordinations in January 2026. Fr. Christo John Joseph Niravathinal was ordained on January 1, 2026, in St. Mary's Forane Church in Mullankolly, Kerala, by His Excellency Mar Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of Mananthavady. The celebration continued with his first Holy Mass, which was attended by priests and religious from the diocese and various communities.

Fr. Justin (Scaria) Kalarpara was ordained on January 3, 2026, at St. Mary's Church in Bhoodanam, Kerala, by His Excellency Alex Tharamangalam, Auxiliary Bishop of



Priestly ordination of Christo Niravathinal



Fr. Justin Kalarpara with Mar Alex Tharamangalam



The new deacons with Mons. Prosper Kontiebo



Fr. Prakash celebrates his first Holy Mass

Mananthavady. His first Mass brought together numerous priests, religious, and members of the local community.

Fr. Prakash (Prasad) Nayak was ordained on January 10, 2026, in St. Francis Xavier Church in Minjaponka, Odisha. His Excellency Bishop Sarat Chandra Nayak of the Diocese of Brahmapur presided at the ceremony. The following day,

Fr. Prakash celebrated his first Holy Mass in the presence of priests, religious, and faithful from the region.

These moments mark significant milestones in the vocational journey of our confreres and renew our common commitment to serve the sick and the poor with the compassion of Christ.

Fr. Leonello Signorati [1932 – 2025]

He was born on December 24, 1932, in Quinzano di Verona to his father Silvio and mother Maria Righetti. He entered the Seminary of Villa Visconta, in Besana Brianza, on August 11, 1943. In 1946, he transferred to the Seminary of Marchirolo for two years of secondary school. He entered the novitiate on September 7, 1948, in Verona S. Giuliano, which he completed with his profession on September 8, 1949. He continued his classical studies in Verona, achieving excellent academic results. In October 1952, he went to Tournai, Belgium, to study theology and learn French. During that period, he made his solemn profession on January 1, 1954. On September 27, 1955, he returned to Mottinello and completed his theology studies. On December 17, 1955, he was ordained a deacon and, on June 17, 1956, a priest by the Bishop of Padua, Monsignor Girolamo Bortignon.

He began his priestly ministry on July 1, 1956, as chaplain at the hospital in Rovigo, as a summer replacement. On October 1, 1956, he was appointed teacher and assistant



at the seminary in Marchirolo (VA). On July 30, 1963, he left for Canada and became chaplain at the Hotel-Dieu in Sherbrooke (Quebec). On September 1, 1965, he was appointed superior and parish priest at the S. Michel Archange hospital. From 1968 to 1971, he studied theology at Laval University. From 1971 to 1987, he served as bursar of the Canadian delegation and returned to his position as chaplain at the Hotel-Dieu in Sherbrooke. On October 31, 1972, he began his clinical pastoral training with two courses and received the academic degree of Maîtrise Théologie Pastoral at Laval

University. In 1973, he enrolled in the Social Service program at the University of Sherbrooke, receiving his bachelor's degree on June 10, 1978.

On September 9, 1983, he was appointed superior in Sherbrooke and confirmed for the following three years, but from June 1987 until 1989, given his resignation as superior, he assisted the Peruvian delegation as chaplain in Neoplasicas, Lima. From 1989 to 1992, he was appointed provincial delegate of the Canadian delegation. From 1991 to 1999, he was chaplain in Quebec City at l'Enfant-Jésus, in Lévis, and at Hôpital Lavai. From 2000 to 2008, he was assistant pastor in the parish of Notre-Dame-de Rocamadour (Quebec City) with a priority of visiting the sick at home. With the suppression of the Canadian delegation, while remaining in situ, he was added to the community in Mexico. Now over ninety years old, still self-sufficient, he ended his Canadian adventure by returning to Italy on May 3, 2024, welcomed into the community of S. Giuliano in Verona. He died in the religious house at 6:00 p.m. on December 29, 2025. The funeral

was celebrated on January 2, 2026, and his ashes were buried in the monumental cemetery of Verona, in the tomb of the Camillian community.

Father Leonello, a serene person with a cordial character and a lover of good company, worked with love and passion for 40 consecutive years as a pastoral animator for the health of the sick, hospital staff in different hospitals, and

volunteers, also as regional chaplain coordinator. He was particularly concerned with the spiritual and ethical formation of both hospital staff and volunteers. He specialized in palliative care and promoted courses for the spiritual and human accompaniment of terminally ill patients.

For several years, he also offered his services as spiritual animator for two Cursillo groups,

the Équipe Notre-Dame, and the Association for the Blind, not to mention the services he offered to the two Italian communities in Sherbrooke and Quebec City, as well as the animation of two groups of the Lay Camillian Family of Quebec.

His motto was "Serve God, present in every person, with passion, joy, and love."



“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)



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