



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

N. 116

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



The Joy of Encounter



Ministers of the Infirm
Newsletter N.116 | May 2026



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

Cover image created
using artificial intelligence

In this issue

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Monthly Message
<i>Fr. Pedro Tramontin</i> | 03 |
| ▶ Mission
Madagascar: Land of Mission
<i>Fr. Jerzy Wilk</i> | 05 |
| Mission
Central African Republic:
Mobile Clinic for Medical Care
<i>Fr. Théodore Gatiglo</i> | 07 |
| ▶ Formation
In India "The Camillian Journey of Renewal"
<i>Fr. Sikender Singh</i> | 08 |
| Journey of New Vocations
New Vitality for the Order from
Taiwan, Colombia e India
<i>Communications Office</i> | 10 |
| Journey of Faith
Discovering Bro. Boschini and Blessed Rebuschini
<i>Bro. Carlo Mangione</i> | 12 |
| ▶ Journey of Faith
Travelling through Abruzzo with St. Camillus
<i>Maria Chiara Sabato</i> | 13 |
| Experience
Journey of a Camillian Heart in Italy
<i>Fr. Giuseppe Hung</i> | 14 |
| News & Events
A disability is not an insurmountable obstacle
<i>Fr. Medard Aboue</i> | 15 |
| Project
A project to learn about St. Vannini is underway
<i>Maria Chiara Sabato</i> | 16 |
| Conferences
Humanizing Care in the light of Sacred Scripture
<i>Juan Pablo Hernandez</i> | 18 |
| New Books
<i>Communications Office</i> | 19 |



Dear Confreres,

At the beginning of May, I would like to reach out to you with a warm greeting and the hope that each of you may carry out your ministry with serenity, dedication, and hope. The month of May is particularly significant for our religious family: on May 25, we commemorate the birth of St. Camillus, a providential gift to the Church and to the sick of every age, and we celebrate the Day of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity, a luminous remembrance of those who offered their lives in service to the sick. These historical references invite us to renew our zeal, to preserve our identity, and to let ourselves be inspired by those who have gone before us with heroic generosity.

In this spiritual climate, our gaze also turns to an important event in the life of the Order: the annual gathering of major superiors, which this year will be held from May 31 to June 10 in Bucchianico, the blessed land where our Founder was born.

The general theme of the meeting is “Renewing the Camillian Mission Today: Discernment, Sustainability, and Shared Responsibility for the Future of the Order.”

Key Focus Areas of the meeting:

- Integrating mission, governance, and strategic planning
- Promoting sustainability and interprovincial collaboration
- Valuing the charism as the source and guide of our journey
- Promoting pastoral leadership (“governing to care”; “governance as service”)
- Addressing the new challenges of the Camillian mission

As you know, the schedule of our annual meetings alternates between an online gathering and an in-presence meeting. Since the beginning of the six-year term, we have already held two significant gatherings: the first in Sacrofano (Rome) in June 2023, and the second in Bogotá (Colombia) in June 2024, at our Pastoral Center. In 2025, due to the Jubilee Year and other in-person commitments, we opted for an online meeting. Now, with gratitude, we are preparing to meet again in person, in a place that preserves the living memory of our origins.

We are particularly pleased to hold this gathering in Bucchianico. Meeting in person is always a gift: it allows us to share the challenges and hopes of our local communities, to listen to one another with sincerity, and to support the Order's journey together. Returning to Camillian sites, moreover, has a profound spiritual value: we wish to renew our care for and appreciation of this space that belongs to the history and the hearts of all of us. It will also be an opportunity to look with realism and confidence at the transformations underway, at the Order's growth in new areas, and at the need to involve a greater number of delegates, so as to more broadly represent the richness of the Camillian geographical landscape.

This year's program will be more extensive than usual: ten days of work, listening, and discernment, structured into three phases that will guide us from the past to the future. During the first two days, the major superiors will present the life of the Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Delegations, and Missions, along with their respective strategic plans. All the material gathered will then be organized and made available on our website, to offer the entire Order an up-to-date and transparent view of our shared journey.

The third day will be dedicated to the presentation by the General Council, which will provide an overview of the Order's current situation, the initiatives launched, and some prospects for the future, along with a presentation by the General Treasurer, who will also explain the new Administrative Directory.

From June 4 to 8, we will delve into the core issues facing consecrated life and the Camillian mission today: abuse in its various forms, communication as an institutional strategy, mental health, renunciation of possessions, interprovincial collaboration, and the impact of artificial intelligence and social media on religious life. There will also be time for fraternal fellowship ("Coffee with the Confreres") and for a pilgrimage to spiritually significant sites: Calcara, the Holy Face of Mannopello, the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, and the so-called "Sistine Chapel of Abruzzo." On June 8, we will also hear presentations from CADIS, Salute e Sviluppo, and the General Postulation of the Order.

The final two days will be dedicated to an in-depth examination of the project for the economic and legal management of the Order's assets, with the presence of consultants from the Divine Assessoria team, and to a concluding summary of the proceedings.

I am sharing this program with you not only to inform you, but above all to ask for your prayers. We need the Holy Spirit to enlighten our steps, sustain our discernment, and grant us that wisdom which comes from above and which alone can guide a path of authentic renewal. In the coming days, we will also let you know how you can follow certain parts of the meeting.

I also invite you to share your reflections and proposals with your provincial superiors, so that every confrere may participate, at least indirectly, in this important event for the life of the Order. The richness of our charism grows when each of us feels like an active part of our shared journey.

I keep you all in my prayers and entrust you to the protection of St. Camillus, that he may continue to inspire us to serve the sick with a generous, creative, and faithful heart.

With fraternal affection,

Fr. Pedro Tramontin
Superior General



Madagascar: Land of Mission

By **Fr. Jerzy Wilk**

It took nine years of prayer for the Camillians to arrive in Madagascar, but in the end, the requests of the Jesuit priest Father Vermeulen were granted: in 1971, he had begun a long novena with the sick to ask for the Camillians to come to Madagascar.

In 1978, the superior of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm, Father Calisto Vendrame, proposed to the Polish province that they open a mission in Madagascar. In 1980, just before Christmas, the first Camillians finally arrived in Fianarantsoa, an urban municipality in Madagascar and the capital of the same province.

The first Camillians to arrive were Father Stefan Szymoniak and Father Zbigniew Musielak, both Polish. After completing their language studies in Ambositra, they devoted themselves to pastoral work in the Diocese of Fianarantsoa. On July 9, 1981, Father Luigi Vagnini, from the Province of Piedmont (Italy), joined the community. Subsequently, other Polish missionaries arrived: Father Franciszek Pilarski, Father Włodzimierz

Mazur, Father Benedykt Mika, and Brother Zbigniew Antolik. Unfortunately, they did not stay long in Africa: health issues and difficulties related to the climate forced them to return home. From 1987 to 2002, Father Engelbert Gruber, a Camillian from the Austrian Province, joined the mission in Fianarantsoa. From 1999 to 2006, Father Jerzy Wilk was present; he is now in Poland serving as the missionary secretary and ensuring financial support for Madagascar. Father Sławomir Wrona also arrived in 2005.

Over the course of these 45 years, the community also saw the ordination of its first Malagasy priest: Father Albert Rainiherinoro, ordained on July 14, 2001. Following him, Father Christian Andrianarisoa was ordained on July 13, 2014, and is now in Zabrze, Poland. Currently, in Madagascar, the Camillian community consists of two priests: Father Albert Rainiherinoro and Father Sławomir Wrona, in addition to seven seminarians. The Camillians in Madagascar carry out various activities: caring for the sick and their families,



providing spiritual assistance, celebrating daily Mass, and assisting the sick in the savanna and those with leprosy. The Camillians also organize discussions and moments of reflection at their centers and assist other congregations by celebrating Mass.

One of the first projects they undertook was the construction of a house to serve as a base for their daily life. At the same time, they began building the chapel at the Fianarantsoa hospital. Work began in May 1981, and the dedication took place in 1986; until then, Masses had been celebrated in the patients' wards.

That same year, on January 30, the Camillians also inaugurated the community house, in the presence of Father Calisto Vendrame, Superior General, the Archbishop of Fianarantsoa, Monsignor Gilbert Ramanantoanina, the mayor of the city, and numerous members of the local Church. The house is the result of a collaboration between the diocesan and religious clergy. Inside Casa San Camillo there is a religious center, a Christian health services club, and a library. As for their activities, every day the religious visit the sick in the hospital wards, administer the sacraments to them, and celebrate the Eucharist. Also within the hospital, two lay groups provide pastoral and social care. The Camillian Family runs a hostel for the patients' families and distributes meals to the patients twice a week. Maintenance of the chapel and preparation for Sunday and holiday liturgies are entrusted to the Kamilton liturgical group, which has been active within the hospital since 1981.

Not far from Fianarantsoa, 7 kilometres from the city, there is a leprosarium called "Iléna – Village of the Lepers." In 1990, Madagascar's Minister of Health entrusted it to the Camillians, who have had full administrative control ever since. In 1999, the leprosarium housed about 300 people; today it is home to about 600, or roughly 80 families. In Madagascar, in fact, leprosy continues to spread: according to 2024 data from the World Health Organization, there are 1,713 new cases in the African country each year.

The village features a church, a clinic, and a school built by the Sisters of Divine Providence of Saint-Jean-de-Bassel, with whom the Camillians collaborate on an ongoing basis. In the past, the Camillians also ran a medical and social center that provided medical and dental care, as well as emergency services, a pharmacy, and a laboratory. Since 1998, the Camillians have also been working within the Diocesan Health Commission.



Fr. Sosthène in mission

Central African Republic: mobile clinic for medical care

By **Fr. Théodore Gatiglo**

To celebrate International Nurses Day on May 12 of this year, the confreres at our St. John Paul II Hospital in Bossemptele, in the Central African Republic, organized a mobile clinic to bring care to isolated communities in need of medical attention.

Father Sosthène, the hospital director and a professional nurse himself, accompanied by several staff members, went on a medical mission to an area accessible only by motorcycle—a journey that requires crossing a river on foot and is subject to rebel threats.

As he says: “There is, however, a significant human presence due to the exploitation of a mine, which for many represents a major financial resource; yet there is a total lack of basic healthcare facilities and schools for children.”

Father Sosthène and his team brought a moment of joy and broke the isolation of these isolated and often forgotten communities for a day. Given the success and vital importance of the initiative, Father Sosthène assures that the mission will continue on a monthly schedule with assistance teams led by the religious of the community, all of whom are qualified nurses.

Indeed, it is important “to move forward with courage and to care for others with evangelical love in the isolated areas of the Central African Republic.” The priest extends his heartfelt thanks to the Camillian Order’s NGO *Salute e Sviluppo* and to all people of good will who help them carry out this mission.

In India, “The Camillian Journey of Renewal”

For a week, participants from India, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand shared their reflections on renewal, fraternity, and ongoing formation.

By **Fr. Sikender Singh**

An Ongoing Formation Program, organized by the Camillian Province of India in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Formation, was held from May 2 to 7, 2026, at the Camillian Pastoral Health Centre (CPHC) in Bengaluru, under the theme “The Path of Camillian Renewal: Deepening Identity and Mission.”

For a week, participants from India, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand shared reflections on renewal, fraternity, and ongoing formation. Spirituality, healthcare ministry, communication, discipleship, and emotional well-being were at the heart of the event.

The program was officially opened by Fr. Antony

Kunnel, Provincial Superior of the Indian Province. In his warm opening address, he reminded us that ongoing formation is not merely a requirement of religious life, but a sacred journey that helps us become more and more what God calls us to be.

A particularly significant moment was the virtual meeting, via Google Meet, with the Superior General Fr. Pedro Tramontin, and with the General Consultor for Formation Fr. Baby Ellickal. Their presence, even from a distance, conveyed a great sense of closeness and encouragement to all participants.

The week began with a presentation by Fr. Jojo Orosa, Provincial Delegate of the Camillian Delegation of the United States, who addressed the theme “Rediscovering the



Participants of the on-going formation programme

Camillian Charism in Today's World: The Fourth Vow and New Paths in Healthcare Ministry."

Father Orosa focused on contemporary challenges such as concerns about mental health, inequality in healthcare, burnout among healthcare workers, and digital isolation. Young religious can respond to these challenges through chaplaincy, remote pastoral care, mental health ministry, and service to the poor and marginalized.

Following him, Father Sibi Augustine Chennatt, director of the Camillian Order's Communications Office in Rome, led the session on "Digital Communication and Evangelization in Healthcare Ministry." Father Sibi emphasized the importance of using digital media responsibly for evangelization, pastoral care, and healthcare ministry. Communication, he added, is not simply the transmission of information, but the creation of relationships, dialogue, and human bonds. Furthermore, digital evangelization must remain grounded in prayer, human dignity, compassion, and authentic human encounter. Finally, he noted that technology should support, not replace, the Church's personal presence and healing mission.

Father K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers in Northeast India, led participants in a session on "Missionary Spirituality and the Call to Discipleship: Living the Gospel in a Changing World."

His reflection focused on missionary discipleship, emotional maturity, and the challenges of living the religious life in today's rapidly evolving social and cultural context. His sessions focused on the importance of personal integrity, healthy community life, pastoral sensitivity, and accompaniment in ministry.

Father Abraham also emphasized the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, responsible leadership, resilience in mission, and the need for missionaries to remain rooted in prayer,



compassion, and evangelical witness.

He was followed by psychiatry expert Tony Sam George, director and founder of the "Neuro-Pathways Institute" and former dean of Christ University. His reflection, "The Incarnate Spirit: Neurobiological Perspectives on Emotional and Spiritual Health," concluded the conference.

Drawing on his experience, Tony Sam George explored the relationship between spirituality, emotions, psychological well-being, and the neurobiological dimensions of human experience. He reflected on topics such as stress management, trauma awareness, emotional healing, mental resilience, and the importance of self-care in the ministry of caring for the sick.

In his session, he also clarified the integration between emotional health and spiritual growth, emphasizing how a compassionate ministry requires emotional balance, self-awareness, healthy relationships, and inner healing to sustain long-term pastoral service. Participants left the meeting professionally enriched and equipped with greater tools to serve the sick.

New vitality for the Order from Taiwan, Colombia, and India

By **Communications Office**

Leoneil John Fausto Seriosa: Solemn Profession in Taiwan

On April 26, 2026, the Camillian Delegation of Taiwan celebrated a solemn and joyful liturgy at the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Luodong, Yilan County. In the presence of fellow priests, brothers, and lay faithful, Leoneil John Fausto Seriosa officially professed his perpetual vows, consecrating himself fully to God and to the service of the sick. The ceremony held deep significance as it coincided with Good Shepherd Sunday and was observed as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Before the congregation, Leoneil responded to the divine call by professing the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. He then made the Camillians' distinctive "fourth vow": the commitment to serve the sick, even at the risk of his own life.

To celebrate the rite, his brother, some friends, and Father Evan Paul Villanueva, Provincial Superior of the Philippine Province, traveled to Taiwan from the Philippines. During Mass, the principal celebrant, Fr. Jacob Haw Ran Wong, remarked with warmth and humor: "From this moment on, Leoneil belongs to Taiwan!" Now Leoneil's journey of consecration enters a new phase. In May, he will return to the Philippines to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders as a deacon, while his priestly ordination is scheduled for later this year. His journey of faith, which began in the small village of Old Boso-Boso, in Antipolo, continues to flourish through his dedicated missionary work in Taiwan.

Solemn Professions in Colombia

Together with the Camillians of Colombia, we celebrate the solemn profession of vows by Melco Alverio Hortúa Yepes, Franco José Miranda Barraza, and Jesús Aníbal Semanate Artunduaga.



Solemn profession of Leoneil John Fausto



The solemnly professed camillians in Colombia

The celebration took place on April 25, the feast of St. Mark, before Father Samir Emith Lozano Valencia, Provincial Delegate Superior of Colombia, who received the professions on behalf of Father Pedro Tramontin, Superior General of the Order of Ministers to the Infirm.

The Province of Colombia welcomed the occasion with a song of gratitude to God for the immense gift of the religious vocation of these three men. "Their definitive commitment is a living sign of God's faithful love and a generous witness to the service of the sick and the most needy. With joy and hope, we glorify God for their lives and ask that the redeeming cross of Christ continue to be light and strength in their mission."

Perpetual and Temporary Professions in India

The joyful celebration of temporary and perpetual profession took place solemnly on May 1, 2026, in the Chapel of Snehadaan in Bangalore. The celebration was solemnly presided over by Father Anthony Kunnel, Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province in India, together with several Camillian confreres from various countries and communities across India.

Fr. Jojo, Delegate of the United States Delegation, blessed the assembly with a homily that reflected on the beauty of religious consecration and commitment to the charism of the Camillian Order.

Aman Nayak, Akshaya Ranasingh, Albin Devasia Oouroth, Bijaya Bibhar, and Joseph Shibi Kuriyakattil made their temporary profession, committing themselves to the Camillian way of life.

Vayalamannil Ajin Varghese and Kalledayil Albin Sebastian made their perpetual profession, entrusting themselves definitively to God through the Camillian Order.

New Deacons in India

On May 7, the celebration of the diaconate ordination of Vayalamannil Ajin Varghese and Kalladevil Albin Sebastian took place in Bangalore. The diaconal ordination was conferred by Mar James Patteril, Bishop of Belthangady. Concelebrating was Fr. Anthony Kunnel, Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province of India, along with several Camillian priests.



Newly professed in India



Solemn Profession in India



Diaconate ordination of Ajin Varghese and Albin Sebastian



Discovering Brother Boschini and Blessed Rubuschini

By **Bro. Carlo Mangione**

From April 23 to 28, 2026, the young Camillian religious of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province, accompanied by their provincial superior, Brother Carlo Mangione, shared a profound experience of learning, fraternity, and spirituality.

For several days, in fact, the religious traveled to Seveso to learn more about Brother Ettore Boschini and his work, which remains very much alive and is carried on by Sister Teresa and Sister Laura, the spiritual heirs of Brother Boschini.

The journey continued to Cremona, where the remains of Blessed Enrico Rebuschini are kept—a Camillian religious who did so much good throughout the Cremona region. There were also visits to Marian shrines, including the Madonna del Boscoin Bergamo and Santa Maria

del Fonte in Caravaggio, where the religious prayed to the Virgin Mary for the gift of perseverance—dynamic and joyful—in the Camillian life. The confreres from the communities in Milan, Cremona, and Capriate San Gervasio welcomed us with great affection and friendship.

We shared with them their life of prayer, their meals, and the ministry they carry out daily for the sick with generosity and joy. At the end of the trip, the participants expressed their gratitude for these special days and shared their emotions and reflections on this experience.

Undoubtedly, the countless blessings of St. Camillus accompanied these days and every moment!

Traveling through Abruzzo with St. Camillus

By **Maria Chiara Sabato**

Many faithful gathered to welcome the relics of St. Camillus on their journey through Abruzzo, which took place from April 18 to 22.

Departing from Bucchianico, in the province of Chieti, the relics made stops at the Cathedral of San Cetto in Pescara, the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Civil Hospital of Pescara, and the Parish of the Twelve Apostles in Chieti Scalo. The journey concluded with a return to the shrine in Bucchianico. At each stop, the faithful approached the relics to pray and venerate the patron saint of the sick, and those who could not be physically present did so by following the journey on social media, television, or radio, as evidenced by the numerous requests for prayers left online.

The large turnout is a sign of the love that still surrounds the saint today and of the relevance of his message: caring for the sick, giving them help and hope, and being close to their suffering in a concrete way. “Camillus,” said Father Renato Salvatore, a Camillian, in his homily at the hospital in Pescara, “is the great saint of Abruzzo whom the Church proposes for the devotion of the faithful as the patron of the sick, of hospital staff, and of all healthcare facilities.

Truly, everyone has more than one reason to offer a thought of gratitude to St. Camillus for his great contribution to the world of healthcare and the precious legacy he left behind. His is an authoritative voice that, then as now, calls for renewed and improved care, for honest and responsible healthcare management, and for the humanization of care and healthcare settings.”

Father Albert Sedogo, rector of the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pescara, also



recalled the relevance of the founder of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm: “Saint Camillus, while ill himself, cared for the sick. This is a powerful invitation to care for one another, seeing Christ in those who suffer.

In this way, for those who care for a sick person, it is as if they are offered the privilege of gazing upon Christ and, at the same time, of becoming Christ for him or her.” As soon as they returned to Bucchianico, where the relics have been temporarily housed since 2025, they immediately set out on another journey, still within Abruzzo.

From May 4 to 7, the relics were displayed for the veneration of the faithful in the community of the Pontifical Regional Seminary of Chieti. Four more days of meetings and celebrations. In this case, the focus was on young people: many schools visited the relics and spoke with the seminarians to better understand the charism of St. Camillus.

These were four intense days of prayer, encounter, and reflection on the value of caring for the sick, fraternal closeness, and service lived with an evangelical heart.

The Journey of a Camillian Heart in Italy

By **Fr. Giuseppe Hùng**

It is said that knowledge must always go hand in hand with mission. If study is separated from service to the sick, it is like a vine branch that has been cut off and withers; if service ignores study, the vine grows weak.

With this awareness in my heart, I experienced an intense and fruitful year in the community of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Camillian Province, a journey that was much more than a simple linguistic or pastoral internship: it was a true pilgrimage to the sources of the charism. My journey began in January 2025 in Casoria, where the warmth of a shared pizza and the first smiles of my confreres melted the ice of arriving in a new land. From there, the mission took me to Sicily. In Acireale and Messina, I learned that the Italian language is not learned only from books, but through the hands of the poor and the faces of the sick. Amid the wards of nursing homes and home visits during Lent, I discovered that charity has a universal language that transcends every cultural barrier. One of the most significant chapters was the ten-month period I spent at Monaldi Hospital in Naples. Here, in the Sacred Heart community, I experienced the charism of St. Camillus in its purest form. The colorful wards of Monaldi—yellow, green, blue, red—were my “textbooks.” In those corridors, I learned the art of listening.

Even when my command of the language was not perfect, the patients taught me that a silent presence and the comfort of the sacraments are worth more than a thousand words. Religious life, in that community, showed me its two sides: the interiority of prayer and the exteriority of lived fraternity, made up of walks and shared reflections. My journey also touched upon the history and profound spirituality of Palermo and Puglia. In Palermo, amid the hours of adoration



and the majesty of the cathedral, I breathed in an ancient and sacred atmosphere. But it was in Macchia Marina, in Puglia, near Monte Sant’Angelo, that the circle closed. Visiting the sites of St. Camillus’ conversion, retracing the Valley of Hell, and breathing the air of the Capuchin monastery was an immense gift. Feeling part of this centuries-old history, which stretches from the Italian valleys all the way to my beloved Vietnam, has given me a new awareness. Today, as I leave this dynamic Province to continue my studies in Rome, I no longer feel alone. What was initially a journey marked by small fragilities and fears has turned into a certainty: faith in the Risen Jesus is the engine that ignites hope in the darkness of pain. I leave the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province with deep gratitude toward Brother Carlo, the superiors, my confreres, the volunteers, and the laypeople who have accompanied me.

I carry with me the “fire” of this Camillian enthusiasm, ready to become, in my own small way, a light of hope for those who are lost or stuck in the pain of illness. Wherever there is a sick person, there beats the heart of St. Camillus. And that heart, today, beats a little stronger within me.



Fr. Ludovico, after the defense of his doctoral dissertation in Sacred Theology

A disability is not an insurmountable obstacle

By **Fr. Medard Aboue**

A disability is not a sentence or an insurmountable obstacle, but simply a different kind of ability. This was demonstrated on February 24, 2026, by Father Ludovico Konseiga of the Camillian Province of Burkina Faso. On that date, Ludovico successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in Sacred Theology.

The title of the thesis was: “The Pastoral Relationship of Assistance in the Service of Promoting Integral Health. Theological Foundations and Pastoral Proposals for the Church in Burkina Faso.” There would be nothing unusual about this, were it not for the fact that the Burkinabé religious has been completely blind for years. He suffers from retinitis pigmentosa, a rare degenerative genetic disease that has progressively led to total blindness.

“In that lecture hall at the Faculty of Theology of Central Italy in Florence,” recounts a Camillian priest present at the ceremony, “there were many of us, initially curious but ultimately amazed and happy, because it was truly confirmed that a disability cannot be considered

a life sentence or an insurmountable tragedy.” In his presentation, the author established a circular relationship between the helping relationship—understood as dialogue, accompaniment, or pastoral listening—and health as integral well-being that cannot be separated from each person’s life experience. In the context of the helping relationship and health, Father Ludovico coined the term “salutogenic,” which refers to the health-generating potential of the preventive, curative, and therapeutic resources inherent in the helping relationship. According to Father Ludovico, the pastoral helping relationship can contribute, alongside all other efforts, to reducing poverty and fostering the development of the African continent and Burkina Faso.

In this country, as in many other impoverished areas of the world, the Church’s pastoral relationship is in fact a resource for populations who lack access to medical care. In the future, Fr. Ludovico intends to put his theory and experience into practice at Italian and Spanish humanization centers.



Mother Zelia and Sr. Bernadette Rossoni during the press conference

A project to learn about Saint Giuseppina Vannini is underway

The project includes sessions dedicated to studying and sharing information about the life of the Camillian saint Giuseppina Vannini, as well as presentations and discussions in secondary schools, nursing schools, and parish communities.

By **Maria Chiara Sabato**

To mark the 115th anniversary of St. Giuseppina Vannini's death, the Daughters of St. Camillus presented the project "1911–2026: 115 Years Since St. Giuseppina Vannini's birth into Heaven. The Story of a Boundless Love" at their mother-house in Rome.

As stated during the press conference held on April 20, 2026, speaking of St. Giuseppina Vannini still holds significance for the contemporary world. "Her legacy is a living synthesis of faith and action: active charity that even today points the way for those who wish to serve the most

vulnerable. At the end of the 19th century, she chose the Gospel as her rule of life.

With courage and dedication, she served the sick and the poor in every corner of the world, educating herself not only in the faith but also in medicine, economics, and law. Her legacy is faith that becomes action. Charity that becomes expertise in the service of the least among us." The one-year project benefits from the support of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers—Mission Structure for Anniversaries of National Interest. The goal is to raise awareness of the

history of Saint Vannini and the Institute she founded.

At the same time, the project aims to highlight aspects of the history of the Church, nursing and hospital care, as well as Italy's social and cultural history. Part of the project is dedicated to spreading awareness of the work of the Daughters of Saint Camillus in the various countries around the world where they are present.

Furthermore, the project offers a valuable opportunity to highlight the "Small Reliquary Museum," located in Rome at the Institute's Mother-house, and the museum "A Love Without Borders—History of the Daughters of St. Camillus," located at the Institute's Generalate in

Grottaferrata.

The material collected in the museums and archives offers an overview of the changes in daily customs and religious sentiment in Italy from the 19th century to the present day. In this sense, they serve as a valuable resource for scholars of history, religion, and customs in their research.

Finally, the project includes study sessions and educational activities on the life of the Camillian saint Giuseppina Vannini; presentations and discussions in secondary schools, nursing schools, and parish communities. Linked to the project is the digitization and computerization of the material heritage housed in the two museums.



Reliquary Museum, located in the room where Saint Giuseppina Vannini died at the Mother-house on Via Giusti in Rome.

Humanizing Care in the Light of Sacred Scripture

By **Juan Pablo Hernandez**

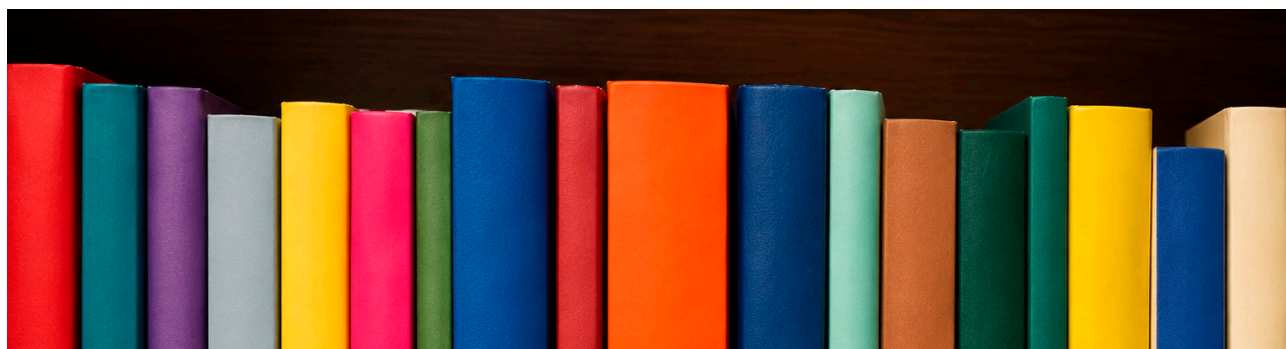


On April 15, the Provincial Superior of the Camillians in Spain, Bro. José Carlos Bermejo, addressed the Pontifical Biblical Commission, gathered at Casa Santa Marta, with a reflection on the anthropology of human suffering and the humanization of care in the light of Sacred Scripture. The Pontifical Biblical Commission is a body of the Holy See composed of specialists in Sacred Scripture who assist the Magisterium in biblical matters and promote theological research in dialogue with the current challenges facing the Church.

In this context, Bermejo's contribution focused on the pastoral experience of accompaniment during illness, at the end of life, and in mourning, integrating anthropological, spiritual, and

relational perspectives. During his presentation, he emphasized the importance of recognizing human vulnerability as a theological space, of promoting listening as the first act of care, and of moving toward a comprehensive understanding of suffering that integrates medical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions.

Bro. Bermejo also highlighted the need to "give voice to suffering," that is, to help people express their own experience in order to regain meaning, hope, and responsibility for their own story. This reflection is fully in line with the charismatic tradition of St. Camillus de Lellis, who calls for caring for the sick with "more heart in our hands," promoting a culture of encounter, compassion, and hospitality as the core of pastoral care in health.

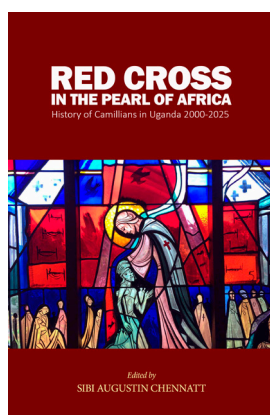


***Red Cross in the Pearl of Africa: History of Camillians in Uganda 2000-2025,*
book by Sibi Augustin Chennatt**

The Camillian mission in Uganda did not begin with certainty, but with conviction. It was an act of faith in a land rich in culture and resilience, yet burdened by suffering and systemic fragility.

Over the past twenty-five years, that act of faith has evolved into a journey—sometimes winding, often uphill, but always marked by the footsteps of those who chose to walk alongside the sick, the poor, and the forgotten. This book traces the contours of that journey: the vision of the Anglo-Irish Province, the courage of the first missionaries, the emergence of local vocations, the solidarity of the Indian Camillian confreres, and the steady growth of a mission that now belongs as much to Uganda as it does to the Order.

It documents not only the key milestones but also the moments of struggle, discernment, and renewal that have shaped the Camillian presence in the “Pearl of Africa.” The Camillian presence in Uganda is now a fertile ground of hope, a place where the Order’s global experience meets local wisdom, where care becomes evangelization, and where the Gospel is preached not only in words but also through acts of mercy.

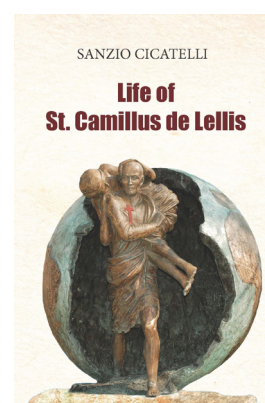


***Life of St. Camillus,* by Sanzio Cicatelli
(New English Edition)**

The Life of Saint Camillus de Lellis, written by Father Sanzio Cicatelli while the saint was still alive, is a valuable account of the early history of the Order of Ministers to the Infirm. The book, now available in a new English edition, serves as a source of inspiration for anyone wishing to embrace the values of charity, compassion, and service.

In a fragmented, distracted, and often indifferent world, the message of St. Camillus’s life and decisions resonates with surprising power, reminding us that true greatness lies in serving the most vulnerable with unconditional love. St. Camillus is not merely an example from the past; he is a figure who speaks to the present and guides us toward the future.

His life teaches us that service to others is not an option, but a calling. His life and vocation challenge us to live a “new school of charity,” still relevant and necessary today, capable of responding to the urgent needs of modern humanity: the need for care, empathy, and reconciliation.



And they said to one another:
“Were not our hearts burning within
us while he spoke to us on the road
and explained the Scriptures to us?”
(Luke 24:32)



Follow us on our channels