



Camillian *Noventa*

In Preparation for
the III World Day of Prayer
for Camillian Vocations



Camillian Charismatic Family

The Camillian Novena is a spiritual journey designed to guide young people, religious, and the wider Camillian Family in re-discovering and deepening their vocation in the light of the charism of Saint Camillus de Lellis. It is a path of listening, discernment, prayer, and courageous response to God's call, inviting each one to carry the burdens of others with love, compassion, and fraternity.

Each day of the novena presents a vocational theme, enriched with moments of meditation, prayer, reflection, and readings inspired by Camillian spirituality. These elements help us embrace the truth that service transforms both the one who serves and those who are served, echoing the words of Scripture: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2).

Through this novena, participants are invited to experience the call to bear one another's burdens, to discover the joy of fraternal communion, and to open their hearts to God's healing love. It is an opportunity to reflect on vocation, courage, compassion, and the transformative power of service, deepening the commitment to live the Camillian charism fully.

This spiritual itinerary culminates in the III World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocations, a moment of renewed unity, inspiration, and enthusiasm for the mission of serving the sick and suffering. Through these days of prayer, reflection, and discernment, the Camillian Family is invited to walk together, carry burdens together, and serve together, trusting in the power of God's love.



*Together,
the Burden
Becomes Lighter*

«Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ»
(Gal 6,2)

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we begin this sacred journey of the **Camillian Novena**, we are invited to walk together, heart with heart, prayer with prayer, hope with hope. Over these nine days, we gather as one family in faith, opening ourselves to a deeper reflection, discernment, and renewal of the mission that God lovingly entrusts to us: **to serve the sick, the fragile, and the suffering with compassion that heals and love that restores.**

This novena is more than a series of prayers; it is a **pilgrimage of the heart**. It is a moment of grace in which we allow God to renew within us the beauty of our vocation and the strength of our shared charism. As members of the Camillian Family, consecrated and lay, we are called not only to pray for **new vocations**, but also to rediscover the passion and joy of the vocation we already live.

Through these days of prayer and reflection, may we feel more deeply united with one another in the spirit of fraternity and communion that defines our Camillian identity. Inspired by the courageous witness of **Saint Camillus de Lellis**, may our hearts burn anew with love for the suffering, and may our lives become living signs of mercy in a world longing for compassion.

The Gospel reminds us that no one is meant to carry life's burdens alone. We are called to **bear one another's burdens**, to listen attentively to the silent cries of those who suffer, and to respond with tenderness, generosity, and courageous service. Each meditation and prayer of this novena becomes an opportunity for us to hear God's voice more clearly, deepen our commitment, and allow the Holy Spirit to awaken new hearts ready to dedicate their lives to this mission of healing and mercy. As we walk together through these nine days, may the pain and hope of humanity touch our hearts more deeply, inspire our service more generously, and strengthen the bonds of our Camillian communities. In serving others, we discover that we too are transformed—renewed in humility, strengthened in faith, and filled with the quiet joy that flows from giving ourselves completely.

For the young men and women of today, this novena becomes a **living testimony**. It reveals that a life dedicated to love and service is not a burden but a beautiful calling. It invites them to listen to the gentle whisper of God who calls them to join the Camillian Family, to walk beside the suffering, and to bring light where there is pain, hope where there is despair, and compassion where there is loneliness.

May these nine days of prayer ignite within us, consecrated, lay collaborators, and young seekers, a renewed spirit of mission, a deeper love for one another, and the courage to respond joyfully to God's call.

Let us carry this truth in our hearts and proclaim it through our lives: Together, the burden becomes lighter. Together, the suffering find hope. Together, we live the Gospel of mercy.

CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR FORMATION

Generalate, Piazza della Maddalena, 53
Rome, March 2026

DAY 1 – 20 JUNE

Seeing the Burden – The Beginning of Compassion

Opening our eyes to the suffering around us; recognizing the cries of the sick and fragile.

OPENING HYMN

“Here I Am” (Renewal in the Spirit)

Here I am, Lord, send me. I am ready to do Your will...

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, we begin this Camillian Novena asking the Lord to awaken new vocations in the Church, hearts capable of seeing, loving, and serving the sick with compassion. The Gospel reminds us that vocation often begins with a simple but profound moment: seeing the suffering of another person. When we truly see the burden of another, our hearts can no longer remain indifferent. St. Camillus de Lellis discovered his vocation while encountering the suffering and abandoned in the hospitals of Rome. Their pain became a call, and their wounds became a place where God spoke to him. Today we pray that many young people may open their eyes and hearts to the suffering around them and hear the gentle whisper of God saying: *“Come. Help me carry this burden.”*

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Luke 10:33–37

“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” ***The Gospel of the Lord***

READING FROM ST. CAMILLUS

“The sick are the pupils of the eyes of God. Serve them with that love and tenderness that a mother has for her only sick child.”

REFLECTION

The Gospel begins with a simple phrase: “He saw him”. Many people passed by the wounded man. They looked, but they did not truly see. The Samaritan saw differently. He allowed the suffering of another person to enter his heart. Compassion always begins with attention. St. Camillus learned this in the hospitals of Rome. Where others saw only misery, disorder, and suffering, he saw Christ in the sick. Caring for the sick was not just charity, it was a call from God. Today, God continues to call, not through thunder or extraordinary signs, but through the silent cry of the sick, the elderly, the lonely, and the fragile. A vocation often begins when someone dares to ask: “*Why does this suffering touch my heart so deeply?*” Perhaps the weight you feel when you encounter suffering is not only compassion. Perhaps it is God placing a mission in your heart. Because when we begin to carry the burdens of others, the burden changes, it becomes love, compassion, and hope.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

In silence, let us allow the words: “*Together, the burden changes; it becomes love, compassion, and hope*” to echo deeply within our hearts. Let us bring before the Lord all our fears, anxieties, doubts, limitations, and hidden vocations, trusting that as we open our hearts to the burdens of others, God transforms them into grace, courage, and compassionate service.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who calls His disciples to carry the burdens of one another.

Response: Lord, make us bearers of compassion.

- For the Church, that she may always be a sign of Christ’s compassion for the sick and suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family around the world, that their witness of love may inspire new vocations to serve the sick. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For young people searching for meaning in life, that they may discover the beauty of a vocation dedicated to caring for the fragile and

suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For doctors, nurses, caregivers, and hospital chaplains, that they may serve with patience, tenderness, and hope. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the elderly, and those who feel abandoned, that they may experience God's closeness through compassionate hearts. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For each of us gathered here, that we may recognize the burdens of others and respond with generosity. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p.36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came into the world to carry the burdens of humanity. Open our eyes to see the suffering around us. Open our hearts to feel compassion. Open our lives to respond with generosity. Raise up in your Church new Camillian vocations, men and women ready to serve the sick with tenderness, courage, and hope. May those who feel the weight of others discover in that burden the joy of a calling. Through the intercession of Saint Camillus de Lellis, teach us to love the sick as You love them. For when we carry one another's burdens, we truly fulfil your law of love. Amen.

DAY 2 - 21 JUNE

Feeling the Burden – Awakening Compassion

Allowing the suffering of others to touch our hearts and stir empathy

OPENING HYMN

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Lord, make me an instrument of your love; let your compassion flow through me...

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this second day of our Camillian Novena, we are invited to move from seeing the burden to feeling it in our hearts. Compassion is not only an act of noticing; it is the movement of the heart that allows the suffering of others to touch us deeply and inspire action. St. Camillus de Lellis understood this intimately. In the hospitals of Rome, he did not simply observe the sick, he felt their pain as if it were his own, allowing their cries and wounds to awaken his heart to God’s call. Today, we pray that God may open our hearts to the silent suffering around us. May we feel compassion so profoundly that it moves us to courageous service, and may young men and women recognize in this stirring of the heart a call to join the Camillian mission of caring for the sick and fragile.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:35–36, 40

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” **The Gospel of the Lord**

READING FROM ST. CAMILLUS

“It is not enough to see the sick or to speak words of comfort. You must allow their suffering to touch your heart, to move you to act with tenderness, patience, and courage. Compassion without feeling is only duty; compassion felt is vocation in motion.” *Letters of Saint Camillus*

REFLECTION

Yesterday, we learned to see the burden. Today, we are invited to feel it in our hearts. To feel compassion is to let the suffering of others resonate within us, so that their pain becomes our concern and their needs become our mission. St. Camillus understood that true service is born from heartfelt empathy, from allowing the cries, wounds, and fragility of the sick to awaken a deep desire to care. When we feel the burden of others, we are no longer bystanders. We become participants in God's work of mercy. Perhaps the stirring you feel in your heart today is more than compassion, it is a call to vocation, a whisper from God inviting you to share in His ministry of healing and hope. Because when compassion is felt, it transforms: burdens become love, care, and hope.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

In silence, let us allow the words: *"Together, the burden changes; it becomes love, compassion, and hope"* to resonate deeply within our hearts. Let us bring before the Lord all our fears, anxieties, doubts, and the stirrings of compassion. Let us truly feel the burdens of others, the suffering of the sick, the fragile, the lonely, and the abandoned. May God awaken in us the courage, tenderness, and readiness to serve, trusting that when we feel and share the burdens of others, they are transformed into love, hope, and life-giving care.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who calls His disciples to feel the burdens of others.

Response: **Lord, awaken compassion in our hearts.**

- For the Church, that she may be a place where the suffering is truly felt and tenderly cared for. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family worldwide, that their witness of compassionate care may inspire new vocations. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For young men and women discerning their vocation, that they may recognize God's call in the suffering around them. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For all caregivers, medical professionals, and volunteers, that they may serve with gentle hearts and patient love. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the abandoned, and the lonely, that they may feel God's presence through compassionate service. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For ourselves, that we may allow the burdens of others to touch our hearts and inspire us to act with love. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you see the suffering of the world and feel the pain of each wounded heart. Open our eyes to notice, our hearts to feel, and our hands to serve. May we allow the burdens of others to awaken compassion, courage, and joy in our hearts. Raise up in your Church new Camillian vocations, men and women ready to share the burdens of the sick and fragile, offering love, tenderness, and hope. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, teach us to feel the suffering of others as You feel it, and to transform compassion into faithful service. For when we carry one another's burdens, we truly fulfil your law of love. Amen.

DAY 3 – 22 JUNE

Stopping for the Suffering – The Call to Presence

Learning to pause amidst life's busyness to attend to those in need

OPENING HYMN

“Be Still and Know”

Be still and know that I am God... Let my presence guide you to serve with love...

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this third day of our Camillian Novena, we are invited to pause and be present to the suffering around us. Compassion is not only about noticing and feeling, it also requires slowing down, stopping, and fully attending to those in need. St. Camillus de Lellis understood this deeply. In the busy hospitals of Rome, he could have been distracted by the noise, the chaos, and the endless demands of life but he chose to stop, to kneel beside the sick, and to listen to their pain. In these moments, he discovered that presence itself is a form of love. Today, we pray that God may grant us the grace to pause in our hurried lives, to give time, attention, and presence to those who suffer, and to recognize in this pause a call to the Camillian vocation of service.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Mark 1:40–42

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be made clean.’ Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.” **The Gospel of the Lord**

READING FROM ST. CAMILLUS

“Do not be satisfied with quick glances or passing gestures. Kneel beside the sick, listen to them, and give them your time. The presence of a caring heart can heal even more than medicine alone.” *Letters of Saint Camillus*

REFLECTION

Yesterday, we allowed ourselves to feel the burden of others. Today, we are called to stop and be fully present. True service begins when we pause long enough to enter the world of the suffering. Just as the Samaritan in the Gospel stopped, knelt, and tended to the wounds of the injured man, so too must we allow ourselves to enter into the lives of those who suffer with patience and attention. St. Camillus teaches us that presence is transformative. It communicates dignity, care, and love. It is often in the quiet moments of listening and attending that hearts are healed and vocations are awakened. Perhaps God is calling you today, not through noise or grand signs, but through the quiet plea of someone who needs your time, your attention, your presence. When we stop to be present, the burden changes, it becomes shared, lighter, and filled with love.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

Let us pause in silence and reflect: *“Together, the burden changes; it becomes love, compassion, and hope.”* Let us bring before the Lord all our busyness, distractions, and restlessness, and ask for the grace to truly be present to the suffering around us. May we learn to stop, listen, and attend with care, trusting that God uses our presence to bring comfort, healing, and hope.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who calls us to pause and attend to the suffering of others.

Response: **Lord, teach us to be fully present to those in need.**

- For the Church, that she may be a community that pauses to care, listen, and serve the sick and suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family worldwide, that their witness of presence and compassion may awaken new vocations. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For young men and women discerning their vocation, that they may recognize God’s call in the simple moments of attending to others. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For caregivers, medical staff, and volunteers, that they may offer their full presence and heart to those who suffer. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the abandoned, and the lonely, that they may experience healing through compassionate presence. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For ourselves, that we may learn to stop, pay attention, and be fully present to the burdens of others. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you pause for the suffering and give them Your full attention. Open our eyes to see, our hearts to feel, and our lives to pause and be present to those in need. Raise up in your Church new Camillian vocations, men and women ready to share the burdens of the sick through presence, care, and love. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, teach us to be present to those who suffer, allowing our hearts and hands to bring comfort and hope. For when we stop to be present to one another, we truly bear one another's burdens and fulfil Your law of love. Amen.

DAY 4 – 23 JUNE

Serving the Burdened – Hands and Hearts in Action

Transforming compassion into concrete acts of care, mercy, and healing

OPENING HYMN

The Servant Song (Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You); Brother, sister, let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I may have the grace. To let you be my servant too.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this fourth day of our Camillian Novena, we move from seeing, feeling, and stopping for the suffering to something even deeper: serving with our hands and hearts. Compassion cannot remain only a feeling. True compassion moves us to action. It becomes gestures of care, words of comfort, attentive listening, patient presence, and concrete service. St. Camillus de Lellis understood this profoundly. He did not simply speak about charity, he organized care, reformed hospital practices, comforted the dying, and personally served the sick with tenderness and dedication. His compassion became hands that healed and a heart that never grew tired of loving. Today we ask the Lord to awaken in us serving hearts, ready to transform compassion into action. We also pray that many young men and women may discover that serving the sick is not only an act of charity but a beautiful vocation, a way of sharing in Christ's healing mission.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Matthew 20:26–28

“Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **The Gospel of the Lord**

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

“The sick must be served with charity, humility, and patience. Place more heart in those hands, for it is not enough to serve them as servants, but with the love of a mother for her only sick child.”

REFLECTION

Jesus reveals the heart of the Gospel in a simple but powerful truth: greatness is found in service. The world often teaches us to seek recognition, success, and comfort. But Christ shows us another path, the path of humble and generous service, especially toward those who suffer. St. Camillus embraced this path completely. In the hospitals where others saw inconvenience or misery, he saw an opportunity to serve Christ himself. His service was not mechanical or distant. It was filled with tenderness, attention, and deep respect for the dignity of every sick person. To serve the suffering is to touch the wounds of Christ. It is to bring hope where there is fear, warmth where there is loneliness, and dignity where there is fragility. Perhaps today the Lord is asking us a simple but powerful question: “*Are you willing to serve?*” Service may seem demanding. It requires patience, sacrifice, and generosity. Yet when service is inspired by love, the burden changes. It becomes a source of joy, meaning, and vocation. And for many young men and women, the experience of serving the sick may become the moment when they recognize God’s call to dedicate their lives to compassionate care in the spirit of St. Camillus.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

In silence, let us reflect on these words: “*Together, the burden changes; it becomes love, compassion, and service.*” Let us bring before the Lord our desire to serve, but also our hesitations, fears, and limitations. May God give us hands ready to help, hearts ready to love, and lives ready to serve, trusting that every act of compassion can become a sign of hope for the suffering.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who calls us to serve with love.

Response: Lord, make our hands instruments of your compassion.

- For the Church, that she may always reflect Christ’s servant heart, caring for the sick and the vulnerable. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family throughout the world, that their witness of loving service may inspire many new vocations. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For young people searching for meaning in life, that they may discover the beauty of serving the suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For doctors, nurses, caregivers, and all who work in healthcare, that their work may always be guided by compassion and respect for human dignity. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the elderly, and the abandoned, that they may experience God's love through the caring hands of others. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For each of us, that we may transform compassion into generous acts of service and love. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came into the world not to be served but to serve. Teach us to follow your example, to transform compassion into action, and to bring comfort to those who suffer. Bless the Camillian Family throughout the world. Strengthen those who dedicate their lives to the service of the sick, and awaken new vocations filled with generosity, courage, and love. Through the intercession of Saint Camillus de Lellis, may our hands become instruments of healing, our hearts become fountains of compassion, and our lives become signs of hope. For when we serve one another with love, together, the burden truly changes. Amen.

DAY 5 - 24 JUNE

Courage to Carry – Responding Boldly to God’s Call

Finding the courage to step forward, even when the burden seems heavy

OPENING HYMN

Take, Lord, receive; *Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will...Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this fifth day of our Camillian Novena, we reflect on the courage required to carry the burdens of others. Compassion invites us not only to see, feel, and serve but also to respond courageously to God’s call. Every vocation requires courage. To dedicate one’s life to caring for the sick and the suffering is not always easy. It demands patience, sacrifice, perseverance, and deep faith. St. Camillus de Lellis knew this struggle well. His path was not simple. He faced illness, personal weakness, rejection, and many challenges. Yet, when he recognized God’s call in the suffering of the sick, he responded with boldness and unwavering trust. Today we pray that the Lord may give us hearts that are brave, ready to carry the burdens of others with love. May many young men and women discover that courage is born not from strength alone, but from trusting that God walks with us in the mission of compassion.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to Matthew 14:28–29

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. **The Gospel of the Lord**

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

“Do not be afraid to serve the sick, even when the task seems difficult or tiring. Courage and charity must walk together. When love for the suffering guides your heart, God will give you the strength you need.”

REFLECTION

Peter's step onto the water was an act of courage. He left the safety of the boat and walked toward Jesus, trusting in His word. For a moment, the impossible became possible because Peter trusted the One who called him. Vocation often begins in the same way. God invites us to step out of our comfort, our fears, and our doubts. The path may seem uncertain, and the burdens may appear heavy. St. Camillus experienced this reality. When he began serving the sick with renewed compassion and discipline, many people doubted his vision. Hospitals were chaotic and neglected. Caring for the sick was difficult and often thankless. Yet Camillus moved forward with courage because he believed that Christ himself was present in the suffering. To carry the burdens of others requires courage, the courage to remain faithful when service is tiring, the courage to love when others turn away, and the courage to say "yes" to God's call even when the path is unclear. Perhaps today the Lord is inviting someone to take that same step of courage. Maybe you feel the weight of suffering around you. Maybe your heart is moved when you encounter the sick, the lonely, and the fragile. That feeling may not be accidental. It may be God calling you to carry that burden with love. And when we respond with courage, something beautiful happens: the burden changes, it becomes a path of grace, purpose, and joy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

Let us remain in silence before the Lord. Allow these words to echo in your heart: "Together, the burden changes; it becomes love, courage, and hope." Let us place before God our fears, doubts, and hesitations, asking Him for the courage to respond generously to His call. May the Lord strengthen our hearts so that we may walk forward with trust, knowing that when we carry the burdens of others with love, God walks beside us.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who calls us to courage and compassion.

Response: **Lord, give us the courage to carry the burdens of others.**

- For the Church, that she may always courageously witness to Christ's compassion for the sick and suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For the Camillian Family throughout the world, that their faithful service may inspire new vocations filled with courage and generosity. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For young men and women discerning their vocation, that they may find the courage to say “yes” to God’s call to serve the suffering. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For healthcare workers and caregivers, that God may strengthen them in their demanding service and renew their hope. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the fragile, and those who feel overwhelmed by suffering, that they may find comfort in the compassionate presence of others. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For ourselves, that we may respond with courage whenever we are called to help carry the burdens of others. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you call us to step forward with courage and trust. When we feel weak, strengthen us. When we feel afraid, encourage us. When the burden seems heavy, remind us that we do not carry it alone. Bless the Camillian Family throughout the world and inspire many new vocations dedicated to the service of the sick and the suffering. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, may we learn to carry the burdens of others with courage, patience, and love. And may our lives always proclaim the truth of your Gospel: When we walk together in compassion, the burden truly changes. Amen.

DAY 6 – 25 JUNE

Strength in Community – Sharing the Burden Together

Living fraternity and solidarity, supporting one another in the mission of compassion

OPENING HYMN

Ubi Caritas-*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this sixth day of our Camillian Novena, we reflect on the strength that comes from community. The mission of serving the sick and the suffering is not a journey meant to be lived alone. It is a shared vocation, lived in fraternity, communion, and mutual support. St. Camillus de Lellis understood that compassion grows stronger when it is lived together. For this reason, he gathered companions who shared the same passion for caring for the sick. Together they formed a community of service, united by faith, prayer, and a deep commitment to the suffering. In community, burdens become lighter. When we walk together, support one another, and share the same mission, our strength is renewed and our hope is sustained. Today we pray that the Camillian Family throughout the world may continue to grow as a fraternal community of compassion, and that many young people may feel called to join this beautiful mission of serving the sick together.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Acts of the Apostles 2:44–47

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” **The Word of the Lord**

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

“Serve the sick with one heart and one spirit. Let charity unite you so that, supporting one another, you may carry out this holy service with perseverance and joy.”

REFLECTION

No mission of compassion can flourish without community. The early Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles shows us a beautiful image of believers who lived in unity, shared their resources, and supported one another. Their faith was not lived individually but together, as a family. St. Camillus also believed deeply in the power of fraternity. He knew that caring for the sick, especially in difficult and demanding conditions, required mutual support, encouragement, and prayer. In community, we remind one another why we serve. We strengthen each other when fatigue appears, we share our joys and struggles, and we walk together toward the same mission. A vocation is never simply a personal achievement. It is a gift placed within a community, where each person contributes their talents, compassion, and faith. Perhaps today God is inviting us to rediscover the beauty of walking together, of building communities where no one carries the burden alone. When we support one another with love and fraternity, something beautiful happens: together, the burden changes, it becomes lighter, hopeful, and full of meaning.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

Let us remain in silence and allow these words to echo within our hearts: “Together, the burden changes; together, the mission becomes stronger.” Let us entrust to the Lord our communities, our fraternities, and our shared mission. May God help us grow in unity, friendship, and mutual support, so that together we may carry the burdens of the sick and suffering with generosity and joy.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who gathers us as a community of compassion.

Response: **Lord, strengthen us in fraternity and mission.**

- For the Church, that she may always be a community of love and solidarity, caring for the sick and the vulnerable. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family throughout the world, that their witness

of fraternal life and shared service may inspire many new vocations. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For young people discerning their vocation, that they may discover the beauty of serving the suffering together in community. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For Camillian religious and collaborators in healthcare, that their communities may always be places of encouragement, support, and hope. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick and those who feel alone in their suffering, that they may find comfort through compassionate communities. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For each of us, that we may strengthen one another in faith and service, sharing the burdens entrusted to us. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 00)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you gathered your disciples and sent them together to proclaim your love and mercy. Teach us to live in unity, fraternity, and mutual support, so that our communities may become living signs of compassion in the world. Bless the Camillian Family everywhere, strengthen their bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood, and awaken new vocations willing to share the mission of serving the sick. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, may we grow as a community of love, courage, and service. And may our lives always proclaim the truth of the Gospel: When we carry the burdens of others together, the burden truly changes. Amen.

DAY 7 - 26 JUNE

Listening to the Call – Discerning God’s Voice in the Fragile

Learning to hear God speaking through the needs of the sick and the vulnerable

OPENING HYMN

Speak, Lord; *Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. You have the words of everlasting life.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Brothers and sisters, on this seventh day of our Camillian Novena, we are invited to enter into a deeper attitude of listening and discernment. Vocation often begins in silence, when the heart becomes attentive enough to hear God’s gentle voice. God speaks to us in many ways: through Scripture, through prayer, through the Church, and often through the cries and needs of the suffering. The sick, the elderly, the lonely, and the fragile become living voices through which God calls us to compassion and service. St. Camillus de Lellis discovered his vocation precisely in this way. While working among the sick in hospitals, he began to recognize that their suffering was not only a human reality but also a place where God was calling him. Their needs became a voice that guided his life and mission. Today we pray for the grace to listen attentively, to discern God’s presence in the fragile, and to recognize that sometimes the call to serve is hidden within the burdens of others.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the First Book of Samuel 3:9–10

“So, Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’” **The Word of the Lord**

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

“Listen carefully to the sick, for often their suffering speaks more than words. In serving them with attention and love, you will discover the voice of God guiding your path.”

REFLECTION

The young Samuel heard his name in the silence of the night. At first, he did not recognize that it was God who was calling him. Many times, in our lives, God's voice is not loud or dramatic. It comes quietly, often hidden in the ordinary moments of life. It may come through a conversation, a moment of prayer, or the encounter with someone who suffers. St. Camillus experienced this quiet but powerful call. While caring for the sick, he began to understand that God was inviting him to dedicate his life completely to this mission. The suffering of the sick became a sacred place of discernment. To listen deeply requires humility and openness. It means allowing the cries of the fragile to touch our hearts and asking ourselves: "*Lord, what are you asking of me?*" For some, this listening may lead to a deeper commitment in their present service. For others, it may awaken a new path, a vocation to follow Christ more closely through the Camillian mission. When we listen with an open heart, we discover that God often speaks through the very people who seem most vulnerable. And when we respond to that voice, something extraordinary happens: the burden changes, it becomes a path that leads us closer to God and to one another.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

Let us remain in silence before the Lord. Allow these words to echo within your heart: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Let us ask for the grace to listen attentively to God's voice in prayer, in our communities, and especially in the cries of the sick and suffering. May the Lord open our hearts to discern His call, trusting that when we listen with love, the burdens of others become a path toward vocation and hope.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord who continues to call his disciples through the needs of the world.

Response: **Lord, help us to listen to your voice.**

- For the Church, that she may always be attentive to the cries of the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the Camillian Family throughout the world, that their witness of compassionate service may help many people recognize God's call. *We pray to the Lord.*

- For young men and women discerning their vocation, that they may listen with open hearts to the voice of God guiding their lives. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For those who care for the sick and suffering, that they may serve with attentive hearts and generous love. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For the sick, the elderly, and the lonely, that their voices may be heard and their dignity respected. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For ourselves, that we may grow in the ability to listen, to God, to one another, and to those who carry heavy burdens. *We pray to the Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you speak to us through the cries of the suffering and the needs of the fragile. Open our ears to hear your voice, open our hearts to welcome your call, and open our lives to follow you with courage and generosity. Bless the Camillian Family and awaken new vocations ready to listen deeply and serve faithfully. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, may we always recognize your presence in the sick and suffering. And may our lives bear witness to the truth of the Gospel: When we listen to the burdens of others with love, together the burden changes. Amen.

DAY 8 - JUNE 27

Being Sent: Living the Mission of Hope

Embracing the call to go forth and serve, bearing the burdens of others in love

OPENING HYMN

(A suitable hymn invoking mission, charity, and service to the sick may be sung.)

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

Brothers and sisters, in the Gospel, compassion never ends with feeling; it always leads to mission. Those who have encountered the suffering of others and experienced the mercy of Christ cannot remain still. They are sent. The burden of others becomes a path of love. When we carry it together, it no longer crushes the heart but becomes a mission of hope. The Camillian vocation is precisely this: to be sent to the sick, to those who suffer, to those who feel alone in their burden. Today we reflect on how God calls and sends each of us to become bearers of hope, fulfilling the law of Christ: *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”* (Gal 6:2)

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Matthew 10:7–8

“As you go, proclaim the good news, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

“Serve the sick with all charity, both of the soul and of the body, because in them we serve Jesus Christ himself.”

REFLECTION

To be sent by Christ is not simply to travel somewhere; it is to carry His compassion into the world. In the Gospel, Jesus sends His disciples with a clear mission: heal the sick, proclaim hope, and bring the presence of God to those who suffer. The mission of the Camillian

vocation flows from this same command. The sick are not only people in need of care; they are the place where Christ waits to be loved and served. St. Camillus understood this deeply. For him, serving the sick was not merely an act of charity, it was an encounter with Christ himself. Sometimes the needs of the sick and the suffering seem overwhelming. Their burdens may appear too heavy for one person to carry. Yet the Gospel reminds us that when we respond to God's call, we do not go alone. Christ walks with those He sends. When love guides our service, the burden changes. It becomes a mission of hope, a sign that God has not forgotten the suffering of the world. Today we ask for the courage to say yes to this mission, to allow our lives to become instruments of compassion, healing, and hope.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

In silence, let us listen to the voice of Christ who sends us. Let us ask ourselves: Where is the Lord calling me to bring hope? Whose burden is He asking me to help carry? Let us place before the Lord our fears, hesitations, and uncertainties, trusting that when we accept His mission, the burden becomes a path of love and hope.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of Christ who sends us to serve, let us present our prayers.

Response: Lord Jesus, strengthen us to carry the burdens of others with love

- For the Church, that she may always be a sign of hope and mercy for the sick and suffering. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the Camillian Family, that many generous hearts may respond to the call to serve the sick. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For young people discerning their vocation, that they may courageously follow Christ who sends them to serve others. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the sick, the lonely, and those burdened by suffering, that they may experience God's healing presence. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For all of us gathered here, that we may become instruments of compassion and hope wherever we are sent. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord of compassion, you send us into the world to bring hope to the suffering. Strengthen our hearts so that we may not grow weary in carrying the burdens of others. May the example of St. Camillus inspire us to serve with love, humility, and dedication. Transform our lives into a mission of mercy, so that wherever we go, the burden of suffering may be transformed into hope, healing, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 9 – JUNE 28

Transforming Burdens into Love: The Joy of Vocation

Experiencing how bearing the burdens of others transforms us, builds community, and awakens new vocations

OPENING HYMN

(A suitable hymn of thanksgiving and dedication to the service of the sick may be sung.)

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME OF THE DAY

Throughout these days of prayer, we have reflected on the meaning of the theme: “Together, the Burden Changes.” *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”* (Gal 6:2). What begins as compassion gradually becomes a vocation. When we walk beside those who suffer, something within us changes. Their pain touches our hearts, their struggles awaken our humanity, and their hope strengthens our faith. In carrying the burdens of others, we discover a surprising truth: the burden becomes love, and love becomes joy. St. Camillus experienced this transformation in his own life. What once seemed like a heavy task, serving the sick, became the great joy and mission of his life. Today, on the final day of this novena, we ask the Lord to transform our hearts so that the burdens we carry together may give birth to new vocations of compassion and service.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel according to St. Matthew 11:28–30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **The Gospel of the Lord.**

READING FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CAMILLUS

He often reminded his companions, *“Put more heart into those hands.”* For St. Camillus, service to the suffering was not just a duty but a sacred encounter with Christ Himself. He urged caregivers to treat the sick with the same tenderness that a loving mother shows to her only child, seeing in every patient the presence of God. His spirituality

calls us to combine skilled hands with a compassionate heart, serving the suffering with humility, patience, and genuine love

REFLECTION

The Gospel reminds us that Christ understands the weight of every burden. He invites those who are weary and tried to come to Him, promising rest and consolation. Yet Jesus also invites us to share His mission, to carry the burdens of others with Him. At first, this path may appear difficult. Caring for the sick, comforting the suffering, and standing beside those in pain requires patience, sacrifice, and love. But something beautiful happens along the way. When we serve with compassion, our hearts are transformed. The burden we carry together no longer feels heavy. It becomes an expression of love. St. Camillus knew this secret well. His famous words; *“Put more heart into those hands”*, are an invitation to serve not only with skill but with deep compassion and tenderness. The joy of vocation does not come from avoiding suffering, but from transforming suffering through love. When we carry the burdens of others, we build community. We become signs of hope. And we inspire new generations to answer the same call. Today we thank God for every Camillian vocation, past, present, and future and we pray that many hearts will continue to discover the joy of serving Christ in the sick.

MOMENT OF SILENCE (2 minutes)

In silence, let us thank the Lord for the journey of these nine days. Let us reflect on the burdens we have seen, felt, and shared. Let us ask God to transform our hearts so that the burdens we carry with others may become a source of love, communion, and joyful vocation. May the Lord awaken within us a deeper desire to serve, to accompany, and to love as Christ loves.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Leader: With grateful hearts, let us present our prayers to God who calls us to share the burdens of one another.

Response: Lord, help us carry one another’s burdens.

- For the Church, that she may always be a compassionate presence for the sick, the suffering, and the abandoned. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the Camillian Order and the entire Camillian Family, that their service to the sick may continue to inspire many new vocations. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

- For young people searching for meaning and purpose in life, that they may discover the joy of giving themselves in service to others. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the sick and all who suffer, that they may experience the love and comfort of Christ through those who care for them. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For all of us gathered here, that we may always remember that when we carry the burdens of others, the burden becomes love. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER FOR CAMILLIAN VOCATIONS (p. 36)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and compassion, through these days of prayer you have invited us to see, feel, and share the burdens of others. Transform our hearts so that the burdens we carry together may become a path of love, communion, and joy. Through the example of Saint Camillus, teach us to serve the sick with tenderness, dedication, and faith. May our lives become a living witness that when we bear one another's burdens, love grows, hope rises, and vocations are born. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE CAMILLIAN NOVENA

We have reached the culmination of this sacred nine-day journey, a journey that invited us to see suffering, open our hearts to compassion, serve courageously, live in community, listen attentively to God's call, and be sent forth to bring hope. Each day has been a step, a seed planted in our hearts, nurturing a deeper commitment to the Camillian charism and to the mission of walking with the sick, fragile, and suffering.

This novena has shown us that a vocation is more than a personal call, it is a fraternal invitation. It is an invitation to walk alongside others, to bear burdens together, and to build communities that embody God's mercy in action. When we unite our hearts in prayer, when we serve with tenderness and courage, and when we act in love, we are transformed from within, and our service becomes a living witness of hope.

For young men and women, this novena is a beacon of inspiration and courage. It calls you to step forward boldly, to listen with your hearts, and to respond generously to God's invitation. Your gifts, your energy, and your compassion are needed to join the Camillian Family, to share the burdens of the sick, and to bring light into the darkness of suffering. Remember: together, no burden is too heavy, no suffering too great, and no act of love too small.

As we go forth from this novena, may we be renewed in spirit, strengthened in fraternal bonds, and inspired to live the Camillian vocation fully, as witnesses of mercy, instruments of healing, and bearers of hope. May our hearts burn with love, our hands serve with courage, and our lives radiate the tenderness of Christ to all whom we meet.

Let the grace of God, the example of St. Camillus de Lellis, and the power of these shared prayers transform our hearts, renew our communities, and awaken new vocations for the service of suffering humanity. Hold this truth in your hearts and live it every day: "Together, the Burden Changes."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you with hearts that see, hands that serve, and lives that love. We thank you for walking with us during this nine-day novena, for opening our eyes to the suffering of the world, and for awakening in us a renewed passion to serve. Renew us, Lord, personally and fraternally, so that our hearts may burn with love, our hands may act with courage, and our lives may become a living reflection of your mercy. Bless the Camillian Family, and awaken new vocations, young men and women who will courageously respond to your call, dedicating their lives to bearing one another's burdens and bringing hope to the suffering. Grant us the joy to serve together, the strength to carry burdens with tenderness, and the grace to transform despair into hope, fear into faith, and suffering into love. Through the intercession of St. Camillus de Lellis, may we become instruments of your compassion, living witnesses of your mercy, and builders of fraternal communities, united in prayer, service, and mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Camillus, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of Vocations, accompany us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Prayer for Camillian Vocations

Lord Jesus,
we humbly receive Your tender call,
inviting us to follow in Your footsteps.
With grateful hearts,
we embrace our consecration
in the spirit of Camillian charism.
With trust,
we place ourselves in Your loving care
as the Good Shepherd.
Guide us with the power of Your Spirit,
granting us the grace to care for the sick
with faith and compassion,
following the example of Good Samaritan example.
We commend to You the men and women
who, along their formative journey,
are discerning the call to mercy
toward the poor and the suffering.
May Your gentle voice enlighten their hearts,
so they may respond fully and freely
to Your divine invitation.
Bless the Camillian family!
Set the hearts of many young people aflame;
instil in them the desire
to generously dedicate their lives to the sick.
Strengthen their courage
to embrace Your call
and discover the beauty of self-giving.
We ask this
through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother,
and St. Camillus, our heavenly Patron.

Amen!

THEME CONTENTS

Day 1 – Seeing the Burden: *The Beginning of Compassion*

Opening our eyes to the suffering around us; recognizing the cries of the sick and fragile.

Day 2 – Feeling the Burden: *Awakening Compassion in the Heart*

Allowing the suffering of others to touch our hearts and stir empathy.

Day 3 – Stopping for the Suffering: *The Call to Presence*

Learning to pause amidst life's busyness to attend to those in need.

Day 4 – Serving the Burdened: *Hands and Hearts in Action*

Transforming compassion into concrete acts of care, service, and mercy.

Day 5 – Courage to Carry: *Responding Boldly to God's Call*

Finding the courage to step forward, even when the burden seems heavy.

Day 6 – Strength in Community: *Sharing the Burden Together*

Living fraternity and solidarity, supporting one another in mission.

Day 7 – Listening to the Call: *Discerning God's Voice in the Fragile*

Learning to hear God speaking through the needs of the sick and vulnerable.

Day 8 – Being Sent: *Living the Mission of Hope*

Embracing the call to go forth and serve, bearing the burdens of others in love.

Day 9 – Transforming Burdens into Love: *The Joy of Vocation*

Experiencing how bearing the burdens of others transforms us, builds community, and awakens new vocations.

NOTE

Together, the Burden Becomes Lighter

«Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ»
(Gal 6,2)



Congregation of the **Sister**
Ministers of the Infirm
of Saint Camillus



CONGREGATION OF THE HANDMAIDS
OF THE REDEMPTION



CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR FORMATION

Generalate House, Piazza della Maddalena, 53 - Rome, March 2026