



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

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

N. 119



Seeking God in the Beauty of Creation



Ministers of Infirm
Newsletter N.119 | August 2026



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The Annual Vacation

Dear Confreres,

A few weeks ago, we concluded the celebration of the annual feast of our founder, St. Camillus. I hope you experienced it deeply and with enthusiasm, for in looking to Father Camillus, we recognize the model of the servant of the sick who has inspired our lives and guided our vocation journey within our Order. Like him, let us continue to proclaim to the world the love of Christ, always present in the sick. May St. Camillus intercede for us and for all those—including religious, lay healthcare professionals, and volunteers—who continue to serve the sick with dedication and love.

After celebrating the feast of our Patron, some of you might take your annual vacation. Other confreres would do so later, depending on the specific practices of their country and geographic region. It is a valuable time that, if well organized and spent wisely, allows us to live out our ministry and our consecrated life to the fullest. In addition to its human and social value, it has a profound spiritual dimension.

The importance of this break between two demanding and intense periods of work is highlighted by Pope Leo XIV, who, before taking his own time off this year, said during the General Audience on June 24: “Vacations are a time for rest and for seeking the signs of God in the beauty of creation. Take advantage of this time to participate more fully in Holy Mass, to meditate on the Word of God, to attend spiritual retreats, to go on pilgrimages, and to spend time with your loved ones.” The value and benefit of vacation are also recognized and incorporated into civil laws that regulate the work of citizens, ensuring a just and necessary respite from the daily grind of work.

In Sacred Scripture, we read how God Himself observed a weekly rest at the end of creation. “Then God completed His work on the seventh day and rested on the seventh day from all His work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work He had done in creation” (Gen 2:2–3). In the Book of Leviticus, the celebration of the Jubilee Year must also be understood in terms of rest that renews and restores. “You shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; each of you shall return to his own property and to his own family. You shall neither sow nor reap what the fields

produce of their own accord, nor gather the grapes from the unpruned vines. For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you” (Lev 25:10–11).

In the Gospels, withdrawing into prayer after the daily labors is a recurring theme. Jesus often withdrew early in the morning or late at night to regain his inner balance and recharge spiritually (Mk 1:35; Mt 14:23). He recommends—or even demands—the same of his disciples, who during their missionary activities were overwhelmed by the demands of the crowds jostling around them: “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31), he told them, reminding them of both the importance of their missionary commitment and the need for rest. Naturally, throughout its history, the Church has grasped the profound meaning of this concept and has integrated it in various ways into the life, ministry, and work of pastoral workers, promoting it for the benefit of Christians and all workers (cf. *Rerum novarum*, 32).

From this biblical and historical heritage, we can say that the time of rest, as willed by the Lord, has the spiritual significance of stepping away from the daily routine to deeply renew one’s relationship with Him—the author of life—with oneself, with one’s loved ones, and also with nature. Daily work—which allows us to make use of creation by participating in its perfection—consumes time, energy, and resources, and thus naturally limits the time we can devote to our inner selves as we grapple with questions of existence and authenticity. When one allows oneself a break from ordinary daily work, one gives oneself the opportunity to reconnect with the things one enjoys, to detach from the daily hustle and bustle, to reflect deeply on one’s own existence, and to devote adequate time to important matters such as spiritual exercises—which often have positive repercussions on all other dimensions of life, including personal, family, and professional life.

Human beings subjected to a fast-paced and continuous rhythm of commitments cannot work constantly without running the risk of becoming machines devoid of emotions and meaningful, constructive human relationships. An annual break enriched by a special focus on spiritual life allows for growth as a person, spiritually, and professionally. A break from periods of intense activity and accumulated fatigue becomes necessary to show greater interest and attention to family, friends, and human relationships—which are also essential for the true balance of the whole person. Giving space to all that constitutes genuine and varied affections is part of self-care for a meaningful and fruitful personal and professional life. Our psychological, physical, human, and spiritual health also depends on our ability to cultivate interests beyond what ordinarily fills our days.

During the annual break, there is also room for a comprehensive self-assessment to explore new paths and new opportunities for self-fulfillment and the fulfillment of one’s commitment. Generally, this assessment serves as a guiding light that not only illuminates new decisions but also fosters a deeper understanding of oneself and others. For us consecrated persons, taking annual time off is a customary, useful, and necessary practice. Every fruitful consecrated life has its source and its culmination in that personal friendship with the Lord, which is continually nourished, cultivated, and renewed through the practice of the sacraments, daily prayer, spiritual exercises, ministry, and so on. This annual break can help breathe new life and vigor into all of this, restoring the joy of living for God and for our brothers and sisters who are suffering or in need.

I encourage everyone to make time for this, so that our Camillian consecration may always be joyful and fruitful for the people we are called to serve. To those of you who are currently on your annual vacation, I wish you the joy of true human and spiritual renewal in the service of our mission to care for our sick brothers and sisters.

I invoke upon all of you the “thousand blessings” of our founder, Saint Camillus.

p. Pedro Tramontin
Superiore generale



Mary Magdalene, Apostle of the Apostles

By Communication Office

In July, the Camillian family observes two important feasts: the liturgical celebration of St. Camillus and the Feast of Mary Magdalene, which falls on July 22. The church in Rome dedicated to her is home to the General Curia of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm.

The feast day was commemorated with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Renato Tarantelli Baccari, Vicegerent and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rome. “This feast,” said the bishop, “reminds us how, for centuries—even millennia—we have continued to overlook the importance of Mary Magdalene, who is rightly called the ‘Apostle of the Apostles,’ and yet there is only one church dedicated to her in the entire Diocese of Rome.”

The Gospel (Jn 20:1–2, 11–18) recounts the day of Christ’s Resurrection: while Peter, John, and the other apostles are locked in a house out of fear of threats and reprisals, Mary Magdalene runs fearlessly because she does not know where her Beloved is. Hers is not a worldly fear, but one dictated by love. “This Gospel,” the bishop explained in his homily, “is a true and proper

lesson in catechesis that tells us how our faith, our evangelization, and our Christian life should be lived. Mary Magdalene’s running should prompt us every day to ask ourselves: Where is my Lord? Where have we relegated Jesus in our lives?” Mary Magdalene is the first person to whom the risen Jesus chooses to appear; he reveals himself to her as the Risen One, calls her by name, and sends her to the apostles. “Without her, we probably wouldn’t be here today.” At the end of his homily, Bishop Tarantelli Baccari reminded the congregation that “We are not called to guard a dead person; rather, we are called to run toward every human suffering, toward every death—whether real or spiritual—not to keep it in that state, but to bear witness to the Resurrection.” “Mary Magdalene,” the bishop concluded, “is not remembered because Jesus cast out seven demons from her, nor because Jesus forgave her, but because, thanks to her journey, she carries with her the Resurrection of Christ.” Concelebrating with Bishop Tarantelli Baccari was the Camillian Bishop Prosper Kontiebo, Archbishop of Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso.



In His Wounded Leg, St. Camillus Finds God

Camillian religious in Brazil reflect on consecrated life and their Constitution during Ongoing Formation Week

By **Alisson Augusto**

From July 28 to 31, religious of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm participated in Ongoing Formation Week held at the Mary Ward Spirituality Center in Itapeceirica da Serra, São Paulo, Brazil.

The gathering was organized by the Provincial Council of the Camillian Province of Brazil and brought together priests, brothers, novices, and first-professed religious for a time of study, prayer, and reflection on the Order's Constitution.

The formation program was led by Sister Maria Inês, MAD (Congregation of the Messengers of Divine Love) and Brother Natalino Guilherme,

FMS. (Marist Brothers of the Schools).

Over the course of the four days, participants reflected on consecrated religious life, its origins, and its development throughout the history of the Church, as well as its concrete expression in the charism inherited from St. Camillus de Lellis.

Starting from the experience of the early Christian communities—described in the Acts of the Apostles as communities that “had everything in common”—the speakers traced the key elements of the early Church and the tradition of the Desert Fathers, emphasizing Jesus’ call to his disciples: “He called to him those he wanted,

so that they might be with him” (Mk 3:13). This Gospel passage served as a guiding thread for understanding the religious vocation as God’s free call to be with Christ and to participate in His mission.

In one of the reflections, Sister Maria Inês emphasized that the Camillian religious life springs from Camillus’s own wound. According to her, it was precisely through his personal human fragility and concrete experience of suffering that Saint Camillus recognized God’s call to care for the sick.

Brother Natalino, in turn, offered an in-depth study of the Camillian Constitution, particularly the Formula of Life, which presents the Minister of the Infirm as one who, moved by God, dedicates himself to the service of the sick, even at the risk of his own life.

This reflection helped the participants rediscover the enduring relevance of the Camillian vocation in responding to the contemporary challenges of evangelization in the world of healthcare.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that consecrated religious life is a radical way of living the Gospel and one’s baptismal commitment. In the Camillian context, this witness is expressed

through the commitment to console the weary, to care for the wounded, and to stand by those who suffer, making Christ’s mercy visible through the integral care of the human person.

The Ongoing Formation Week offered moments of prayer, fraternal communion, and the sharing of experiences, strengthening the bonds among the religious from the various communities within the Province.

The gathering reaffirmed the importance of ongoing formation as a path of vocational renewal and creative fidelity to the charism of St. Camillus.

Through reflection on their Constitution, the religious were invited to renew their commitment to continue being, within the Church and society, signs of God’s tenderness and mercy toward the sick, those who suffer, and all those in need of care, attentive listening, and hope.

In Brazil, the Camillians serve through hospitals, healthcare institutions, social ministries, healthcare ministry, education focused on humanization within the healthcare sector and academic programs, as well as pastoral care in parishes.





To Love You Infinitely: Service and Prayer Camp in Acireale, Catania

By Fr. Giancarlo Spalice

A Camillian Service Camp, titled “To Love You Infinitely,” took place in Acireale (Catania, from 9 to 16 July).

The phrase comes from the words of St. Camillus de Lellis: for him, the desire to love God deeply finds its fulfillment in service to the sick and to all those whom life has left on the margins.

The camp was an intense experience aimed at young people aged 18 to 40, who chose to dedicate a week of their summer to discovering the charism of St. Camillus through prayer, closeness, and service, learning to love without measure in the school of charity.

The camp began with a warm welcome for the participants in an atmosphere of brotherhood and with the entrustment of the journey to the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that each person might experience God through the wounds of suffering humanity.

The service experience was accompanied by a spiritual journey marked by catechesis inspired by Abraham, whose example helped the young people rediscover trust in God and the courage to set out on a journey, allowing themselves to be guided by His promise.

The days were filled with experiences of service, always lived in an authentic spirit of brotherhood. At the “Tent of St. Camillus”, the participants prepared lunch for the brothers and sisters of the “Tent”, and, together with the Daughters of St. Camillus, some dedicated themselves to caring for the feet of the Tent’s guests—all of whom are HIV-positive or living with AIDS.

The service continued with a visit to the sick at the Giarre Hospital, a visit to the elderly at the “Villa Serena” nursing home in Sant’Alfio together with the Daughters of St. Camillus, and a visit to the Casa della Speranza Viviana Lisi, which shelters homeless people. At the Giovanni

XXIII Center, the participants shared a festive moment with the young people with disabilities living there, while at the San Camillo Shelter they joined the residents for lunch.

All these experiences allowed the young people to see how the Gospel takes shape in small, everyday gestures: sincere listening, a helping hand, a smile, and a discreet presence can help those who are alone and sick.

Among the most meaningful moments was the meeting with Brother Carlo Mangione, Provincial of the Southern Italy Province, who recounted the founding and rebirth of the “Tent of St. Camillus” following the murder of Brother Leonardo Grasso. Equally valuable were the testimonies of the Poor Clares of Biancavilla and the Daughters of St. Camillus, who demonstrated how the gift of one’s life in one’s vocation is a source of joy, fruitfulness, and authentic freedom.

The washing of the feet for the residents of Villa Serena, held at the community of the Daughters of St. Camillus in Sant’Alfio, was also particularly moving: a simple yet deeply evangelical gesture, capable of expressing a style of service marked by humility and tenderness.

This experience found its fulfillment in the celebration of the Eucharist, during which each participant was invited to recognize, in the offering of the one Host, the model for the offering of one’s own life to God.

Fraternity grew day by day through shared meals, evenings spent together, a brief time at the beach, evening reflections, and moments of dialogue. A special highlight was the Solemnity of St. Camillus, celebrated together with the guests of the soup kitchen and the community of Acireale. Participating in the celebrations on July 13 and 14, commemorating the passing of St. Camillus, and meeting with the Camillian community in Messina made the young people feel part of a larger family.

The final day was dedicated to reflecting on the entire experience. During the closing sharing session, each person was able to share what they had received and what they hoped to carry forward into their daily lives. The final Eucharistic



celebration, held at the Salesian Sisters’ convent on the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, brought to a close a week lived under the watchful gaze of Mary and St. Camillus, who continue to guide us toward an encounter with Jesus.

The camp has ended, but it has left in everyone’s hearts a desire to continue living out, in daily life, what was experienced during these days: a love that becomes service, a faith that translates into closeness, and a charity that, following in the footsteps of St. Camillus, continues to be put into practice toward those who suffer.

In Burkina Faso, a Warm Welcome is the First Step Toward Healing

By **Communication Office**

A patient who is warmly welcomed is already halfway to recovery. This is the conviction of Father Lucien Kaboré, general director of Saint Camille Hospital in Ouagadougou (HOSCO) in Burkina Faso.

This idea gave rise to a morning training session held on July 3, 2026, which brought staff together to reflect on the importance of hospitality and communication in a hospital setting.

The initiative served as a reminder that, beyond medical care and equipment, the quality of human interaction impacts patient care and satisfaction.

In his opening remarks, Father Kaboré emphasized that excellence in care depends not only on technical skills but also on the quality of the welcome extended to patients.

Strongly reiterating the concept that “a patient who is warmly welcomed is already halfway to recovery,” he urged every staff member to incorporate kindness, attentive listening, and respect into their daily practice.

The first session, led by Ms. Deborah Benao—Head of Communications and Public Relations—highlighted the fundamental principles of patient care and positive communication in a hospital setting.

Through case studies, role-playing exercises, and interactive discussions, participants explored the importance of active listening, empathy, and both verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as strategies for managing critical situations that may arise in patient care units.

The second session, led by Father Pascal Bakorba, focused on the Camillian dimension



of patient care. He recalled the charism of St. Camillus de Lellis, who calls on every healthcare worker to serve the sick with the same dedication with which a mother cares for her own suffering child. This spirituality urges healthcare workers to recognize Christ in every suffering person and to transform patient care into an authentic ministry of compassion, dignity, and hope.

In his talk, Father Bakorba also recounted the life of Saint Camillus and his work in the healthcare field, encouraging all staff to look to the saint as a role model and a guiding light.

The meeting, organized as part of an initiative aimed at continuously improving the quality of care, sought to enhance the staff’s interpersonal skills in order to offer patients more humane, respectful, and reassuring support.

The training concluded with a simulation session and discussion with the participants, reflecting HOSCO’s collective commitment to promoting a culture of hospitality in which professional competence, humanity, and Camillian values come together in the service of the sick.



CADIS' Support for Earthquake Victims in Venezuela

By **Giulia Calibeo**

On June 24, 2026, two powerful earthquakes struck northwestern and central Venezuela. The epicenters of both earthquakes were located in the municipality of Veroes, west of San Felipe, the capital of Yaracuy state.

The two earthquakes caused widespread damage throughout the country, particularly in the capital, Caracas, and especially in the state of La Guaira, where 80% of the buildings collapsed.

According to official government data, at least 4,829 people lost their lives and 16,740 were injured. Tens of thousands of people were displaced; over 16,300 lost their homes, while

another 28,300 found their homes uninhabitable. Tens of thousands of people are still missing.

The disaster, which has exacerbated the ongoing socio-economic crisis in Venezuela, has completely destroyed more than 400 school buildings across the country.

In the absence of a coordinated government response, surviving families have been left to fend for themselves in makeshift tents, without access even to basic resources such as drinking

water, food, or medicine.

Although local residents and religious congregations have mobilized to distribute

*Two earthquakes are keeping
Cadis busy around
the world: Venezuela
and the Philippines.
Cadis is providing aid
and support
to local communities*

immediate aid, the disruption of education remains a critical threat to the country's youth.

CADIS International is coordinating the emergency response in Venezuela together with the Camillians of the Province of Brazil and CADIS Brazil through the emergency fundraising campaign aimed at raising the necessary resources to purchase basic necessities.

“CADIS—as Father Aris Miranda explained—is not directly present in Venezuela but is responding to these two severe seismic events by assisting a congregation of nuns—the Misioneras Hijas de la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret—who have communities in Venezuela, especially in Caracas, to raise funds for their relief program focused on schoolchildren and their families affected by the earthquake. Meanwhile, we are planning to conduct a more in-depth needs assessment in Venezuela with a view to developing a post-disaster response.”

Determined to prevent a prolonged educational crisis, the nuns are preparing to reopen their partially damaged school in Caracas this September, even though repairs to the building are still underway.

To accommodate children from other schools that have been reduced to rubble, the sisters intend to implement a double-shift system: in the morning, classes will be held for the 400–600 students regularly enrolled at the school, and in the afternoon, classes will be held for displaced students from neighboring communities.

The main challenge is securing the funds needed to support this double-shift program and offer Venezuelan children a vital haven of safety, routine, and hope.

Logistics remain a hurdle. Essential supplies must be transported by truck from supermarkets near the Arturo Michelena International Airport in Valencia (which now serves as the region's main international entry point, since the Caracas



airport has been converted into a relief center).

At the same time, CADIS is also engaged in another emergency, this time in Southeast Asia—specifically in the Philippines, where another extremely powerful earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, struck on June 8.

Here, the emergency medical relief program is managed by CADIS's local partner, the Camillian Task Force (CTF) Philippines. From 17 to 20 July, CADIS, together with its local partners and with full funding from CADIS Taiwan, assisted 554 earthquake survivors in Western Davao.

The mission was organized by Daditama, a joint initiative of all the dioceses in the Davao region—Davao, Digos, Tagum, and Mati—and its associated HOPE (Helping Our People in Emergencies) project. The team provided volunteers who helped with medical consultations, patient registration, vital sign monitoring, laboratory tests, medication distribution, and psychological first aid.

New Vocations in Uganda

By **Papa Tadeo**

The Ugandan Mission of St. Camillus province of India witnessed the joyful ordination of two of its members to the Sacred Orders, on August 1, 2026.

The Ordination Mass was held at Uganda Martyrs Cathedral of the Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana, Uganda. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Antony Zziwa, Bishop of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, who conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Rev. deacon Godfrey Kikonyogo Ssempijja was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood alongside six diocesan candidates, while Papa Moise Tabhase was ordained to the Order of the Diaconate together with five diocesan candidates.

The celebration was attended by members of the Camillian fraternity in the Ugandan Mission, priests, religious, the lay faithful, benefactors, family members, relatives, and friends.

The Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on 2nd August 2026 at the ancestral home of Rev. Fr. Godfrey Kikonyogo Ssempijja, in Kiboga Parish.

Members of the Camillian community in Uganda participated in the celebration, offering fraternal support and solidarity to the newly ordained priest. The occasion brought together the local Christian community in a joyful expression of faith, gratitude, and communion.

The faithful of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, particularly those of Kiboga Parish, expressed profound gratitude to the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm for the gift of the priesthood bestowed upon one of their sons.

The celebrations were successfully conducted and served as a positive witness to the growing



presence and apostolic mission of the Camillian Order in Uganda. We give thanks to Almighty God for the continued growth and fruitfulness of the Camillian Mission and pray that He may continue to bless its ministry abundantly.

The Camillian Mission in Uganda, especially Rev. Fr. Godfrey Kikonyogo Ssempijja and Deacon Papa Moise Tabhase, expresses its sincere gratitude to the Order, the General Superior and his Council for their constant prayers, encouragement, guidance and support.

We entrust the ministry of Rev. Fr. Godfrey Kikonyogo Ssempijja and the diaconal service of Deacon Papa Moise to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Camillus de Lellis, St. Josephine Vannini, and all the Saints of Charity.



Rediscovering Hope in the Hospitals of São Paulo

By **Alisson Augusto**

During the first half of July, Camillian postulants and religious from Brazil were sent on mission to various healthcare facilities within the São Camilo Network, as well as to other works inspired by the Camillian charism in the Northeast, Southeast, and South regions of Brazil.

The initiative aimed to provide spiritual preparation in anticipation of the feast of St. Camillus de Lellis, while also offering a concrete experience of encountering the sick, healthcare workers, and the People of God present in hospital settings.

During the mission, the Camillians took part in visits to patients, prayer meetings, liturgical celebrations, and other activities. In addition to the hospitals of the São Camilo Network, the missionaries visited psychiatric clinics, health insurance agencies, and other institutions dedicated to the holistic care of the human person—a hallmark of Camillian spirituality. The experience allowed them to contemplate the presence of Christ in every patient and in every person they encountered in the healthcare setting. By engaging with diverse social and

healthcare realities throughout the country, they gained a deeper understanding of the breadth of the Camillian mission and the importance of spiritual, human, and pastoral care in serving those who suffer.

Thanks to these days, the religious saw that the Camillian charism is still alive, reaching thousands of people every day through healthcare workers and volunteers, and continues to be a sign of God's merciful love in the world of healthcare.

Caring for the sick goes beyond procedures or institutions; it is expressed through compassion, attentive listening, and a fraternal presence alongside those who suffer. This missionary experience allowed the young people in formation to understand the Camillian charism in a concrete way. Among the most significant moments of this experience, the religious recall the prayers shared with the sick and their families, and the presence of God and hope in every place they visited, despite the frailty and suffering of the sick.

At the end of the mission, the religious renewed their commitment to continue serving the sick with compassion, mercy, and dedication, following the example of St. Camillus de Lellis.



Spain: The Beauty of Humanizing Care

By **Juan Pablo Hernández**

On the feast day of St. Camillus, the St. Camillus Center in Tres Cantos, Spain, organized a day of joy, fellowship, and reflection on the theme “Beauty and the Humanization of Care.”

The celebration coincided with the conclusion of academic activities at the Center for the Humanization of Health and the Summer School of Pastoral Care, bringing together religious, professionals, volunteers, students, and friends of the Center to give thanks for a year spent serving the most vulnerable.

The day began with a new edition of the traditional St. Camillus Dialogues, a space for reflection that this year invited participants to explore beauty as an essential dimension of care.

In the first presentation, Fr. José Carlos Bermejo, Provincial Superior of the Camillian

Religious and Director General of the St. Camillus Center, delivered a lecture titled “The Beauty That Humanizes,” a profound reflection in which he proposed ten key insights to help understand that beauty is not merely a decorative element, but rather a true transformative force in the healthcare setting.

During his presentation, Bermejo demonstrated that humanizing healthcare means making the beauty of care visible: a beauty that arises from compassion, from encounter, and from the dignity of every person. Among the central themes he highlighted were:

- beauty as an expression of love that cares for others and restores dignity;
- the need to combine professional competence with humanity;

- fragility as a space where hope can continue to shine;
- care understood as an art capable of transforming suffering into an opportunity for encounter;
- the value of listening, welcoming, spirituality, and compassion as pillars of humanization;
- and the constant inspiration of St. Camillus de Lellis, who taught us to put more heart into our hands in the service of the sick.

Next to speak was Cristina Muñoz, Head of Training and Quality at the San Camillo Center, who presented the paper “Beauty and Care,” in which she invited the audience to contemplate care as a true art capable of revealing a person’s dignity even in illness and at the moment of parting. “Small gestures of kindness, respect, and tenderness,” said Muñoz, “possess an extraordinary ability to heal wounds, reconcile relationships, and restore meaning to life.”

At the conclusion of the Dialogues, the Eucharist was celebrated, presided over by Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi, and concelebrated by priests from various communities.

During his homily, the Camillian religious recalled the figure of St. Camillus de Lellis as

a pioneer in the humanization of healthcare, emphasizing that Christian care always arises from an encounter with Christ present in the sick person. He invited all those present to continue making service, closeness, and mercy the authentic face of the Camillian mission.

At the end of the gathering, Brother José Carlos Bermejo thanked the staff, volunteers, religious, and collaborators for their daily commitment.

He recalled how the San Camillo Center is the result of a shared project that continues to grow thanks to the contribution of so many people who believe in a different way of caring: a form of care in which professional excellence goes hand in hand with closeness, compassion, and hospitality, inspired by the Gospel and the spiritual legacy of St. Camillus, which is more relevant today than ever.

In a society that often measures success in terms of efficiency, Camillian spirituality continues to remind us that the true beauty of care arises when professional competence is united with a heart capable of welcoming, listening, and serving. This is the beauty that humanizes: the beauty that transforms wounds into hope and makes God’s merciful face visible in every sick and vulnerable person.



“Art Therapy” for Children with Disabilities in Lad Krabang, Thailand

By **Communication Office**

Promoting emotional, mental, and social development while building self-esteem is the mission of the Camillian Home for Children with Disabilities in Lad Krabang, Bangkok, Thailand. From Monday through Friday, young people with disabilities gather at this center and engage in drawing and coloring according to their personal preferences and abilities.

This “Art Therapy” program takes place daily from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for five consecutive days. Father Luke Anusorn Nilket, director of the center, introduced art therapy activities to help develop concentration and promote emotional, intellectual, psychological, and social development among the more than 40 young people with disabilities at the center.

Working alongside him are Supitaya Srisathit and Anupong Somsakisit, two special education teachers with artistic expertise, as well as several volunteers who come every day to assist the young people.

Most of the young people with disabilities participating in the art therapy activities are between the ages of 14 and 28; they particularly enjoy painting with colored pencils, watercolors, and acrylic paints. Their works spring from their

imagination and include portraits, comic strips, nature scenes, and abstract paintings.

Once completed, the artworks are printed on glasses, T-shirts, mugs, and canvas bags and then sold as souvenirs to visitors at the Center to raise funds for the young people themselves.

For the artists, seeing their work on everyday objects and being able to sell them is a source of additional pride.

The reasons that motivate the young people to draw vary: J. P. loves art because it allows her to express her feelings, whether she is feeling down or happy. She is skilled with colored pencils and enjoys drawing flowers and cartoon characters that spring from her imagination. R. B. especially likes to draw people—both realistic portraits and cartoon-style figures—because it allows her to express the positive feelings she has toward them. She feels happy when she draws because she is doing what she loves and is good at.

Finally, K. P. has been drawing since she was a little girl. Her specialty is drawing people in the form of robots. Drawing brings her joy, allowing her to give free rein to her imagination through images that others can admire.

Training Course “The Compassion of the Good Samaritan”

By **Maria Chiara Sabato**

The Camillian Studies Center (CSC) in Rome is organizing the 10-session training course “The Compassion of the Good Samaritan”. The first session is scheduled for September 19 on the theme “The Compassion of the Good Samaritan: Loving by Bearing Another’s Pain. An Introduction to Pastoral Care in Health.”

The parable of the Good Samaritan has always underpinned the Church’s teaching and salvific mission. Following in Jesus’ footsteps, and through works of care and the constant presence of the faithful—men and women, consecrated persons and laypeople in the healthcare field—the Church has always bent down to human suffering, pouring upon it the oil of consolation and the wine of hope.

This heritage is sustained not only by the traditional concept of evangelical charity but also by a theological-pastoral reflection that highlights the horizon of salvation which illuminates it.

The course, structured around the actions of the Good Samaritan, will offer an opportunity not only to study and understand the Church’s healing thought and action throughout history, but also to acquire relational skills and spiritual depth for a pastoral ministry of health that always bears witness to God’s compassionate and salvific presence in every human suffering.

The training program is intended for chaplains and spiritual directors, deacons, pastoral health workers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, healthcare professionals, leaders and staff of diocesan health offices and councils, members of volunteer associations at healthcare



facilities or parishes, etc.

Sessions will be held in person on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through December 5, 2026. The course will take place at the CSC, located at Via Ottorino Respighi 6, in Rome.

Registration is free and can be completed at the CSC office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Email: centrostudicamilliani@gmail.com

Attendance at the sessions (at least 70%) will entitle participants to a certificate of participation. A second module with a professional legal focus will follow from January to March 2027 in collaboration with the order of Nursing Professions in Rome, with ECM credits available for participants.



The Camillian Charism Returns to Taranto

By **Giovanni Campo**

Vice President of LCF International

There are stories that seem to come to an end but, instead, find a way to resume their journey. Such is the case with the Camillian presence in Taranto, which, after more than fifty years, is reemerging through the Lay Camillian Family, bringing the charism of St. Camillus de Lellis back to the city.

On Wednesday, July 8, at the Holy Spirit Parish, 12 laypeople joined the Lay Camillian Family during the Mass celebrated by Fr. Salvatore Pontillo, provincial spiritual assistant to the Lay Camillian Family of Southern Italy, and the parish priest, Fr. Francesco Tenna. The twelve solemnly pronounced their Promise of membership in the Lay Camillian Family, committing themselves to living the Gospel by being close to the sick, the elderly, and all those experiencing suffering and vulnerability. From now on, these citizens will bear witness to a charism that continues to find concrete expression in welcoming others, listening to them, and standing by their side.

Their promise is particularly significant in Taranto: it reestablishes a connection that seemed to have been severed—that of the Camillian presence in the city, both within the Santissima Annunziata Hospital and at the Stella Maris church community.

The Camillians were present in this Apulian city until the early 1970s, leaving a memory that remains vivid in the minds of many residents. For years, they carried out their ministry at the Santissima Annunziata Hospital, where they provided spiritual care to patients and comfort to their families, sharing with doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers the mission of caring for the whole person. The Camillian community was also entrusted with the care of the historic Stella Maris Church at Porta Napoli, which was later demolished but remains in the memories of those who attended it.

The return of Camillian spirituality therefore represents not only a moment of faith but also the revival of a tradition that has been part of Taranto's religious, healthcare, and social history. It is a sign of continuity that today is carried forward by ordinary men and women, ready to freely offer their time and skills in the service of others. Inspiring this journey are the teachings of Saint Camillus de Lellis, who urged us to “serve the sick with the same heart a mother has for her only sick child.” This exhortation remains as relevant today as ever and highlights the value of care that combines professionalism, humanity, and compassion.



The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14)