



Ministers of the Infirm

Newsletter

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

N. 121



One in Christ, united in Mission



Ministers of the Infirm
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One in Christ, United in Mission

Dear confreres,

I extend a fraternal greeting to each of you in the Lord. The past few months have been filled with events full of hope for our Order. We have celebrated several priestly ordinations, religious professions and other significant milestones in the Camillian consecrated life.

In August, I had the grace and joy of visiting, together with the consultors, the Camillian Province of India. All these events are gifts of Providence. In this month of October, which marks the centenary of Missionary Month, the Church invites us to renew our focus on the mission that constitutes her and defines her identity. On this occasion, Pope Leo XIV has proposed the theme: 'One in Christ, united in mission'.

This suggestion reminds us that every authentic mission finds its source in our communion with Christ and is realised in the unity of his Body, which is the Church. The Pope writes: 'I wish to urge the whole Church to continue with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit on the missionary journey, which requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to collaborate with generosity and trust.' In the

light of this exhortation, I invite you, during this Missionary Month, to rekindle your missionary zeal and to deepen your reflection on our missions.

During our in-person meeting at Buccianico, from 30 May to 10 June 2026, the General Councillor responsible for the mission, Br. Paul Kabore, drew our attention to some significant challenges facing our missionary foundations today. In particular, he emphasised the importance of interprovincial collaboration and invited us to reflect seriously on the reality of extraterritorial communities. These aspects of the mission constitute priority areas for action for the future and growth of the Order.

A shared responsibility: Foundations or missions fall within the responsibility of all Camillian religious, even when they are established by a specific province (cf. DG 34). The expansion of our missionary charism is never the work of a single entity, but a responsibility assumed collectively by the entire Order, since every new foundation is a sign of the Holy Spirit's action within our religious family. The experience of recent decades calls for clear-sighted discernment. Several foundations have brought their mission to a close, notably in the Ivory Coast, Chile and Pakistan.

These decisions remind us that establishing a mission requires a long-term commitment, careful accompaniment and shared responsibility on the part of the entire Order. We are called upon to assess honestly the way in which we prepare, accompany and support our foundations, so that they may take root in a lasting way and bear the fruit that the Lord expects from our charism. Even today, numerous foundations require our attention and solidarity, particularly those in the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Uganda, Ghana, Armenia, Burundi and Myanmar. These missionary presences live and work in contexts marked by poverty, social instability or political conflict, yet they are shining signs of hope and privileged places of evangelical witness.

Interprovincial collaboration: Interprovincial collaboration is a concrete expression of our fraternal communion and our shared responsibility in fulfilling the mission entrusted to us. In this spirit, Articles 57 and 58 of our Constitution call upon us to promote and develop such collaboration. Aware of this challenge, the previous General Consultation established, on 10 April 2017, a new legal framework aimed at encouraging and structuring collaboration between the provinces. This initiative was not only intended to facilitate the exchange of personnel or the sharing of resources, but above all to promote a genuine culture of encounter, mutual trust and solidarity, so that every province might feel fully responsible for the life, growth and mission of our Order.

Extraterritorial communities: By 'extraterritorial communities' we mean communities which, canonically, belong to one religious province but are situated within the geographical territory of another province of our Order.

Today, our Camillian family has eleven such communities, located mainly in Europe. These communities are the result of missionary cooperation between various provinces, particularly in Africa and Asia, and the particular Churches which have requested the presence of the Camillians to meet pastoral needs. To date, there is the Burkinabé community in Pescara (within the territory of the Roman Province); the Burkinabé community in Florence (within the territory of the Roman Province); the Beninese

community in Caserta (within the territory of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province); the Beninese community in Albano (within the territory of the Roman Province); the Beninese community in Marseille (within the territory of the French Delegation); the Beninese community in Naples (within the territory of the Sicilian-Neapolitan Province); the Beninese community in Vienna (territory of the German Province); the Indian community at the Hospital of the Holy Spirit (territory of the Roman Province); the Indian community in Passau (territory of the German Province); the Polish community in Lourdes (territory of the French Delegation); the Dutch/German community in Barranquilla (territory of the Colombian Delegation).

These communities demonstrate our Order's missionary spirit and its commitment to responding, with generosity and fidelity, to the Church's calls. They remind us that our primary allegiance is not to a particular province, but to the Order as a whole, united by a single charism—that of Saint Camillus de Lellis—and driven by a single mission: to bear witness to Christ's merciful love towards the sick and the most vulnerable.

Dear Confreres, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the confreres who have agreed to leave their own province, their own culture and their family ties in order to proclaim the Gospel and serve the sick in new lands.

I also extend my gratitude to the provinces that generously support other entities of the Order, whether by sending personnel, supporting development projects, sharing their expertise or providing financial support. These gestures of solidarity give a tangible expression to our fraternal communion and contribute to the harmonious development of our Institute. They bear witness to the conviction that the human, spiritual and material resources available to each province are gifts received to be shared in the service of our common mission.

Through the intercession of Saint Camillus de Lellis and Our Lady of the Missions, may the Lord bless our missionaries and everyone.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin,
Superior generale



Canonical visit to Kenya and 50 years of Camillian presence

by Fr. Dominic Mbuwi Mwanzia

Fifty years ago, in 1976, in Tabaka, in the Diocese of Kisii, some 350 kilometres from Nairobi, six Camillian religious established the Camillian mission in Kenya. Some of these pioneers were present at the Golden Jubilee celebration held on 29 September.

Among the guests who had travelled from Italy were Father Pedro Tramontin, Superior General of the Order, and the Vicar General, Father Gianfranco Lunardon, who had just concluded a pastoral visit to the Delegation of Kenya.

During his visit to Kenya, from 12 to 30 September, Father Pedro visited the five communities, which are located in the four dioceses – Kisii, Homa Bay, Nairobi and Mombasa – where the Camillians carry out their ministry. The Superior General spoke with the religious and expressed great interest in the various pastoral activities underway, including comprehensive care at two missionary hospitals, chaplaincies, the nursing school, the pastoral centre, the clinics, the parishes and the houses of formation. The pastoral visit provided an opportunity to bring together all the members of the Delegation for a General Assembly on 28 September at St

Camillus Seminary in Nairobi. In his address, the Superior General urged all the religious in Kenya to adopt an attitude of personal responsibility rather than giving in to the easy temptation to criticise others. As Father Pedro recalled, St Augustine said: 'Let us live well, and all times will be good! We are the times' (Sermons, 80, 8). The quotation, commented the Superior General of the Order, indicates that there are no good or bad times in and of themselves, but that it is we, through our behaviour and attitudes, who shape the times, whether they be positive or negative. The visit culminated on Tuesday 29 September, the day of the official celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Camillians' Presence in Kenya, also known as the Golden Jubilee celebration. It was a moving and lively celebration, featuring songs, dances and gifts both during the Offertory and at the end of Mass.

With the celebration of the 50th anniversary, the Kenya Delegation wished to express its gratitude, first and foremost to God and St Camillus, and then to all those who, over the years, have enabled the Delegation to grow to a total of 40 religious.



The example of the Archangels

by Maria Chiara Sabato

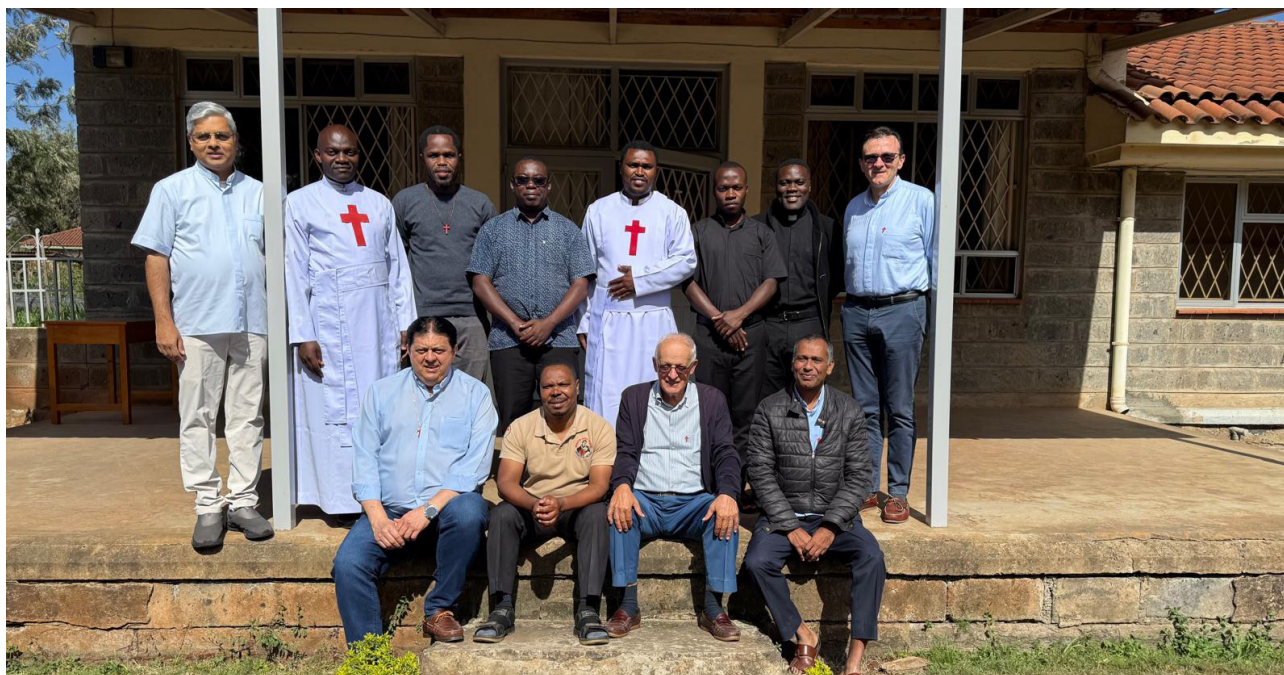
The Archangels, with their strength, compassion and care for the least among us, are a point of reference for all Camillians. Father Pedro Tramontin reiterated this several times on 29 September during his address in Nairobi to mark the 50th anniversary of the Camillians' presence in Kenya. The commemoration took place on the very day dedicated to the Archangels.

"St Michael," said Father Pedro, "fought against evil. For the Camillians, this means defending the dignity of the sick, combating indifference and resisting discouragement. St Gabriel is the bearer of good news; he is God's messenger.

The Camillian mission is the proclamation of healing the sick and preaching the Gospel; it is a proclamation of compassion, closeness and hope. Every Camillian is called to be St Gabriel for the sick and the suffering, bringing a word of hope and consolation that opens the way to the future. St Raphael is the Angel who accompanies and heals. He is the Angel of the Camillians. In him we recognise our charism: to care for, to accompany, to bend down to the wounded, to support the vulnerable. St Raphael reminds us that our mission is not merely to act but to be present, to walk alongside those who suffer."

"In this celebration," continued the Superior General, "I cannot forget Saint Camillus de Lellis, our founder and patron of the sick, hospitals and healthcare workers. Saint Camillus taught us that care is not merely a technical art but a spiritual art. He is St Michael when he defends the dignity of the sick; he is St Gabriel when he brings a word of hope; he is St Raphael when he accompanies and cares for others with tenderness. Every Camillian who enters care homes and villages with a word of hope carries the flame that burns within St Camillus. The certainty that Christ is present in the sick and that serving the sick means touching Heaven and serving Jesus."

Just as the Angels are a bridge between heaven and earth, so "Every time a Camillian bends over a sick person, the heavens open. The future of the Camillian mission in Kenya lies not only in our hands; it lies in the hands of God, who continues to open our hearts every day. The future depends on our ability to remain united, to safeguard the Camillian charism, to form new generations, and to live out the mission with a heart that is free and full of faith. Today, as we commemorate the Archangels and St Camillus, we ask the Camillian mission in Kenya to continue to be a presence that unites, heals, proclaims the Gospel and combats evil with the power of good".



Formation is a garden

by Fr. Baby Ellickal

Strengthening Camillian formation in East Africa: this was the theme on which the members of the East Africa Formation Commission reflected on 30 September at St Camillus Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Commission also includes Camillians from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya (TUK).

The aim of the meeting was to reflect on the current state of formation in the region and to identify practical ways of strengthening collaboration, coordination and the quality of Camillian formation.

The meeting provided an important opportunity to assess existing formation structures, identify emerging challenges, share experiences and formulate concrete initiatives for the future. All participants were convinced that the future of the Camillian mission in East Africa depends on the quality, coherence and credibility of its formation processes.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Father Pedro Tramontin, Superior General of the Order, who was on a canonical visit to Kenya. Father Pedro emphasised the importance of

greater communion, integration and collaboration amongst the Camillian communities in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and encouraged the three countries to move beyond isolated approaches and to develop formation initiatives that can be shared at a regional level.

However, as Father Gianfranco Lunardon emphasised, formation cannot be reduced to academic preparation, professional competence or the acquisition of ministerial skills. Its fundamental aim is to lead religious to a deeper relationship with Christ, to an authentic life and to a vocation grounded in a solid understanding of Camillian spirituality, history and charism. Within formation, witness occupies a special place: the formator assists candidates wishing to enter the Order not only by imparting information but through his own witness of faith and life.

The aim of formation is to lead candidates and religious towards a deeper relationship with Christ and to serve Christ with compassion in the sick and the suffering.

Precisely because formation takes place amongst candidates wishing to enter the Order

of the Ministers of the Infirm, knowledge of its history, spirituality, charism and mission must be ever-present themes in the formation programme. In a context where candidates are increasingly well-educated and tech-savvy, the preparation, support and ongoing formation of formators must become a regional priority. Not only do they need to keep their knowledge up to date and remain competent, but they must in turn bear witness themselves.

“Formation,” explained Father Baby Ellickal, General Consultor for Formation, “does not consist in producing candidates according to a pre-established model. Rather, it is a process of accompaniment, discernment, growth and transformation, through which a vocation is gradually recognised, nurtured and integrated.

Formation is not a factory; it is a garden. To view formation as a garden means adopting a patient,

relational, discerning and vocation-centred approach. Every vocation has its own rhythm, its own story and its own path.” Ultimately, good formation depends on good formators who must be well-prepared, up to date and capable of understanding the cultural, technological and social context in which today’s candidates live.

Furthermore, in order to exercise their ministry, they must demonstrate adequate human, spiritual and religious maturity.

At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Commission recommended professional psychological assessment as an integral part of vocational discernment prior to admission to the novitiate and before perpetual profession, in addition to an appropriate medical assessment. The aim of these assessments is to support responsible discernment and appropriate accompaniment.

Moments of prayer

The Italian provinces in prayer at Assisi

by Sonia Ferrigno

The interprovincial spiritual exercises of the three Italian provinces, held in Assisi from 13 to 18 September 2026 under the theme ‘Be comforted so that you may comfort’, were led by Fr Enzo Masotti, spiritual director of the Pontifical Seminary of St Pius X in Chieti.

Forty religious and those in formation, together with the three provincial superiors, shared a deeply moving experience of spirituality as well as fraternity.

Particularly moving were the Eucharistic celebrations held at the tomb of St Francis and the celebration of Brother Domenico’s profession of vows in a chapel at Santa Maria degli Angeli.

Being in Assisi to mark the 800th anniversary of St Francis’s death was a great grace!



At the end of the five days, Brother Domenico Sciacca renewed his religious profession in the presence of Brother Carlo Mangione, Provincial Superior of the Camillians of Southern Italy. Also during the spiritual exercises, Father Antonio Marzano celebrated 25 years of priesthood.



Formators in training in Benin

by Fr. Baby Ellickal

The theme 'Responsible accompaniment in formation: ethical safeguards, intercultural challenges and opportunities in the formative context' was explored during the five-day formation programme held in Togbin, in the Republic of Benin, from 13 to 18 September.

The programme was aimed at formators and vocation promoters from the Camillian charismatic family in French-speaking Africa. Formators from Burkina Faso, Haiti and Benin took part. The programme included thematic presentations, group work, discussions, sharing of experiences, personal reflection, prayer and liturgical celebrations, as well as moments of fellowship and getting to know one another.

The meeting provided an important opportunity for formation, reflection, dialogue, sharing and fellowship. The richness of the topics addressed and the diversity of the experiences shared enabled the participants to deepen their understanding of their responsibility in the delicate ministry of vocational accompaniment

and formation for consecrated life.

The four main themes – interculturality, ethical safeguards and self-care, managing emotions, and the renewal of the formation model from a missionary perspective – highlighted both the complexity and the great importance of the mission entrusted to formators.

It became clear that formation for consecrated life cannot be reduced to the transmission of knowledge, rules or religious practices. It is an integral journey of the person, in which the human, emotional, spiritual, communal, cultural and missionary dimensions are deeply interconnected.

The formator is therefore called to exercise this ministry with competence and responsibility, but also with humility, an openness to listening and a willingness to remain constantly engaged in their own formation. The formator is called to be a companion, an educator, a witness, a brother or sister and a servant, aware that the quality of



their ministry is also linked to the quality of their own human and spiritual journey.

From this perspective, care for the person, the protection of human dignity, attention to emotional maturity, the ability to live out interculturality and openness to mission are inseparable elements of authentic formation.

The meeting also highlighted that cultural diversity, which is increasingly present in consecrated life, can become a true source of enrichment for the Camillian Family when lived out according to the principles of welcome, dialogue, reciprocity and communion.

The challenge now is to put into daily practice what has been received and shared, so that the content of the meeting does not remain merely

at the level of reflection, but becomes a concrete guide for the ministry of formation and for the accompaniment of future generations.

This experience can constitute a further step in the renewal of formation within the charismatic Camillian Family and help to prepare consecrated men and women capable of living out their vocation with maturity, of serving with competence and humanity, and of bearing witness to the Camillian charism in the various contexts of the Church and the world.

The meeting concluded in a spirit of gratitude, fraternity and hope, with a shared commitment to continue along the path undertaken and to put into practice, in daily life

In Italy, interprovincial formation is ready

by Sonia Ferrigno

In the spirit of collaboration enshrined in the Constitution of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, the three Italian Provinces have decided to join forces to ensure that candidates receive high-quality training that is in step with the times.

This decision has taken the form of the first joint postulancy programme for the three Italian provinces, which will be based at the Nicola d'Onofrio House in Acireale Mangano (Catania).

Here, on 9 October, seven candidates from the three Italian provinces began their postulancy: they are Samuele, Luca, Marco, Roberto, Gianluigi, Marco and Carlo. Achille, meanwhile, is continuing his second year of postulancy in Messina. The presentation of the red cross took place during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Cristoforo, the master of postulants. Concelebrating were Fr Alessandro La Rosa, Provincial Councillor for Formation of the Sicilian Province; Fr Dario Malizia, Superior of the Acireale-Mangano community; and several confreres from Acireale and Messina.

Brother Carlo Mangione, Provincial Superior of Southern Italy, on behalf of the provincial superiors of the other provinces, welcomed the postulants with words of encouragement and fraternity. "After so many attempts over the years in this area to try to walk together," said Brother Mangione, "we finally believe that the time is now ripe to take concrete decisions on this matter. The single Italian postulancy reflects the desire to walk together, overcoming every form of 'provincialism' that often hinders the action of the Holy Spirit." The decision to bring the postulants together in a single location, explained Brother Carlo, "is not only a cause for joy but, above all, a constant commitment to witness and to fervent, unceasing prayer on the part of each of us, from which these young people and the formation community draw strength".



In his address, Brother Mangione finally emphasised that the presence of religious of various ages and backgrounds can help the postulants to discern God's will more clearly: "Those consecrated to religious life ask themselves, as long as they draw breath: 'Lord, what do you want me to do today to bear witness to your love and your faithfulness?'".

The postulants ask this by looking not only to their mentors during this special time of discernment, but also to all the professed members of the community that hosts them, whether young or old; it is natural for them to compare their own situation with what their own future will hold."

Brother Carlo concluded by inviting the community of Acireale-Mangano and the entire Camillian family to accompany these eight postulants with prayer and fraternal friendship.

"May the Lord Jesus, the giver of every gift, the Virgin Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, and our father, Saint Camillus, assist and accompany us on this journey of responding to His love! May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guide these steps; may the Virgin Mary protect us all; and may Saint Camillus continue to send his 'A Thousand Blessings'!"



The course 'The Good Samaritan' has begun

by Fr. Medard Koffi

A few weeks ago, the course 'The Compassion of the Good Samaritan: Loving by Bearing Another's Pain' began at the Camillian Study Centre in Rome.

The course, centred on the actions of the Good Samaritan, offers an opportunity to study and understand the Church's thinking and actions towards the sick, whilst at the same time enabling participants to acquire interpersonal skills for pastoral care in healthcare that consistently bears witness to God's compassionate and saving presence in all human suffering.

The director of the Camillian Study Centre, Father Medard Koffi, welcomed the participants and introduced the first day, emphasising the value and relevance of this training initiative designed for those who work daily in the world of suffering and care.

The opening lecture featured a presentation by Fr Massimo Angelelli, director of the Italian

Bishops' Conference's (CEI) National Office for Pastoral Care in Health, accompanied by his colleague Fr Simone Arnesano.

During the morning, the speakers guided those present through a theological, pastoral and experiential reflection, outlining guidelines for understanding and fully embodying the spirit of the Good Samaritan today.

The first session was attended by 25 participants, including hospital chaplains, nurses, men and women religious, and social and healthcare volunteers.

The training programme is aimed at chaplains and spiritual assistants, deacons, pastoral workers in healthcare, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, healthcare professionals, heads and staff of diocesan health offices and councils, and members of voluntary organisations working in healthcare facilities or parishes, etc.



25 years of the San Camillo Centre in Guadalajara

by Fr. Silvio Marinelli

This year, the San Camillo Centre (CSC) in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, celebrated 25 years of activity.

With the help of professionals and volunteers, the Centre is dedicated to the humanisation of healthcare and to caring for people, with a view to fostering a culture of life and holistic health. St Camillus de Lellis understood that illness never affects the body alone: it also affects the heart, relationships, hope and, very often, faith.

This is why he sought to humanise the care of the sick. The San Camillo Centre has set out on this path. Drawing inspiration from the founding of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, the CSC has made humanisation, compassion, listening, respect, solidarity and service the very heart of its activities. These are values that are not merely taught, but which we strive to put into practice in our daily lives.

At all times, the individual remains at the centre of our attention. Every story, every loss, every illness and every situation of vulnerability requires a response capable of recognising the dignity and uniqueness of the individual, as well as their capacity to find meaning even in the midst of suffering.

Over the years, the San Camillo Centre has helped over 75,500 people and provided more than 113,000 hours of professional and voluntary service.

The services are varied: counselling centres, support groups for bereavement and marital separation, workshops for bereaved children and teenagers, training and professional development courses (Palliative Care, Pastoral Care in Health, Counselling, Paediatric Thanatology and Educational Thanatology – Bereavement), volunteering for home care for the sick and

hospital-based support, social work and support networks. Alongside these services, the training programme has expanded, preparing volunteers, counsellors and professionals to approach those who are suffering with competence, sensitivity, respect and responsibility.

This training ensures that the experience of accompaniment is not limited to a single encounter, but becomes a force capable of transforming society and culture.

Every person who undergoes this training carries with them a more humane way of understanding suffering, illness, loss and vulnerability, and can bring this into their family, community, profession and institutions.

From volunteer training right through to specialist and postgraduate training, the San Camillo Centre has established an educational programme designed to train people to accompany others, integrating knowledge and tools with a profound understanding of human dignity. To educate in order to accompany, to accompany in order to humanise, and to humanise in order to transform culture: this is the essence of our educational mission.

Twenty-five years after its foundation, the Centre continues to reaffirm its commitment to training agents of change — through the 'Jornadas por la Salud' — and to providing safe spaces for listening, so that compassionate care remains a fundamental pillar in supporting situations of human vulnerability.





The beauty of Camillian vocations

by Communication Office

The Camillian charism continues to inspire many young people around the world.

Over the past month, in Vietnam, Benin and Haiti, several men have embarked upon or confirmed their vocation in the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm.

Diaconate ordination in Vietnam

On 19 September, the Spanish Province and the Vice-Province of Vietnam celebrated the diaconate ordination of Pedro Hoàng Minh Phúc. The celebration took place in the chapel of the St Camillus Care Centre in Tres Cantos, Madrid, where the religious had spent several years in formation. The celebrant was Vicente Martín, Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid.

Diaconate ordination in Benin

In Benin, Daniel Jésukpégo Loko, Ethéolde Yissegnon Kpotohedo and Jean-Pierre Lanclounon were ordained deacons on 26 September at the parish of Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus



Diaconate ordination in Vietnam



Diaconate ordination in Benin

et de la Sainte Face in Godomey, Benin. The celebration was presided over by Monsignor Roger HOUNGBEDJI OP, Archbishop of Cotonou.

Vocations in the Philippines

As in other countries, the number of young people wishing to follow St Camillus is growing in the Philippines. In the second half of the year, there were several professions of perpetual vows and new novices.

On 16 May 2026, in the chapel of the Tinggi San Camillus Seminary, Br. Apolitus Fridolin Anang, Br. Yohanes Panjur and Br. Kamilus Warjaya pronounced their perpetual vows before Fr. Evan Paul Villanueva, MI, Provincial Superior of the Philippines.

On 23 May, Brothers Virgilius Sumantri Nonci, Leoneil Jonh Seriosa, Arnoldus Mada and Joeseph Nortega were ordained deacons. The celebration was presided over by Reynaldo G. Evangelista, Bishop of Imus.

On 12 July 2026, the Camillian Province of the Philippines (Indonesian Delegation) joyfully celebrated the induction of new novices and the first profession of vows at the St Camillus Novitiate complex in Kupang, Indonesia. Fr Ignasius Sibar, MI, Delegate Superior, presided over the Eucharistic celebration.

The new novices are: Wilfridus Guru, Yoakim Ano Grevi, Joshua Gabriel Salles.

The new temporary professed are: Adam Yordan Tamukun, Berno Jani, Daniel Labatar, Karifansius Firman, Mark Craig Oguing, Pilipus Benizi Jindung, Vince Neil Aguirre, Yohanes Adi Cajambo, Yohanes Arnoldus Sandri, Zakarias Bria.

First profession in Haiti

On 4 October, the Camillian religious in Haiti celebrated the first profession of Brother Clairvah-Fils Nohah D. The celebration took place in the 'Notre Dame de la Santé' chapel within the 'Foyer Saint Camille' hospital in Haiti.



First profession in Haiti



Perpetual professions in the Philippines



Diaconate ordination in Philippines

Perpetual vows in Tanzania

On 19 September in Tanzania, Brother Gerald Msacky took his perpetual vows. The celebration was held at the parish of St Rita of Cascia, in the Diocese of Goba, Dar es Salaam.



Spain: assistance continues following the 2021 eruption

by Juan Pablo Hernández Pinzón

On 19 September 2021, the Tajogaite (Cumbre Vieja) volcano on La Palma, in the Canary Islands, began to erupt.

Heavy ashfall and large lava flows that reached the sea led to the evacuation of part of the population and buried several villages. The eruption itself ended on 13 December. It was accompanied by a number of earthquakes.

In the wake of the eruption, the Camillians set up the San Camilo La Palma Counselling Centre, supported by the Diocesan Caritas of Tenerife with guidance and training from the San Camilo Centre for the Humanisation of Healthcare.

Five years on, support for the local population is still needed, and the counselling centre continues its work providing emotional support to those who are still facing the less visible consequences of that catastrophe.

Although the volcanic emergency is over, the suffering associated with a loss of such proportions

persists. For some people, especially those who lost their homes, their living environment or their social networks, reconstruction remains an inner process as well.

Its coordinator, María Encarna Martín, explains that “grieving for the volcano is not about material aspects, but about everything that was part of people’s daily lives and identities”.

Some people still find it difficult to return to the places where their homes once stood, or are confronted by memories linked to sounds, places or everyday situations. For this reason, emotional support has become an essential part of the recovery process.

The La Palma Listening Centre continues to operate to meet the needs of many people requiring support, through its two branches: one in the western part of the island, the area most affected by the volcano, and the other in the eastern part, thus facilitating access in a region

characterised by complex terrain and a scattered population.

In recognition of its work, the centre has been awarded the '2024 Annual Report of the Spanish Episcopal Conference' as an example of best practice in the aftermath of a disaster.

Its mission is to support not only those directly affected by the eruption, but anyone going through a process of grief or suffering.

Furthermore, it has become a space for community rebuilding, where sharing memories and experiences helps to rebuild bonds and give voice to grief.

The evolution of the Listening Centre also reflects how the needs of La Palma's population have changed. What was initially a response to an extraordinary situation has become a permanent presence.

Whilst some families continue to face the economic and housing consequences of the eruption, others need to rebuild their social networks and reclaim a sense of belonging.

In this regard, the Diocesan Caritas of Tenerife is currently running various support initiatives on the island, including the Activa2 project, aimed specifically at older people and those experiencing unwanted loneliness.

The project takes place in Tazacorte, Los Llanos de Aridane and Las Manchas, creating spaces for



community gathering and participation.

As part of this work, the San Camilo Listening Centre continues to offer something as simple as it is essential: a place where people can speak, be listened to and, with someone's support, come to terms with what still causes them pain.

Because whilst an eruption may be marked on the calendar, grief takes time to heal.

by Communications Office

Father Didonè honoured in Taiwan

Father Giuseppe Didonè, an Italian Camillian in Taiwan, received the 'Yulin Taiwan Contribution Award' – now in its tenth year – on 3 October.

For over six decades, the Italian priest has dedicated his life to the most vulnerable. From founding centres for children with severe disabilities in Penghu and Yilan to building the palliative care ward at St Mary's Hospital in Luodong, the priest has embraced those marginalised by society.

Along with the award, the priest also received 30 million New Taiwan dollars. Father Didonè has donated the entire prize sum towards upgrading the equipment in palliative care facilities and expanding long-term care for people with disabilities.

Now in its tenth year, the award – established in 2017 by the Lin Yu-lin Hongtai Public Welfare Trust



– has consistently remained true to its founding principles of 'recognising selfless dedication and promoting social progress' and 'taking from society to give back to society'.

As well as honouring those who stand out in society through their quiet dedication, the ceremony aims to transform the general public 'from moved supporters into people who roll up their sleeves and take concrete action'.

Camillians in Thailand receive environmental award

The Order of the Ministers of the Infirm in Thailand received a plaque and a certificate of recognition from Archbishop Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand, in honour of its contribution to environmental protection through the 'Laudato Si' Festival 2026'.

The event, held on 5 and 6 September 2026 at Mater Dei School, celebrated the 12th anniversary of the encyclical Laudato Si' and the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. Let us give thanks and express our support for the Order through prayer.





Cadis joins the World Alliance for Disaster Management

by Fr. Aris Miranda

On the eve of Taiwan's National Disaster Prevention Day, on 19 September 2026, I had the privilege of attending the official launch of the World Alliance for Disaster Management (WADM) in Taipei. This milestone marks the first intergovernmental organisation initiated independently by Taiwan in 55 years, signalling a profound transformation from a country once saved by global solidarity to a leading architect of international disaster resilience.

In 1999, Taiwan was struck by a magnitude 7.3 earthquake that claimed over 2,400 lives and levelled more than 100,000 buildings to the ground. In the hours following the quake, a wave of international support poured in, with aid and rescue teams arriving from 21 nations to extract survivors from the rubble. As the sole representative of a religious organisation at the summit — representing CADIS (Camillian Disaster Service International) — I witnessed first-hand the unique geopolitical and operational need underpinning this initiative. As Taiwan has no representation at the United Nations or on its various committees for emergencies and humanitarian aid, WADM acts as a direct bridge

between Taiwan and its global partners. WADM offers its member states and partner organisations immediate response and technical support for emergency response in the event of natural and man-made disasters; full financial and technical support for various training programmes; high-level training facilities and technological innovation (drones, artificial intelligence, satellite communications) to modernise global disaster management.

WADM does not require financial contributions from its partners but instead expects active collaboration in disaster preparedness and response, as well as the sharing of operational expertise and best practices — not only to rebuild but to better prepare for disasters. Based in Taipei, WADM joins the Food and Fertiliser Technology Centre (1970) and the World Vegetable Centre (1971) as the third global organisation based in the country.

For Cadis International and our humanitarian partners, this alliance opens up a new and vital pathway towards a localised, rapid and technology-based disaster response worldwide.



Pastoral care for the elderly

by Fr. Alfredo Tortorella

On the occasion of the sixth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated on 26 July on the liturgical feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Pope Leo XIV issued a Message to the Church to offer hope to those in their twilight years: old age. Ageing is often associated with loneliness and frailty. Faced with such a large elderly population, a pastoral care programme dedicated to them is also necessary.

As early as October 2025, Pope Leo XIV had called for pastoral care for older people that would create inclusive communities where everyone could feel accepted. The Pope had also spoken of the 'younger elderly' – people who had recently retired but who still had the strength and energy to collaborate with parishes.

For them, the Pope said, 'It is important to find an appropriate language and suitable initiatives, involving them not as passive recipients of evangelisation, but as active participants'. At the Italian level, there is no doubt that the Church – in its various diocesan forms – must adopt

and further refine an ordinary pastoral care programme for older people. And such pastoral care is unquestionably dynamic; I would dare to say 'outreach-based'. Beyond the elderly who still attend church, there remains a large number of brothers and sisters living in their own homes, perhaps infirm, sometimes far from the town and village centres where parishes are based.

It is not merely a matter of encouraging parish priests or other clergy to visit the elderly in their homes, but rather of creating ecclesial communities that take care not to exclude those who are alone, especially the elderly, who can become witnesses of closeness.

The Church is therefore called upon to offer a mission of tenderness and closeness through home visits, for shared prayer and fraternal fellowship. It is our hope, therefore, that our Churches will prioritise pastoral care for the elderly, viewing it as a resource and a call from the Holy Spirit to the Christians of this generation.

*This article is a summary of the text written by Father Alfredo Tortorella.
You can read the full article on the website www.camilliani.org

by Communication Office

La prossimità del cuore *by Luciano Sandrin*

The parable of the Good Samaritan is Jesus' direct response to an unavoidable question that remains highly relevant today: 'Who is my neighbour?'. Jesus combined, into a single precept,

the commandment to love God with that of loving one's neighbour, and in this story he offers us a way of life to emulate, open to all. The characters in the parable – from those who see and pass by to those who stop, right through to those who offer hospitality – show us that even today



La prossimità del cuore
La compassione del samaritano

our neighbour is anyone who needs us, without distinction, because true closeness is that of the heart. Until we realise, as our perspective broadens, that

even the Samaritan himself, capable of drawing near, is the neighbour we are to love.

Luciano Sandrin is a Camillian priest and professor emeritus of the Psychology of Health and Illness at the Camillianum in Rome. He has taught Pastoral Theology of Health at the Camillianum and at various theological faculties, such as the Gregorian University, the Lateran University and the Urbaniana University. He has also taught psychology at the Seraphicum.

Escucha y soledad *by José Carlos Bermejo*

Listening and Solitude: A Ministry at the Doorstep* is the new publication by José Carlos Bermejo, Provincial Superior of the Spanish Province of Camilians.

The book invites readers to explore the value of listening as a human, ethical and spiritual response to unwanted solitude, a reality that is increasingly prevalent in our society.

In an age characterised by social media and, at the same time, by social isolation, Bermejo proposes rediscovering authentic presence and the art of listening.

The book addresses the various facets of loneliness,



particularly in situations of vulnerability, illness and ageing, but also within consecrated life, and presents listening as a form of accompaniment capable of recognising the dignity of every person.

Through a dialogue among different sciences - philosophy, theology, psychology, counselling

and mysticism - united to the experience of the San Camilo Listening Centres, the author develops a reflection that goes beyond mere techniques.

Listening - he says - is an art, a gift and a choice, a way of embracing another's suffering and offering them a space for encounter.

The work presents itself as an invitation to promote the ministry of listening within communities and society, transforming loneliness into an opportunity for encounter, compassion and humanisation.

The volume is published by Frontera-Hegian, with Edizioni San Paolo collaboration.

Fr. José Patrício De Souza (1946-2026)

by Communication Office

Father José Patrício de Souza, son of Joy Patrício de Souza and Maria Aparecida de Souza, was born on 5 February 1946 in Muzambinho (MG). He was baptised and confirmed in his hometown, before entering the seminary at Monte Santo de Minas (MG) on 29 January 1984. On

1 January 1985, he entered the novitiate at Granja Viana (SP), made his first religious profession on 1 January 1986 and his perpetual profession on 8 January 1989 in Três Pontas (MG). He completed his academic studies in São Paulo: he studied philosophy at the FAI and theology at the Pius XI Institute.

On 24 November 1991, he was ordained a deacon in São Paulo and on 17 July 1992 he was ordained a priest in Três Pontas.

Immediately after his ordination to the priesthood, Father Patrício served as parish vicar at the parish of Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Pompeia, in São Paulo (from 1992 to 1993) and also at the parish of São Camilo, in Brasília – DF (from 1993 to 1994).

On his return to São Paulo, he served as chaplain at Dom Silvério Hospital, now known as São Camilo Santana Hospital (from 1993 to 1994). In Monte



Santo de Minas – MG, he served as parish priest at the parish of São Francisco de Paula (from 1994 to 1998) and in Macapá – AM, he served as chaplain at São Luiz Hospital (from 1998 to 1999).

From 2000 to 2007, Father Patrício spent time outside religious life, working in the Diocese of Campanha, in Minas Gerais.

On his return to the Province, he served as chaplain at São José Hospital in Rio de Janeiro (RJ) (from 2007 to 2010) and, also in that city, as parish vicar at the Shrine of St Camillus (from 2007 to 2017) and chaplain to the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer (from 2013 to 2017). On 10 November 2017, Father Patrício was transferred from the St Camillus community in Rio de Janeiro to the St Pius X community, in order to receive more intensive medical care. On 5 July 2024, he was transferred

to the ward for religious at St Camillus Hospital in Pompeia.

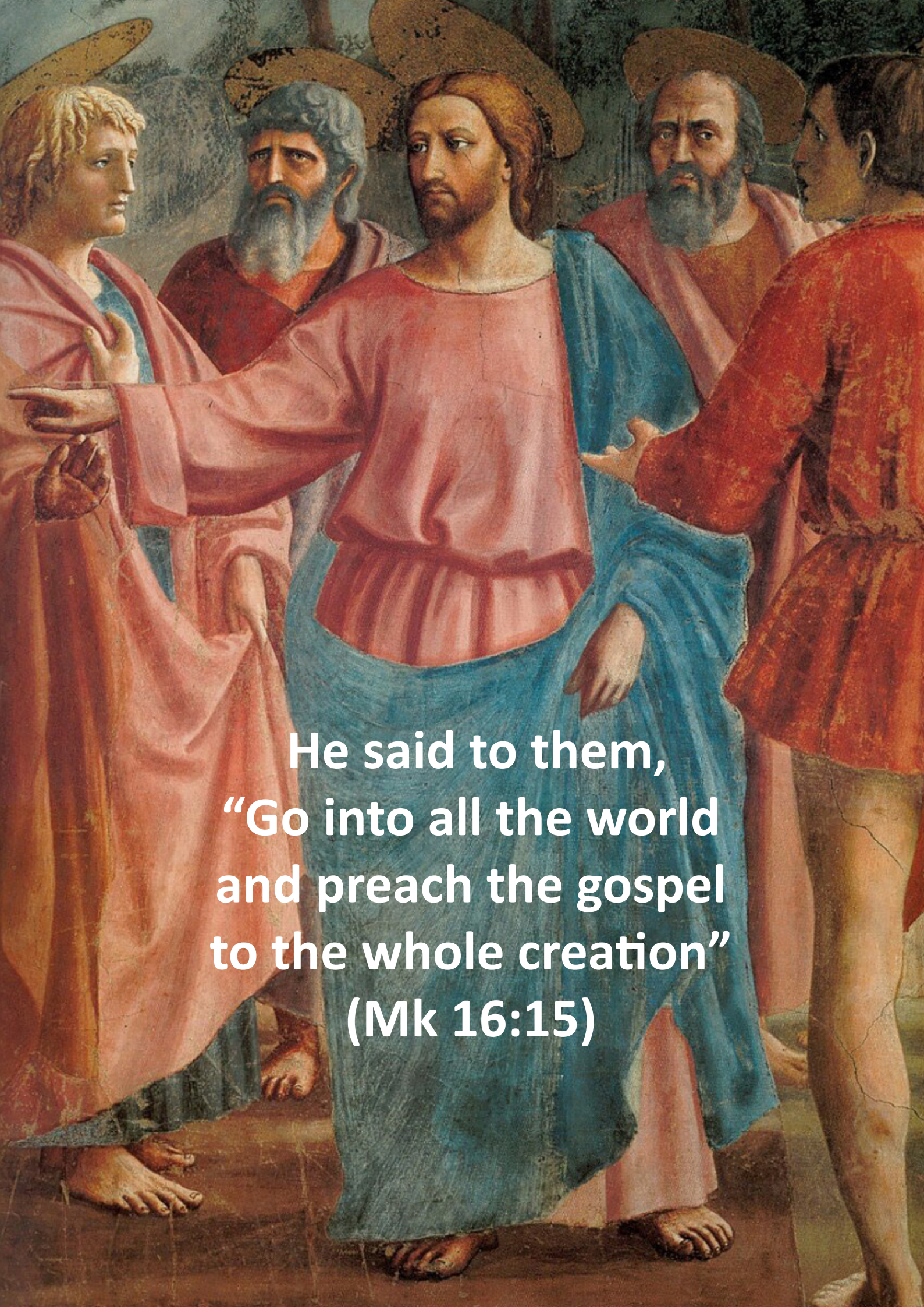
After a long period of treatment, Father José Patrício de Souza passed away on 11 October 2026 at the San Camillo Hospital in Pompeia, São Paulo. The wake took place on 12 October at the parish of Nossa Senhora do Rosário in Pompeia, São Paulo, followed by Holy Mass. In accordance with his wishes, he was buried in the municipal cemetery in Três Pontas.

Throughout his pastoral life, Father Patrício devoted himself above all to hospital chaplaincy and parish work. Let us give praise to God for the fruitful ministry of our brother.

We entrust his burial to the Patroness of Brazil, Our Lady of Aparecida, whose feast day is celebrated on 12 October.

Let us give praise to God for the life and witness of Father Patrício and ask for the grace that his example of dedication may encourage us to see in every brother the face of Christ himself.

May Father José Patrício hear the Lord's call: 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world' (Mt 25:34).



He said to them,
“Go into all the world
and preach the gospel
to the whole creation”
(Mk 16:15)