

Vol. 10. Issue 1
January-June 2023



Vitae-Camillians

VOICE OF ST. CAMILLUS PROVINCE, INDIA



Touched by **brokenness**

ST. CAMILLUS PROVINCE- INDIA

Vitae - Camillians

St. Camillus Provincialate
Bengaluru - 560035
Karnataka, India

Vitae-Camillians

Official Publication of St. Camillus Province, India

Volume 10 Issue 1

January-June 2023

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Published by Camillian Publications

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Email: camilliancommunicationsindia@gmail.com

Printed in India

For private circulation only

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Foreword

Dear Confreres,

With great joy and enthusiasm we bring you the new edition of *Vitae-Camillians*, which is comprised of the documents of the province, inspiring stories, news and insightful articles, and updates on the work and mission of the Camillians in India and abroad.

The stories in this edition will reflect the tireless efforts our religious have been taking to serve the sick and the suffering across the globe. It is encouraging and promising to look back and courageously step forward for the reason that the Camillian ministry is solely inspired by the life and example of our patron, St. Camillus de Lellis, who is our motivation and an epitome of charity. The fact that our ministry is cherished by the society reaffirms the continued relevance and the need to dedicate ourselves to the noble task of providing healthcare, comfort, and hope to those in need. In a world where compassion and care are often overshadowed by the demands of modern life, we, Camillians stand as

a beacon of light, reminding us of the power of selfless service, which is truly the work of Jesus Himself.

In this edition of *Vitae*, you will have the opportunity to glance into the extraordinary stories of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to this noble calling, especially by being courageous enough to venture into areas where people were suffering and had limited rays of hope. You will also find thought-provoking articles on various aspects of healthcare, spirituality, and the mission of Camillians, which offer unique perspectives and insights that will surely ignite your mind and touch your heart. Moreover, we are delighted to share updates on the various initiatives and projects undertaken by the Camillians in the province. From the establishment of new healthcare facilities to the training of future caregivers, we strive to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. From the frontlines of global healthcare, we have initiated the humble beginning of a hospital

in the country, through which our Camillian brothers and sisters share their care, expertise and experiences reminding us of the profound impact that Camillian way of healing can have on the lives of others.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have made this edition of *Vitae-Camillians* possible - the dedicated writers, editors, photographers, and all those who have contributed their time and talents. I hope that as you read through these pages, you will be inspired, encouraged, and moved to continue our mission of healing, compassion, and love.

May the stories within these pages serve as a reminder that each one of us has the power to make a positive impact in the world. Let us come together, united in our shared vision of a world where every person receives the care and dignity they deserve.

Yours in service,

Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil MI
Provincial Superior - India

Touched by brokenness

The Christian life is about following Jesus, who perfectly ordered his human strengths and desires to God's will. In particular, the prevailing opinion about discernment is that God calls men and women to religious life by placing an innate desire for it in their hearts. Nevertheless, in a world enticed by a strong wind of 'God-free secular' life, one may ask whether the call to religious life is losing its relevance.

It is, in fact, in such a rapidly changing socio-political world and its persuasive ideologies that embracing a God-centered and service-driven life dedicated to caring one's brothers and sisters acquires greater relevance and meaning. Although there are many other religious Orders serving the sick, a Camillian way of service is distinctive and unique. It is characterized by compassionate service for the sick and not merely carrying out tasks. Its greatness, as the Constitution of the Ministers of the Infirm reminds, "is expressed and realized in the works of mercy towards the sick" in whom we see Christ himself. As it is evident,

humanity today faces unprecedented challenges that demand deep reflections on our being in the world. Therefore, living to the core of our Camillian charism and sharing the richness of our lived experiences with the world around us are essential components of our being 'called.'

In this issue of *Vitae-Camillians*, a compendium of various aspects of our province's life and mission, you will also find two compelling pieces that vividly illustrate not only our continued commitment to the Gospel of compassion but also our ability to reflect on our being and experiences. These personal reflections, developed into highlighting the foundational aspects of our Camillian identity and mission, offer us rich inspirations in our Camillian manner of synodal journey. These two articles, with their specific emphasis on two different aspects of our Camillian ministry, together present a unified image of our Order's vision of 'complete service to the sick' (cf. Constitution and General Statutes. art. 10).

Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh, in his reflections on being a Camillian chaplain in a hospital in Bengaluru, takes the readers along with his own personal journey through simple but convincing steps. The author expresses his feelings of fulfillment and joy in discerning his specific vocation of accompanying the sick in the hospitals, a ministry that “goes beyond providing spiritual and sacramental services.” Becoming an instrument of healing and hope through pastoral dialogue characterized by compassionate listening has been a transformative and enriching experience for him. What largely distinguishes chaplaincy ministry in India from the western model of chaplaincy is the challenge of developing an all-inclusive model of spiritual care in its multi religious, linguistic, and cultural contexts. Hospitals in Bengaluru, being a living microcosm of India’s diversity, present an intense challenge as well

as an opportunity for chaplains to create spaces of unity. Situating his experiences in such a context, Fr. Bacil identifies the richness of his faith and call that constantly evolves through encountering persons in their pains.

In his reflective article on the specific mission of *St. Camillus Ashram* in Secunderabad, Fr. Bobit Paimpillikunnel illustrates the beauty and fragrance of Camillian ministry in its most radical and primary mode. He sketches out the Camillian experience of encountering and serving Christ concretely in catering to the children with multiple disabilities. True to its name *Daivalayam*, the centre stands out as a space to encounter, serve and worship God in His most fragile moments. Obviously, this article is a gentle reminder to the reader to get back to the original Camillian ‘touch’ that renders our ministry unique.

Message from the Superior General on the occasion of the Blessing of Snehadaan Hospital

My dear Rev. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil and Confreres,

It is with great joy and pride that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the inauguration and blessing of your newly renovated Snehadaan Hospital in India. It is with profound significance that we embark on this journey on a day that holds deep meaning in the history of our Order; the birthday of our beloved Founder and Patron, St. Camillus, and the commemoration of all Camillian martyrs. St. Camillus de Lellis, known for his boundless love and compassion for the sick, remains an inspiration for all of us. His unwavering commitment to serving the suffering and his tireless efforts to alleviate their pain serve as a beacon of light in our mission. As we celebrate his birth and honour the sacrifice of our Camillian martyrs, we are reminded of the noble calling we have embraced.

On 25 May 2023, you gather not only to inaugurate and bless your newly renovated hospital but also to renew our pledge to uphold the ideals and values that St. Camillus and our martyrs exemplified. They faced immense challenges and sacrifices in their pursuit of serving the sick, and it is our duty to carry their legacy forward.

The Order of St. Camillus has a long-standing tradition of caring for the sick and the suffering, guided by the principles of love, mercy and solidarity. Today, as we stand united in this newly transformed healthcare institution, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding these principles and serving the most vulnerable members of our society. This momentous occasion marks a significant milestone in your mission to provide compassionate healthcare services to those in need, and it fills me with immense satisfaction to witness your first hospital healthcare mission come to fruition.

As you embark on this new chapter in your healthcare mission in India, let us remember that the true essence of healthcare lies in the profound impact we have on the lives of individuals and communities. The extensive renovation of this hospital represents your dedication to excellence in healthcare. The modern facilities, advanced equipment, and skilled medical professionals will enable you to deliver high-quality medical care to the patients who entrust their well-

being to us. This Snehadaan hospital stands as a testament to our dedication to excellence in healthcare, but it is more than just bricks and mortar. It is a sacred space where healing and compassion intertwine, where lives are transformed, and where hope is rekindled. It is a place where the spirit of St. Camillus and our martyrs will continue to guide us, inspiring us to reach out to those most in need and embrace them with love.

As you embark on this noble mission, let us be reminded of the immense responsibility entrusted to us. We have the privilege of touching lives in profound ways, providing solace to those in pain, and offering comfort to those in distress. Each patient who walks through our doors carries a unique story, a unique journey that has led them to seek our care, a story that intertwines with ours as we provide them with care, compassion, and dignity. It is through our words and actions that we have the power to inspire hope and transform lives. It is our duty to listen, to empathize, and to heal with compassion and dignity.

May this Snehadaan Hospital be a sanctuary of healing, where physical ailments are attended to, hearts are uplifted, and spirits are restored. Let us strive to create an atmosphere of warmth and comfort, where every patient feels valued, respected, and cared for. Together, we can make a difference and be the beacon of light in times of darkness.

I invite each and every one of you to embrace this opportunity wholeheartedly. Let us strive for excellence in every aspect of our work, never losing sight of the human face behind every medical chart. Together, we can create an environment that not only treats ailments but also fosters hope, restores faith, and transforms lives.

On this special occasion, I encourage you to reflect on the legacy of St. Camillus and the sacrifice of our Camillian martyrs. May their spirits inspire us to rise above adversity, to face challenges with courage, and to serve with unwavering commitment. Let us remember that our mission is not merely a profession but a sacred vocation, calling us to be the hands of healing and the voices of comfort.

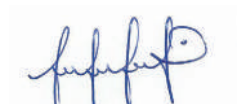
As we celebrate this momentous launch, I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the realization of this hospital mission. Our sincere appreciation goes to our beloved Camillian confreres, dedicated staff, volunteers, supporters, and benefactors who have generously offered their time, resources, and expertise. Your invaluable contributions have made this dream a reality and you have created an environment where healing and hope will thrive.

As you gather to commemorate this auspicious occasion, I invite you all to join me in a moment of prayer and reflection, seeking the divine blessings upon our

Snehadaan hospital and all who enter it. May our work be guided by wisdom, compassion, and the healing touch of St. Camillus de Lellis, our patron saint. May his spirit inspire us to serve with humility and selflessness, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person we encounter.

May the blessings of St. Camillus and the prayers of our Camillian martyrs accompany us as we embark on this noble journey. May their intercession guide us in our daily work, strengthen our resolve, and bring solace to those we serve. Together, let us make a difference, as we honour the legacy of St. Camillus and all Camillian martyrs. Once again, I congratulate each and every one of you on this momentous achievement. Let us move forward with confidence and a renewed commitment to our calling, for the well-being of those we serve and for the greater glory of God.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Tramontin', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General
The Order of the Ministers of the Infirm

23rd May 2023, Rome

Letter from the Superior General to all the provincials, to the vice provincial of Peru, and to the provincial delegates

Subject: *Contributions to the General Curia 2023*

Dearest Superiors,

Health and Peace!

As you know, the Generalate, having very little economic revenue, basically sustains itself with contributions from the Provinces, Vice Provinces, and Delegations of the entire Camillian Order.

As 2023 is the first full year of the six-year term that began after the General Chapter of May 2022, the General Consulta heard the opinion of the Central Economic Commission that met in Rome from January 16 to 19 this year and reviewed the contributions to the Generalate from individual Provinces, Vice Provinces, and Delegations.

The criteria for determining dues are practically the same as those set by the previous Consulta in the year 2021 and which, with some adjustments, we list below:

1. A separate contribution is established for the Taiwan Delegation (the Order's constituencies called to contribute will now be 18).
2. All 18 constituencies must contribute to the sustenance of the General Curia.
3. The economic needs to be covered (Generalate budget) are divided according to the economic capacity of individual constituents.
4. Starting from an average quota determined by need, five types of quotas are established.
5. All constituencies keep the previous year's quota unchanged.

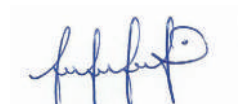
Attached is the complete list of the new annual dues set for each constituency called to contribute financially to the General Curia and the comparison with previous years. As you can see, the total contribution of the provinces toward the Generalate increases for 2023 by 30,000 euros. We would have liked to lower

the dues, but the maintenance of the *Enrico Rebuschini* House (almost empty), the need for air condition units in some parts of the Generalate to brace for the increasingly high summer temperatures and the high inflation in Italy (in 2022 it was 8.1%), led us to this decision to increase the contributions to around 4.03%.

In the coming days, the General Bursar will send you a letter with the contribution quota for the first quarter of 2023. I sincerely thank you and your province, vice province, and delegation for the financial support you generously and fraternally continue to lend to the Generalate.

I wish everyone a happy celebration of the World Day of Consecrated Life and the commemoration of the Conversion of our Founder.

May St. Camillus bless you, your province, vice province, delegation, and all the confreres!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Tramontin' with a stylized circular flourish at the end.

Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General
The Order of the Ministers of the Infirm

Rome, February 1, 2023



L'Economo Generale
Bursar General

Rome, March 8, 2023

To the Provincial Superior/Delegate and to the Economo of the Province/Delegation

Object: Formative Meeting of the Provincial, Vice-provincial and the Delegation Bursars

Dear beloved, the new General Council elected at the General Chapter of May 2022, upon the recommendation of the Central Economic Commission, has seen fit to convene a **Formative Meeting for Provincial, Vice-Provincial and Delegation Bursars**. The meeting will take place in **Rome at the Salesian Institute San Tarcisio** located at via Appia Antica, 102 (within the vicinity of the Catacombs of Saint Calixtus) from **June 26-30, 2023**. It will begin with a dinner on Sunday, June 25, and will end after breakfast on Saturday, July 1.

The meeting will revolve around the three objectives or aspects:

- **Fraternal:** meeting of bursars to share experiences, joys, difficulties affirming the sense of belonging to the same family.
- **Motivational:** trying to reflect the teachings of the Church and the Constitution that call us to take seriously the management of the goods of the Order.
- **Technical:** the training and practical exercise (seminar-workshop style) on how to register in compliance with the established content, form and timelines, the comprehensive annual economic report of the Province, Vice-Province or Delegation to be presented to the General Council. Special emphasis will be made on drafting the notes to the annual economic report.

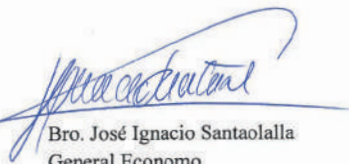
Allow me to highlight to each and every one the importance of the theme for the ordinary activity of the bursars, for the project management of the Province, Vice-Province or Delegation and their interaction with the General Council. For such an appointment, please extend the participation aside from you, to your collaborators (religious or lay) who support or assist you in the preparation of budget and annual reporting. We are now finalizing the program, which will be communicated to you as soon as possible together with the registration form.

To all provincial and delegation bursars please **take note of this appointment in your agenda, trying to the best of your ability to attend doing everything possible to participate** in this international meeting. **Anyone who needs a visa to enter Italy should send the Secretary General** (segreteria.generale@camilliani.org) **a copy of passport** (with a minimum residual validity of 6 months).

Fraternally yours,



Economo Generale
Bursar General


Bro. José Ignacio Santaolalla
General Economo



Al Superiore Generale
Superior General

To

Rev. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil MI

Provincial, St. Camillus Province
Bengaluru, India

Subject: Request to Avail Fr. Chennatt Sibi Augustin for Service of the General Consulta

Dear Rev. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and you are all keeping well. I am writing to formally request the availability of **Fr. Chennatt Sibi Augustin** for a significant role in the Generalate, as we have already agreed upon. I believe that the responsibilities outlined align closely with his skills and aspirations and he is eager to take on this new challenge in service of the Order. I am sure that his skills would greatly benefit our Order in his proposed new roles.

With your gracious approval, I humbly propose that Fr. Sibi be assigned as **the personal secretary to the Superior General** and given Fr. Sibi's background and experience, I believe he is the perfect person to **lead the Communication Office** of our Order. Furthermore, I propose that Fr. Sibi be integrated as **a member of the Generalate community**. This integration will not only strengthen the bonds between our communities but also provide him with the necessary support and environment to excel in his new roles.

I kindly request your consideration of this proposal and your support in releasing Fr. Sibi from his current responsibilities, allowing him to undertake these vital roles in the Generalate in Rome. I am confident that his dedication and contributions will bring about positive change and growth. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am looking forward to a positive response, and I remain open to any discussions or clarifications you may require.

May God bless you abundantly in your role as Provincial Animator, guiding our confreres towards a brighter future for the Order of St. Camillus.

Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General of the Order of the Ministers of the Inferm
14th August 2023, Rome



Superiore Generale
Superior General

Letter from the General Spiritual Assistant, Lay Camillian Family (LCF)

Dear Provincial Superiors/Delegates,

At the end of the IV General Assembly of the Lay Camillian Family (LCF) held at Sacrofano (Rome) from 01 to 07 May 2023, a new International Executive was elected.

The LCF as a work proper to our Order is formed by people who, in the name of their Baptism, live and share the Spirituality and Charism of St. Camillus de Lellis. They are present with us in the Provinces and Delegations for the promotion of our spirituality and charism. On Sunday, 7th May, after the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Magdelene Church, the members of the Assembly participated in the *Angelus* prayer at St. Peter's. Everything ended that day with a lunch at *La Maddalena*. You will soon receive the Assembly's final message, which the Executive is currently filling.

Thanks to you and the Spiritual Assistants for the support of various kinds which helped the Assembly to run smoothly. Special thanks to Superior General who attended most of the Assembly. Thanks to the Consultors for their commitment during the various moments of preparation and conduct. Thanks also to the confreres of *Maddalena*, *Rebuschini* House and the *Studentato* of the Roman Province for the welcome and hospitality of the participants who came from 27 countries.

The General Assembly proved to be a real moment of impetus for the Association and we hope to continue to nourish this moment of grace for the fruits of a renewed commitment of the laity to the service of the Charism in our Provinces and Delegations. Thank you again, and see you soon!

Fr. Medard Aboue MI
General Spiritual Assistant, LCF

Rome, 2023/05/12

Message from the Secretariat for Formation on the occasion of the Blessing of Snehadaan Hospital

My dear Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil and Confreres,

With great joy and gratitude, we gather today to witness the blessing of the newly renovated Snehadaan Hospital in India. This moment marks the culmination of countless hours of hard work, unwavering dedication, and a shared vision to bring healing and hope to the vulnerable and marginalized. As we gather here, let us be inspired by the transformative power of this hospital. Snehadaan hospital, meaning "Legacy of Love," embodies the very essence of our mission as Camillians. It is a place where love takes shape through compassionate care, where healing becomes a reality for those who have known pain and suffering. In the face of challenges and adversity, the spirit of resilience burns bright within us. This Snehadaan hospital stands as a testament to our unyielding commitment to serve with love and compassion, even in the midst of a world that often seems indifferent. It is a beacon of hope, a sanctuary where lives will be touched, transformed, and given a new chance at joy and wholeness.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the immense impact that this Snehadaan hospital will have on the lives of countless individuals. In its halls, the weary will find solace, the broken will find healing, and the forgotten will find their voices heard. This sacred space will become a place of refuge, where the marginalized and neglected will be embraced with open arms.

In the heart of India, where diversity weaves a vibrant tapestry of cultures and traditions, this Snehadaan hospital stands as a symbol of unity and compassion. It is a testament to our shared belief that every human life is sacred and deserving of love and care. Let us draw strength from this unity as we embark on this new chapter, knowing that together, we can overcome any obstacle that stands in our way.

However, amidst these challenges and opportunities, we must remain steadfast in upholding our core values and principles. The secular nature of our world may present challenges to preserving the sanctity of human life, promoting ethical practices, and maintaining a spirit of selfless service. We must navigate these challenges with unwavering faith, unwavering commitment, and a deep sense of humility. Let us be guided by the example of our patron, St. Camillus, who, in the face of adversity, remained steadfast in his mission to bring healing and comfort to the sick.

As we witness the blessing of Snehadaan Hospital, let us be reminded of the words of St. Camillus: "Serve the Lord with joy". Let joy be our guiding light as we navigate the challenges that lie ahead. Let it infuse every interaction, every procedure, and every act of service. For it is through joy that we find the strength to persevere, the courage to face adversity, and the resilience to continue serving with unwavering dedication.

Today, we celebrate not only the physical transformation of this Snehadaan hospital but also the spiritual transformation it represents. Let us invoke the Divine's blessings upon this sacred space, that it may be a source of healing, hope, and love for generations to come. May it stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to the mission of St. Camillus and inspire others to join us on this noble path of service.

Together, let us carry the flame of compassion, spreading its warmth far and wide. Let us be beacons of hope and agents of change, transforming lives and communities through our selfless dedication. May our healthcare services be a source of light, hope, consolation and healing for all those who come through our doors. May we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith. As we embark on this new journey, may we always remember that our greatest strength lies in our unity, our faith, and our boundless capacity to love.

Congratulations to each one of you on the blessing of Snehadaan Hospital! May it be a sanctuary of love, a catalyst for healing, and a testament to the power of compassion. And may the blessings of St. Camillus and the Camillian Martyrs of Charity accompany us on this remarkable journey of healing and compassion.

With deep gratitude and humble prayers,

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI
25 May 2023, Rome

Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate from 08th to 11th March 2023

1. Forthcoming Meetings in Rome

The Annual meeting of the Major superiors of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm with its Superior General and Consulta will be held in Rome from 04th June to 10th June 2023. Provincial will be participating in the meeting. The meeting the Provincial bursars of the Order will be held in Rome from 25th to 28th June 2023. Fr. Lijo Patathil, the provincial bursar will participate in the meeting.

2. Requests for Admission to Novitiate

Fr. Jofree Nakuzhikkattu presented the community reports and requests of 8 pre-novices namely, Thundathil Amalson, Amarjit Lugun, Asish Kujur, Bipin Minz, Dhiraj Lugun, Harshit Topno, Junesh Mallick and Lukas Marak who are willing to enter the stage of Novitiate formation with their full knowledge and free will. Provincial and Council after evaluating their reports and recommendations of the formator and community of pre-novices, approves their requests and admits them to Novitiate.

3. Requests for Renewal of Temporary profession

Master of the Professed presented the requests of Bros. Munjanattu Albin Thomas, Samuja Nayak, Sikendra Singh, Sumesh Kuruthukulangara, Able Jose Kappukattil, Absalin K., Rohit Dhanwar, Sumit Barla, Kalarpara Justin Job, Ponnankudam Arun Sabu Paily, Nayak Prasad, Niravathinal Christo Joseph, Vayalamannil Ajin Joseph, Kalledayil Albin Joseph, Abinash Kujur, Thevarpadam Albin Thomas, Alwin Minz, Binod Dung Dung, Nishan R., Silarsan Bey, Paricha Bachan, Digal Bhaktinath, Attappattu Jinto Abraham, and Thachappallil Jithin Joseph for renewal of their Temporary profession of vows. After evaluating the reports of the professed by their respective formators and communities in detail, and based on the recommendations of the Master of the Professed and the Council members, the Provincial and Council approves their requests and permits them to renew their religious vows.

4. Request for Temporary Profession of Religious Vows

The Provincial and Council, after discussing and evaluating the report and recommendation of the Master of the Novices and that of the community, approves the request of Kizhakkethottam Mathews Marian, Mathew and admits him to the Temporary Profession of Religious Vows in the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm.

5. Requests for Perpetual profession of Religious Vows

Master of the Temporary Professed religious presented the reports and requests of Bros. Munjanattu Albin Thomas and Sikendra Singh to admit them to the Perpetual Profession of Religious Vows. The Provincial and his Council, after evaluating the recommendations of the master of the Professed and reports of the formator and community, approves their requests and forwards them to Rev. Fr. Superior General and Consulta for their final approval to be admitted to the Perpetual profession of religious Vows.

6. Request from Snehasadan, Mangaluru

Snehasadan community requested the Provincial and his Council permission to restart the HIV care and support program for the adults. Considering the growing need for the care and treatment of adults infected with HIV, Provincial and council permits the community to start the program with following conditions: The community shall obtain a written permission from the CWC to admit adults infected with HIV at the Centre, as the Centre currently takes care of Children infected with HIV. After obtaining permission, only patients who are on palliative care stage and/or needs continuous medical care shall be admitted at the Centre. In the event of failure to get the permission from CWC, the Centre shall provide Consultation, Day Care and counselling services. Provincial and Council further directs the community to move all adults currently rehabilitated at the Centre, other than the staff of the Centre, to an external facility.

7. Request from St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady

St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady requested the provincial and council an additional amount of Rs.140,000 for the repair and maintenance of the Xcent car, which has got major repair. After evaluating the condition of the car and considering the further utility of the vehicle for the needs of the community, provincial and council approves the request.

8. Request from Bp. Sebastian Adayanthrath

His Excellency Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bishop of Mandya Diocese has requested the provincial and council to avail Upasana community chapel for Sunday Holy Mass and Catechism for the migrant families. After discussing the request and in consultation with Upasana community, Provincial and council has granted the use of the chapel from 9.30 am to 11.30 am for the celebration of Holy Mass and catechism of children.

9. Committee to ensure the Ownership of properties of the province

Provincial and Council forms a new committee comprised of Fr. Bacil Singh (Coordinator), Fr. Lijo Pattathil and Fr. Shiju Kureekkattil to ensure the ownership of the properties of the Province. This committee will review the legal documents and records concerning the assets of the province/communities, and initiate necessary action to ensure that all its assets are free from any litigation and disputes in terms of their ownership.

10. Update about Snehadaan Hospital

The construction and renovation of Snehadaan hospital is nearing its completion. The blessing of the Outpatient and Emergency departments along with pharmacy and Laboratory of the hospital is tentatively scheduled to be held on 1st May 2023. An official inauguration of the hospital will be organized at a later date depending on the availability of all benefactors and other dignitaries who have helped in the realization of this project.

11. Annual budgets of the communities and Province

The provincial and his Council, taking the recommendation of the Economic Commission, discussed in detail the proposed and scrutinized budget of the province, and approved a sum of ₹136,659,437/- (Rupees One Hundred and Thirty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-seven only) as the total budget of the Province for the financial year 2023-2024. Subsequently, the following budget is approved for the respective communities/ ministry centers of the Province.

St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady:	53,73,100/-
Jyoti Darsan, Nagpur :	23,69,000/-
St. Camillus Seminary, Trichy:	20,73,700/-
St. Camillus College, Eluru :	30,42,200/-
St. Camillus Seminary, Guwahati:	13,52,600/-
Upasana, Bengaluru:	27,39,050/-
Provincialate Community & CPHC :	74,52,888/-
Provincial House:	49,18,800/-
Snehasadan :	55,68,195/-
Snehatheeram:	31,17,864/-
Snehagram :	86,45,209/-
St. Camillus Ashram:	50,20,508/-

12. Pieces of Information:

1. Fr. Bobit Paimpillikunnel has returned back to India after his fruitful service as chaplain in Ireland. We appreciate and acknowledge the valuable service Fr. Bobit rendered to the Church and our Order. We cordially welcome him back to the province.
2. Fr. Prakash Kuttiath has reached Vienna for chaplaincy ministry in Salzburg, Austria. We wish him God's blessings and best wishes for a fruitful ministry.
3. Camillians in USA are accorded with the prestigious "Treasure of the Church Award", as a recognition for the Camillian ministry which Fr. Mathew Perumpil has initiated through his parish ministries in the U.S.

We congratulate Fr. Mathew and all our confreres in the U.S. for their commitment towards disseminating the Camillian charism and attending the spiritual and physical needs of the sick in the parishes and the diocese.

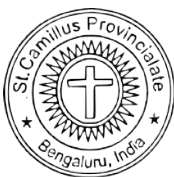
4. We extend our sincere condolences to our confreres Fr. Jayan Chamakkalayil who lost his mother and Fr. Naveen Pallurathil who lost his father and their families, and assure our continued prayers for the repose of the souls.

Dates to remember:

- Annual retreat of the Temporary professed : 24th – 29th March 2023
- Renewal of vows of Temporary professed : 29th March 2023
- Ignatian retreat for Perpetual profession : 1st – 30th April 2023
- Temporary profession of vows : 01st May 2023
- Next Council meeting : 02nd May 2023



Fr. Bacil Singh MI
Provincial Council Secretary



Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil
Provincial Superior

Bengaluru – India
11th March 2023

Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on May 02, 2023

1. Major Superiors' Meeting and Pastoral Visitation Schedule of Provincial

The Annual meeting of the Major Superiors of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm with Rev. Fr. Superior General and Consulta will be held at the Generalate from 4th to 10th June 2023. Provincial will be participating in the meeting.

Pastoral Visitation Schedule: (from 11th to 26th June 2023)

Visitation to the confreres in Italy	:11th to 14th June
Visitation to the confrere in Spain	:15th to 17th June
Visitation to the confreres in Germany	:18th to 23rd June
Visitation to confrere in Austria	: 24th to 26th June

2. Blessing and opening of Snehadaan Hospital

The blessing and opening of Snehadaan Hospital will be held on 25th May 2023 by His Grace Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bengaluru. The hospital will initially offer its OPD and Emergency medical care. Provincial and Council forms a committee comprised of Frs. Sebastian Christi (Coordinator), Teji Anickattuvayalil, Bacil Sebastias Singh, Lijo Pattathil, Jobin Anchupankil, Siby Areeparampil and Thomas Kidangan to organize the event. An official inauguration of the hospital will be organized at a later date depending on the availability of all benefactors and other dignitaries who have helped in the realization of this project.

3. Blessing of the New Formation House in Assam

The blessing and inauguration of the new formation house at Boko near Rajapara, Assam will be held on 30th May 2023 by His Grace John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati. This will serve as a house of formation from the students of Northeast. Confreres who would like to grace the occasion, please inform Fr. Lijo Pattathil for travel arrangements before 10th May, 2023.

4. Recommendation based on the Observations of the Economic Commission

Taking the observations of economic commission after the internal audit of the communities, Provincial and Council makes the following recommendations to be strictly followed by all Superiors and each member in the communities:

- Receive all income earned from ministries/services, by cheque or through bank in the name of the Society/Trust (except for stipends received while celebrating Mass or hearing confessions).
- Maintain all registers, files and documents pertaining to community/Society/Trust/ Govt. or staff, as per the direction of Secretariat for finance.
- Obtain three quotations prior to approval of any major purchases/works.

- d. Refrain from using community vehicles for any travel other than for the needs of the community.

5. *Appointments and Transfers*

- a. ***Appointment of Inchodikaran Joy:*** Fr. Inchodikaran Joy is appointed as the Superior and Rector of Upasana, Bengaluru.
- b. ***Appointment of Naikarakudy Baby:*** Fr. Naikarakudy Baby is appointed as the Administrator of Snehagram, Krishnagiri.
- c. ***Appointment of Mithun Bisoi:*** Fr. Mithun Bisoi is appointed as the Assistant Novice Master and Administrator of Jyoti Darsan, Nagpur.
- d. ***Appointment of Savari Sundar Raj:*** Fr. Savari Sundar Raj is appointed as the member of Jyoti Darsan, Nagpur and Rector of St. Camillus Bhavan, Assam.
- e. ***Appointment of Paimpillikunnel Bobit:*** Fr. Paimpillikunnel Bobit is appointed as the member of St. Camillus Ashram, Hyderabad while assisting in the mission at St. Camillus Bhavan, Assam.
- f. ***Appointment of Kidangan Thomas:*** Fr. Kidangan Thomas is appointed as the PRO of the Province and Person Responsible for communication and correspondence with the central office at Generalate.
- g. ***Appointment of Kurella Aditya:*** Fr. Kurella Aditya is appointed as the Administrator, Vice-Rector and Vocation Promoter of St. Camillus College, Eluru.
- h. ***Appointment of Kettupurakkel Abin:*** Fr. Kettupurakkel Abin is appointed as the Administrator and Vice-Rector of St. Camillus Seminary, Trichy.
- i. ***Appointment of Munjanattu Albin:*** Bro. Munjanattu Albin is appointed as the member of Snehatheeram, Aluva.
- j. ***Appointment of Sikendra Singh:*** Bro. Sikendra Singh is appointed as the member of St. Camillus College, Eluru.

6. *Construction Updates: Hyderabad*

The Construction works of the Children's home at St. Camillus Ashram, Hyderabad is progressing well and is nearing its completion. The remaining works include wiring, plumbing, roofing works, first floor elevation works and painting. The work is expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.

7. *Placement of Regents*

Provincial and Council places the following professed religious as regents at our communities:

Abinash Kujur	: St. Camillus College, Eluru
Albin George	: St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady
Alwin Minz	: St. Camillus Ashram, Hyderabad
Binod & Mathews Marian	: St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru
Nishan R	: St. Camillus Seminary, Trichy
Silarson Bay	: St. Camillus Bhavan, Assam

8. Extra Domum

Provincial and Council decides to grant Extra Domum for religious who are residing outside of the communities, namely, Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh, Fr. Siby Areeparambil, Fr. Christopher Surin and Fr. Tinto Valamparackal.

9. 10th Death Anniversary of Fr. Shibin Arpathanathu

On this 9th day of May, 2023, we fondly commemorate the 10th heavenly birthday of Fr. Shibin Arpathanathu. On this day, a memorial Eucharist will be celebrated at his home parish, Our Lady of Grace Church, Mayannor at 11 am. The Council requests the participation of as many confreres as possible on this day for the Eucharist at Mayannoor, and to celebrate Memorial Mass for Fr. Shibin at all communities/residences. Let us specially commend the soul of our beloved Fr. Shibin to God and plead for his eternal rest.

10. Requests:

a) Requests for Ordination to Diaconate:

Provincial and Council after having discussed the requests of Bros. Munjanattu Albin, Joseph and Singh, Sikendra, with favorable opinion, permits them to be ordained to the ministry of Diaconate.

b) Request from Fr. Christopher Surin: Fr. Christopher Surin requested the Provincial and Council to pursue Diploma in Counselling Psychology and Integral Formation at National Vocation Service Centre in Pune. Provincial and the council approved the request and permits him to pursue his studies.

c) Request from Norbertines: The Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré (Norbertines) Mananthavady have requested the Provincial and Council to permit two of their Second year Novices to undergo ten months of mission experience at Camillian ministry centres. Provincial and council approved their request and decided to place them at Snehagram and Snehadaan.

11. Pieces of Information

- Bros. Albin Munjanattu and Sikendra Singh have made their Perpetual Profession and Bro. Mathews Kizhakkethottam his Temporary Profession of Religious Vows on 1st May 2023. We extend our appreciation and prayerful wishes to their religious life.
- Provincial will leave for Rome on 02nd June, 2023 for the Meeting of the Major Superiors and Pastoral Visitation.
- Fr. Lijo Pattathil will participate in the Meeting of Provincial Bursars of the Order from 25th to 28th June, 2023 in Rome.
- Fr. Chengalikavil Benny and Fr. Patrick Nayak will attend an Enhancing formation skills training program at Sumedha Centre for Psycho-spiritual Wellbeing, Punjab from 07th to 21st May, 2023.

- We have received 2000 Mass intentions from the Diocese of Passau.
- Fr. Anthoni Kunnel is appointed as Associate Pastor of St. Alphonsus parish, Greendale, U.S.A. We wish him the blessings and graces of the Lord to fulfil his priestly ministries to the faithful of the parish.

Dates to remember:

- 10th Death Anniversary of Fr. Shibin: 09th May 2023 at Our Lady of Grace Church, Mayannor.
- Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Albin: 11th May at St. Norbert's Priory, Mananthavady.
- Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Sikendra: 15th May at Archbishop's House, Bengaluru.
- Blessing of Snehadaan Hospital: 25th May 2023 @ 6 pm.
- Blessing of St. Camillus Bhavan, Assam: 30th May 2023

N.B: The confreres who have received new appointments and are on transfers are requested to reach their respective community and assume their office latest by 25th May 2023.



Fr. Bacil Singh MI
Provincial Council Secretary




Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil
Provincial Superior

Bengaluru – India
02nd May 2023

FEBRUARY 02 - DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

The joy of being a consecrated person

On this 2nd day of February 2023, we celebrate the Day for Consecrated Life. We, as consecrated persons have chosen this unique way after the model of Jesus Himself who found joy in His consecration. Thus, this is a day of joy for us, as we commemorate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus to God. On this day, we are reminded to rediscover the joy and enthusiasm with which we have chosen this way of life – a unique way of loving Jesus more than anything else. To ourselves, let us raise this question that Jesus asked Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” (Jn.21:15). Have we failed in loving Him more than everything else in our life? If so, let us recommit ourselves to Jesus today, for He is a loving and joyful God who made Himself available for His Father and His mission in spite of the hardest moments of His life.

The theme of the 2023 Synod is “Communion, Participation and Mission.” - to walk together as a community in the synodal spirit of participation, where members exercise responsibility for one another through mutual listening, excluding no one in their mission. The consecrated persons are called to be in communion with one another after the model of Trinitarian God. There are a multitude of persons who gazes towards us in hope. We are to be models of true consecration in extending our charity,

love and service, especially to the sick brethren. The young ones who follow us after will look to us in order to experience the merciful love of Jesus manifested through our lives. Such acts of mercy and love will serve to be more effective than the verbal inputs we impart to them.

In this journey, we are called to be people who listens to, respects, motivates, encourages, loves, cares and forgives one another in the religious consecration. We, as consecrated persons will rediscover the enthusiasm, amazement and joy of feeling and being part of a project of love when we participate in mutual sharing in our mission. To achieve this, we need to belong to the community and to the confreres living with us.

As Camillians, we celebrate the feast of Conversion of our founder St. Camillus. Let us all be reminded that we are all people who need to be converted daily in many aspects of our living. The feast of conversion of St. Camillus should remind us that what matters is the life after being transformed into a new person. God truly treasures value of “the heart” of such a new creation like that of St. Camillus. Let us commit once again to that great legacy of our charism of mercy towards the sick – of course, without any U-turns from it. Feel blessed continually through the intercession of St. Camillus! Wish you a joyous feast day.

World Day of the Sick – 2023

Theme: “Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.”

Dear confreres,

Today, we celebrate the World Day of the Sick – instituted by St. John Paul II in the year 1992 in order to bring attention to the needs of the sick and to encourage people to provide care and support for those who are ill. On this day, we are reminded to recognize the dignity and value of all people, regardless of their health status, and to reaffirm our commitment to serving and supporting those who are suffering. Today, more than physical healing, many need spiritual, emotional and mental healing. Let us pray for all those suffering from physical and mental illnesses and for all those who work strenuously to alleviate their suffering. The theme of the 2023 World Day of the Sick is “Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.”

On this day, let us prayerfully unite our sufferings with that of Christ Himself for the welfare of the Church. Let us see the face of Christ in our suffering and ailing brethren.

I urge you to offer special prayers for all the sick and suffering, especially for those there is no one to accompany

and care for thereby extending our spiritual support, solidarity and comfort to them. Let us also be united in prayer for the people of Syria and Turkey who experienced the countries’ most dire disaster in nearly a century, and for the people who have lost their dear ones and are suffering due to lack of basic needs for their life and sustenance. Along with them, let us remember the people who are affected by wars and calamities, especially those of Ukraine and Russia, and victims of disasters across the globe. Let us also extend our solidarity to the sick and suffering people in our neighborhoods, by visiting them and extending our support to them in all possible ways.

Let us wish and pray that the Divine Healer bless and comfort the sick with good health and strength that they may they enjoy His love and care through kind-hearted people. May the powerful intercession of our Lady of Lourdes be with all the sick and the healthcare providers.

Wishing you all good health and wellbeing,

An Easter Message

Dear confreres,

We are celebrating Easter as a redeemed, reconciled and rejuvenated people. Easter is a time of joy, hope, and renewal. We are overwhelmed with the Joy of Christ's victory over Satan and death. It is a time to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new beginnings it brings to our lives. It is also a time to spend with our family and friends, enjoying delicious meals and sharing warm Easter wishes.

It is a special occasion that brings us together and creates abundant Joy and Hope within us. Easter is also a call for us to glorify God as Jesus glorified the Father. It is a wakeup call to build relationship - with Jesus and His people - a relationship that extends beyond one's life, death and the tomb. Let us build up a bonding love relationship with Jesus and our 'neighbour' so that we will be able to meet the Resurrected Jesus in our brethren every day.

Easter is a Call to look beyond what you see. Mary Magdalene, when she saw that the stone at the tomb had been removed, concludes that the soldiers had taken the Lord out of the Tomb. But she could later recognize that it was the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, what we often see with our naked eyes may be inconclusive unless we have the humility to accept the truth as well as the openness and courage to accept the reality as it is.

Let us be open to one another and the plan of God so that we may not be like the Jews who till today believe that the body of Jesus is stolen by the apostles. Let us not be judgmental and arrogant in our attitude, rather be humble like Jesus who submitted His Will to that of His Father. At this Easter, let us pledge that we may not be disheartened when things do not go the way we want them to be, rather accept them in total submission that it is God's Will for us. Jesus says at the Mount of Olives: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but Yours be done" (Lk.22:42). This total surrender to the plan of God is the surest way to savour the joy of Easter.

When the disciples entered the empty tomb, "they saw the linen wrappings lying there and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head rolled up in a place. Seeing it, they believed" (Jn.20:7-8). Through the simplest signs that God allows you to experience in your life and neighbourhood, you are invited to nurture the faith in Jesus - the belief that the Resurrected Christ is journeying with you and is talking to you. This will in turn burn your hearts with zeal for God and his mission as He enlightened the disciples on their way to Emmaus.

Wish you God's love, Joy, Hope and Peace at this Easter time!

Invitation message for the Blessing and Opening of Snehadaan Hospital

Dear Confreres,

It's with immense joy that I inform you that we are all set to open Snehadaan Hospital for the public and so I invite you most cordially to the Blessing and Opening of the Hospital on 25th May 2023 at 6 pm by His Grace Peter Machado, the Archbishop of Bengaluru. We will organize a formal inauguration of the hospital at a later date. It has been a dream project of Camillians, which was shaping up since past two years. Finally, we are ready to launch this new venture, which will be a milestone in the history of Camillians in India. A lot of planning, organizing, hard work, commitment, dedication, doing and redoing has taken place in actualizing this project. At this juncture, let me sincerely thank all of you dear confreres for your generous support and accompaniment through your prayers and valuable suggestions in the planning and execution. As you are aware, as a family we had decided to begin this venture of Camillians in the Provincial Chapter 2020. We are truly indebted to St. Camillus foundation, Taiwan, North Italian province and Pro.sa foundation, Italy and many generous donors from India and abroad for their financial aid for the construction of the building and

purchase of hospital equipment, Rev. Fr. Baby Ellickal, the former provincial and his Council who initiated this project in 2021, the hospital construction committee, architects, contractors and all our beloved confreres, especially, Frs. Sebastian Christi, Teji Anickattuvayalil, Jaison Narikuzhiyil and Sunny Aresseril and our doctors who toiled hard and invested their energy and time in designing and shaping up the hospital. Named as Snehadaan hospital, this healthcare facility has as many as 14 Outpatient departments (OPD) and cater to the inpatient healthcare needs of 150 persons besides Physiotherapy and dialysis units, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Emergency Operation Theatre, Ultrasound Scan and Digital X-ray. Currently, we are beginning the services now by opening the OPD and Emergency departments. We still have a long way to move forward. As we are at the infancy stage in setting up the hospital, I request your continued prayers and support in developing this hospital so that through our services to the sick at the hospital, we shall bring forth a Camillian touch and a healthcare reform in the society.

Minutes of the General Assembly held at St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru on 2nd February 2023

Assembly prayer

The general assembly began at 9.15 am on 2nd February on the day of conversion of St. Camillus. Fr. William led the prayer. After the prayer Fr. Teji welcomed the gathering.

Words of welcome

Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil welcomed Rev. Fr. Bijoy the provincial, Sr. Lilly Rose, the provincial of Daughters of St. Camillus, Sr. Catherine DSC, provincial councilor and Sr. Virginia Rajkumari SAB, the chief speaker of the day and all the other confreres who participated from different communities.

The election of secretary and moderators

This was followed by the election of the assembly secretary for which three names were proposed, namely Fr. Patrick, Fr. Sunil, Fr. William. Fr. William withdrew due to his back pain. Fr. Patrick Nayak was elected unanimously as the secretary. After the election of the secretary, the election of moderators took place for which four names were proposed: Fr. Jofree, Fr. Prakash, Fr. Jaison Narikuzhyil and

Fr. Biju Sebastian. Fr. Jofree secured 19 votes, Fr. Prakash 13 votes, Fr. Jaison 13 votes and Fr. Biju Sebastian 16 votes. Frs. Jofree and Biju Sebastian were elected as the moderators of the assembly.

Introducing the speaker

Fr. Benny Chengalikavil introduced the chief guest of the day Dr. Sr. Virginia Rajakumari SAB and invited her to enlighten the members of assembly with her reflections on synodality.

Keynote Address

Fr. Biju was the moderator of the morning session. He invited Sr. Virginia to share about synodal life. She shared the following thoughts in her talk.

- The meaning of consecrated life is 'to be different' and Camillian ministry is also completely different from other ministries and charism
- It was a prophetic mission that was entrusted to St. Camillus
- Synod invites us to communion, participation and mission
- Communion: it is explained as 'meeting' and it is to come together,

meeting face to face, knowing person to person and sharing the story of each other

- Participation: it is explained as listening. It requires patience, act of love, discerning and it is a mystery in itself. It also prepares us to speak well and helps us to reflect our relationship with God
- Mission: It is explained as discernment. All our plans and actions need to have a discerning process. It is a give and take process
- She emphasized that a good leader should prepare five new leaders during his tenure
- Our identity comes from our charism and not from apostolic activities
- The intention of our founder is our identity
- Holy spirit should be part of our life and discernment

Discussions and interaction on the theme

Then, Fr. Biju Sebastian summarized the presentation and asked the gathering to raise two questions. Fr. Jofree asked about the speaker's suggestion for the synodality as for Camillian Charism.' Sr. Virginia responded saying that discerning would be the focus. When asked by Fr. William that 'what would be common platform for communion, participation and mission?' She responded saying that the common platform is meeting the people. After the discussions Fr. Bacil proposed vote of thanks to Sr. Virginia and appreciated the commitment and witness of women at the crucifixion

and death of our Lord Jesus Christ and stressed the importance of women religious in the life of the Church. Fr. Prakash honored Sr. Virginia with a shawl. The assembly took a tea break for 20 minutes.

Sharing on synodal life

After the break Fr. Biju Sebastian introduced Sr. Catherine DSC and requested her to share her thoughts on Synodality. She shared the following points:

- Some treat synodality as catholic term while others treat it as a secular word. Few say it is the fruit of the second Vatican council, others see it as a theological-pastoral vision of the holy father Pope Francis.
- Original intention of the creation of human beings was synodal.
- It is to bring solidarity with those in the peripheries of the church and the society.
- It is caring for the vulnerable members of our families, communities and society.
- As Camillians we need to be mothers of the sick and not brothers and sisters.
- It helps to check the authenticity of our religious discipline.
- The synodal dialogue depends on courage both in speaking and listening. If we want to truly live synodality we need to make three movements as given below:
 1. *From emotional contagion to empathetic concern*
 2. *From action to attitude*
 3. *From being followers to being partners*
- She spoke the three pillars of synodality as communion,

participation and mission.

1. **Communion:** In communion we have to reflect on Trinity and the church is united by word of God and sacraments.
2. **Participation:** It is a call for involvement of everyone amongst the people of God.
3. **Mission:** Church by its very nature is missionary therefore the purpose of communion and participation is for the mission.

Sharing on synodality

After the sharing of Sr. Catherine, Fr. Biju, the moderator invited Mr. Ranjith Xavier the president of Lay Camillian Family, Aluva for the presentation. Mr. Ranjith presented his personal life experiences with the help of concrete events and some of the points from his presentation are as follows:

- Personal experience of Gods' blessings and protection in all their activities
- Discipline among the members
- Gods' providence in times of difficulties
- Dedication towards the mission entrusted to the members

A short discussion followed after the presentations. Fr. Basil appreciated Sr. Catherine for the beautiful presentation. Fr. Siby Kaitharan sought some clarifications with regards to the presentation of Mr. Ranjith and he responded to it. Fr. Christy congratulated both Sr. Catherine and Mr. Ranjith for their wonderful presentations and asked Sr. Catherine: "what could be done

concretely in the community to keep alive the synodality?" Sr. Catherine responded saying, that dialogue is very important among the members and everyone's opinion should be taken into consideration and make decisions together. Fr. William appreciated Mr. Ranjith for the wonderful presentation and asked what the Camillian Family expects from Camillian religious in the exercise of their mission. Fr. Biju Sebastian thanked both Sr. Catherine and Mr. Ranjith and concluded the discussions.

Fraternal message

Fr. Biju announced that the recorded video message of Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin, the superior General would be communicated. Fr. General addressed the assembly from the cubiculum of St. Camillus, the place where St. Camillus' heart is kept. some of the points from his presentation are the following:

- Our reflection on synodality needs to penetrate through the Holy trinity.
- It leads us to ecclesial conversion.
- It makes us to turn to the Church, Scripture and History.
- We are first disciples of Jesus in the church which follows our charism.
- He urges us to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit.
- Value the contribution that each individual offers to the family.
- We need to have fidelity to the initial inspiration of the founder.
- Listen to the many forms of sufferings and poverty of humanity today.
- Christianity without tenderness is not Christianity.

- Walk everywhere as the children of God.
- Our mission is expressed in compassion.
- Our charismatic origin is synodality.
- Camillus understood that he could not do it alone so he is urging us to work together.
- All need to possess and give without possessiveness
- He urged us to live in communion, dialoguing together and collaborating with the Church.
- Need to have fidelity to charism and a renewed charism.
- We must be able to have an active participation and a united spirit in carrying out our ministry.
- We need to focus on the inter-provincial collaboration, missionary attitude and promoting the laity while praying together and listening to each other.
- What God is asking in the church, He is asking us too.

After the presentation of Fr. General, Fr. Biju thanked Fr. Pedro and invited the gathering to discuss in the afternoon. Fr. Bijoy thanked Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin for his fraternal love and for sharing his insights with the gathering. He also thanked Sr. Lilly Rose DSC, Sr. Catherine DSC, and Mr. Ranjith. The guests were honored following Fr. Bijoy's thanks giving. Fr. Babychan honored Sr. Lilly with a shawl and Fr. Jaison N honored Sr. Catherine and Bro. Madhu honored Mr. Ranjith. Fr. Sunny led the midday prayer and the gathering proceeded

to have lunch. After the lunch break Fr. Jofree moderated the session and he invited Fr. Bijoy, the provincial to present the status of the Province.

Presentation of the status of the Province

Fr. Bijoy, the provincial began his presentation saying, that the togetherness of the members symbolize that we are all one charismatic family. He thanked everyone for trusting him and giving him the responsibility to lead the province. He affirmed synodality as listening to one another in our communities with fraternal charity, willingness to accept, share, change and adapt to the plans and decisions. It's important to contribute your ideas, talents and time for the community generously, while respecting one another, giving each one their space to work freely. We need to extend our collaborations with healthcare providers and other like-minded religious/civil associations. He gave the statistics of perpetually and temporary professed members and the number of seminarians in different stages of the formation. He made presentations on the following; members in the provincial council, offices of the province, legal entities of the province, special appointments, Camillian publications, members pursuing their studies, primary goals of the province, community and spiritual life, vocation promotion, formation, ministry, mission, collaborative ministries, members abroad, financial administration, future plans and time lines. He concluded his presentation

with a message from Pope Francis. The full details of the presentation of the Provincial will be sent to you in a separate file.

Financial presentation

Fr. Jofree summarized the presentation of Fr. Bijoy and thanked him. He invited Fr. Lijo to make his presentation on finance. Fr. Lijo presented financial report and some of the points he emphasized were on the need of an effective management of all resources, coupled with the fundamental values of religious life, constant updates of new policies and laws. He said that we are also called upon to make necessary scrutiny on the FC money we receive. We must be extra vigilant at all times with regards to our lands and its documentations. He presented the annual budget in figures and the major construction projects in progress under which he spoke about Snehadaan Hospital Project, St. Camillus Ashram-Devalayam project -Hyderabad, and new house being built in Assam. He also presented about the legal issues related to construction of Yellampet and Snehadaan as well as about the different projects that province has been implementing. He concluded with the presentation of the current Financial Status of the province. Fr. Jofree summarized the presentation and thanked Fr. Lijo.

Major points for discussion

After the break the moderator Fr. Jofree read out the major points for discussion.

Formation

- To assign vocation promoters for each state.
- To bring pre-novitiate and novitiate program in the same house.
- To have an annual common meeting of all the minor seminarians.
- To prepare a specific guideline for the formation of the adult/delayed vocation.
- To allow the regents to have their year of regency in the same community.

There were some discussions of pre-novitiate and novitiate program. Fr. Jobin enquired the reason for bringing the pre-novitiate and novitiate together. Fr. Jofree responded saying about the possibility of getting more vocations in the coming years in Trichy. Fr. Baby N proposed to have pre-novitiate in Yellampet. Fr. Biju Sebastian responded to it saying that there could be danger of handling the disabled children by the young brothers due to their age. Fr. Siby K. shared that we need to have police clearance for the young age group to handle the disabled children. Fr. Bijoy said that by bringing both groups together we can form them under one formator. Moreover, they will have enough time for settling in to the novitiate after having witnessed the formation of novices in the same place. If the program is in Yellampet, we need to have one more formator. Fr. William spoke about having higher secondary education (+1 and +2 studies) in Trichy

because after one year as they go to a different state for their studies most of them can find it very challenging hence the chances of moving on are very dim. Fr. Bijoy said that there were requests from Trichy and Eluru communities to allow the students to continue their pre-university studies in the respective places. He said the rationale behind bringing everyone to Mananthavady is to have the in-house classes and formation of these students and thereby to reduce the number of dropouts at that stage of formation. Would there be any challenges if they do not study +2 together? asked Fr. Christi. Fr. Jofree responded by saying that we are only thinking different possibilities. Fr. Jaison N. suggested that it would be good to send few students to Northeast to pursue their theology so that they can learn a different culture. Fr. Bijoy shared that it was decided in the previous Chapter that all the temporary professed would have their formation at Upasana, Bengaluru. Fr. Jofree added by saying that the teachers can come and teach inside the community and there are also possibilities of studying the science group. Fr. William reiterated that if students from Tamil Nadu go to study their +2 in other state there will be more dropouts.

Ministry

Fr. Teji read out the following points:

- In line with beginning new ministries identifying the need of time is significant so we need to think of alternative ministries at Sneha Care Home, Snehagram and Snehasadan- a need for continuum of care of HIV adults is on the rise.
- To increase the number of ministry Centers and reduce that of formation houses.

Fr. Siby Kaitharan gave some details of the Snehasadan program, that they can't keep all the children together due to the new government rule. As the center is not getting any new admissions the present plan is to accommodate diverse categories of children in the center as the building has made new partitions as well as it has received the permission for the same.

Fr. Biju enquired the reason for increasing ministry houses and reducing formation houses. Fr. Bijoy explained about the current/upcoming number of formation houses as compared to the ministry houses that we have.

Finance

Fr. Basil read out the following points for discussion:

- To entrust the legal team to thoroughly go through all the property documents of the province and set them to have hassle free management of our assets
- To cultivate a culture of documenting every matter of importance in the communities and in our centers.
- To bring about more professionalism in staff management – in matters of fixing/incrementing their salary, allowances, duties, rights, permissions, leaves, performance appraisals, etc

- To make a patrimony and inventory of each house and province by systematically recording its assets and their values.
- To enable all the ministry centres towards self-sustainability and strive to learn the best practices from established self-sustaining ministries/centers
- To tap whatever resources available for the sustainability of our ministries – be it from state/central government or from NGO/Corporates or from individuals

Fr. Jofree invited the gathering to have discussion and he himself commented that all the points appeared to be mandatory than mere suggestions. Fr. Basil reminded the danger of fake documents, which could cause us a lot. Fr. Lijo suggested to have a team that can work to update everyone regularly regarding the changing rules and systems. Fr. Jofree suggested to propose it to the provincial council. Fr. Siby Kaitharan gave a suggestion to get the help of a financial adviser. Fr. Bijoy pointed out that updating of the land documents and assets are mandatory by citing the example of a fresh case coming against Snehadaan. He also suggested to appoint a team to examine and update the documents and requested the communities to be up to date. Fr. Biju Sebastian recommended that we could find out a lawyer who has the knowledge of it like that of an auditor. Fr. Jofree the moderator closed the discussions on finance and requested Fr. Bijoy to read out the points.

Mission

Fr. Bijoy read out the following points:

- Proposal to rethink about the chapter decision of starting a ‘formation house’ in Odisha instead to ponder a ministry house there
- The idea of ‘more Order and less province’
- Proposal to widen the mission from hospital chaplaincy to ministries such as parish communities abroad.
- Province has some properties in Kerala both donated and purchased for which we are yet to develop concrete plan.

Some of the proposals in this regard are the following:

- senior care homes
- diabetic and dialysis center
- Ayurveda health village

Fr. Bijoy proposed whether to grant the rights of the active and passive voice temporarily in the province/delegation where they work. He also made clear about the interest of many of our confreres who are not willing to incardinate in the other province/delegation. He clarified pointing it out that it will not affect the receipt of the salary of our confreres, which is a major source of the sustainability of the province in terms of formation and investments. Fr. Prakash mentioned that there are 11 confreres working under Anglo-Irish province. Fr. Babychan gave an opinion that active and passive voice should be decided by each individual rather than making it a policy. It is good to explain and consult our confreres living abroad.



Regarding discussion on parish ministries, Fr. Bijoy said that we have received invitation to have the possibilities of parish and chaplaincy ministries together abroad, but our general policy in many provinces is that we remain in the community while discharging our ministry. Fr. Babychan asked, if we have chaplaincy what is the need for the parish ministry, besides the Order does not encourage parish ministries. Fr. Bijoy responded saying there are several advantages like establishing a community of our own and building up more contacts in the parishes, which could help us actualize our various projects through fundraising. Fr. Jofree shared saying that there are Camillians working in the parishes in other provinces, and enquired concerning the restriction of the same when it comes to our province? He further said that while

working in a parish, we could also do our ministry by means of visiting the family and the sick people. Fr. Jaison N said parish ministries are appreciated but community life is also important.

Regarding the discussion about the land at Thalayolaparamba, Fr. Biju Sebastian said if we want to have some ministry there, we need to broaden the road and for that we need to buy the land which would cost a lot. Therefore, it is suggested to sell the land in Kanjoor (many people have approached for the purchase of the land) and develop the other places. Fr. Benny shared about the Chekkichery land which has neither profit nor loss. Fr. Vince said we may get some profit this year. Fr. Bijoy asked the concerned communities to make an assessment about our unused properties and propose to the province, as that would

be the best way to develop them. Fr. Babychan suggested to sell the land in Kanjoor and buy a piece of land in Goa. Fr. Jaison N. pointed out that we are only in the south India and we need to expand our presence to other parts of India as well. Fr. Jobin said it is good to expand our ministry, but we need to have a very good plan before we make any move. He also added that our formees do not get the opportunities to experience the Camillian ministry and Charism. Fr. Deepu supported Fr. Jobin and said that most of us were inspired to carry on in our vocation by the ministry we saw and experienced.

Fr. Babychan made a point that the commission for the mission is missing in the presentation, and that there is a lot of balance amount. If possible, it could be utilized to support the Ugandan mission. Fr. Lijo responded saying we have some amount which we need to use for the Assam mission. Fr. Bijoy added saying that whatever balance is reflected is meant for specific purposes for which the amount is already budgeted. Fr. Deepu suggested to appoint one of the senior priests to be the vocation promoter. Fr. Siby Areeparambil recommended that we need to have 10-year plan for any ministry that we begin. He also suggested to send more personnel for the education in the medical field. Fr. Sunil said that to respect the formation report of the rectors. Fr. Jaison suggested that it would be good to begin some education courses as we start the hospital in Snehadaan. Fr. Biju Sebastian gave an opinion that three presentations on synodality were not necessary and provincial team

could have asked the communities to propose some more points as part of the discussions. Fr. Bijoy responded saying that it was required because the theme of the assembly was synodality. The presence of our Camillian associates and their sharing added more meaning and did justice to the theme. With these questions and clarifications, the moderator winded up the discussions. Fr. Jofree the moderator invited Fr. Vince to propose the vote of thanks.

Vote of thanks

Fr. Vince thanked each and every one who contributed to the success of the gathering.

Fr. Bijoy in his concluding remark thanked everyone in India and abroad for their active participation throughout the assembly and announced the plans for the evening and the fraternity day. Fr. Jaison K. led the concluding prayer as we called it a day.

Fr. Patrick Nayak
Secretary

The joy of hospital chaplaincy: Personal journey of a Camillian religious as a hospital chaplain in Bengaluru

Bacil Sebastias Singh MI

He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away.
(Rev. 21:4)

I do not remember when I first heard the word *chaplain*. Chaplaincy ministry has been a topic of discussion in our conversations during our formation years, but I do not think I paid too much attention to it until ten years ago when God was calling through my provincial superior to serve as a hospital chaplain at St. Philomena's Hospital, Bengaluru. Now, it seems I have known it forever.

To be honest, I had little idea of what chaplaincy involved or what was required to be able to serve in it. Over the years, I realized that the calling to serve as a hospital chaplain is a noble and fulfilling vocation. It has been said that discerning God's will for a life is often a "lifelong quest" and that ultimately, people seem to know God has called them to chaplaincy ministry when they have a passion to 'carry each other's burdens' (Gal 6:2), and to provide ministry to the 'least of the brothers and sisters' (Mat 25:40).

Looking back, I can see how my life, up to this point, as a Camillian hospital chaplain in a multi-cultural context has transformed me and prepared me for impacting the hospital workplace for the good of the patients and healthcare workers through the chaplaincy ministry. More precisely, for Camillians in Bengaluru, our hospital ministry goes beyond providing spiritual and sacramental services to the sick. Fueled by a deep commitment to rendering motherly love to those in need, we become the means of healing and hope by engaging in pastoral conversations and spiritual listening. Our presence brings a sense of peace and reassurance in times of distress.

What was God calling me to do?

Proactively responding to the pastoral needs of the sick and hospital staff, the province started its first hospital chaplaincy ministry at St. Philomena's

Hospital in 2013 and at St. Martha's Hospital in 2019. Today, it shines as a significant milestone in demonstrating the Camillian charism of mercy for the sick.

Though my calling to chaplaincy was clear, I needed to know the ways and means to get there. I now know I took the long way around, but I am grateful for the confreres, challenges, detours, and lessons learnt along the way.

Working as a chaplain in the hospital has been an enriching and spiritual experience for me. Revelation 21:4. *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, for the old order of things has passed away,"* served the priestly motto as a hospital chaplain. I am a witness to the longing of people to talk to someone with listening ears. I have encountered individuals and families in seemingly helpless situations, yearning for a miracle. It has been humbling to hear people express their belief that God brought them to this hospital to meet me and receive God's blessings.

Amid pain and suffering, I have been grateful for the opportunity to be with people during their most challenging moments. I have listened to confessions from individuals who haven't confessed in years, some dating back to their first holy communion. Bringing them closer to their Catholic faith has been a profound privilege, and witnessing their return to the faith after many years has been truly inspiring.

As a chaplain, I have the privilege of providing guidance, strength, and comfort to individuals from various religious traditions. I offer prayers, blessings, and spiritual counsel that align with their beliefs and practices, fostering a sense of unity and respect among diverse communities. *By embracing and respecting the beliefs and practices of others, I created a space where individuals feel welcomed, supported, and understood.*

What does it take?

Chaplaincy is an immensely challenging, constantly evolving, and profoundly fulfilling calling entrusted with bearing the presence of God in a broad spectrum of situations and cultures. As a Camillian chaplain, I provide unbiased care for all through the ministry of presence. I have encountered patients belonging to other faith traditions. As a chaplain in a hospital like St. Philomena's, the learning does not end. I am changed by the stories of miracles occurring when we pray over patients and offer them our care and support.

One weekend, I was the chaplain on duty. On the way to a patient's room, a couple approached me for a blessing. Although I have ministered to many requests for prayer, this encounter filled me with awe. I was taken aback at the faith of those couple who hung on to my cassock, requesting healing prayers. In all my humility, I prayed to God for help to minister to the couple. At that moment, compassion kicked in. I laid my arms and prayed; I remember feeling such peace when

I realized that I was experiencing a sacred moment. This precious young couple had allowed me to share in their pain. That pastoral encounter taught me many lessons, not just about chaplaincy but also about my vocation as a Camillian priest chaplain. Though I would never see them again, the lessons of that faith encounter remain with me to this day. *When I learnt the importance of listening, praying with, and focusing on the needs of the patient and family, I found my calling.*

My ministry as a chaplain has affirmed my conviction that chaplaincy is a reciprocal journey of faith. As I share faith with those in need, I also obtain spiritual grace, fostering a deep, shared spiritual connection and a growing love for God. In my best moments, this is what I try to do, and more than casual conversations that can be endless discussions, I pray for the grace of pastoral presence. This considerable life challenge has had me reflecting on my time at the hospital, where I currently strive to practice a Camillian model of spiritual care that is about so much more listening and loving as a mother who loves her only sick child. It calls forth creativity, dynamic involvement in the life situations of the sick and their families, and an understanding of cultural contexts.

At the same time, each pastoral encounter has urged me to engage in my own healing, lean on others with an open mind and radically open heart, take risks to bear the burdens and always be willing to be changed in the process.

What did I learn?

To render motherly love for the sick is why Camillians exist. This goal encapsulates the joy of the Camillian charism of ministry to the sick. It expresses our deep commitment to providing compassionate care. The joy comes from witnessing the transformative power of love and mercy in the lives of the sick. It is a joy that surpasses the challenges and difficulties we may encounter while serving the sick.

Interestingly, even the most seemingly routine patient visits can offer growth opportunities. Often, the lessons and God-experience come from those I am ministering to. *While I found it a joy to minister to the sick and considered it a privilege; a sacred moment—to be allowed to enter into the pain of a total stranger, I found my calling.*

Furthermore, the life of a Camillian religious as a hospital chaplain in Bengaluru is a testament to the power of compassion and mercy. Through our dedication, we bring solace and hope to the sick, embodying the charism of St. Camillus de Lellis. Our ministry goes beyond physical healing, touching the souls of those they encounter. In our selfless service, we reflect the love of Christ and inspire others to follow the example. May our presence bring comfort and healing to all who cross their path.

In essence, my goal is consistent: Respect and follow the charism of service to the sick for whom St. Camillus de Lellis, the saint of my heart, fought and died.

Compassionate care can change the world: A reflection on our identity, mission, and challenges at St. Camillus Ashram

Bobit Paimpillikunnel MI

He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
(John 13: 4-5)

T*o spark service in solutions to our healthcare problems, we need to know the situation and plunge into it.* As Camillians turned the page to write a new chapter of service to the most vulnerable, a significant part of their attention shifted, and so did their approach to the ministry they do. In the face of the overwhelming demands of differently abled children, they seized the opportunity to serve vulnerable children at St. Camillus Ashram Yellampet, Secunderabad.

Identity and Mission

Our conviction at St. Camillus Ashram is, "commitment is doing what you said you would do." According to Saint Camillus, our founder father, we are *servants of the sick*. What we are determines what *we ought to do*. This

very fundamental nature that we have generates our purpose and mission at St. Camillus Ashram.

We are passionate about caring for differently abled children. When we generally share the kerygmatic message of the Gospel after the example of St. Camillus, we have a starting point. Namely, the specific ministry of service to the sick stated in the Constitution of the Order reads, "It has as its purpose, the complete service of the sick in the totality of their being" (Camillians, *Constitution and General Statutes*, art.10), which also include physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual care. This emphasis on all-inclusive care and service to the sick, even at the risk of one's life, is distinctive to the Camillian ministry of service to the sick.



Furthermore, our understanding of St. Camillus' life of service to the sick is born from experience. Primarily, it comes from being Camillian religious, formed in the Camillian spirit, and called to serve the sick with fellow Camillians.

Service to the Sick: our privilege to love and serve Jesus

On the one hand, for St. Camillus *to be Jesus for the Sick* is an identification with Jesus, who is moved with mercy and compassion (Lk 10:25-37). On the other hand, *to serve Jesus in the Sick* means Jesus identifies with the Sick. These two dimensions are intimately related to one another. A contemporary Camillian experience demonstrates that this encounter is not an abstract situation. Instead, it is the sick persons with their face, story, weakness, and limitations in the presence of Christ

(Calisto Vendrame, *Camillians Today*, 6).

The awareness that Jesus is present in the sick demands from the minister of the sick an attitude of respect and reverence, compassion and love, for indeed, the life of the person they serve is sacred. Therefore, it is another privilege given to us, the Ministers of the Sick at St. Camillus Ashram, to encounter and serve the Lord Himself in the vulnerable, especially in children entrusted to our care. As Saint John Paul II notes, the sick become an "icon" of the suffering Christ, a window revealing the hidden Jesus Christ "in the face and the flesh, in the hearts and the minds of those suffering sick" (John Paul II, "Patients are An Icon of Christ," *Camilliani-Camillians* 23, Winter 199, 4 -15; the main reflection point of the talk given by Pope John Paul II to the staff and sick people at

the Daughters of St. Camillus' Hospital in Rome on April 1, 1990). We do for the sick as we do for Jesus himself.

Our service to the sick becomes our divine worship, for wherever the ill person is, God is. Our meeting with the sick celebrates joy and contentment in life. True to the words, "The bed of the sick becomes an altar," around which the liturgy of healing service is celebrated (Mario Vanti, *St. Camillus de Lellis and His Ministers of the Sick*, 317), we at St. Camillus Ashram experience the presence of God in service to the children. Thus, by selfless service, Camillians and other caregivers integrate action (service to the sick) with contemplation (experiencing Jesus in the suffering).

Our inspiration: St. Camillus de Lellis

Camillus de Lellis grew into a service-centered life through service, prayer, and Scripture. In his way, Camillus revolutionized the services offered to the sick in the hospital. He prioritized the sick regarding service and support, sought out the sick and the abandoned, and adored them. "The whole purpose of my life," Camillus said, "is to serve the sick as if they were my king and masters because in serving them, I serve Christ our Redeemer" (Vanti, *St. Camillus de Lellis and His Ministers of the Sick*, 21).

As a renewed servant of the sick, Camillus was full of love for the sick. Mario Vanti remarks that Camillus was no genius as far as the administration was concerned. However, his piety and



generosity were known to all, and this was counted. In all his duties, Camillus proved to be a good and diligent servant (Mario Pucci, *St. Camillus de Lellis*, 78). Accordingly, the life of Camillus was concerned with the exercise of the ministry of service to the sick.

Just as Camillus was exemplary in the way he served the sick by attending to patients with ulcers and even the filthiest, being physically close to the patients, treating them with diligent charity, serving food, fixing their beds, and catering to the sick in all their needs and requests, (Sannazzaro, *Camillian Order 1559-1699: A History*, 64), we strive to live in proximity with the children.



Our experience is not about being hard and tough in the face of obstacles, but instead being able to stretch and expand without losing the original essence of our Camillian identity.

Taking action to share Camillian charism of mercy with the differently abled children in Telangana

The ministry project initially aimed at serving children with multiple disabilities, destitute, and an occupational rehabilitation center. As a result, the San Camillo Occupational Rehabilitation Centre was inaugurated in 2016 at Yellampet. In addition, when the proposed home for disabled children was constructed in January 2017, four children moved in to live there. In the same year, the facility grew, raising the number of children to ten and eight staff members. The home for people with disabilities is named *Daivalayam*.

***Daivalayam* initiative**

Daivalayam is an example of a *Godly home*. Building a home for children with multiple disabilities is one of the most challenging, creative, and demanding initiatives of the Indian province. *Daivalayam* means "temple of God". This is a place where children

with mental and physical disabilities are cared for and respected in the image of God.

Here, we are inspired by the compassionate and merciful love of JESUS for the sick, and we follow the example set forth by St. Camillus de Lellis, who considered the sick as his lords and masters. The Christian sense of service to the sick is different because it has another starting point: a relationship with Jesus and his service-centered life. Therefore, such service to the sick follows Christ's example of service.

Serving as Christ served is the call for every Christian. Kenan B. Osborne, in his book *Orders and Ministry*, opines, 'The ministry of Jesus is a ministry of service (*Orders and Ministry*, 97). Thus, the foundation and model for all church ministries lie in the person and ministry of Jesus himself. This service attitude is very evident among Camillians who care for the sick. Therefore, we can affirm that 'service' is genuinely the primary word that we, as followers of Jesus, use after the example of St. Camillus to describe our relationship with the sick.

Currently, it accommodates 28 resident children and 19 staff members, of whom fourteen are residential and five are part-time. Most of the children are orphans with many disabilities and are referred by the Child Welfare Committee of the various districts of Telangana state. The St. Ann's Sisters offer children special education. Most of these children need constant personal care and attention.

Our experience is not about being hard and tough in the face of obstacles, but instead being able to stretch and expand without losing the original essence of our Camillain identity. In other words, it means 'being able to be there physically for the sick in their needs.' Each day, we look inward and reflect on the core of our mission, the essence of our ministry of presence.

Compassion requires passion for service

The compassionate healthcare services we have begun in *Diavalayam* have impacted children's overall health. Over the years, through various interventions, we made a conscious effort to improve comprehensive care and develop infrastructure. With this basis, we were able to transform and create a unique approach to our activities year by year.

Our commitment to care after the example of St. Camillus and faith in Jesus brought inspiring results, thanks to a newfound spiritual contentment. We realize they need compassionate care as we move forward to serve and connect. In this regard, we embarked on the following: (i) Personal care around the clock because they are mentally and physically disabled. Personal care includes feeding, bathing, and changing their clothes and diapers; (ii) Nutritional care is a significant aspect of health. Our nurses and caretakers pay special attention to the nutritional needs of each child. We provide exceptional nutrient food and feed them liquid food because most children cannot eat regular food; (iii) Medical care is accessible to address

their needs. Doctors and healthcare professionals visit them regularly. Also, children are taken to the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH) in Hyderabad once every six months for various tests. A few of them take regular medicines for different health needs. In any health emergency, we transport the child to the nearest hospital, accompanied by a nurse or a caretaker; (iv) An in-house part-time physiotherapist attends to their regular physical exercises. Special education at *Manovikas Kendra*, a school for special children at Medchal, is a distinctive feature of inclusive care. Spiritual care service is integral to the ministry of service to the sick, which involves residents and staff on the campus.

Uniquely, we are driven by the example of Jesus at the Last Supper, who "showed them the full extent of His love" by washing their feet (John 13:1). Jesus surprised his disciples when he left his place and moved to where the servants worked. He wrapped a towel around his waist, filled a basin with water, and began to wash the dusty feet of his disciples (Jn 13: 1-5). As servants of the sick, we take up Jesus' example to meet the needs of our children to the best of our ability.

A collaborative ministry

Our mindset is collaborative. In less than two years, *we opened our doors to members of other religious Orders and priests to collaborate with us and to become sweet extensions of God's mercy to the sick.* Besides priests and religious, professional medical doctors, nurses, nutritionists, teachers, and

physiotherapists render voluntary services.

Not only did we commit to serving and fulfilling our set goals, but we also witnessed a stronger sense of pride and communion from the contributors who helped spread Jesus' love. This initiative is essential to spark a service attitude and that purposeful and responsible actions transform a community of vulnerable children into a community of dignified individuals.

Religious members other than Camillians residing on campus and practicing Camillian charism and its uniqueness are distinct examples of sound collaborative ministry. There are two religious nuns from the Congregation of Sisters of Adoration and one from the Blessed Sacrament living on the campus. They significantly contribute to the life of our institute and the charism through their committed service.

Challenges

Our more significant challenge is that *there is more serving to do than servants available*. As Pope Francis once said, full-time Christians don't sit down to admire their faith in the reflection of a mirror nor talk about it over dinner. Still, they come out of themselves, embrace their cross with courage, and walk the street to share with everyone the joy of the Gospel; we need servants with their hearts in their hands.

As a matter of fact, many personal doubts and questions arise in our hearts, as well as many whys. For example, why are these children born this way, why do they suffer the way they do, and how have they been orphaned and abandoned? These and other questions will have no definite answer. However, inspired by the exemplary example of St. Camillus, we embrace these children as precious jewels entrusted to us by God to care for, love, and serve, and thus seek to fulfill divine will through our charism.

In the same manner, the suffering of the innocent is a heart-breaking point to reflect on and understand. To our surprise, these innocent children serve as models for us to accept the sufferings in our lives with patience and spiritual insight. Although obtaining committed staff is a constant struggle, we proudly meet their daily needs solely depending on Divine providence.

Our ministry in *Daivalayam* is indeed unique. At a time when not many are dedicated to staying at the bedside, we are witnesses to people of noble heart, like our Lord, taking the towel and bending their knees to wipe the feet of children. We admire all for doing it for the Glory of God!

Temporary and Perpetual Profession



St. Camillus province of India celebrated the temporary and perpetual professions on May 1, 2023. During the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the Provincial superior, Mathews

Marian Mathew Kizhakkethottam made his temporary vows, and Albin Munjanattu and Sikendra Singh vowed their perpetual commitment in the Order.



Entry to novitiate: Seven pre-novices entered novitiate on April 30, 2023, during the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil, the Vicar Provincial.

Ordinations to diaconate

Taking a step closer to the Altar, two perpetually professed members of St. Camillus Province, India, Munjanattu Albin Joseph and Sikendra Singh received their diaconate ordinations. Munjanattu Albin Joseph was ordained a deacon by Mar Alex Tharamangalam, the Auxiliary bishop of Mananthavady diocese, on May 11, 2023 at St. Nobert Priory at Mananthavady in Kerala.

Sikendra Singh was ordained a deacon by His Grace Peter Machado, the Arch Bishop of Bangalore diocese, on May 15, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral church in Bangalore. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the provincial superior of St. Camillus province, along with other confreres, joined the ceremonies celebrated with much simplicity and devotion.

Training program for the administrators

St. Camillus province of India organized a training program in accounting for the administrators of the communities, at Camillian Pastoral Health Center on 15 & 16 June, 2023. Fr. Trevor D'Souza OFM Cap. guided the participants with the basics of administration.



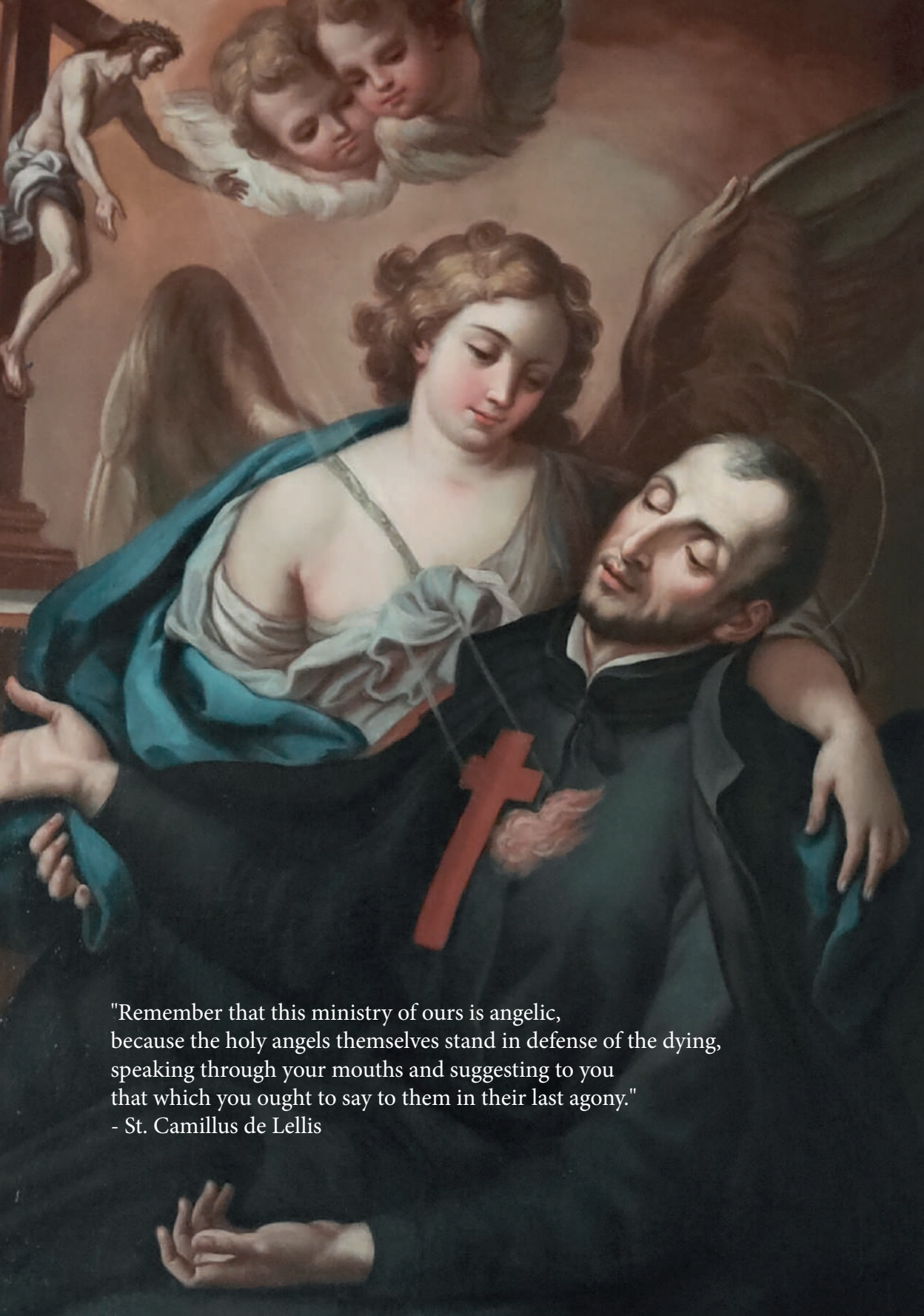
Annual retreat: The Second batch of annual retreat was held at St. Camillus Provincialate from 27 January - 01st February 2023. Fr. Ajeesh VC was the retreat preacher.



A new camillian door in the Northeast

The first Camillian house in the region of Northeast has been opened and blessed on 29th May 2023. The house in Guwahati in the state of Assam was blessed by His Grace Most Rev. John Moolachira, the archbishop of Guwahati, in the presence of the provincial superior Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, camillian confreres, and priests and religious from the locality.





"Remember that this ministry of ours is angelic,
because the holy angels themselves stand in defense of the dying,
speaking through your mouths and suggesting to you
that which you ought to say to them in their last agony."
- St. Camillus de Lellis