



Vitae - Camillians

VOICE OF ST. CAMILLUS PROVINCE, INDIA

Vol. 9 Issue 1 July-December 2022

Called to be
Agents of Mercy

ST. CAMILLUS PROVINCE- INDIA

Vitae - Camillians

St. Camillus Provincialate
Bengaluru - 560035
Karnataka, India

Vitae-Camillians

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Volume 9 Issue 1
July-December 2022

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Cover photo: Water Lily in the garden pond of Snehagram, Krishnagiri

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Foreword



Every day I see Camillian confreres doing great things in the world. I have been blessed to share many of them with my community, confreres, and friends. The courage and determination with which they go after their mission and ministry make a positive impact. What do they have in common? Their witness to the merciful love of Christ illustrates a commitment based on love, service, kindness, and courage instead of fear. Unreserved commitment and proactive participation of our religious to better healthcare services and allied pastoral ministries across the country are highly appreciated and acknowledged by people from all walks of life. This is an indicator of the positive impact of the Camillian way of caring and serving.

I understand the importance of communication with all members of the Order, from the vitally essential decisions of the provincial council to messages of appreciation. In this context, it is my joy to write foreword to the 9th Volume of Vitae – Camillians.

Best of all, from this issue onwards, Vita-Camillians will also reflect the documents of the province along with the news updates of the province, of each community, and

reflection articles making it a single document that aims to foster a sense of community, encouraging confreres to stay connected with one another.

As I reflect, it is incredible to witness new rays of vigor and enthusiasm in our religious engaging meaningfully in our healthcare mission. Recently, we have overcome the various obstacles of the Covid-19 pandemic and have proved to be brave warriors of charity and service. Come what may, we have stepped up together in contributing our best for the well-being of our communities and fulfilling our tasks. We shall continue to be agents of mercy in serving the sick.

I appreciate all my confreres for their zealous efforts in making our charism visible to many, inspiring others to embrace the charism of mercy. Let us be proud to be Camillians. I sincerely thank the editorial board and the contributors of Vitae-Camillians for their hard work publishing this Volume. Let our hearts and hands always grow energized to serve Jesus in the Sick.

In the spirit of Saint Camillus de Lellis,

Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil MI
Provincial Superior

Editorial

Our world is immersed in media and communication technology. We live in a mediated age. Knowledge and values are transmitted through media that play a determining role in constructing personal and collective identity and memory. In any community, this transmission is essential to build communion and relationships. 'Vitae-Camillians' is conceived as an effective instrument that would facilitate this community-building process.

We are glad to bring you this new issue of Vitae-Camillians, the official publication of St. Camillus province, India. This Volume has a novelty, not so much in its form but in its contents. The two official publications such as *Vartha* newsletter and 'Vitae-Camillians' - a compendium of the official documents of the province - have been clubbed into a single publication.

Vartha, as you already know, had a humble beginning back in 2002 as a newsletter of *Upasana*. Subsequently, it became the official newsletter of the Delegation, the Vice-Province, and the Province. Over the 20 years of its life, it took different shapes, styles, and colours; and it functioned as a platform to voice our life, thoughts, and vision. Of late, perhaps due to the diffusion of social media platforms, its

relevance has been reduced, and in the last few years, it has been published mostly in electronic form. However, we maintained this newsletter in print form too in order to archive a printed record of the events and news. The other publication - Vitae Camillians - began in 2014 intending to disseminate and archive the official documents of the province, such as official communication from the General Consulta, Provincial Council meeting reports and Acts of the Council, formal Messages and Letters of the Provincial superior, and the reports of various other important meetings.

Now that these two periodicals have become a single publication that includes all the aspects of the province's life, the members of the province have a renewed platform to share their reflections, thoughts, scholarly articles, research/scientific papers, creative writings, experiences etc. It also serves as a means to document the province's various activities concerning spiritual life, ministry, formation, and mission.

Notes on the featured articles

In this issue, you will find four inspiring articles that can make significant resonance in our province's life and thinking.

In his reflective article, *Steadfast Commitment to Serve the Sick: A Chaplain's Reflections*, Fr. Arlappa Mundalagiri sketches out some distinctive elements of the pastoral care service to the sick. Based on his lived experiences as a chaplain in different hospitals in Italy over many years, he highlights the delicate but complex reality of the sick person, in and through whom a pastoral caregiver encounters Christ the crucified. Through this Camillian ministry of 'presence', each chaplain becomes a living sign of Christian hope to the sick.

The mission is integral to Christian calling. The two intertwined aspects of this 'call' such as 'to be with' and 'to be for' are at the core of our discipleship (cf. Mark 3:13-15). Therefore, maturation in our vocation journey presupposes continuous nourishment of our intimacy with Christ. Fr. Sojan Koonanickal, who serves as novice master in Uganda, reflects on this foundational aspect of the mission. Experiencing the newness of being a Camillian 'missionary' formator, he presents 'missionary formation' both as a gift and a task. It is a gift because Jesus says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:16). It is a task because each disciple needs to strive to be like the Master (cf. Luke 6:40), and Camillian mission, in particular, is a partaking of the mission of merciful Christ (cf. C. 4, 72 & 75). Fr. Sojan, in this brief reflection substantiated with his own experience, affirms that a Camillian

missionary formator has a crucial role of accompanying the candidates in this journey of realising their charism of loving the sick.

Fr. Sebastian Christi explores the biblical foundation of the much-discussed topic of 'synodality' that forms the basis of Christian communion. In this profound biblical reflection, Fr. Christi draws our attention to the mind of the Creator and the Spirit-guided discussion of the early Church as fundamental sources of synodality. Dialogue is central to human communion and community. It can emerge only when humans experience freedom, a 'freedom in the Spirit'. Thus, this article is a call to go back to the original meaning of community living, which faces many obstacles in today's dominant philosophy of independence.

Vocation promotion ministry is going through a challenging period, as the number and the quality of vocations to priestly and religious life are declining considerably. Camillian Order is no exception to this experience. Fr. Baby Ellickal, the General Consulta member for Formation, addresses the pressing need to instil 'a culture of vocations' among the members of the Institute. He draws on the findings from a study of 'recent vocations to religious life in the United States', conducted by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC). Fr. Baby exhorts the members of the Order to be creative in promoting vocations to Camillian religious life by being authentic witnesses to the charism and ministry of the Institute.

Documents from Generalate



Il Superiore Generale
Superior General

Prot. 444/2022

Fr. Pedro TRAMONTIN, Superior General
of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (*Camillians*)

to our dear confrere in Christ

Fr. Bijoy Joseph KULIRANIYIL.

You have the trust of the Province.

For this, with the consent of the Consulta,

I appoint you

for a three-year term (2022-2025) as

Provincial Superior of the Camillian Province of INDIA

with all the faculties and rights vested to this office.

Comforted by the grace of God, may you promote in the spirit of love and service, the unity and responsibility of your brothers in the provincial community, so that, everyone will consecrate themselves with joy to the service of the sick by following Christ.

Fraternally in Christ,

Rome, May 18, 2022


Fr. Gianfranco LUNARDON
Vicar General



Superiore Generale
Superior General


Fr. Pedro TRAMONTIN
Superior General

«May you always know how to exercise authority by accompanying, understanding, helping and loving: by embracing every man and every woman, especially people who feel alone, excluded, barren, on the existential margins of the human heart. Let us keep our gaze fixed on the Cross: there is found any authority in the Church, where the One who is the Lord becomes a servant to the point of the total gift of himself». (Address of Pope Francis to the participants in the plenary assembly of the international union of superiors general – Wednesday, 8 May 2013)



Il Superiore Generale
Superior General

Prot. n. 555/2022

Fr. Pedro Celso TRAMONTIN,

Superior General of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (*Camillians*)

with the consent of the Consultors,

in accordance with Const. 109,

appoints

Provincial Councilors of INDIAN Province

for the three-year period 2022-2025,

fr. Anickattuvayalil Teji Varghese – 1st Councilor (Vicar)

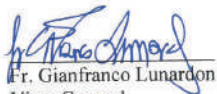
fr. Nakkuzhikkattu Jofree Joseph

fr. Chengalikavil Benny Mathew

fr. Bacil Sebastian Singh

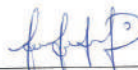
Thanking them for their generous availability, we wish them fruitful service.
Fraternally in Christ.

Rome, June 20, 2022


Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon
Vicar General



Superiore Generale
Superior General


Fr. Pedro Celso TRAMONTIN
Superior General

"May mercy guide our steps, inspire our reforms and enlighten our decisions. May it be the basis of all our efforts. May it teach us when to move forward and when to step back. May it also enable us to understand the littleness of all that we do in God's greater plan of salvation and his majestic and mysterious working".
Pope Francis, *Presentation of the Christmas Greetings to the Roman Curia* (21 december 2015).



Il Superiore Generale
Superior General

Prot. n. 602/2022

Fr. Pedro Celso TRAMONTIN, Superior General
of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (*Camillians*)
with the consent of the Consulta,

considering the application presented by **fr. Bijoy Joseph KULIRANIHIL**,
Provincial Superior of the Province of INDIA,
with the consent of his Council (26th June, 2022),

confirms the appointment (DG 153) of
fr. Lijo Mathew PATTATHIL
as **Provincial Bursar of the Camillian Province of INDIA**
for a three-year term (2022-2025).

Fraternally in Christ,
Rome, June 28th, 2022


Fr. Gianfranco LUNARDON
vicar & secretary general



Superiore Generale
Superior General



Fr. Pedro Celso TRAMONTIN
Superior General



Il Superiore Generale
Superior General

Dear Confreres,
(vice) Provincial Superiors,
Esteemed Confreres
(vice) Provincial Councilors,

about a month after the conclusion of our 59th general chapter of our Camillian Order, in agreement with the general consultors we have completed the 'team' that for the next three years (2022-2025), is called to accompany, support, promote, and animate the Camillian consecrated life of individual religious, local communities, in all its facets and dynamics: spiritual and fraternity life, ministry and pastoral activities, vocation animation and formation, management and administration of our works, etc.

I thank with a sense of deep esteem all (vice) provincial superiors and (vice) provincial councilors who have accepted in a spirit of service the mandate to work together for the good and progress of the provincial Camillian community.

In a special way, within the provincial councils, you will be called to walk in a 'synodal' way: to analyze problems and proposals, to reflect and discuss, to share ideas and proposals, to meet and listen to the confreres in order to make them effectively and actively participants in the choices and protagonists of their 'Camillian destiny'.

Pope Francis, on December 21, 2015, exchanging good wishes with his collaborators in the Roman Curia, exhorted them with these words, *"May mercy guide our steps, inspire our reforms, and illuminate our decisions. Let it be the pillar of our work. May it teach us when we must move forward and when we must take a step backward. May it make us read the smallness of our actions in God's great plan of salvation and in the majesty and mysteriousness of his work."*

May this exhortation of the pope also and especially be an example and stimulus for us, so that we can give concreteness and daily life to the incarnated Camillian prophecy, to revive our Camillian life so that it will continue to bear fruit and fruit in abundance (cf. Jn. 15:1-2).

This spirit of fraternal life and ministerial commitment will help us to face even the difficulties that, far from being a defeat, must and should be taken as a *kairòs* that calls, summons and challenges us to move from the good to the better!

On behalf of myself and the counselors, I thank you for your helpfulness and service and wish you all a good journey!

Rome, June 24, 2022
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

fr. Pedro TRAMONTIN
superior general

Message from the 59th General Chapter to the religious of the Order

Dear Confreres, Peace and Health!

As you well know, two years later than planned due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to celebrate our General Chapter in Nemi - Rome from May 2 to 20, 2022. In it, 56 capitular religious participated (Consulta, Provincial Superiors and Delegates) joined by Fr. Médard Abouè after his election as General Consultor, fathers (54) and brothers (3), from all over the world, visibly young, at the Ad Gentes Center of the Verbiti Missionaries, as well as some religious who helped us in secretarial and translation work.

The theme of the Chapter was What is Camillian prophecy today? Scrutinizing the Past, Living the Present, Walking with Hope into the Future, on which the local and provincial Chapters were also based in anticipation of the holding of the General Chapter in 2020. On this topic, taken from different angles, took place the two-day retreat at the beginning of 1 Chapter, preached by Fr. William Eronimoose, a Camillian from India, and other papers presented by Card. João Braz de Aviz (Prefect of the

Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life) and other Camillian confreres: Fr. Raoul Tekou (Benin-Togo) with the theme of Prophecy, Fr. J. Dieudonné Bei (Burkina Faso) with the theme of Authority (Governance), Fr. Mateus Locatelli (Brazil) with the theme of Formation, Fr. Mathew Perumpil (India-USA) with the theme of Strategic Direction, and Fr. José Carlos Bermejo (Spain) with the theme on Camillians and Pandemic. Also speaking were President of the Lay Camillian Family Marie-Christine Brocherieux, Dr. Klemens Ochel of MedMissio, and Fr. Christopher Mahar of the Pontifical Dicastery for Integral Human Development. These contributions will be made available to all by the general secretariat. It seemed to us that prophecy is particularly present in the boldness of our ministries with the sick, always rooted in Gospel values.

These reports helped the chapter members to reflect on the prophetic dimension of our charism, putting special emphasis on the community dimension of it. In light of Pope Francis' invitation to the whole

Church, we are also there, called to be synodal Camillian religious in today's world. This was the first exhortation addressed by the newly elected Superior General to the capitulars: "If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together. This is my invitation to you. Let us go together, the journey will be much better, by going together we will surely go farther."

During the course of the chapter, some chapter religious became positive for Covid-19, which prevented the pilgrimage to Buccianico that was scheduled. Fortunately, the religious overcame the infection without complications and were cared for by medical confreres (Fr. Paul Ouedraogo - Burkina Faso, Fr. Pietro Magliozzi - Romana) and a nurse (Br. Luca Perletti - North Italian) who were asked to act as a medical committee to deal with the evolution of the infection within the Chapter.

We experienced an atmosphere of respectful dialogue and fraternity during the work, at meals and in prayer. We prayed especially for peace and recited the novena for the Camillian martyrs of charity. We appreciated the beauty of the charism that unites us, remembered and prayed in communion with Fr. Leocir Pessini, who died three years ago. We shared moments of intense debates as well as relaxed conversations about ourselves, our provincial realities and the Order; we sought to open ourselves to the Spirit for the elections of the new general government.

The program was carried out with normality to arrive at the priority objectives that both the Consultation and the Definitory, had proposed and that is to elect a new government, formed by religious such as Superior General Fr. Pedro Tramontin of the Delegation of the United States (Brazil), Vicar General Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon of the Northern Italian Province and the other consultants: Fr. Koffi Médard Aboué of the Benin- Togo Province, Fr. Baby Ellickal Scaria of the India Province and Fr. Paul Kaboré of the Burkina Faso Province. In this regard, we thank you for your cooperation through the online consultation.

We are especially grateful to the outgoing general council (Fr. Laurent Zoungrana - Burkina Faso, Br. José Ignacio Santaolalla - Spain, Fr. Aris Miranda - Philippines, Fr. Gianfranco Lunardon - North Italian and Fr. Felice De Miranda - North Italian) for their service to the Order in moments marked by difficulties during these eight years: the beginning of the sexennium after an extraordinary Chapter, the suffered closure of the Camillianum, the death of Fr. Leocir Pessini (Superior General), the pandemic... We express to them our sincere thanks. In addition, we worked on the motions and wishes received from the provincial chapters, Consulta and E-gremio Capituli.

We are pleased to have been received by the Holy Father Francis in a private audience on May 16, who addressed us, among other things, with these words, "Animated by the grace proper to a Chapter - if lived well in listening

to the Spirit, the brothers and history -, you propose to find new ways of evangelization and proximity, in order to realize with dynamic fidelity your charism, which places you at the service of the sick"; "for the church to be a field hospital, it cannot do without your charism."

Dear confreres, aware of the various limitations of this Chapter, we have firm hope that we can begin a new moment for the Order, which will allow us to resume the momentum of animation so long awaited after this last period. Even the decisions made about the services proper to the central government at the Magdalene Generalate, and those pertaining to the post-Camillianum, we believe are signs of hope and a new breath of vitality.

We are particularly concerned to be faithful to the responsibility of cultivating fraternal life in community, to the centrality of our charism, which is more relevant than ever, to

the specific formation needed to be good prophetic Camillians today, and to the need to promote the figure of the brother in the Order as a sign of our Institute's identity. The various motions and auspices approved will be published by the General Secretariat.

May the Lord make us bold prophets in the small world of health and suffering that each of us is able to serve.

Assuring prayers of suffrage for Fr. Hermann Somda, a young Camillian from the province of Burkina Faso, who died on May 19, with special remembrance of the sick and elderly religious, thanking you for the support of your prayers and invoking the

intercession of St. Camillus and Our Lady of Health, we send you warm and fraternal greetings.

Nemi (RM), May 20, 2022

Letter from the General Secretariat for Ministry

Dear Major Superiors of our Provinces,
Vice Provinces and Delegations

I hope to find you in full health in these first months of your mandate. Here in Rome, we too are settling into this new phase of our religious life as General Council. May the Lord bless us all in this precious ministry at the service of our Order.

In the fatigue and joys of the beginning of your mandate, I join you regarding the constitution and organisation of the General Secretariat of the ministry that I have the mission to coordinate and animate. In this regard, I would like to kindly ask you to provide me the details of the Councillor in charge of the ministry in your Province, Vice-Province or Delegation.

As you all know, the exercise of our charism is expressed in these operational structures of the Order entrusted to your care through the commitment of the religious, lay collaborators and volunteers. In order to be at your side in the best way possible in this noble responsibility which aims at the good of the sick, the poor and the needy, this Secretariat

intends to operate on two levels: Internal and Inter- Institute.

1. Internal level: The Secretariat will be composed of the Provincial Councillors, Vice- Provincials and Delegations in charge of the Ministry. The same, according to our presence in various countries will form the regional sub-secretariats (Europe - Asia - America - Francophone Africa - Anglophone Africa).

Through this first level of organisation of the Secretariat, we intend to establish with you, active channels of confrontation, sharing, proposals and verification of operational strategies for the daily exercise of our ministry. We will be guided mainly by the Constitution and General Dispositions, and by the directives of the last General Chapter and recent published documents: Charter of Camillian Social and Health Institutions, (2007), Camillian Project for a Faithful and Creative Life. Challenges and Opportunities, (2013), The Camillian Ministry. Directions, (2013), Guidelines for the collaboration interprovincial, (2017), Statute of the parishes and rectories entrusted to the Camillians,

(2017). Attention will also be brought to current instances, that is, to the joys and hopes, the sadnesses and anxieties, and the issues pertaining to the world of health that emerge from the various areas of our service.

2. At the inter-Institute level: The Secretariat for Ministry would like to build on the wonderful experience of fraternity and collaboration that emerged from the first gathering of the Camillian Charismatic Family held in Rome in March 2019. We are pleased to note how the charism of our Father and Founder has become a highly esteemed patrimony of the various Institutes of this Charismatic Family and of so many other associative realities in the world. We feel it is our duty to preserve not only this inheritance, but to promote its development and dissemination more and more together. For this reason, the Secretariat will involve the various Institutes as far as possible in the immediate initiatives on the post-Camillianum period and the forthcoming Jubilee of the 450th anniversary of the Conversion of St. Camillus (1575-2025). Together with

their delegates, a precise reflection on the medium and long term will follow. All this will be carried forward in collaboration through fraternal visits and especially through the pastoral visits that our Superior General will call for each of your Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Delegations.

Wishing you all a fruitful pastoral ministry, I greet you fraternally in Jesus.

Rome, 18/10/2022

P. Medard Koffi Aboue

General Councillor for Ministry
FCL Assistant General

Note: In the Provinces, Vice Provinces and Delegations where the Lay Camillian Family (FCL) exists, I request you to also give me the details of the Spiritual Assistant.

I await your reply by 30th October 2022.

1. Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on June 24 & 25, 2022

1. Commencement of the meeting

The first council meeting commenced with a spiritual and leadership talk by Bro. Basil George FSP. He emphasised the importance of servant leadership. The provincial and his council acknowledge with grateful heart the praiseworthy leadership and animation of the province by the previous provincial Rev. Fr. Baby Ellickal and his councillors.

2. Election of the council secretary

The provincial and his council elected Fr. Bacil Singh as the provincial council secretary for the current three-year term.

3. The secretariats

The secretariat for community and spiritual life

Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the provincial, will animate the secretariat. This secretariat is to foster community living, promote fraternity and assure spiritual well-being of the confreres, according to the directives of the Constitution and that of the provincial statutes.

The secretariat of formation

Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu has been appointed to lead the secretariat. This secretariat will animate and coordinate the formation programme of our students at various stages of formation, ongoing formation of the religious, formation of the formators, and vocation promotion of the province, according to the directives of the Constitution and that of the provincial statutes.

The secretariat of ministry

Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil has been appointed to lead the secretariat. This secretariat will co-ordinate all the activities of the ministry of the province and explore future ministry initiatives for the province.

The secretariat of mission

Fr. Benny Chengalikkavil has been appointed to lead the secretariat. This secretariat will co-ordinate the missions of the province, both in India and

abroad, exploring the opportunities for new missions and writing and obtaining various projects for the development of the missions.

The secretariat of finance and administration

Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh has been appointed to lead the secretariat. This secretariat will monitor the financial management of the communities of the province in accordance with the laws of the government and according to the directives of the Constitution and that of the Provincial statutes. In addition to this, this secretariat will also work towards financial stability of the province.

4. Nomination of the provincial bursar

The provincial and the council, taking into consideration of the expertise of Fr. Lijo Pattathil in the area of financial administration in various communities of the province, unanimously decided to nominate him as the provincial bursar and forward the request to Rev. Fr. General and his Consulta for their approval.

5. Appointment and transfers

Upasana, St. Camillus Study House, Bengaluru

Fr. Baby Naikkarakudy	: Superior & Rector
Fr. Jobin Anchupankil	: Administrator & vice-rector (First councillor)
Fr. Prakash Kuttiyath	: Member
Fr. Tinto Valamparakel	: Member, Chaplain (St. Martha's hospital)

St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru

Fr. Sebastian Christi	: Superior, Administrator, Snehadaan Hospital
Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil	: Director, Snehadaan Hospital, CPHC (first Councillor)
Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil	: Provincial/member
Fr. Lijo Pattathil	: Provincial bursar/member
Fr. Reji Kaithaparambil	: Member
Fr. Thomas Kidangan	: Member

Snehasadan, Mangaluru

Fr. Siby Kaitharan	: Superior & director
Fr. Jomin Vempenickal	: Administrator & first councillor
Fr. Siby Areeparambil	: Member (study)

St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady

Fr. Benny Chengalikkavil	: Superior & rector, director – peniel
Fr. Vince Koickal	: Administrator & first councillor

Fr. Deepu Vallooran	: Vice rector & vocation promoter, PRO – st. Camillus Province, India
<i>Jyoti Darsan, Nagpur</i>	
Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu	: Superior & novice master
Fr. Christopher Surin	: Administrator & Asst. novice master (first councillor)
Fr. Jaison Narikkuzhiyil	: Member, in-charge (North-East Mission)
<i>St. Camillus college, Eluru</i>	
Fr. Patrick Nayak	: Superior & rector
Fr. Savari Sundar Raj	: Administrator & vice-rector (first councillor)
Dn. Kurella Adithya	: Member
<i>St. Camillus Ashram, Hyderabad</i>	
Fr. Shiju Kureekkattil	: Superior & director
Fr. Jaison Kannamkulathil	: Administrator & first councillor
Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu	: Member (Asst. in-charge, North-East mission)
<i>Sneagram, Krishnagiri</i>	
Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil	: Superior & director
Fr. Biju Ilanjikkal	: Administrator & first councillor
Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh	: Member, Chaplain (St.Philomena's hospital)
<i>Snehatheeram, Aluva</i>	
Fr. Biju Kizhukkarakkatt	: Superior & Rector
Fr. Sunny Aresseril	: Administrator & first councillor
Dn. Abin Kettupurackal	: Member
<i>St. Camillus Seminary, Trichy</i>	
Fr. William Eronimoose	: Superior & rector
Fr. Mithun Bisoi Chandan	: Administrator & vice rector
Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran	: Member
<i>Special appointments</i>	
Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu has been appointed as the Master of the professed of the province.	

- Fr. Benny Chengalikkavil has been appointed as the director of Peniel Retreat Centre.
- Fr. Bacil Singh has been appointed to manage the website of the society and Sneha Charitable Trust.
- Fr. Jaison Narikkuzhiyil has been appointed as the in-charge of North-East Mission.
- Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu is the assistant in-charge of the North-East Mission.
- Fr. Biju Kizhukkarakkattu has been appointed as the in-charge to handle legal matters of the province and as the spiritual animator of camillian family, Aluva.
- Fr. Deepu Valloran has been appointed as the PRO of St. Camillus Province, India.

6. Commissions of the secretariats and its members

(The secretariats will animate its activities through various commissions under them)

Community & spiritual life: Spiritual Animation Commission

- Fr. Sebastian Christi (Coordinator)
- Fr. Bobin Eanthumkal (Member)
- Fr. Bobit Paimpillilkunnel (Member)

Formation

Commission for Formation

- Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu (Coordinator)
- Fr. William Eronimoose (Member)
- Fr. Patrick Nayak (Member)
- Fr. Deepu Vallooran (Member)

Zonal Voation Promoters

- North & North-East zone – Fr. Christopher
- Central zone – Fr. Mithun Bisoi Chandan
- South zone – Fr. Deepu Vallooran

Ministry & mission

Health Animation Commission

- Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil (Coordinator)
- Fr. Biju Kizhukkarakkattu (Member)
- Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil (Member)
- Fr. Shiju Kureekkattil (Member)

Communication and Media

- Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh (Coordinator)
- Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil (Member)
- Fr. Siby Chennattu (Member)
- Fr. Tinto Valamparakel (Member)

Camillian Publications

- Fr. Siby Chennattu (Coordinator)
- Fr. William Eronimoose (Member)
- Fr. Antoni Kunnel (Member)
- Fr. Russel Tharappel (Member)

Camillian Task Force

- Fr. Siby Kaitharan (National coordinator)
- Fr. Jaison Narikkuzhyil (Regional coordinator – North-East)
- Fr. Vince Koickal (Regional coordinator – South)
- Fr. Patrick Nayak (Regional coordinator – North)

Finance

Finance Commission

- Fr. Lijo Pattathil (Coordinator)
- Fr. Jomin Vempenickal (Member)
- Fr. Vince Koickal (Member)

Fund-raising commission

- Fr. Benny Chengalikavil (Coordinator)
- Fr. Joshy Kanjirathamkunel (Member)
- Fr. John Kakkarakunel (Member)
- Fr. Siby Kaitharan (Member)

Internal auditing commission

- Fr. Lijo Pattathil (Coordinator)
- Fr. Sunny Aresseril (Member)

Construction & Maintenance Commission

- Fr. Biju Ilanjikkal (Coordinator)
- Fr. Sebasitan Christi (Member)
- Fr. Shiju Kureekkattil (Member)
- Fr. Savari Sundar Raj (Member)

It is recommended that each Secretariat holds its meeting with their Commission, and the agenda for the meeting shall be shared in advance with the provincial and the council for their suggestions.

7. Zonal gatherings

Zonal gatherings are encouraged under the aegis of the Secretariat for Spiritual and Community living to create a sense of fraternity in community and among confreres.

The following are the various zones and its coordinators:

South zone (Manathavady, Mangaluru, Aluva) - Fr. Sunny Aresseril

Central zone (Upasana, Snehadaan, Trichy, Krishnagiri) – Fr. Biju Ilanjikkal

North zone (Nagpur, Hyderabad, Eluru) – Fr. Jaison Kannamkulathil

8. Request from Chairman of CBCI office for Justice, Peace and Development

Most Rev. Gerald Almedia, bishop of Jabalpur & chairman of the CBCI office for Justice, Peace and Development has requested to avail a religious as the secretary of CBCI office for Justice, Peace and Development. The provincial council accepted the request and decided to avail Fr. William Eronimoose for the service of the Church while carrying out his responsibilities in his designated community.

9. Extra domum for the religious residing outside the community

The provincial and the council decided to grant Extra Domum for the religious who will be residing outside their respective communities, namely Fr. Siby Areeparambil, Fr. Bacil Singh, and Fr. Tinto Valamparakkel.

10. Pieces of information

- In preparation for the feast of St. Camillus de Lellis, each community will begin Novena to St. Camillus from 5th July 2022.
- Each religious is requested to email his passport size photo in cassock to Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh, the Council secretary, as soon as possible to make identity cards. Email: secretarymiindia@gmail.com, bacilsinghmi@gmail.com
- Fr. Provincial will attend KRCR General Body meeting scheduled 07-09 July 2022 at Ecumenical Centre, Whitefield, Bengaluru.
- The newly-constructed Children's play park at St. Camillus Ashram, Hyderabad will be blessed on 14th July 2022. We express our sincere gratitude to Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation for financially supporting us to realise this project.
- Dn. Kettupurakkal Abin has begun his diaconate ministry at St. Mary's Church, Kallody in the diocese of Mananthavady.
- Dn. Kurella Adithya will begin his diaconate ministry at Goodmanpetta Parish in the diocese of Vijayawada.
- The religious on transfer shall hand over their office to the newly appointed religious and assume their new office on or before July 20, 2022. A soft copy of the handover document duly signed by the concerned religious shall be sent to the office of the Provincial.

2. Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on July 22, 2022

1. Letter from the Superior General

The Superior General Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin in his pastoral letter has expressed the relevance of the theme of “More Order and Less Province” emerging out of the Chapter deliberations. This invites us to becoming a part of the great family of the Order. In the light of these, the Provincial and Council seek the opinion of the members of the Province regarding the Active and Passive voice of the confreres working abroad. In order to understand the mind of the province, Provincial and council decided to gather the opinions, suggestions and proposals from all the Perpetually professed members of the Province so as to discuss them at a ‘larger forum’ for further discernment.

2. Appreciation to the members of Camillian Task Force

Camillian Task Force (CTF) in association with St. Johns Medical College Hospital and Guwahati Gana Sevana Society had organized medical relief camps in the flood-affected regions in the State of Assam. We extend our sincere appreciation to all team members and other support staff for their tireless service to the neediest of the society and courageous witnessing to the merciful love of Jesus Christ. The team could cater to the medical aid of thousands of people in the region. We also extend our gratitude to CADIS and other benefactors who contributed generously to actualize this relief mission.

3. Request from Jesus Youth International to avail Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran to participate in the Youth International Training Program.

Jesus Youth International has requested to avail Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran for the Youth International Training program to be held from 14 to 27 August 2022 at Camillian Pastoral Centre, Bangkok. The Provincial and Council accept the request and permits Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran to accompany the team in this training program.

4. Pieces of Information:

- The Provincial and Council extend its best wishes and prayerful and fraternal support to all the confreres who assume the new responsibilities in their respective communities.
- Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil has begun his one year of Hospital Administration Studies at Loyola Institute of Business Administration.
- Superiors Meeting will be held on 22nd August 2022.
- Formators Meeting will be held on 23rd August 2022.
- Annual Retreat for the First batch will be held at St. Camillus Provincialate from 13th to 18th November 2022.
- Annual Retreat for the Second Batch will be held at St. Camillus Provincialate from 27th January to 1st February 2023.
- Provincial will begin his pastoral visit to the Communities in the month of August. The dates of visitation will be communicated soon.

3. Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on October 25, 2022

1. Evaluation of the mid-term formation reports of the Novices

The Novice Master presented the mid-term reports of three novices. Provincial and Council had a detailed discussion and evaluation on their reports and promoted two of the three novices, namely, Ashil Felix Pulickal and Kizhakkethottam Mathews Marian Mathew for the next term of the novitiate. The Council was not in favor of promoting Kandulna Ashok to the next term of novitiate.

2. Updates of the Students in Formation

There are 85 students in formation in our different seminaries. Out of these, 55 students are in three minor seminaries among whom 28 aspirants joined this year. There are two novices, and 28 Temporary professed religious out of whom three are doing their regency and others are pursuing their philosophical and theological studies.

3. Ongoing Formation for the Perpetually Professed

Considering the importance of ongoing formation of the religious, the Formation Commission will organize renewal programs for the perpetually professed members in two batches in the summer of year 2023. Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu will organize the programs.

4. Requests for Ordination to Priesthood

Deacons Kettupurackal Abin, and Kurella Adithya made their requests to be ordained to Priesthood. After discussing their reports and listening to the opinions of the respective in-charges, Provincial and his Council approved their requests to be ordained priests.

5. Requests from Communities

a) Request from Snehadaan Hospital

Snehadaan community expressed the concern over the inconveniences it would bring to the patients once the hospital starts functioning unless the civil works of the first floor over the OPD area gets completed along with the first phase. The community requested for the approval of an additional budget for the completion of the civil works. The Provincial and Council discussed and in consultation with the Provincial bursar, approved the request of the community to complete the civil works of the first floor of Snehadaan Hospital, excluding the plumbing and electrification works.

b) Request from Hyderabad Community

Hyderabad Community presented the revised quotation for the completion of the Destitute/Children's home. After detailed study on the cost estimation, council in consultation with the provincial bursar decided to complete the construction of the Ground Floor of the said building and grants the building contract to Zion constructions.

c) Request from Snehatheeram Community

Snehatheeram community requested the Provincial and Council to grant an additional amount of Rs.176,000/- to complete the unforeseen repair and painting works of the community building. The request was approved in consultation with provincial bursar to carry out the maintenance work of the house which was damaged by the flood.

d) Request from Eluru Community

St. Camillus College, Eluru community requested the Provincial and Council permission to buy a motor bike, which the community deemed urgent as this was needed for the deacon to go for the ministries to the assigned parish. The Council accepted and approved the request of the community to buy a new motor bike and asks the community to submit the copy of the quotation to the Provincial bursar.

6. Requests from Religious for Studies

a) Request from Fr. Biju Kizhukkarakkattu

Fr. Biju Kizhukkarakkattu requested the provincial and the council to permit him to attend a training program on EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy). Council permits him to take the training while asking him to seek sponsors to meet the expense of the training.

b) Request from Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu Babu

Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu Babu requested the Provincial and Council to permit him to do Masters in Social Work. The Council approves his request.

c) Request from Fr. Jaison Kannamkulathil

Provincial and Council accepted the request of Fr. Jaison Kannamkulathil to pursue a PG course in Disaster Management or PG Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication from IGNOU or Child & Adolescent Counselling accredited diploma from NHCA.

7. Proposal from the Commission for Camillian Publications

The Provincial and Council discussed the proposal of the commission for Camillian Publications to club both Vartha and Vitae - Camillians as one publication to bring it out as an official document of the province in both electronic and print forms. The Council approved the proposal of the commission and decides to ask the commission to bring it out twice a year, with the name 'Vitae - Camillians'.

8. Religious for ministry abroad

Rev. Fr. Stephen Foster, the Provincial delegate of Anglo-Irish province requested the Provincial and Council to avail three Camillian Confreres for ministry in the parish church of Cork in Ireland. Discussing upon the request and the availability of religious for the mission, the provincial and council felt the need of making use of this opportunity to extent the mission and establish a community. Thinking in this line, Provincial and Council decided to send Fr. Narikkuzhiyil Jaison and Fr. Ilanjikkal Biju for the new mission in Ireland.

9. Appointment of Fr. William Eronimoose

The Standing committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India appoints Fr. William Eronimoose as the Secretary of CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development for one year. Provincial and Council extends their prayerful support to Fr. William to carry out his duty in its fullness for the needs of the Church in India.

10. Termination of Collaboration with Snehacares. Inc

The provincial and council have decided to terminate all forms of association with Snehacares. Inc., a U.S. based charitable trust formed with a vision to support the cause of Sneha Charitable Trust, owned by St. Camillus Province, India. This decision has been taken due to the unwanted interference of the President of Snehacares Inc. in the affairs of Sneha Charitable Trust and due to their continued attempts to malign the goodwill and reputation of Sneha Charitable Trust. Provincial and Council hereby ask the existing board members from St. Camillus Province, India to submit their Resignation to Snehacares Inc. with immediate effect.

11. Pieces of Information

- Two of our Temporary professed members, namely Jestin Vellathottathil and Bimal Nayak have discontinued from the formation and the Religious life.
- Frs. Biju Kizhukkarakattu and Siby Kaitharan will participate in the Annual Leadership Conference of CADIS in Bangkok, Thailand from 7th to 11th November 2022.
- Fr. Eronimoose William has been re-appointed as the spiritual animator and counsellor for Family Commission of Trichy Diocese.
- Diocese of Pala has constructed 82 houses with the financial aid given through the province for the construction and furnishing of the houses in the flood-affected areas of Koottickal, Kerala.
- Provincial and Council express their deepest sympathy on the demise of Mr. Joseph, the beloved father of Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil.
- Provincial and council express their prayerful support to all the elderly and ailing parents of our confreres.
- Dates to Remember:
 - Regents' Meeting: 09th November 2022
 - Ministry Meeting: 28th November 2022
 - Annual Retreat (Batch – 1): 20th to 25th November 2022

4. Report of the Council Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on December 20, 2022

1. Annual General Assembly

Annual General Assembly and Fraternity Day of St. Camillus Province, India will be held at St. Camillus Provincialate on 2nd and 3rd February 2023. All the Perpetually professed religious residing in India are expected to physically participate in the Assembly as it would be an occasion for us to meet each other and discuss various matters pertaining to the life of the province. The Indian religious residing outside India are cordially invited to participate in the assembly through an online platform.

2. Priestly Ordinations

Dn. Kettupurackal Abin Baby will be ordained a priest by His Excellency Sebastian Adayanthrath on 27th December 2022 at St. Mary's church, Puthussery, and Dn. Kurella Adithya will be ordained a priest by His Excellency Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao on 9th January 2023 at St. Ignatius of Loyola church, Korukollu. Let us specially offer our beloved deacons in our celebration of Holy Mass and prayers. Religious who are attending the ordinations are gently requested to inform the Mananthavady and Eluru communities respectively for your hospitality.

3. Appointment of Bro. Madhu

Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu Anthony Raj has been appointed as the member of Snehasadan Community till the end of the present three-year term. He will be pursuing his BSc Nursing (Post Basic) at Indira Nursing College, Mangaluru.

4. Requests for the ministries of Lector and Acolyte

Provincial and council approved the requests of Bros. Samuja Nayak (Rahul) and Sikendra Singh to be admitted to the ministry of Acolyte and the requests of Bros. Able Jose Kappukattil, Absalin K., Rohit Dhanwar, Sumit Barla, Arun Ponnammkudam, Christo Joseph Niravathinal, Prasad Nayak and Justin Job Kalarpara for the conferral of the minor orders of Lector and Acolyte.

5. Request from Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran

Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran requested the Provincial and Council to permit him to travel to Uganda for a mission exposure as part of his sabbatical year program for three months from middle of January to the end of March 2023. Provincial and council approved the request and permitted him to travel to Uganda.

6. Request from St. Camillus Ashram

St. Camillus Ashram requested for the permission to build a staff quarters, water tank, tiling of walls and roofing of washing area above the new home being constructed at the campus for the special children, as the community is pondering of increasing the number of disabled children from 30 to 60, which would require an increase in the number of staff-members as well. After discussing the need and evaluating the cost estimation, the provincial council approved the request to construct a new water tank, two rooms and two dormitories for the staff, laying of tiles at the walls in veranda, steel staircase with granite finishing and roofing of the washing area.

7. Request from the Bishop of Chanda Diocese

His excellency Ephrem Narikulam, Bishop of Eparchy of Chanda has requested to avail the services of Camillian religious in the hospitals of the diocese of Chanda. He also invited the regents for the mission exposure in the diocese. Provincial and the council considered to send the regents to the mission centers of the diocese, whereas availing the services of medical personnel is not possible at the moment as all of them are under various trainings.

8. Religious returning to India after commendable service as Chaplain

Fr. Paimpillikunnel Bobit after his fruitful ministry at the University hospital at Waterford, Ireland is returning to India. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable services Fr. Bobit has rendered during his tenure in Ireland and for his availability for the needs of the province.

9. Construction Updates

a) North-East:

The structural works of the construction of community house at Bondapara in Assam is almost complete. Currently, levelling of the land is going on. Remaining works are roofing above 2nd floor, tiling, painting, construction of parapet wall, furnishing of the house, etc. We hope to open the house by April 2023.

b) Snehadaan

The renovation and alteration of Snehadaan to be a hospital is progressing at a formidable pace. There was a delay from the part of structural steel work contractor, which is sorted out now. We hope to get the civil works complete by the middle of January 2023. In the meantime, the community has initiated the process of obtaining various permissions and recruitment of staff for the hospital.

c) St. Camillus Ashram

We have restarted the civil works of the building for disabled children at St. Camillus Ashram, which was originally designated to be a Destitute home. The civil works along with process of obtaining permissions for the centre is going on.

10. Pieces of Information

- Fr. Bacil Sebastias Singh has successfully completed his LLB.
- We have received 5000 Holy Mass intentions from the Archdiocese of Thalassery
- The proposed annual budgets of the communities for the Financial Year 2023 – 2024 should be submitted before 10th February 2023.
- Dipak Lakra, regent of St. Camillus College, Eluru and Joseph Thamizh Suriya, pursuing 3rd year philosophy at Upasana have discontinued the religious life and left the Order.
- The internal auditing of the communities will be done in the months of January and February 2023.
- We extend our prayerful support to the ailing parents and relatives of our religious.

11. Dates to Remember

- Priestly Ordination of Dn. Kettupurackal Abin: 27th December 2022
- Priestly Ordination of Dn. Kurella Aditya: 09th January 2023
- Annual Retreat Batch II: 27th January - 01st February 2023
- Annual General Assembly: 2nd – 3rd February 2023
- World Day of the Sick: 11th February 2023
- Formators meeting: 06th March 2023.
- Next Provincial Council Meeting: 08th March 2023.

1. Message for the Feast of St. Camillus – July 14, 2022

Dear confreres,

We are celebrating yet again the feast of St. Camillus, a giant of charity. I presume that you have been preparing spiritually well to celebrate his feast, particularly, through the recitation of Novena to St. Camillus, remembering and thanking God for the most significant moments and graces, which St. Camillus received from God. He was a man who used to find joy in serving the sick. The uncorrupted heart of St. Camillus still reminds us of the fragrance of his selfless service and unconditional love to the sick. He says, “Brother, if you commit a sin and take a pleasure in it, the pleasure passes but the sin remains. But if you do something virtuous, even though you are tired, the tiredness passes but the virtue remains.” Therefore, let’s never get weary of doing good to our neighbour (as Christ envisages) and celebrate each moment of our life as a festival of charity.

As we celebrate our patron’s feast, let’s remember all the sick and suffering in our families, communities, societies,

and the world at large. We pray to the Divine Healer through the intercession of St. Camillus to touch and heal them through the agents of compassion and mercy. Let’s join our hands in prayer for the most needy and vulnerable people of our society. Let’s do the ordinary in an extraordinary way, bringing the love of Christ into whatever we think, say and do, so that the people in need will recognize the merciful love of Christ through our works of charity. We remember prayerfully our CTF volunteers serving the flood-affected victims in the state of Assam. The humanity has been suffering for the past couple of years due to Covid. We continue to express our solidarity to the victims of this pandemic and express our kindness and generosity to them.

May St. Camillus intercede to God for all of us and the sick.

2. Pastoral message for the Feast of Assumption of Mother Mary, August 15, 2022

Dear confreres,

We are celebrating the feast of the Assumption of our Mother Mary on 15 August 2022 along with the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of our mother nation. The feast of the Assumption of our Lady reminds us of the real joy she cherished being chosen as the Mother of the Saviour of the world and the true freedom she enjoyed even in the most difficult moments of her earthly life. At the foot of the Cross she remained with her Son even when his dearest ones deserted Him. Her silence is the sure sign of hope in the Lord. She is the model of Hope, Love and Charity – three principal virtues that every Camillian should bear in his life.

At this feast of the Assumption, let us be assured that her assumption into heaven in body and soul is not just Mary ascending from the grave, rather it is the hope, the longing, the affirmation of God that what happened to Jesus and Mary his mother will also happen to all of us. And so, let us take heart: Even as the Blessed Mother goes up to heaven, so too she visits us, as once she visited her cousin, Elizabeth. From her exalted place in heaven she journeys to the threshold of our hearts

to teach us the way of love and to help us follow her to the courts of heaven. Therefore, let us, like our Mother Mary – trust in God and in His promises; engage ourselves in heartfelt prayer and steady contemplation on the Word of God; and allow the Lord to overturn our worldly values, and place ourselves humbly before God's throne in the Sacrament of Mercy. Yes, Mary teaches us the way of faith, prayer and repentance as the path to victory. Mary intercedes for us, powerfully, as the first of all the saints, as the source of so many graces for each of us.

Thus, today we celebrate ourselves. We celebrate the greatness of humanity. It's the greatness that man, despite everything, can come back in faith – faith in each other, which is to believe in each other, to care for each other, to love each other as Jesus loves us, as Mother Mary cares for us..

Mary, assumed into heaven, Mary, the Queen of Peace, pray for us!

3. Christmas Message



Dear confreres,

This is Christmas again. Christ is here to give us his warmth amidst the chill. Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it in abundance” (Jn.10:10). Christmas isn’t just about the birth of Christ. It’s about His purpose and His mission. He came to set the captives free and to give us life more abundantly. Once we understand that we have the life of God inside us, we’ll begin to act like Jesus did. We will be just what God intended—the hands and feet of Jesus. We are called to be life-givers!! “Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering

and tribulation; be constant in prayer” (Rom. 12:12). Christmas is a time to celebrate victory! Satan couldn’t stop Jesus from coming to earth, doing His ministry, and being resurrected to bring us life, and He can’t stop your victory! That’s why we live in hope and rejoice in victory this Christmas! Rejoice that you’re in Him. Rejoice that heaven is your home. Rejoice that Jesus in you is greater than the Satan in the world.

“No wonder my heart is glad, my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence” (Acts.2:26-28). The only

hope that we have in the world is faith in Jesus Christ. That hope is something we can rest in, no matter what our circumstances are. Jesus offers His rest to all who are feeling burdened or under a heavy load—especially when things don't seem to be happening the way we thought it would be.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim.1:7). This Christmas, we should be running over with hope because we have a Saviour, a Deliverer, a Healer and a Strong Tower! Even when there is panic button being pushed everywhere you look, Jesus says, “Don’t worry, have faith in God, and refuse to fear!”

Mother Mary and Joseph believed and acted according to the Word. Hence, there came forth the Son of God, Emmanuel. Somewhere in our long Christmas To-do list, have we made room for Jesus? When you give His Word first place in your life, you open your heart and your ears to hear the Holy Spirit leading and guiding you. When you spend quality time with God, He can relieve you of the burdens and life struggles you are carrying. So, let us simplify our life at this Christmas and give first priority to attending God’s Word on your To-do list. It’s the only sure way to live BLESSED.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” –(John 3:16). God is Love. That’s why He sent



The only hope that we have in the world is faith in Jesus Christ. That hope is something we can rest in, no matter what our circumstances are.

us the greatest gift ever given— Jesus. At this Christmas, let us impart God’s love to each other as our Christmas gift. Show the world the true meaning of this season, which is Love. “And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it”(1 Peter 3:15). Most of the world is without hope. They may put up a Christmas tree, decorate and buy gifts—but may not be really filled with the Hope of Christmas. Therefore, let’s share with one another the reason for our hope – Jesus, our salvation. It is the greatest gift you can ever give the other.

Wishing you the warmth of Baby Jesus.

4. Keynote address for superiors' meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on August 22, 2022

I feel honoured to host this first meeting of the superiors of our Province. As I officially welcome all of you to this meeting, I place it on record my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your willingness to animate the communities of our Province. I know it's challenging to animate the communities in this changing religious, socio-political scenario. However, your commitment and courageous leadership is much appreciated. This is also an occasion for me to thank everyone of you for having placed the trust in me to lead the province along with Frs. Teji, Jofree, Benny and Basil. I am blessed to have four efficient and vibrant Councilors with me in coordinating and animating the affairs of our province. My special note appreciation goes to Fr. Lijo Pattathil for having taken up the responsibility of being the Provincial bursar, a demanding task, which I personally know as I have been managing the finance of the province for the past 9 years. I wish him all the best and God's blessings to fulfill the task entrusted to him with due diligence and dedication. I have to congratulate and offer my support and best wishes to Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu as well as he has willfully accepted to be the novice master of the province, a

responsibility which also demands a full-time availability and dedicated accompaniment in forming, nurturing and pruning the young buds from the garden of our novitiate to be the best and fragrant flowers for the future.

Well, having said that, let me express my earnest desire for you dear superiors in your stewardship of the communities. We all know that to be a good superior is to be a good shepherd who leads from the front, accompanies the flock, spends time with the sheep in their moments of joys and sorrows, moments of their crisis and confusions, goes after the sheep that goes astray, and rejoices over restoring the lost sheep back to the flock. Similarly, each superior has the obligation to be available for the smooth animation of the community, to spend time with his confreres to celebrate their occasions of joys, to support them in times of sorrows, to dialogue with one another when there are differences of opinion/interest. Moreover, it's important to be calm and poised to handle difficult situations – take the opinion of experts with an intention to end the matters of dispute in a positive note. In leadership, let's cultivate the attitude of Jesus, just as He came not to be served but to serve (Mt

20:28), who reached out to the people who are in need of his attention, who chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong (1Cor 1:27), who said that it's the healthy who needs the doctor, but the sick (Mt.9:12). Let's be inspired by the leadership qualities of Pope Francis. We truly become leaders, if we learn to develop incarnational and transformative leadership. We are called to shift the gears from being administrators to being animators.

We are called to lead a life of fraternity in our communities. It's important not to live our life carrying the wounds of the past, but to lead a meaningful present with a firm hope for the future. If we grudge against the past, there is a yesterday for every today. In that process, we may forget to relish the beauty and sweetness of the present. Let's truly believe that everything happens in our life in accordance with the design of God. The looser today may be victor tomorrow. I share this with life experiences. Therefore, let's not grumble against the good fortunes that we have not received and that the other has received. It's also a gesture of charity to constantly remind yourselves that just like your desire to uphold your dignity and integrity, everyone likes to preserve them. It's not fitting for a religious to publish matters relating to the members of his own family at the 'streets' with an intention to spoil the goodwill of the other. If you know that your brother is going astray, have that courage and guts to confront him and share your concern about him. Superiors have a major role to play in initiating the process of reconciliation

among confreres or religious/students if you notice that if any member of your community is in crisis or in need of reconciliation, even if you are not directly involved in it. Just like the Superior General is the guardian of the Order and constitution, in local level it is the responsibility of the local superiors to continue this mission.

We need continuous spiritual/personal renewal along with our personal prayer and spiritual exercises. Community meetings and fraternal sharing/dialogue are to be regular in order to have a smooth community living. You need to organize Monthly recollections and frequent reception of the sacrament of confession. Where there are no formation houses, you may attend the diocesan recollections. Four Masses to be celebrated every month: 1. For the living and deceased religious of the entire Order. 2. For our living and deceased benefactors. 3. For the Intentions of the Province, and 4. For Vocations. In November Mass to be celebrated for our relatives, priests and all the deceased who were assisted by our religious during their illness. You are encouraged to attend the ongoing formation programs as per your choice and send your community members for the same. If need be, we can organize them at the provincial level. We need to read, reflect and meditate on the Word of God, for it is on the Sacred scripture that we base our entire living and set the examples for others to follow. We also have to update ourselves with the pastoral and encyclical letters of the Pope and other pastoral and religious directives from the Church.

We should be prudent in the use of social media. Take care not to talk delicate matters over the phone. Similarly, make sure that you do not post contents, photos and videos on the social media that may trigger racial, sectarian, religious and/or political sentiments. At the same time, we all know that social media is followed by almost all people in our society. Therefore, it is fitting that we make use of them wisely and creatively to do advocacy and promotions about our ministries and activities. I am sure that our media team is already working on it and will come up with creative suggestions on this aspect. Another area of importance is how we deal with people in business. Let's continuously remind ourselves that business is always business. We as religious place a lot of trust and faith in people, but the latter may not have the same commitment and faithfulness to us. What I want to communicate to you is that in matters of business, each and everything should be documented, especially while dealing with the corporate society. We have to update ourselves with the formalities to be observed while making any purchases, entering into agreements and/or monetary transactions. This is not to regret and weep or accuse each other about the past, but to be more careful with our present and the future business dealings. If we are ignorant, we should consult with the experts. I urge you to take communitarian decisions prior to executing any of your plans in the community – be it a construction or a destruction. Let's cultivate an ecological spirituality at our premises. We have to be responsible to the nature today, else, we will be bringing down our life span

on this earth. Let's reduce the use of plastics and other materials that harm the nature. Let's plant the trees that gives us life other than chopping them down for our ideologies and reasoning. Let's be merciful and just to the nature for we are people who witness to the merciful love of Jesus. It is also important to involve and discuss in the community and let them know about the important steps that we undertake in the community and be humble enough to take their suggestions/proposals and recommendations on them.

The prime focus of each superior is to fulfill his duties well. Sometimes there is a tendency in us to be so much concerned and worried about the duties of others in one's community or other communities while one's duties are seldom carried out neatly. Owing to the increase in the entertainment and infotainment apps in the online platform, some of our religious tend to spend their quality time in idleness by watching movies and other TV/YouTube episodes, which triggers forgetfulness of execution of one's own duties in time. It's the duty of the superior as a good steward to make sure that there is orderliness in all aspects of the community – be it in day-to-day administration, financial accountability, spiritual exercises, maintenance of the members, or management of students and staff, order of the house and other assets. It is also high time that we remind ourselves about the need to maintain a professional approach to the staff and maintenance of proper records in all matters pertaining to the staff at the time of joining and relieving.

We need to be people who are hospitable and charitable to our own members and family members of the families of our religious. We need to extend our help in whatever way possible to make them comfortable at our houses. We shall welcome and treat well the confreres visiting us on their holidays both from India and abroad. Let's also find some time to talk to or chat with our own confreres and be connected to them in whatever way possible.

I had the opportunity to make my pastoral visit to few of the communities and meet the confreres and students. I have a positive impression about the life in the communities. I am sure that you are slowly settling down in the communities where new members have taken charge. I am overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and character you show to build up the communities with new initiatives. I had the opportunity to meet and share with confreres and understand the challenges and discuss and offer possible interventions to the challenges. I hope to know more of your plans in my visits to other communities and I am sure that you will be presenting in detail the future plans and the vision for your community.

In formation, there are various challenges. The quality of our commitment to vocation promotion needs to be reflected on. Effectiveness of the zonal wise vocation promotion has to be evaluated. Superiors have the responsibility to animate the vocation promotion activities of the community. I will present them in detail in the formators' meeting tomorrow.

Ministry is the life and backbone of the province. It is with high regard that I look into the collaborative ministries, which we have initiated at some of our centres. Institutional care ministries, especially the OVC care that we undertake still have a relevance and is highly appreciated by the society. We are eagerly waiting to begin our self-sustainable ministry with the introduction of San Camillo hospital. I hope and pray that this will give a new face of healthcare for Camillians in India. Camillian Task Force is actively getting involved in disaster interventions already in various parts of India. Thanks to Fr. Siby Kaitharan and all the zonal coordinators of CTF for organizing the activities. Another area of ministry that we focus to build up and establish is the psychological care ministry through counselling centres at various places like the centre we have at Aluva. We should also think about the future of our HIV children care centres, as the number of new cases of infection on children are almost zero. I presume and pray that the Mananthavady community has certain concrete plans to keep alive the Peniel retreat centre. The presence of Camillian family is a great support to our ministries. However, there is a slowdown seen in their involvement in our ministries. We need to constantly motivate and encourage the Camillian Family members to get actively involved in our ministry, and make them feel one with our ministry.

A major source of the income of our province comes from the salaries of our confreres working abroad. The fundraising initiatives done by

the ministry communities are also praiseworthy. Fundraising committee should seriously begin the task of raising more funds through local donations, projects and CSR funds. They need to coordinate with each community to encourage them to tap the potential donors in their areas and share ways to attract them to associate with us through financial aid. Maintain a good rapport with our benefactors. Challenges in finance management of our communities include lack of local fundraising in terms of sponsorship for the students at the formation communities, maintenance of some of our buildings due to their age, peculiar structure, and lack of due attention; transparency and accountability from religious for the income they earn out of their services, mingling of personal expenses with community expenses, finding funds for the higher education of religious, higher expectation of salaries by the staff at our centres, changing financial policies by the Govt. etc. Any income earned by the religious in the community has to be handed over to the Superior, who will give an account of the entire income to the Bursar of the house prior to preparation of financial report of each month. For an easy management of the personal expenses, the provincial administration proposes to introduce the system of giving the personal allowance of each religious to their respective personal bank accounts as advance, preferably in two or four instalments. Each religious has to give an account of whatever they have spent out of this advance, at the end of the month, to the bursar and in the community meeting. If this system is followed, it is the duty of the bursar

to see that all the personal expenses are booked from this advance amount given to the religious.

Updates about our confreres

Fr. Reji Kaithaparampil has reached the U S Camillian delegation to extend his services at the delegation. He will be initially spending some time to learn about the systems and culture of the place and attend certain courses to equip himself for future ministry. The Austrian province has willfully accepted Fr. Prakash Kuttiyath to begin his mission in Austria. Let's extend our support to him in these days of preparation for him. Bro. Valle Vijaya Madhu Babu is searching his possibilities to study and work abroad, which is still in process. Fr. Joy Inchodikkaran is on sabbatical year and will be attending various courses, seminars and refreshment programs in this year. Frs. Jobin Anchupankil and Sibi Areeparampil are doing their PG in Community medicine and Psychiatric medicine respectively. There are other religious who are pursuing their studies while fulfilling their responsibilities in their respective communities. Currently, we have 9 confreres working in Anglo-Irish province, 5 in North Italian Province, 4 in the Diocese of Passau, Germany, 2 out of 5 in the U S A Camillian delegation, and 1 in Spanish Province. Two of our confreres are helping in the Ugandan mission as well.

The Northeast Mission

The construction of the community house at our land at Boko, Rajapara in the Archdiocese of Guwahati is nearing its completion. The structure work, except the roofing works and

plastering is complete. Fr. Jaison Narikuzhiyil will be taking charge from Fr. Biju Ilanjikkal for completing the remaining works and beginning the activities and programs of the house later this month. I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Biju Ilanjikkal for his selfless service in looking after the entire construction and his commitment to this multi-tasking. He availed himself for this mission while being the bursar of Upasana community.

Letter from the Superior General

The Superior General Rev. Fr. Pedro Tramontin, in his pastoral letter to me has asked us about the prospect of interprovincial collaboration. He says that our province is one of the Camillian provinces most involved in inter-provincial collaboration and as such, certain issues such as the exercise of 'active and passive voice' and more direct participation of the confreres in the new provinces and/or delegations in which they live, is a subject much felt by the General Government of the Order. More concretely, the Superior General, asked the possibility of granting the 'active and passive voice' of these religious either by incardination or temporarily so that, in the not-too-distant future, Indian Confreres living and working in the USA and in Ireland, may assume direct and concrete responsibility for the present and future of the Camillian presence in these two Province/ delegation.

Tasks ahead

- Completion and smooth running of Snehadaan Hospital

- Completion of the ministry house at St. Camillus Ashram, Yellempet
- Plan about the most suitable ministry at Thalayolaparampa

Chapter decisions to be implemented

- Provincial administration shall abide by the Chapter decisions. To set any chapter decisions aside, it needs an absolute majority at a general gathering.
- Provincial bursar, with another qualified religious shall be appointed to manage, monitor, renew and update the documents of the province as well as to look after the legal, property-related and construction matters of the province.
- The province will have a separate secretariat for Mission

Conclusion

I urge all of you once again to give your maximum time, effort and energy to make your communities a place where the love of God is revealed and merciful love of Jesus is witnessed. Practice synodality in your decisions. Be a true brother to one another and a good model to the people under your care. Let your actions speak more than your words. Encourage oneself and others to live the charism of mercy to the sick. May the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit wrap you to give you good insights, wisdom and understanding. May the constant intercession of Mary our mother protect you from all dangers. May St. Camillus our founder inspire you to lead your flock from the front.

And I assure you my continued support and availability.

5. Keynote address for formators' meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on August 23, 2022

It's my pleasure to address you dear formators as we gather for this first meeting of the formators and vocation promoters of our Province. As I officially welcome all of you to this meeting, I take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate all the formators for your willingness to take up or continue the formation of our students in our Province. I know it's a responsibility, which is more demanding and less rewarding. Nevertheless, I think that we have chosen the right people for this job of promoting, forming, nurturing, mentoring, accompanying and sometimes pruning duty. All the more, we have a right leader in the person of Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu to animate the Secretariat of formation of our province. I am confident that Frs. William, Patrick and Deepu are extending their support in forming the directives for the smooth functioning of the secretariat.

In my pastoral visit to few of the formation communities I could interact with the formators and students. I have a positive impression about the life in the formation communities. While appreciating the vibrance among

the candidates in formation, it is my strong feeling that it's a daunting task for the formators and other religious in the formation house to motivate the students more to the vocation they have received to the Camillian religious life. You need to challenge them in their various circumstances to make them know the preciousness of their vocation and that how well they should respond to this vocation and foster it. There may be certain elements of complacency in their overall behaviour. With regard to the formation, personal accompaniment needs more importance. The students at their initial stages of formation needs accompaniment – to learn, to seek advice, to clarify, and for guidance. They come from their homes where they savored the love and care of their parents and siblings. We, as formators have to become a real father, mother and brother/sister to them through our approach and interactions.

We need to encourage personal prayer and spiritual exercises for the students. Community meetings and fraternal sharing/dialogue are to be regular in order to have a smooth community living as well as to know the pulse

and mind of the students. Monthly recollections and frequent confession need to be seriously attended to. We need to give time for the students to read, reflect and meditate on the Word of God and to learn the life of saints. Annual retreats are occasions for them to renew and refresh their spiritual life and rediscover the sacredness of their vocation. Spiritual direction of the students should take place at least once a month. It's also important to get the feedback about the students from the spiritual directors if there are areas to be intervened in the life of the students. The formator also shall meet the students once a month to share, dialogue and evaluate about the personal life of the students and encourage the students to meet other religious of the community as and when time permits.

We need to be good examples or people who practice what we preach to them. At this age they look for models, especially in their In-charges. Let us strive our best to be good role models for them to imitate, while helping them for self-actualization. Human, cultural, character and apostolic formation is to be given great importance while forming the candidates. Our focus has to be on quality rather than quantity. Our task as vocation promoters is not to bring in so many students to the seminary. It matters how many of them are pleasing in the sight of God. Good vocations do not come up in one day from a vocation camp alone. We need to identify and follow up a student in advance. Vocation promoters have to interact with parish priests, families and know about the students in due

time. In the light of this, let's also talk about the motivation of the students. Always remember that a single candidate without proper motivation can spoil the vocation of the rest of the candidates with good heart. It's heartbreaking to hear from the students that they even do not know why they have joined the seminary. Have we admitted them because someone allotted them to us? Have we really spent time in seeking the real motivation of such students? Did we seek the opinion of the parish priests about his conduct? What's the selection criteria that we follow? Seminary is not a place to get higher education and get settled in their life with good jobs after certain years. Identify such students in the initial months of formation itself and prune the batches well in advance. Do not push the students to the next stage of formation with an intention to give some trouble to the next formator. Renewal and updating of the formators and maintenance of good rapport with the families of the candidates have to be taken into consideration. The families of the candidates would highly appreciate if we as the formators of their sons would take some time in the year to talk to them and visit them and share about how their son is doing in the seminary and remind them the need to constantly support them through their prayers and words of encouragement.

Only a sound tree can produce a good fruit!

It is time the Seminary formators and all who have a hand in producing priests and pastors, tighten their belts also in the formation of religious

leaders. Jesus has said it boldly that 'a blind man cannot lead a blind man' whether it is leading in the home, in the office, in the church or leading the whole nation. If this statement of Christ is taken in more seriously, then our religious appointments will be most sacred from primaries to the tertiary levels. Let me talk about the exemplary leadership against hypocrisy. 'A man preaches with moral authority only that which he does and practices. Because when the conscience becomes an obstacle to speech then what is preached becomes difficult to accept'. The challenge is therefore for leaders and teachers to lead by example. It's my humble request to you to avoid loose talks at all levels of formation and at all places. We need to keep up the dignity of our life when we are with people who expect good things to come from our mouths. It's okay if you engage in such talks when you are in a company of people who enjoy them. Beware of where you are and control your tongue in such situations. The next is hypocrisy. Jesus says: 'Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own eye?' He calls such people who do this hypocrite. When we look at the speck in another's eyes without looking at the log in our eyes then we are using two pairs of spectacles ; one for ourselves which diminishes our offences, and the other for others which magnifies their offences. Therefore, let us judge ourselves with the judgment of sincerity and then we will be able to judge others with the judgment of charity'.

Lk 10:1-23: Before anyone is officially engaged in any work at all, the individual is usually given a defined work description. This was actually what our Lord Jesus Christ did as he took the time to give the Seventy missionaries some detailed missionary description. An insightful look at these will be most fitting.

- You will be like lambs in the midst of wolves (But God will be your protection-Psalm 91:1).
- Carry no Provisions. (God will provide-Gen.22:14)
- Salute no one on the road. (Do not be distracted-1 Cor. 7:35)
- Pray Peace upon them. (Peace is foundational to the mission -John 20:21-22)
- Do not perambulate from house to house (Be steady and focused-Col.3:2)
- Eat whatever that is set before you (Do not worry about food- Matt. 6:31)
- Heal the sick and announce the coming of the kingdom. (The world needs both physical and spiritual healing and the kingdom of God is the goal of the mission-Matt.6:10).

After their missionary activity, the seventy came back rejoicing on account of the success they recorded. The true joy of the mission is not on the material returns or the fame that is recorded. The true joy ought to be based on the fact that souls are saved and the devil is defeated. Furthermore, the joy of the mission is also relevant for the salvation of the one carrying out the mission. It will be preposterous, pitiable, and eternally painful to save

other souls while leaving one's soul unsaved (Mark 8:36).

It is very evident that the names of the Seventy who were sent after the Twelve were not mentioned in the Gospels. This is a clear indication that those Seventy represent all of us who by virtue of our baptism are called to mission.

We have five formation houses already. When the new house is set up in Assam, it will add one more to the tally. Is it time that we should think of more ministry houses and bring down the number of formation houses? I would invite your thoughts on this matter with concrete suggestions.

In the area of vocation promotion, we need to focus on several aspects:

- Superiors have the responsibility to animate the vocation promotion activities of the community.
- Promote vocations through the contacts we have in our families, in religious circles, different parishes, etc.
- Catholic Faith of the students and their families has to be given extreme importance.
- Do not create a sense of affluence or lavishness in the minds of the students. Do not create a consumeristic culture in our seminaries. They should be trained to adjust with what is available.
- Prudence in dealing with students: rule of touch, avoid too much of physical, mental, and verbal abuse. There are cases wherein the students in formation have registered case under the section of POCSO against their rectors for

inappropriate behaviour.

- Have clear documents of all students – to be maintained in minor seminary, novitiate, etc.
- Rule of language. We are an international congregation and a national province. Therefore, use the common language that is understandable for all when you are in a group of people who are from different language regions.
- Use of mass media, mobile phones, addiction to internet and other apps are to be closely monitored while allowing the students to use mobile phones and internet services at various levels of their formation.

Conclusion

When we look back to the years past, we have experienced moments of flourishing in terms of vocation promotion and at times dryness in this aspect. At times, we also have found massive drop outs from the seminary life, especially at the later stages. Therefore, it is our herculean task to motivate, encourage and take care of the ones who are promoted and called, without forgetting the aspect of pruning in due time. I would like to once again thank and appreciate all the formators and vocation promoters for your hard work and good will. May Jesus reward you for this noble task initiated and done by you in your responsibilities. You can be sure that you are doing the work of Jesus Himself in shaping the future disciples of the Church. May you find consolation from the shadow of the Cross in times of your pain and difficulties as a formator.

6. Keynote address for administrators' meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on October 26, 2022

I am delighted to address you this morning, as this is the first meeting of the administrators. Some of you are new in the task, while most others are new to the community where you are serving. It's a great task that you have taken up. To administer to the needs of a community or a centre is a challenging yet fulfilling ministry. In doing so, we become good stewards in the vineyard of the Lord. I sincerely appreciate and acknowledge with gratitude the time and energy you spend for the wellbeing of the religious, students and/or inmates of your community. The life and growth of the community will depend also on the money that we have in our accounts. Therefore, it's each one's duty and responsibility to work zealously to earn our daily bread. I appreciate the initiatives that are taken by many of you in terms of raising funds locally, through projects and other well-wishers. I hope and pray that your experience sharing will enrich each other to come up with noble and innovative ideas in raising funds for the sustenance of our ministries. At this point, I would like to share with you certain aspects of being good administrators.

1. Transparency. The trademark of a good administrator is transparency. Let

each of our dealings be as transparent as possible. I think that I need not to explain much on this. Fortunately, we have not had any major issues with our religious in dealing with money, so far. The money that we have with us is for our use. Therefore, if we need to spend something for our good, make it known to your community, so that at the end of the day none of us are found guilty.

2. We need to keep in our minds the generosity and sacrificial gifts of our donors. We need to make the optimum use of such sacrificial gifts. We shall not put them into waste. We need to feel the pinch of each single paise that we spend with an attitude that it is earned through my sweat and blood. Pope Francis said; "money has to serve and not to rule." How do we do with the money? The consumerist culture of 'use and throw' has crept into our communities. In this area our concern must be the genuine and adequate need. St. John Chrysostom says, 'Not to share one's goods with the poor is to robe them and the goods that we possess that are not ours but theirs.' At certain point of time, the value for money has disappeared from our systems, which ends up in spending without measure. All hard work leads to profit - Proverbs 14:23

3. Financial Accountability. It is one of the fundamental aspects of administration. It is also a vocation and a faithful stewardship. This is what we learn from the life of blessed Fr. Enrico Rebuschini. The "Parable of the Talents", in Matthew 25:14–30 tells of a master who was leaving his house to travel, and, before leaving, entrusted his property to his servants. According to the abilities of each man, one servant received five talents, the second had received two, and the third received only one. We shall be ready at all times to submit a proper account to the master for each talent that we receive.

4. Documentation – You need to have proper documentary support for all the transactions you make. All the important communications with various people and offices shall be documented and filed. You may use email communications for matters of importance.

5. Diligence - Diligent hands bring wealth - Proverbs 10:4. A good administrator shall keep himself up to date about the changing laws, financial systems, of the state/ society/ government. You shall also, from time to time ensure that quality of service is delivered at all levels.

6. Prudence – This would simply mean to think twice or even thrice before you act. Consult experts if you are not sure of undertaking certain matters of administration. A wise man saves for the future - Proverbs 21:20. A generous man will be blessed - Proverbs 22:9

7. Professional approach – this has to be applied while dealing with the staff and all those whom you are in contact with through your office. Charity and sympathy can be shown to people if they fulfil their duties well. Remember that anything you give to the people under your management other than what is due to them shall be given with a clear direction that it is not given to them because it was their right. Any precedence to staff can invite troubles for the administration.

8. Hard work - All hard work leads to profit - Proverbs 14:23. Therefore, let's not be complacent with what we have done or achieved. Use your time and energy to achieve greater heights for yourself, your community/institution. If you are willing to work hard and ask lots of questions, you can learn business pretty fast. ~ Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder. Success doesn't happen overnight. And the most successful individuals are those who are willing to put in a productive day's work before they even receive success.

I conclude my keynote address with some sayings of certain successful people.

- If you love your work, you'll be out there every day trying to do it the best you possibly can, and pretty soon everybody around will catch the passion from you – like a fever. ~ Sam Walton, founder of Walmart
- Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do. ~ Pele, Brazilian soccer player

7. Message for the regents' meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on November 9, 2022

We are at the midway of the regency period. Regency, as you are aware, is a period of formation intended to facilitate your growth to a missionary and religious maturity in our Order and a time to learn to integrate your spirituality with the apostolate. This is a rare occasion where you can savor the sweetness/bitterness of taking up a dual role of being a religious exercising authority as well as being a learner in the formation about various dynamics of our apostolate. Sometimes, you may be caught up in the dilemma of whom to stand with. It's good to gather as a group to share your experiences, which would enrich each other and enlighten the group. I am sure that you are here with mixed feelings of fulfilment/achievements and difficulties. All these will strengthen you to become even stronger in your future apostolate. If something is important enough, even if the odds are against you, you should still do it. In the same way that gold and silver are refined by fire, the Lord purifies your heart by the tests and trials of life (Prov. 17:3).

Along with the integration of spiritual life with apostolate, it's also an occasion

for you to experience the beauty and richness of community life. You learn to live, to belong, to love, to forgive, to adjust, be humble, accept, respect, appreciate and encourage each other in a community. You begin to learn that even when you have your own wish and desire, often, it's not my will, but the community's will is fulfilled, or I transform my will to that of the community. You learn to develop the attitude of collective responsibility in the community.

It's also an year to deepen one's vocation to the Camillian way of life by a practical sharing of its vision and mission. This is largely achieved through the daily activities of the community you are placed in – through the formation of young seminarians, or taking care of the sick in the institute, or getting involved in guiding, teaching and administration. You begin to taste the reality of our life apart from the theory you have learned. It's also a time you discover the personal charism that you wish to actualise in your life through your commitment.

This is also an occasion for you to grow and develop the qualities such as, leadership, creativity, initiatives, organizing capacity, guiding and docility in accepting guidance, willingness to learn new things, readiness to listen to your superior and being responsible and maintaining transparency in accounting. As Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American philosopher says, “Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.” Doing the same thing in life could be out of complacency and can result in monotony in the longer run. Regency gives you ample opportunity to live your Camillian religious life in a more meaningful manner by your active involvement in the ministry of caring for the sick and doing other ministries demanded by the community.

I am certain that the year of regency will make you more vibrant and active in your religious vocation. This will make you more passionate to serve

the sick and enthusiastic about taking bold steps in your life. “Be brave, take risks. Nothing can substitute experience.” – says Paulo Coelho. You have to be continually jumping off cliff and developing your wings on the way down.

We are called to bring life to whatever we do and speak. We need to feel the presence of divinity in the people we encounter. “Consecrated life is not about survival, it is not about preparing ourselves for dying well: this is the temptation of our days, in the face of declining vocations. No, it is not about survival, but new life. “But there are only a few of us , it’s about new life. It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus.” – Pope Francis in his homily on 2nd February, 2019.

8. Opening address for ministry meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on November 28, 2022

This is the first meeting of the Secretariat for ministry. I am happy that all the great warriors in the ministry centres are present for this important meeting where we can share about our ministries to enrich each other and plan for further development. I believe that under the guidance and leadership of Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil, the in-charge of the Secretariat for ministry, we will certainly come up with lot of innovative ministry initiatives in our Province. Ministry is the backbone of our very existence. We shall be proud to be animators of healthcare in the main streams of the Church in India. If Camillians are known as the trailblazers in healthcare, it is through the charism of mercy that we exercise through our ministry and thereby living an authentic Camillian religious consecration. We have made significant contributions to the healthcare management for the past few years, especially during the pandemic of Covid – 19, various disasters across India and abroad, and through other pastoral and healthcare ministries at our ministry centres and in the hospitals. Beginning with the care of HIV-infected and affected people, we have travelled far and wide to reach where we are today. It

is highly appreciable to know that the society and the Church greatly value our charism and ministry that we do to the sick and the downtrodden. We are confident that it's not a mere service that we render to the humanity, rather we partake in the great healing mission of Jesus Himself and the extraordinary legacy of St. Camillus, our Patron.

The province is currently serving the neediest through our social and community care center of Snehatheeram, and Orphan Vulnerable Children care centers of Snehasadan, Snehagram, and St. Camillus Ashram.

As per the decision of the Provincial Chapter, we have ventured into upgradation of Snehadaan into a hospital. Hopefully, the Snehadaan hospital will get underway its operations in the first half of 2023. We pray that this will surely become a landmark in the healthcare field of Bengaluru by way of extending our charism to greater heights and to wider population. I acknowledge with gratitude the hard work put in by Frs. Jaison, Sunny and presently being led by Frs. Christi and Teji to actualize this revamping project.

Snehasadan is a home with full of vibrance of children living with HIV.

I am happy that Frs. Siby and Jomin spend their time and energy in making it a home of love. This initiative is greatly supported by several benefactors and well-wishers of the Centre as well. I am honored to say that Snehasadan has been sustaining all its activities by its own resources for the past Seven or more years. My wish and dream is that all our social and rehabilitation centres reach that goal.

Care of HIV-infected adults was the primary institutionalized ministry that Camillians initiated in India, which is still continued at Snehatheeram. Along with the care of PLHIV, we can also explore other ministry options at the Centre, given the fact that it has facilities and options to expand its ministries to other areas, in accordance with the needs of the time. It is stupendous to learn that the Sneha Counselling Centre offers psycho-social support to the deserving people from various walks of life. Frs. Biju Sebastian and Sunny have dedicated their quality time for this mission as well. The land, which was donated to us at Thalayolaparamba was for a specific mission, which is to set up a senior care home. Although there are many hurdles to pass to actualize this project, we have a moral obligation to the donor to help achieve their dream.

Snehasparsh, the third phase of SCT's OVC care program has evolved so beautifully with the bold steps taken by Snehagram through various fellowship and training programs, which enabled them to place so many adolescents and young adults living with HIV in the

society with secure jobs and financial stability. I sincerely appreciate and congratulate the valiant efforts taken by Frs. Teji and Sunil with the support of Dr. Michael Raj in bringing up the fellowship program into a solid shape. Daivalayam was a step further in extending our ministry from care of CLHIV to the mentally and physically disabled male children. It went through a lot of hardships in its infancy in terms of sustainability, local and governmental support, etc. However, this ministry is shaping itself as one of the future ministry interventions of Camillians in India. I do appreciate and acknowledge with gratitude the pioneers of this mission, namely Bro. Madhu, Fr. Benny and the present team, Frs. Shiju and Jaison Kannamkulam.

Chaplaincy ministry and pastoral care to the sick is a ministry that is so much fulfilling in terms of our charism of mercy to the sick, especially visiting the sick at the hospital, listening to their painful moments and preparing the sick to unite their pain with the suffering of Christ. This ministry also gives us the fulfillment of preparing those nearing their death for a happy death. I do appreciate the commitment and dedication of Frs. Bacil and Tinto for their tireless service at St. Philomena's and St. Martha's hospitals, respectively. This is one of the ministries we could extend in more numbers, in India as well.

The Nanma outreach program is one of the areas where we can reach out to more people outside our institutional set ups. Currently, this

program is operational at Aluva and Mananthavady. The volunteers are doing a commendable service to the sick in the families and hospital under the banner of Nanma.

Camillian Task Force has been in the field almost every year whenever and wherever there was disasters. Our interventions were well supported by St. John's Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru and other like-minded institutions and individuals who have joined this cause as volunteers. CTF along with extending medical and nutritional aid, has committed to build up resilience and psycho-social support to the victims of disasters. I do appreciate Fr. Siby Kaitharan and all our zonal coordinators of CTF for their commitment, coordination and availability for this cause.

I take this moment to acknowledge and thank the service of all our chaplains who are working abroad: Italy – Frs. Siby Kanjirathummoottil, Arlappa, Siby Chennattu, Bobin and Vineesh; Ireland – Frs. Vincent, Jayan, John, Suneesh, Suresh, Tomy, Russel, Prince, and Bobit; Germany – Frs. Joshy, Doise, Binu, and Binoy; USA – Frs. Mathew Perumpil, Naveen, Reji, Johnson, Antony Kunnel; and Spain – Fr. Biju Sauriamthottiyil.

While rendering our zealous service out of our love, charity, mercy and compassion through our institutions, let us also be constantly reminded about few things for better efficacy in our mission.

- When we are associated with an institution that has social and legal binding, let us not compel any

children/patient for anything that are against the laws of the state and social/ religious customs/ practices, even if they are against our religious beliefs and practices.

- Be updated about the changing laws relating to always get all your communications with children or various offices/people, documented and acknowledged. There shall not be any requests and granting of permissions verbally, make everything through paper with due authorization. Even when people call you over phone or meet you in person for anything, at the end of the conversation, ask them to send a letter or an email with details requested/shared.
- Whenever you begin a new project, enter into proper agreement mutually agreed and signed by the concerned parties, with terms and conditions wisely and clearly mentioned in the document. All future communications should also be filed. Be it a construction, a contract, a CSR project, a long-term sustainability project – you need to follow these standards.
- Acknowledge with a courtesy email/letter and with receipt for all monetary aid you receive. Maintain a rapport with your donor. If, at any point, you feel that the collaboration does not go smoothly, inform the concerned parties in due time and rectify / terminate further progress.
- We need to make ourselves and our ministry initiatives known through various platforms – social media, peer groups, prayer groups, religious groups, news coverages, advocacy, etc.

- Have transparency in everything so as to be ready for any social/financial audits.
- Maintain professional approach in dealing with the staff. You need to gain their trust in you. At the same time, make sure that they adhere to the policies of the institution and are committed to their duties. It's good to give them the freedom, but we and they should know the limits of such freedom.
- Give the staff just wages and make all payments that are due the Government from their salaries, in good time. Do not hesitate to be constantly in touch with the Provincial bursar for any help.
- We need to create a bond between all children who pass out of our institutions so that they could also support and help each other in times of need. This could be actualized in organizing periodical meetings of them in which they share each other's life situations, creating awareness of social responsibility, etc. We could initiate them to collaborate on our various outreach activities as well.
- Our OVC care may come to a standstill within a period of 2 or 3 years. Therefore, the OVC committee has to come up with concrete proposals as to how to bring out new ministry ventures to keep alive our charism in India.
- We need to find substantial donors to run our rehabilitation and care centres. I urge the fundraising committee to discuss with in-charges of centres where there are difficulties in raising funds to manage the centre, and suggest

concrete ways of mobilizing funds. It's also the duty of the administrators to actively get involved in mobilizing funds by way of meeting like-minded people/groups/companies or even preparing various project proposals and sending them to potential donors.

Conclusion

To Conclude, let us be encouraged in our ministries by the words of Jesus from the Crucifix to St. Camillus, 'it's not your work Camillus, but Mine'. Let us be united in prayer to God and service to the sick, for this is our Calling. As we are Christians and followers of St. Camillus, Jesus will continue to strengthen us through His words: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Mt.25:40). Pope Francis said on the World Day of the Sick 2021, that caring for the sick is not an "optional activity" for the Church, but an integral part of her mission; like Jesus, the Church is called "to bring the tenderness of God to suffering humanity." Yes, brothers, in our service, we truly bring God to the humanity. Edward Everett Hale, U.S. author, historian, and clergyman said: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." Therefore, let us be ardent in doing those little things we can do to bring about life and happiness to the sick.

1. Report of the Superiors' meeting held at CPHC, Bengaluru on August 22, 2022

The Meeting started with the prayer by Fr. Siby Kaitharan. Fr. E. William was elected as the secretary for the meeting and Fr. Siby Kaitharan as the Moderator. The welcome address was delivered by Fr. Biju Sebastian.

Fr. Bijoy delivered the Provincial's address in which he highlighted the following points:

- Appreciation for all the superiors, the new councillors, Fr. Lijo for his responsibility as provincial bursar and best wishes to Fr. Jofree for accepting as novice master as it needs lots of hard work;
- To be a good superior is to be a good shepherd in moments of joys and pains and to be available for community, to celebrate, to support;
- He spoke about the incarnational and transformative leaders, life of fraternity in our community without carrying the wounds of the past. Everything happens in life in accordance with the will of God. It may not be wise to grumble towards others for their good fortunes and our misfortunes because today's losers are tomorrow's victors. Each superior has to play a major role in terms of reconciliation among confreres;
- He highlighted the life of spirituality, responsible use of social media, dealing with people in business, ecological sensitivity – use of less plastics, green home, financial accountability, maintenance, order of the house, professional approach to the staff, welcoming and treating well of our confreres who visit us, etc.;
- He mentioned about his pastoral visit in a few communities;
- Various challenges regarding formation and vocation promotion;
- Ministry is life and backbone of the province – Snehadaan Hospital will give a new phase for the Camillians' presence in India. Camillian Task Force is very much active in terms of its immediate response to disaster. Some areas to explore is building up of psychological support of the patients, future of CLHIV/

AIDS ministry centres, etc. The activities of Peniel retreat centre and Camillian family members shall be strengthened through proper animation.

- He also spoke about Finance, salaries of the confreres, fund-raising initiatives of the community, task of raising more funds by the fund-raising committee and maintaining good rapport with our benefactors.
- At the end, he gave some updates about our confreres: Fr. Reji reached for ministry in USA; Fr. Prakash is preparing for ministry in Austria; Bro. Madhu is planning for studies; Fr. Anthoni Kunnel began doctorate; Fr. Joy is on sabbatical year; Fr. Jobin and Fr. Siby Areeparampil are for PG studies.
- Members working/studying abroad: 9 confreres in Ireland, 5 in Italy, 5 in the U S, 4 in Germany, 2 in Uganda, 1 in Spain.
- He also shared his views on North-East Mission, Letter from the Superior General: Interprovincial Collaboration and Active and passive voice.
- Tasks ahead: Completion of pending constructions, initiate diverse ministries.

The presentation of the Provincial was followed by some discussions and vote of thanks by the moderator.

After the break, there was a presentation of the Provincial Bursar. Fr. Lijo presented: the financial handover on 21st August 2022,

accounts and current balance, foreign currency, ongoing projects of the province, budget summary for the financial year 2022-23 – society and SCT, Province Finance Report 2022-2023. With regards to the common fund, there should be some policy; fund-raising committee has to identify those who can support us.

After the presentation and discussion on the financial handover by Fr. Lijo, we had the presentation by each superior of his community.

1. Upasana community:

Fr. Baby Naikarakudy did the presentation regarding community members, formation, ministry involvement (theology students: parishes and hospitals; philosophy students: Thirumugha Ashram, Kidwai-friary, Bosco Yuvodaya); mission, vision and future plans, strengths and challenges, proposals.

Some clarifications were made with regards to age-gap between the philosophy students and the theology students, ministries, dwelling together of both philosophy students and theology students, the question on early novitiate program, promotion of qualitative students and a Camillian touch to the brothers who should be sent for Camillian ministry.

2. Nagpur Community

Fr. Jofree presented about formation, classes, pastoral and ministry activities (Masses in the communities, parishes, in the hospitals), future plans and proposals (home for the aged, poultry

farm), challenges: classes, cultivation, fear of snakes. Some discussions were done on ministry of Mathews along with other 2 novices, the house not conducive for the novitiate, Ministry is not possible for the novices.

3. Trichy community

Fr. William did the presentation on the community at Trichy: community members, community life, formation of pre-novices and candidates, academic programs respectively for the pre-novices and candidates, use of the land for self-sufficiency preceded by some investment for the land, ministry activities of the pre-novices, strengths and challenges, and future plans and proposals of the community, vocation promotion, etc. Discussions were held as regards to the strength and challenge of residing together of candidates and pre-novices, self-sufficiency.

4. Mananthavady community

Fr. Benny did the presentation on community life, prayer life, academic classes, intensive English coaching, music, community activities, games, recreation time, ministry, future plans, strengths, challenges. Discussions were carried out on rethinking of cattle, instead buying milk, communication as a blessing rather than a challenge, land at Chekkisseri has to be used, delayed vocations being given 1 year probation period in one minor seminary or in different minor seminaries coupled with ministry exposure.

5. Eluru Community

Fr. Patrick presented report of the community, formation, ministry activities and programs of the community, nature of the community – Masses, classes, future plans and vision: make arrangement for +2 studies in Eluru itself, improve the quality of teaching, work for more vocation, painting of the house, produce organic vegetables, strengths: members, resource persons, variety, youthfulness, challenges: climate for North-East people, language, travel to North-East, proposal to the administration: formation house in Odisha. His presentation was followed by discussion on the above points.

6. Provincial community

Fr. Sebastian Christi did the presentation on community life, ministry, ministry and study of Fr. Thomas, Snehadaan Hospital, Camillian pastoral health centre with proposed programs, Sneha Charitable Trust, shine-on candle unit was switched off, though unexpected financial concerns were, the work is being continued, but lots of issues are there, strengths, challenges, future plans and suggestions. His presentation was followed by discussion on Snehadaan Hospital, its starting and the need for studying more on the running of the hospital.

7. Snehadaan

Fr. Siby Kaitharan did his presentation highlighting on care of infected children, psychosocial services, medical services, community and office, total number of residents

including other members infected with HIV, various program: education, children parliament, sports activities, spiritual activities, outreach program, happy days, Snehasadan family, plans, finance (income, general contributions, minority fund, projects), challenges and opportunities.

8. *Snehatheeram*

Fr. Biju Sebastian spoke about community members, spiritual activities, ministry activities (Snehatheeram, Sneha counselling centre, spiritual ministries), Camillian family (43 members), *Nanma* – St. Camillus outreach program with its various activities like occupation therapy, Kanjoor land, Thalayolapparambu land, financial status, future plans.

9. *Snehagram*

Fr. Sunil started his presentation on introduction, background, structure of the community, community and spiritual life, vision and mission, ministry: snehasparsh program coordinated from snehagram, I'm possible fellowship program, positive running program, snehasparsh-dasra project, snehasparsh-crayons, snehasparsh-magic bus for livelihood, snehasparsh-footprints, farm, strengths and challenges of the community, conclusion.

10. *St. Camillus Ashram*

Fr. Shiju spoke with regards to introduction, location, community members, ministry activities and program, spiritual assistance, helping other people, providing ambulance service, future plans, strengths,

inauguration of holy angels park, our centre as model centre, challenges.

Concluding points – Fr. Bijoy

We as superiors need to accompany the students in formation; it is important to be witness to our charism which is something peculiar and we need to uphold to our charism; we are maintaining the current system and come out with lots of dreams and hopes; impressed by the ministry centres who come up with lots of new initiatives by making use of the facilities in optimal level and to enlarge our ministry to other models and to bring out new life to our charism; sharing of our opinions, plans, suggestions which are more constructive and for which everyone is supportive now and in future too. We all have the equal responsibility towards other communities. One suggestion to ministry community is: to follow a common logo for all the centres with additional logo for unit's identification; give the name of the Sneha charitable Trust; some of the chapter document motions were discussed;

Some other suggestions: we should not have spent lots of time to discuss about formation as there would be another meeting of the formators regarding formation; If we could discuss more about province, it would be nice.

The meeting was over by 5 pm with thanksgiving by Fr. E. William and concluding prayer by Fr. Shiju.

2. Report of the Formators' Meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate on August 23, 2022

Members present: Fr. Kuliraniyil Bijoy, Fr. Nakkuzhikattu Jofree, Fr. Eronimoose William, Fr. Kizhukkarakkattu Biju, Fr. Chengalikkavil Benny, Fr. Naikarakudi Baby, Fr. Patrik Nayak, and Fr. Vallooran Deepu.

The formators' meeting was held on 23rd August at St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru. Fr. Provincial welcomed the gathering with his inspiring words. He started his address appreciating the role of the formators which is high demanding and less rewarding. The role of the formator is to accompany the candidate to learn, seek advice and guidance. Fr. William was appointed as the moderator and Fr. Deepu as the Secretary.

The sharing was about the challenges we face in the various communities. Fr. Patrick shared about the minor seminary in Eluru. He suggested having intermediate studies for the brothers in Eluru itself. The challenges he mentioned was the struggle of the formator for not having the senior brothers to guide the first year brothers. Fr. Willam also shared the difficulty of brothers from Tamil Nadu in learning Hindi when they are sent to Mananthavady for their intermediate studies. Fr. Jofree suggested having basic three years of minor seminary in

all the minor seminaries. The financial matters in placing intermediate studies in all the minor seminaries were also discussed.

There was an input session By Fr. Subash, a Barnabite priest. He inspired the gathering with his inspiring words. He mentioned the importance of discipleship in troubled times and the principal task of the formator. He also spoke of the external, internal and transcendental challenges faced by the religious. He reassured that the role of the formator is to help the candidate to get in connection with his real formator who is Jesus. He summarised the three goals of formation which are personal growth, community life and mission. Fr. Biju Sebastian thanked Fr. Subash.

Fr. Deepu shared about the vocation promotion in progress. He quoted the Provincial Statutes, "Vocation Promotion is the duty of every religious and community, for which each confrere shall take part by his personal witness, prayer and evangelization" (PS, 30). He shared about the means of promoting vocations. The vocation promotion shall not be done at the end of the year but all throughout the year to get vocations with quality.

He also suggested all the confreres to promote vocations through their contacts. The challenges of vocation promotion also were discussed. Fr. Provincial reminded that the vocation promotion is the responsibility of all the temporary and final professed religious.

The formation committee made the following proposals which were also discussed during the meeting.

- The suggestion to change the intermediate studies (+1,+2) to Eluru for the students who come from Northern India.
- Vocation promoters are to be assigned for each state.
- There should be vocation promoters meetings along with regents and temporary professed religious.
- It would be motivating to have an annual meeting of all the minor seminarians.
- The in-charge of the Secretariat of Formation shall visit all the formation houses.
- Ongoing formation for all the religious.
- The formation course and workshop for all the formators.
- A guideline to be prepared for the formation of the delayed vocation.
- Regents may have one year of regency in one place.
- A basic grammar book shall be prepared for all the minor seminaries.
- A Camillian song book shall be prepared.
- A Camillian retreat team shall be organised to conduct retreat in all our formation houses.
- A suggestion for the First profession to be done at St. Camillus Provincialate in Bengaluru.

At the end of the meeting, Fr. Provincial made his concluding remarks encouraging all the members for the fruitful discussion and Fr. Patrick expressed vote of thanks and made the concluding prayer.

Give yourselves to Jesus, to enter into the immensity of His great heart, which also contains the heart of His holy mother and all the saints, and loose yourselves in this abyss of love, charity, mercy, humility, purity, patience, submission, and holiness.

- St. John Eudes

3. Report of the ministry meeting held at St. Camillus Provincialate, Bengaluru, on November 28, 2022

The following members were present: Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, Fr. Teji Thomas, Fr. Biju Sebastian, Fr. Bacil Singh, Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil, Fr. Siby Kaitharan, Fr. Tinto, and Fr. Deepu. Fr. Deepu was the secretary for the meeting.

Fr. Teji Thomas, Secretariate of Ministry, began with a prayer and welcomed everyone for the meeting. Fr. Bijoy, the Provincial Superior, addressed the gathering with his encouraging words. He summarised the various ministry activities happened during Covid-19 pandemic situations, CTF missions other than our existing institutional and communitarian missions. He thanked everyone for the charism of mercy we live and for our contribution during the time of Covid pandemic. Fr. Provincial stated that the work we do is not just a service but partaking in the healing ministry of Jesus. He acknowledged the esteemed ministry which is happening in various ministry centres. He suggested that the following things to be noted as we exercise our ministry:

- Laws of the state and religion and customs to be respected
- Any collaborative ministry should be begun with MOU even if cash transaction is not intended between the agency/NGO and it should be shared to SCT office before commencing the collaboration. Every dealing with the benefactors is to be documented with due authorization
- Maintain a healthy rapport with

inmates, staff and our benefactors

- Transparency in dealing with money

We always need to cherish that the ministry that we do is not our work but His. Fr. Provincial concluded his words saying that serving the sick is bringing the tenderness of Jesus to the sick brethren.

Following the Provincial's address Dr. Michael Raj who is an associate of Snehagram, and Assistant Director of I'mPossible Fellowship along with Mr. Lakshmikanth, Program Manager of I'mPossible Fellowship and Mr. Babu Seenappa, Manager of Positive Runnig Program of Snehaspars presented the programs of Snehagram, Krishnagiri. The sharing enlightened the importance of collaboration and networking with other like-minded NGOs. Through our collaborative effort we have gone a step ahead in our mission and the reach of SCT. We could bring changes in the lives of HIV-infected and affected adolescents and youth with a focus on 4 different Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We reached out to 1500 youth in the area of health, quality education, gender equality and decent jobs, and economic growth. We collaborate with Magic Bus, Don Bosco and Nudge Foundation facilitating jobs and social welfare projects. We developed some of the projects with the CSR funds tapped from various companies. They also shared the benefits of positive

running which keeps our students healthy and stable. We have begun the positive running program to improve the health of infected children in three more institutions. The collaboration of SCT with John Hopkins initiated some research studies and opened better opportunities for our children and those interested in research works. Our lead in this HIV initiatives were welcomed and appreciated by many other NGOs and Institutions across India, especially in Karnataka.

Fr. Biju Sebastian presented the ministry happening at Snehatheeram, Aluva. Fr. Biju and Fr. Sunny are actively involved in the ministry at Snehatheeram and also provide counselling for the people in need. They are engaged in conducting some seminars and regular academic engagements in some institutions. Fr. Siby Kaitharan shared about the CADIS meeting held at Bangkok which dealt with Relief, Recovery, Resilience and Rights. He also reminded about the obligation we have towards the nature which was discussed in light of the Encyclical *Laudato Si* of Pope Francis. Fr. Siby also presented about the active involvement of CTF in the Assam and Kerala Flood Relief and the future programs. Fr. Deepu shared about the ministry at St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady. The community is actively involved in the hospital ministry, recollections, retreats and one day programs at Peniel and spiritual assistance to neighbouring communities and parishes in the Diocese of Mananthavady. Fr. Siby Kaitharan presented the ministry at Snehasadan, Mangalore. The excellence of the students were

discussed with regard to education and sports in Rosa Mystica School. Fr. Bacil shared the pastoral ministry at St. Philomina's Bangalore. The chaplain ministry is well established in St. Philomina's. Fr. Tinto shared about his experience at St. Martha's. The Camillian intervention is very much appreciated in the Hospital. Fr. Sunil presented the ministry and the future programs of Snehagram, Krishnagiri. Finally, Fr. Teji shared about the ongoing development of Snehadaan Hospital and requested everyone to pray for the same as it is our new initiative where we can reach out to many who are sick and suffering.

Points of Discussion:

- The Province is looking forward to increase the chaplains ministry to more hospitals in India.
- There was a suggestion to start chaplaincy at St. John's Hospital.
- The future ministry in the land at Thalayolaparambu was discussed. The road to our land needs to be widened for which we may have to wait some more time.
- A support system should be built among the children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS so as to help the other children.
- There are needs and requests from HIV-infected adults for care and support and we discussed the possibilities keeping in mind the existing facilities.
- Uploading the photos of minors in the media is to be strictly monitored/scrutinized.
- All the websites of our province and ministry centres are to be updated. Frs. Bacil and Tinto were entrusted to do the needful urgently.

Steadfast Commitment to Serve the Sick: A Chaplain's Reflections

*Fr. Arlappa Mundalagiri MI**

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
(James 1:27)

Much of my ordained ministry has been pastoral care of the sick in various hospitals in Italy. It is a privilege to be with the sick and assist the dying. But it can also be dauntingly hard work. From a holistic perspective, pastoral care of the sick is not just about the body. Many have pointed out that focusing on the body and mind is essential. Nevertheless, the patient's spirit is an important area that maintains exceptional significance. They deserve pastoral care devoted to every detail of their lived experience as human beings. In addition to family members, religious men and women and the laity provide pastoral care services to the sick. Therefore, a chaplain prioritizes spiritual well-being and listens to their physical, social, and emotional needs. This means pastoral caregivers can express their relationship with Christ in and through service to the sick. Obviously, they see each other around the hospital bed. Love for God and neighbour inspires them to be at the

bedside of suffering persons. Inspired by the words of Lord Jesus who said, "when I was sick, you visited me" (Mt 25:26), they obtain for themselves an excellent opportunity in the hospital to serve Jesus in the sick (C. 7).

Several elements make my pastoral care service to the sick distinctive:

1) Knowing one's spiritual view: *the power of presence*

As I embarked on my journey to serve the sick, I asked myself: why am I visiting patients in the hospital? Instantaneously, I was captivated by Mary's visitation to her cousin Elisabeth (cf. Luke 1:39-45). It attests that "the visitation's spirituality is moving oneself towards others" (Anne Foley, n.d.). When Elisabeth caught sight of Mary, she was overjoyed and she acknowledged God's presence. Likewise, my pastoral dialogue involves active listening and respecting patients' needs. As a result, I have

learnt that my visits to the sick comfort them, encourage their faith, and instil hope and endurance. When I leave the patients' room, they say, "Thank you for *being* here." It touches my heart to the core. This presence of the chaplain makes that "sick person" different. It is a sign that God's presence is readily available and present in the complex realities of people's lives. Therefore, as a first step in embracing the pastoral and spiritual needs of the sick, one must first understand one's spirituality. We must always consider the decisive importance of *presence*.

2) Intentionality is important: to see the face of Christ in the sick.

I am convinced that the sick person is the face of the crucified Christ, and the moment we forget the ill person, we forget Christ the crucified. Therefore, it is our sacred duty, like Mary, the mother of Jesus, to reach out and help the sick and suffering in the hospital. "Seeing Christ" in the sick aids in manifesting God's tenderness and loving care to the sick through the chaplain's presence. We all share a standard value system: we take pride in helping others; otherwise, we probably would not have entered the pastoral care ministry in the first place. Yet, knowing that some of them are terminally ill, incredibly lonely, and prefer not to speak with anybody, chaplains have taken on the supremely challenging task of caring for patients at their worst. If they fail to be Jesus for the Sick and to serve Jesus in the Sick, they might forget what a privilege it is to care for patients at their most vulnerable state. At the same time, not



My pastoral dialogue involves active listening and respecting patients' needs. As a result, I have learned that my visits to the sick comfort them, encourage their faith, and instill hope and endurance.

all sick persons express their emotions, fears, and anxieties. Some would like to talk and share their concerns and worries and are happy when they see a priest chaplain. For instance, they express their desire to fulfill spiritual needs such as Holy Communion, the anointing of the sick, and confession.

A gifted chaplain can help the patient determine whether he or she needs more spiritual care. As pastoral caregivers, they should take a few moments to ponder the spiritual aspects of any patient interaction; doing so empowers all parties involved and promotes serenity, tranquility, understanding, and a sense of wholeness.

3) Not Doing but Being: Manifestation of the Love of Christ Towards the Sick

As observed, pastoral care is about being 'present' to another person deeply. It is not problem-solving. We are not there to tie up their difficult situation. The force of doing something is among the most significant pressures in hospital chaplaincy. I

don't know how it happened, but I now realize that somewhere along the way, I came to think that my job as a chaplain is to be present to the sick person. Pastoral ministry looks back to the Good Shepherd dying for his sheep and looks forward to the return of the Great Shepherd, who will gather his sheep for eternity. In fact, the teaching and modeling of Jesus shapes pastoral care.

It was the Gospel mandate "As you go, make this proclamation: The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers" (Mt 11:7-8). Now the Church, after the example of Jesus, lavishes her tender care on all who are sick and recognizes the image of Jesus in them and, in so doing, serves Christ Himself (*Lumen Gentium*, no.8). The early Christian community, anxious to continue Jesus' mission and work, immediately took the sick into their care (Acts 3:2-10; 5:12-16). Subsequently, the Church has made progress in service to the sick and bears a distinguishing characteristic of the authentic Christian life. Service to the suffering is not optional but a necessary response to a mandate, one of the signs by which the manifestation of the love of Christ is exemplified.

After the example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, I don't do any big things, but I do small things with great love and dedication. First, I listen to them attentively and try to enter their world of pain and uncertainty to become an extension of God's merciful compassion. Second, I ensure that my presence brings comfort and consolation to sick persons. Finally, I

offer all of their worries, anxieties, and fears to God.

Undoubtedly, service towards the sick by profession of the fourth vow is, for a Minister of the Sick, the specific badge of his belonging to the serving Christ and of his participation in the Church's mission, which has for its rule the precept of loving as Christ Himself loved humankind (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 9). In taking up the burdens of the sick on himself, he becomes an example of the Christian calling to serve the sick. Whenever their sickness weighs down the sick, ministers of the sick lead them to the belief that they are cherished and strengthened by the ever-present love of Christ (Con., art.1). From this point of view, service to the sick which covers physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual care becomes the sign of the Kingdom of God established by Jesus. Doing everything that is by the Gospel mandate to guarantee improved health of the sick thus forms part of God's love for the sick (cf. Jn 10:10).

Furthermore, consecration to the service of the sick with a vow determines the concrete spirit with which a Camillian puts himself at the service of God and the sick. The whole existence of the Camillian religious is placed at the service of the suffering for the love of God, since the vow always implies a relationship with Jesus and is an offering and gift of self to Jesus, a response of love for him.

Conclusion

At a fundamental level, chaplains seek to provide comprehensive care to patients. Their most important responsibility is to recognize spiritual needs and be present for their needs. To honestly care for the whole patient—body, mind, and spirit—they must venture out to remind themselves that nourishing their spiritual needs will only allow them to become more powerful patient advocates. It may be challenging as their jobs are in caring for dying patients. Still, let's take the necessary time to explore the spiritual dimension of our patients and their families. Thus, we develop the potential to appreciate better and understand those we care for.

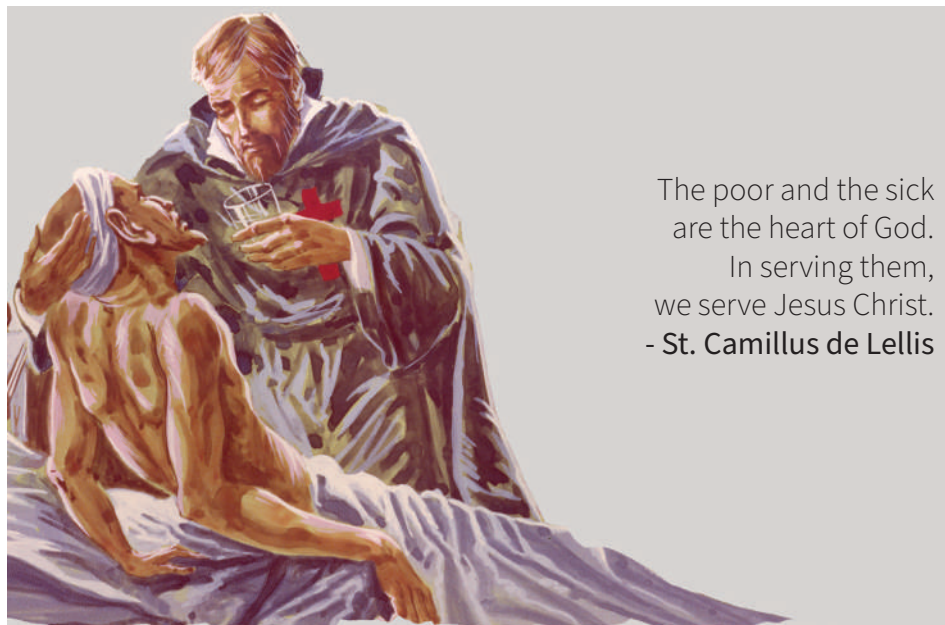
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The poor and the sick
are the heart of God.

In serving them,
we serve Jesus Christ.

- St. Camillus de Lellis

Missionary Formation: A Gift and a Task

*Fr. Sojan Koonanickal MI**

And Jesus went up into the hills, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.

(Mark 3: 13-15)

In the course of our history, many Camillian religious around the globe have responded to the honourable calling, and become formators in 'mission countries.' I consider myself privileged and blessed to have been formed by a missionary religious brother and priests from Italy. When religious brothers or priests dedicate themselves to God's work by forming future missionaries, they can experience a certain sense of fulfilment unlike any this world can offer. The responsibilities and challenges of a formator are many, but so are the blessings they receive along the way. In his 84th World Mission Sunday message, the late Pope Benedict XVI (2010) encouraged us to be missionaries today and respond to people's need for hope and their desire to live in a new way. He stated, it means "to become champions of the newness of life made up of authentic relationships in communities founded on the Gospel."

I have made an attempt in the following reflection, to get hold of

this particular newness of being a Camillian missionary formator in Uganda for the last two years. . At the outset of this write up, I would like to look back at the learnings I have had in the past as a formator. Unravelling my experiences as a formator in the span of sixteen years which ranged from being a rector of a minor seminary and novitiate formation is indeed striking and humbling. Each stage of formation presents its unique challenges to the formator. My intention here is not to enter into those specifics but rather to confine myself to the personal conviction that 'Mission is a gift that God has placed within a person.'

The ministry of formation is both important and delicate. Many years ago, when I was a young formator, I was told that the person entrusted with the formation of the young must have the courage and strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother. In addition, the theoretical training equipped me with an understanding of the Pipeline Theory or the Moulding Theory (a model of formation that

emphasises moulding the candidates into a pre-defined shape). Likewise, as the years passed, Accompaniment Theory (a model of formation that the candidate is accompanied through his or her ups and downs, and is encouraged to grow in the vocation journey) gained a prominent influence in the formation of the seminarians. I am also aware of the influence of the Theory of Work Adjustment (Adjustment Theory), which describes adjustment as the interaction of a person with the environment. (This is a tendency which I observe in recent years. Many formators adjust with the untoward behaviours of the candidates because of less number of vocations.) However, in the last few years, my attention has been drawn toward the vital concept of 'formation in the mission' or 'mission-oriented formation.' Now that I have embraced the mission as a gift and am forming young Camillians for the mission, I ask myself: what is its foundation, and

how am I a missionary formator?

It is a gift because I consciously decide to grow as a missionary formator. I believe my mission didn't begin the day I landed in Uganda. Mission or missionary life is not like the uniforms children put on in the morning as they get ready to go to school and change when the day's schooling is done. One's full-time mission experience can be a transforming event but should also be integral to your life's formation and mission. Once, my novices and community were engaged in a mission activity: building a house for a poor widow with seven children. She had AIDS. Besides that, her last child was also tested positive for HIV. The Novitiate community was much involved in the construction. One fine night, torrential rain and a heavy storm hit the village. The following day, one of my novices approached me and shared his thoughts and concerns about the poor family for whom we



Fr. Sojan with the candidates in formation visit a sick person



Missionary life is not like the uniform children put on in the morning as they get ready to go school and change when the day's schooling is done. Your mission experience can be a transforming event but should also be integral to your life's formation and mission.

were building the house. I could sense his deep concern. He was worried that rain and storm would be devastating for the family. Is it not a true spirit of the mission? Here, a seed of the missionary spirit is alive and growing. Nonetheless, the critical question is what motivates and sustains mission and missionary formation.

Recent studies reveal that missionary formation is shaped by understanding the candidate and a dynamic interaction with his culture and social context. On the one hand, Camillian impetus for the mission has always come from the biblical call to the merciful love of Christ and, on the other hand, the Order's vow to serve the sick even at the risk of one's life (cf. C. 4 & 75). Today, the awareness of the mission fuels my missionary formation as a gift to champion the newness of life for others.

Furthermore, those who enter the seminary bring all the strengths and weaknesses of modern society

and family life. The formator needs to be aware of the world they are coming from and its challenges. The surrounding community and culture have a strong formative influence. The formator will need an understanding and appreciation of the culture and be able to affirm its strengths and challenge its negative impact.

In conclusion, I attest to the words of Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta, "We do not do great things, but small things with great love." We think of the poor people. We care for them. We are concerned about the poor. We form seminarians for the mission. Thus, our mission becomes a gift to ourselves and others. When a missionary dedicates his life and rightly uses his heritage, he, in turn, becomes a missionary instrument in the hand of loving God.

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Synodality is Communion and Love is its Life

*Fr. Sebastian Christi MI**

If we walk in the light,
we have communion with one another (cf. 1 John 1:7).

I have an ever-cherished beautiful memory from around 11 years of age. It was the occasion of the marriage of my eldest brother. Date and time had been fixed and announced. And at one night after supper my dad called all his nine children and sat in a circle in the open yard of the house with my mom. He began to discuss about how to organize the function, whom to invite, what dish to be served and so on. He sought the opinion of all and respected the voice of everyone, including that of the youngest who was probably just eight years of age.

Synodality has been a discussion since many years. His Holiness Pope Francis has aired this thought and has triggered related discussions in this contemporary age. Synodality is, in fact, the mind of the Creator and had been the Spirit-guided discussion since the Apostolic time. The Spirit exhorts us through St Paul:

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others

better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:1-5).

Synodality, therefore, is nothing but “being in full accord and of one mind” (communion) “having the same love” (the oxygen for communion). Synodality remains a concept so exciting to be cherished in our thoughts and a subject so beautiful to discuss about within the walls and in the online web-village.

Jesus never wanted his disciples – and the Church – to live in the clouds of ideas but rather, inspired them – and us – to incarnate the ideas into living flesh and blood. He himself is the living example for the practicality of all that he inspired his disciples to live. A continued reading of the previous passage of the Kenotic Hymn challenges us with life of JESUS himself to follow the way of the Master in living the communion of synodality: “Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus; who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in

the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:5-8).

Synodality is all about freedom... a state of being really free in the Spirit. In the following we discuss some of them:

Freedom from fear

Freedom of expression of one's idea is central to the life in communion which is the basis of synodality. If anyone is afraid or inhibited in anyway to express one's own ideas/opinions etc, there cannot be healthy communication and acceptance of one another in love. Fear of being judged, fear of rejection, fear of being misunderstood and the similar fears of the persons in synodal communion can be hurdles in reaching a healthy communion and community.

Freedom from being insistent

One may have exciting ideas, but all may not have the capacity to grasp it and/or to actualize them. Or at times, he/she may hold on to some opinion/idea which is impractical and/or illogical. Whatsoever it may be, insisting on one's own ideas does not promote communion. “Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus; who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Phil 2: 5-7). Self-sacrificial approach in letting one's idea give way for better is key to synodality and communion.

Freedom from personal or group agenda(s)

The first ‘synodal gathering’ of the Church was heated with debate and argumentations between Paul and Barnabas, and 'some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees' (Acts 15:5). The latter had their own agenda to make circumcision mandatory for the non-Jewish Christians and to charge them to keep the law of Moses (cf Acts 15:5), which in fact triggered and heated up the discussion even before the council. However, listening to the sharing of Peter and James, the whole council agreed upon what the Holy Spirit prompted and not according to the particular agenda of a party. For, the apostles and the elders, with the whole Church (cf v.22) decided on the matter and wrote: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things...”(Acts 15:28).

Freedom from personal interests and agendas and docility to the Holy Spirit is inevitable for synodality and communion.

Freedom in the Spirit

Paul was certainly more learned than Peter and other Apostles. His teachings are self-evidences of this fact. He had received the mystery of faith through Christ's own revelation and not from any human teaching (cf Gal 1:11-17) and was gifted with extraordinary spiritual experiences (cf 2Cor 12:1-4). However, listening to the prompting of the Spirit, Paul, with his companions, visited “James and Cephas and John who were reputed to be pillars” and

laid before them the gospel that he preached among the gentiles (cf Gal 2:1-10). This exemplary act of Paul with his companions speaks of the freedom of those who have the Spirit of the Lord, for he writes: “The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom” (2Cor 3:17). Being receptive to the frequency of the Holy Spirit is the heart of synodality and communion.

Freedom to accept God-given authority

Synodality is not leaderless-ness and an everyone’s business. Humility to accept the Authority of God and to listen to the voice of the Spirit is inevitable for Synodality and communion in every walk of life!

JESUS chose the twelve and gave them authority equally over the evil spirits and commissioned them to heal the sick and to preach the Gospel, with no special preference for anyone. However, He made Peter the first among them. At the resurrection of JESUS, though John reached the tomb of JESUS ahead of Peter, he waited outside till the ‘first among them’ entered the empty tomb. This is the spirit of synodal humility and respect for authority.

Freedom from being Authoritarian

“I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder... Tend the flock of God that is in your charge ... not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock” (1Pet 5:1-3). For the debate on who is the greatest among the apostles, JESUS’ reply was: “He who is least among you

all is the one who is great” (St. Luke 9:48). Even when he asserts himself to be their only Master, he gave them an example of service and not of domination. He washed their feet and called them friends.

Humility and responsible execution of authority by those chosen to lead is the core of synodal communion.

Without love all is just a noisy gong

The teaching of our Master: ‘Love one another as I have loved you’ is the axle of synodal communion. The Trinitarian God who is love has created everything in love. The Creator has fashioned a harmonious existence of all the creatures. Communion is the nature of existence. When humans turned away from God and brother turned against brother the divine plan of love was overturned.

Call to synodality is a reawakening to go back to the mind of the Creator and begin to live a life of communion. This is possible only through the path JESUS has shown in his life: Loving every one even to the point of giving his own life for them. Synodality will remain a concept so exciting to be cherished in our thoughts and a subject so beautiful to discuss about within the walls and in the online web-village, unless we walk the path JESUS, the love-incarnate, treaded.

Breathe love and live synodal in every walk of life!

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Invitation to Vocation Promotion: Perspectives and Challenges

*Fr. Baby Ellickal MI**

I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called (cf. Ephesians 4:1).

Lord Jesus' invitation in Matthew 9:38, "to beg the master of the harvest to send laborers into the vineyard," sets forth a direction for the ministry of vocation promotion in the Catholic Church. We all need to ask if we want more priests, nuns, and religious! We pray for an increase and promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Moreover, today's world expects to see in consecrated men and women the concrete reflection of Jesus' way of loving and serving.

Vocation is a Calling from God. The English word *vocation* has its root in the Latin word *vocation*, which means a 'calling.' God has His plan for each of us; He calls us, and it is up to us to respond. Therefore, we are all called to do God's will in whatever state of life He calls. Insofar as a vocation is central to the Christian life, the idea of vocation is exclusively associated with a divine call to service in the Church and humanity through a particular way of life in a commitment such as the sacrament of marriage, consecrated life, ordination to priestly ministry including a holy life as a single person. Likewise, Christian vocation includes

using one's gifts in their profession, family life, Church, and civic duties for the common good. Obviously, in contemporary society, the ministry of vocation promotion in the Catholic Church is affected and bears its hopes, relevance, and challenges. The discussion below centers on prominent aspects, including the vocation promoter, the role of the community, and its implications for religious life.

Religious Life

In this short reflection paper, I want to share about vocation promotion. I write with more than 30 years of personal experience in religious life, which includes being assigned the duty of vocation promotion and later as rector of a minor seminary. Additionally, in my tenure as provincial superior, I had the privilege of inviting members and giving them the noble role of promoting Camilian vocation for the province. I don't need to say that vocations to religious and priestly life have dramatically decreased, especially in the Western world, which was once the cradle of missionary disciples. However, this does not mean that God is no longer calling people

to serve Him in the religious state of life. God calls us, but we need to listen to Him and respond to His call. Spiritual life reflects the endless story of call and response amid changing demographics.

Vocation Promoter: The face of a religious institute

The distinctive function of a vocation promotion is inviting others to make a community of religious members that herald the good news of the Lord Jesus. A vocation promoter identifies the one called by God. They are members with the face of a religious witness, identity, and lifestyle. Religious Orders seek committed and hard-working vocation promoters to increase the number of vocations. Ministering as a vocation promoter can be exciting and rewarding but, at the same time, frustrating.

The findings of the study conducted by the National Religious Vocation Conference of 2020 suggest several "best practices" for vocation promotion. These include instilling a "culture of vocations" and involving membership and leadership in concerted vocation promotion efforts; having a full-time vocation director supported by a team and resources; using new media, especially websites and other online tools; offering discernment programs and other opportunities for potential candidates to meet members and learn about the institute; and targeting college students and young adults as well as elementary and high school students to expose them to the possibility of religious life and inform them about the institute.

The study by the National Religious Vocation Conference highlights that the incentive to promote vocations is the belief that the charism of religious life remains attractive and necessary. Furthermore, the new members also suggest that the vocation director plays a vital role in the discernment process. Most new members report that the vocation director or leadership team has encouraged them when considering entering their institute. In essence, those who met regularly with a vocation director found it "very" helpful in their discernment. Many of these new members appreciated the vocational director responding quickly and personally to an initial inquiry.

Vocation promotion in the religious setting carries with it a sense that: vocation promotion is an action-oriented and interpersonal influencing spiritual process. More comprehensively, vocation promoters seek those called by God, have visions of ministry, gain commitment to the religious profession, and take the initiative by setting the place for recruitment, promotional activities, and contacts and follow-ups. As a result, individuals aspiring to a religious vocation, led by the Spirit, learn about vocation discernment.

Overall, among the functions of a vocation promoter, the prominent is discerning, identifying, and recruiting potential candidates. Therefore, it is our shared responsibility and ministry to encourage them and recognize all who have answered God's call, as Mary did, with a resounding yes!

Vocation Promotion:

A co-responsibility

In a 2009 address to the clergy of the Diocese of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI introduced a new term, co-responsibility. The term has both ecclesiological and pastoral significance. Though the concept of co-responsibility has been implicit in magisterial teaching, Benedict did an excellent service to the Church by giving this concept a name. In his address on the role of lay people, he said: it is necessary to improve pastoral structures in such a way that the co-responsibility of all the members of the people of God in their entirety is gradually promoted, with respect for vocations and the respective roles of the consecrated and lay people. Consequently, lay people are no longer viewed as "collaborators" but are recognized as "co-responsible" for the Church's being and action.

The same applies to the members of religious communities. When co-responsibility is a reality, community members are not merely passive participants of the ministry but active agents of vocation promotion. Then, the community bears an identity and role unique to its nature of life and ministry. Thereby, the community becomes a team of vocation promoters, assisting the vocation promoter.

Plainly speaking, vocation promotion is a community responsibility. Men and women called to live a religious life as nuns, brothers, monks, and priests are also called to this ministry of vocation promotion. They are called through a life dedicated to poverty, chastity, and obedience to be a witness of the life.

They are to serve as a reminder and an encouragement to live with hearts and minds fixed on Christ. They live their lives in radical contrast to this world that is fading away. In summary, the community views vocation promotion as a co-responsibility for the service of the Church and willfully accepts the responsibility to promote vocations.

Vocation promotion currently is a popular theme best used in community meetings and chapter discussions. However, our life experience teaches us that good intentions, sophisticated marketing campaigns, and the investment of resources into vocation promotion alone will not attract new members. Instead, it is the example of members and the community life, prayer life, and ministries of the institute that attract new members.

Implications

Religious life is a vivid narrative of transformation, accompaniment, and perseverance. While every vocation is grounded in a unique call and response, some general guidelines for successful vocation promotion can be gleaned from experience and research:

1. Rekindling a culture of vocations is essential in our formation program, and it is significant to create a culture of vocations in the life of the religious: A good number of successful institutes are characterized by a culture of vocations within the institute. In these institutes, everyone, not just the vocation director, is responsible for vocation promotion. This includes leadership, membership, and support services such as communications and development.

2. The institutions and ministries of the institute are also involved in vocation promotion efforts. Vocation directors described several ways of nurturing that culture, such as regularly informing members of vocation activities through newsletters, e-mail correspondence, and meetings, as well as inviting members to participate in vocation fairs, "Come and See" experiences, discernment retreats, or serving as mentors or contacts for those in discernment. Members can also play an essential role by praying for vocations, inviting individuals to consider a religious vocation, and encouraging vocations in whatever setting they find themselves.

3. A vocation team can be defined as more than one person directly responsible for the vocation ministry. The number of team members does not have a statistically significant relationship to attracting or retaining new members. However, some 'successful institutes' show that a full-time director and one or two part-time associate or assistant directors or some other configuration are more effective and beneficial.

4. Prioritize vocation promotion ministry and formation as essential to the community's growth. Religious institutes that prioritize vocation ministry and believe in their role in creating a future in their Congregations attract and retain new members. Ways to do this include: (i) Having a deep commitment to inviting, incorporating, and supporting new members in the Congregation; (ii) Believing in the vitality of their institute's charism and a desire to instil this belief in their

membership; (iii) Recognizing that the best way to nurture a vocation is to ensure that a solid formation experience strengthens it; (iv) Staying informed of current vocation statistics, especially that significant numbers of adult women and men are discerning and entering religious life.

5. Know, recognize, and celebrate significant vocation promotion days: World Day for Consecrated Life (February 2), World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday), National Vocation Awareness Week, and Religious Brothers Day (May 1). Encourage professed members to participate in discernment events to build relationships with inquirers to religious life. The example of members is more influential than the ministries of the institute in attracting new members.

6. A culture of vocation promotion that begins by making every Camillian, each community, and the apostolic work of the Order feel responsible for transparently presenting the charism shall be an integral part of the vocation promotion strategy. Getting closer to people, especially young people, opening our houses, improving our hospitality, and making ourselves accessible are fundamental elements of a culture of vocation promotion.

Conclusion

Vocation promotion is a call within a call. The willingness and ability to accompany personal processes is a condition that is necessary for vocation promotion. Ours is not an advertising campaign to sell the Order of St. Camillus "product." What we do



The Crucifix that spoke to St. Camillus: 'This is my work, and not thine.'

is accompany processes of vocation discernment, aware that it is the Lord who calls and the person who freely chooses to become a companion. We are mindful of the need to make a unique and creative effort to increase the number of those who choose to become Camillian Brothers.

I am aware that the challenges of vocation promotion vary from province to province and according to the different continents. This is an opportune time for creative and contextual ways of implementing vocation promotion strategies. Let us not be under any illusions. Suppose we do not dedicate Camillian religious, exclusively and for a sufficiently long time, to the promotion of vocations, using all the means available today, we will neither harvest the fruit of the labor nor cooperate with the action of the Holy Spirit.

Revitalizing the culture of vocation promotion throughout the body of the Order means renewing our efforts to live life fully as Camillians while providing the means to attract and accompany vocations. The principal means are people fully dedicated to vocation promotion. We work as a team, dedicated full-time to making the charism of the Order visible in the great diversity of social and cultural contexts in which we are present.

In essence, we will have 'vocations' if our style of religious life is close to that which flows from Camillian spirituality; if our life of poverty, chastity, obedience, and service to the sick even at the risk of our lives are ways of showing the centrality of God in our lives; if closeness to the poor sick and apostolic vigor comes from a growing familiarity with the Lord Jesus with whom we become companions, in the model of St. Camillus.

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New Provincial and Councilors installed



Fr. Bijoy and the provincial councilors are being felicitated after the installation ceremony at the chapel of St. Camillus provincialate, Bengaluru

St. Camillus province, India has got a new provincial and the councilors, as they have been appointed by the superior general Fr. Pedro Tramontin and his Consulta.

Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil has been officially installed as the new provincial superior of St. Camillus province on June 24, 2022. The installation ceremony took place during a Eucharistic celebration at St. Camillus provincialate, Bengaluru.

During the Holy Mass, Fr. Bijoy took the oath, and his appointment letter was read out by a member of the General Consulta Fr. Baby Ellickal. The other members of the provincial council who took oaths during the ceremony were: Fr. Teji Anickattuvayalil (Vicar Provincial), Fr. Jofree Nakkuzhikkattu, Fr. Benny Chengalikkavil, and Fr. Basil Singh.

The first council meeting of the new team began at the provincialate soon after the installation ceremony.

Ordinations to diaconate and priesthood



Abin Kettupurackal was ordained a deacon by the bishop of the Mandya Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath on May 28, 2022 at the chapel of St. Camillus seminary, Mananthavady. Aditya Kurella was ordained a deacon by the bishop of Vijayawada His Excellency Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao on June 06, 2022 at St. Paul's cathedral church, Vijayawada.



Fr. Abin Joseph Kettupurackal celebrated his First Holy Mass, after being ordained a priest by the bishop of Mandya Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath on December 27, 2022 at St. Mary's church, Puthussery in the diocese of Mananthavady.

Children's play park inaugurated



Intending to provide the children at Daivalayam with safe and secure place for entertainment, a play park has been blessed and inaugurated by the provincial superior Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil on July 14, 2022.

The Holy Angels park is equipped with the facilities that can be used by all special children here. In spite of their disabilities, children are being taken to the park to play around under the supervision of the caregivers. Special CP chairs have been provided at the park to make sure that the children unable to move by themselves are also given chance to sit at the park and enjoy seeing others play.

Daivalayam is a centre for children with multiple disabilities, run by Sneha Charitable Trust at Hyderabad.

In addition to the various facilities at Daivalayam, it was a long-term dream to build a park for the children to enjoy their leisure time. Beside the agenda of making their leisure time joyous, the administration is convinced that this initiative will enhance their mental health.

While making plans for the park it was a dream to have a space that can even accommodate the children without motor skills along with the other children. To fulfil this dream, the administration had to make special CP chairs to accommodate the children who can't move alone by any means. The project was proposed and Buddhist TZU CHI Foundation funded it. The construction work began on 7th of April, 2022 and completed by 30th May, 2022.

Beginning of a journey with 'red cross'

Academic year 2022-2023 began in all the minor seminaries of St. Camillus province. The new entrants to the Camillian formation houses were given the 'red cross' during the Eucharistic celebrations that marked the initiation ceremony. The provincial superior Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil officiated the celebrations in our three minor seminaries, in the presence of other members of the respective communities.

At St. Camillus minor seminary, Trichy, the initiation ceremony was held on July 31, and 4 candidates began their seminary life, together with 9 pre-novices. During the celebration held at St. Camillus seminary, Mananthavady, on August 20, nine candidates entered seminary formation. Similarly, the initiation ceremony at St. Camillus college, Eluru, was held on October 13, and 18 candidates were solemnly welcomed to Camillian formation programme.



CADIS Annual Leadership Conference



Fr. Biju Sebastian, Fr. Biju Mathew and Fr. Siby Kaitharan attended the 7th Annual Leadership Conference of CADIS in November 2022, held at the Camillian Pastoral Center in Bangkok, Thailand, with a focus on "Reaffirming our Vision and Enhancing our Strategies in Rebuilding Resilient Communities." The conference covered important topics such as CADIS' Six-year Strategic

Plan, the *Laudato Si* Action Platform (LASAP), and conducted a business meeting where representatives were elected to the board. The strategic plan of the conference aims at achieving the organization's vision of a resilient community that embodies the principles of *Laudato Si* and supports authentic ecological conversion.



The first batch of annual retreat was held at St. Camillus Provincialate from 20 to 25 November 2022, in which 13 religious participated. Fr. Ajeesh VC was the retreat preacher.

CTF Flood Relief Interventions

Camillian Task Force (CTF) has been prompt to extend its helping hands to the flood-affected people of Assam and Kerala.

CTF provided medical relief to flood-hit regions in Assam. The mission involved Camillians, sisters from different religious congregations, doctors from St. John's medical college hospital, and other volunteers. The mission took place from July 11 to July 18, 2022. The medical services included providing basic medical care, distributing medication and supplies, and setting up temporary clinics.

Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, along with Fr. Siby Kaitharan and Fr. Vince Koickal visited the flood-affected regions of Poolakutti, Kerala and distributed 40 mattresses to the affected people on August 18, 2022.





Mary, the Mother of Jesus, presents herself to us as a model of service to others, and assists us with her maternal love (cf. C. 68).