



CAMILLIANS - UGANDA

Order of the Ministers of the Infirm



NEWSLETTER
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VOLUME

The Ugandan Camillian Bulletin, Volume 1 February, 2022

Message from the Editorial Board

The Camillians in Uganda with gratitude to God send you fraternal wishes as we continue to journey in the new year 2022. With the desire to keep the spirit of St. Camillus flaming in Uganda we have come up with this newsletter which will be published on quarterly basis with the aim highlighting some of the activities, ministries, community events and other occasions that take place here in Uganda.

This being our first Newsletter, we are grateful to all the contributors and to our superior Fr. Babychan for the support, advice and encouragement.

Formation, ministry and some community events of the previous year have been summarized in this publication together with other updates from the Ugandan Camillian mission.

On behalf of the editorial board we wish all our readers, benefactors and collaborators a fruitful month of February.

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Rev. Fr. Peter Owakubariho MI



INSIDE THE CHRISTMAS CRIB OF 2021

The Message from the Superior

Fraternal greetings from Camillians in Uganda. We are entering in Lenten season which is a beautiful occasion for us as Christians to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. Christmas celebration already gave us a message of Peace, Joy and love. More than ever, all are craving for peace, serenity, and communion. The past year was not simply a year of despair but when we look with the eyes of faith, it was also a year of providence and protection. Looking back to the past one year would certainly affirm it. It is because Jesus is with us, Emmanuel.

The words “Covid-19” and “vaccine” were on everyone's lips in the past two years.

The passing year is also dominated by fear, sadness, and disappointment due to the pandemic. Everyone in the world is affected by the pandemic in one way or another. Though the vast distribution of vaccines has some how given us courage, the new variant still poses itself as a threat. Even though science and technology has developed so much, still we are exposed to human limitation, and the search for power beyond human beings is alive.

The past year was also a year of collaboration more than ever from different benefactors and well wishers, especially from CADIS (Camillians Disaster International services) and from Pro-sa (health and Development NGO).

The collaboration of CADIS and Pro-sa brought us new hope in our mission amidst this pandemic.

Thanking all of you for your collaboration in various ways, I wish all of you Peace and Joy of in the New Year 2022.

I am also happy to present the humble initiative of sharing our life through this E- Newsletter.

Congratulations to all those who have collaborated in this endeavour. May the Peace and Joy of Christ reign in our hearts.



Rev. Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath MI





The Camillian formation in Uganda

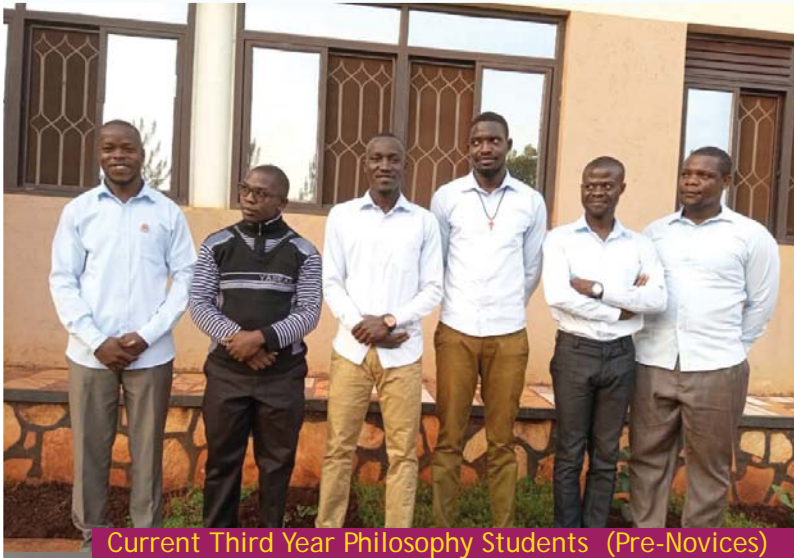
Camillians in Uganda are blessed to receive students from all over the regions of the country: Western, Northern, Eastern and Central parts of Uganda.

All candidates begin with a 'come and see' programme which normally lasts for a week. Thereafter go through an orientation program which takes a period of one year. After this, the candidate becomes a Postulant and begins his philosophical studies which take a period of three years. Currently, our students undertake their philosophical studies in Jinja at Queen of Apostles Philosophy Centre (PCJ). The candidates receive whollistic formation with the help of the formators and other spiritual guides.



This journey opens doors for novitiate which lasts for a year and after temporary profession, the religious continues with theological studies for four years before perpetual profession and pastoral experience.

The receiving of Holy Orders follows for the candidates for priesthood while candidates for brotherhood continue to perform responsibilities entrusted to them in ministry.



Fr. Sojan the Novice Master with novices Godfrey and Emmanuel together with the superior at the Novitiate house in Jinja - Kimaka



Students in the Eucharistic celebration



Fr. Fred with Students during sports encounter at PCJ

Last year when the pandemic went to its peak, the community in Uganda decided to open a novitiate house in Kimaka for the first time in history of Ugandan Camillians and four novices beared witness to this new possibility by their first religious profession.



CAMILLIAN PRESENCE IN UGANDA

The Camillians in Uganda reach out to all parts of the country but they are well established in Jinja where they have a community (philosophical seminary), for the aspirants, postulants and Novices.



Frs. Peter and. Acheleo with some temporary professed Camillians in Uganda

In Jinja, we are blessed to have a health facility (St. Camillus Health Centre III) which serves the population within Kimaka and the surrounding areas.



We are present in Masaka District where we have a farm. Lastly, we are in Fort Portal in Western Uganda where we have a community for the professed who are undertaking their theological studies.



Camillian House in Masaka



Professed Brothers with Fr. Benard Tusabe MI in Fort Portal



We are also present in Mayuge district where we have a developing medical centre with a small farm mainly for poultry and piggery.



Musoli medical centre during construction supported by CADIS

Camillian ministry is exercised in Nyenga hospital (Buikwe District) where Fr. Acheleo MI serves as the chaplain.



Students of Nyenga Nursing school where Fr. Acheleo MI serves as a Chaplain.

FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL DAY OF REV. FR. RICHARD LUBAALE MI 2021

Every 6th day of the month of November has been a memorable day in the life of the Order of Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians) of the Ugandan Mission; for it was on this date in 2017 that Fr. Richard Lubaale, the first Ugandan Camillian priest died in a tragic car accident.

This year, we held a Eucharistic celebration where by the community was joined by a team of relatives of the Late Father Richard led by his beloved mom of the late Father, Mrs. Rose Lubaale.

Looking composed, Mrs. Rose was humbly seated and deeply in prayer (Rosary) minutes before the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration.

An appropriate entrance song was intoned by the choir, consisting of the seminarians, as the priests processed to the altar. Fr. Peter Owakubariho, one of the Camillian priests ordained last year December, 27th, 2020 was the main celebrant.

Other priests in attendance were the delegation superior Fr. Babychan who is also the rector of the Philosophy Seminary in Kimaka - Jinja, Fr. Sojan (Sebastian), the novice master, and Fr, Fred Kasozi, the vice rector.

In his introductory remarks Fr. Babychan reminded the congregation of the shocking experience of the Camillian Mission in Uganda on receiving the tragic news.

He mentioned that the members were in absolute shock and felt compelled to ask the inevitable question "Why would God allow this to happen to such a young priest, full of potentials?" For our information, Fr. Richard, at the time of his demise was

serving as the vice rector of the Camillian seminary in Kimaka, with Fr. Johnson Vellachira as the rector.

Fr. Richard was also the administrator of the St. Camillus Health Centre in Kimaka. He also was the brain behind the purchase and establishment of the Camillian settlement in Musoli. This explains some of the reasons for the shock. Citing some relevant examples from the Bible, Fr. Babychan came to the conclusion that in our pain and sorrow, let's stand on the everlasting truth that Our Lord Reigns. Though Fr. Richard lived a short span of life, he left us with a long-lasting memory and inspiration. Let's try to actualize his dream in the mission. We are all challenged to fulfill Fr. Richard's dream. This should be our pledge.

Fr. Peter, in his homily, reiterated the treasured value of the life of Fr. Richard to the Camillian delegation in Uganda, and gave hope to the congregation that considering the way the Late Father lived his life, based on the beatitudes, it's more likely that he is in heaven.

Fr. Peter challenged the congregation to seek Fr. Richard's intercession as we pray for the growth of the Camillian Mission in Uganda.

After the Eucharistic celebration, all present had a breakfast together. During this moment, Mrs. Rose Lubaale, gave a word. She very much appreciated the Superior and the Camillian community in general for annually remembering to specially honour this day and grace it with the celebration of the Eucharist. Sharing her life experience since Fr. Richard died, she assured the members present that her belief is that Fr. Richard is in heaven and looking forward to interceding for us. She cited live examples of how she knelt in front of the Late Father's portrait in her house and cried out to him, whenever she was in need. And incredibly, she immediately received her needs.

These experiences have kept her strong and moving, believing that Fr. Richard is there for her and for each one of us. She further encouraged the seminarians to keep the candle that the late Father lit burning by being committed to their call to serve as Camillian missionaries.



In honour of Fr. Richard's memorable efforts and contributions, especially in the acquisition of the Musoli farm land, Fr. Babychan mentioned that a decision was reached that a multi-purpose hall in Musoli Health Centre be dedicated to the late Father; and this exercise was symbolically done soon after the programme at the cemetery.

Prayers at the Cemetery of the Late Fr. Richard Lubaale

Mrs. Rose, the Late Father's mum was given the honour to cut the decorated ribbon at the entrance to the hall as some family representatives, the health centre staff, some CADIS beneficiaries, the seminarians and Fr. Babychan, the delegation superior stood in witness.

A beautiful portrait of the Late Fr. Richard that hung in the front of the hall was then unveiled by the Superior, Fr. Babychan to a thunderous applause by the members present.

A few pleasantries were shared especially by Mrs. Rose, Fr. Babychan, and the Musoli farm manager, Mr. Charles Adebo.

Finally, a prayer of dedication and blessing of the hall, the portrait, and all members present was then led by Fr. Peter Owakubariho, amidst joyful songs of praise and dedication.

The activities of the Death Memorial Day was concluded with yet another session of prayer and blessing and launching of the CADIS-Musoli boats for a fishing project at the shore of the Lake (Victoria).



Mother of Late Fr. Richard, Fr. Babychan, Fr. Fred at the opening of the memorial Hall



Community during the blessing of boats at the Anniversary

This Fourth Death Anniversary Memorial Day was indeed a moment to celebrate and thank God for the life of Fr. Richard Lubaale, who in very few (only six) years of service as a Camillian (Ministers of the Infirm) priest, made great incredible landmarks for the Ministers of the Infirm Mission in Uganda and for the good of the People of God in general. May each one of us be challenged by his legacy as we work to build the Camillian Mission in Uganda.

We remain grateful to Fr. Babychan who has made sure that this Memorial Day is honored and celebrated annually.

Eternal rest grant unto the soul of Fr. Richard oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him; May his soul rest in peace, AMEN.

ST. CAMILLUS HEALTH CENTRE III

St. Camillus is a Catholic based health centre under the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau. It's non-profit oriented aiming at offering affordable quality health services with free consultation. It is located in Kimaka - Jinja near Senior Command and Staff College. From Milo Mbili round about it is 2km using the Mpumudde- Kimaka by-pass road.

The collaboration and support from benefactors like Pro-sa has sustained this facility and equipped it with modern machines such as the ultra-sound scan, chemistry machine, all covid related equipment among others. This has greatly boosted the performance of this facility. The following are some of the services offered at St. Camillus health centre;



The friends of St. Camillus Health Centre after a cleaning exercise



Dr. Ronald the head of capacity building at St. Camillus Health Centre

As mentioned above, the facility has a multipurpose scanning machine with four probes which does a wide range of examinations and measurements. The ultra-sound machine does the following; Cardiac echo, scrotal scanning, breast scanning for masses, abdominal and pelvic scanning, endo-vaginal scanning, peripheral vascular, obstetrics etc.



The four probe ultra-sound scan at St. Camillus Health Centre

In addition, the Laboratory has a chemistry analyser that carries out number of chemistry tests. The analyser performs the following; Liver Function Tests (LFTs), Renal Function Tests (RFTs), Lipid Profile (good and bad cholesterol) in our bodies. It also does electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, chloride, iron etc. besides that, the laboratory performs many other routine tests.



The Chemistry machine in operation

The facility has also got an Electro Cardiograph machine (ECG) specifically to help doctors analyse and diagnose heart disease in both adults and pediatric patients by using the acquired ECG signals and through the body surface ECG electrodes respectively.



**The ECG Machine at
St. Camillus Health Centre**

STAFFS

The facility has a support team of staffs as summarized below.

- **An administrator**
- **Clinical officer (facility incharge)**
- **Laboratory technicians**
- **Nurses**
- **Midwife**
- **Receptionist / Cashier**
- **Doctor**

Services Offered

- **General Medicine**
- **Laboratory Services**
- **Ultra-sound Scan Services**
- **Maternity Services (Antenatal, Post-natal, Deliveries With Free Mama Kits)**
- **OPD and IPD Departments**
- **Ambulance for Emergency cases and for hire**
- **Gynecological and Pediatrics**

Other Services Include

- **Community Outreaches**
- **Free routine Immunization including cervical cancer vaccination for girls between 9-15 years**
- **HIV Counseling and testing etc**



— Staffs celebrating charismas party December, 2021 —



Part of the structure of St. Camillus Health Centre

St. Paul National Seminary Kinyamasika

September 2019 is memorable as the Camillian Theology formation house was opened in Fort Portal Diocese. We are glad for this gift that God has given to our mission especially pertaining the formation ministry. The Camillian brothers, from then on, have had their theological studies from St. Paul's National Major Seminary, a seminary of great history in the field of formation of seminarians.



St. Paul's Seminary Kinyamasika was established in 1992 by the Uganda Episcopal Conference to give formation to the Seminarians from various dioceses of the country. Observing the Charter for the priestly formation, given by the Uganda Episcopal conference, St. Paul's major Seminary and her programs foster the formation of future priests. In order to achieve the vision, mission and mandate of this noble institute of formation, the Lord has gifted the seminary with a diversity of resources in the persons of the committed and caring formation team, and other means of attending to the seminarians' human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral facets of formation in an integrated way.

On our part, with the values of these aspects internalized and cultivated, we are gradually having a holistic formation and this is enhancing gradual growth in our calling.

If tasked to give a quick description of the physical components of the seminary, we can have a long dialogue because of magnificence in the seminary environment. The most eye-catching elements realized as soon as one enters the seminary premises are the variety of means to spiritual devotedness and growth.

Near the gate is a very artistic statue of the Apostle Paul, and then a very magnificent Seminary chapel equipped enough both for prayer and learning especially in the liturgical dimension. Furthermore, there is a well-positioned grotto where we have often sought a special maternal intercession of our Blessed mother. More still, there is a perpetual adoration chapel, plus a number of prayer houses. Another very unique feature is the inscription on the walls, "In Hoc Signo Vinces- In this sign you will conquer." The sign spoken about is none other than the cross of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ. We recall from history when Emperor Constantine defeated Maxentius in the battle at Milvian Bridge in 312AD. Constantine, he attributed his victory to the favor he got from Christ who, through the vision Constantine had a day before the battle, was told by Christ to adorn the weapons of his combatants with our Redeemer's emblem. We, at St. Paul's seminary hold the Redeemer's assurance to the emperor with great honor, hope and reverence. The inscription is not only on the walls of the seminary buildings, but also on the walls of our hearts and souls. We are continually reminded to look at the crucifix. Our Lord who hang crucified has much hope to bring unto us. Our confidence in prayer is constantly renewed, and our commitment is nourished.

The fact that we go to the Seminary entrusted to the patronage of St. Paul cannot be taken for granted by a Camillian. In other words, it cannot leave us indifferent. On reflection, we pose for a moment and realize a great similarity between St. Paul and St. Camillus.

The miraculous conversion of St. Paul from a false notion to a zealous servant of God prompts us to recall the conversion of St. Camillus and all that transpired around that event. Furthermore, we are privileged to study with the Capuchin brothers. With them, the Camillian family shares an unbreakable bond in history. Having them in our company reminds us of our founder's memorable experience with the Capuchin friars.

We are grateful to the Lord for the extended formation we (the Camillian fraternity) are receiving from St. Paul's seminary. The various activities prepared for us at the seminary are directed towards enabling us to feel an experience of God and grow in our mission of doing his will. We believe that the power of the crucified is the source of the Camillian presence at St. Paul's National Major Seminary.

MATOVU GYAVIIRA

ST. CAMILLUS MEDICAL CENTRE



Ruth the Clinical officer
with a nurse at Musoli

Musoli Medical Centre is a facility located in one of the rural areas next to Lake Victoria in Uganda, Musoli- village Wairasa- subcounty, Mayuge - district . We have been in existence for 1 Year and 2 Months.

Our facility is embraced by the local community since they have been facing challenges in obtaining quality medical services , thus we hope and pray that we can offer even more to them.

The clients we receive are from Musoli village, Musoli beach village, Musoli trading village, Ntinkalu village, Busuyi village, Bugabwe village and Iguilibi village whose main source of income is farming and fishing.



St. Camillus Medical Centre offers the following services

- **General medicine**
 - **Immunization**
 - **Anti-natal**
 - **Laboratory**
 - **Maternity**
 - **Scanning;**
- is yet to start operating**

As of now, the health Centre has two medical personnel, two support staffs and a manager.



Two medical staffs and a support staff at Musoli medical centre

Majority of the clients we get are managed as outpatients however we also have a few inpatients while the rest are referral cases.

Our main referral facilities are; St. Camillus Kimaka in Jinja, St. Francis Nyenga Hospital in Buikwe district and Jinja Regional Referral Hospital.

The facility operates for 5 days from Monday to Friday (8:00am-6:00pm) although on a few occasions a health worker may stay back over the weekends or even work at night.

Maternity services are still pending due to some structures under construction however we believe this will positively benefit the community since there's a high number of delivers. Most of these mothers end up seeking medical attention from Traditional birth attendants while others deliver from their homes.

Majority of our clients suffer from malaria however other illness like hypertension, peptic ulcer disease, sexually transmitted diseases, urinary tract diseases, respiratory tract infections, brucella etc. The largest population around are clients with HIV and they are on ART.

VOCATIONAL STUDENTS FROM MUSOLI SUPPORTED BY CADIS





Celebrating the life of Mary Chacko: the mother of the superior of the Camillians in Uganda.

The Camillian community in Uganda was sadly drawn in mourning after the demise of the mother of Fr. Babychan, in India. The sad news reached the Camillian fraternity in the early evening hours on 20th January 2022 and we immediately started offering her soul to the Lord.

Mary Chacko passed at the age of 82 after battling with some athsma, diabetes; a condition which was worsened by covid-19. We are grateful to the religious communities, friends, diocesan fraternity who supported Fr. Babychan in such a hard and difficult moment as he could not attend the burial nor meet the mother in her last days. The late Mary Chacko was laid to rest at 11:00am at St. Mary's church, Kabinigiri in India. May the Lord rest her soul in eternal peace.



Community offering the Eucharistic Celebration for the deceased mother



Camillian first house at Kiira road Jinja

Entry into Novitiate of Godfrey and Emmanuel



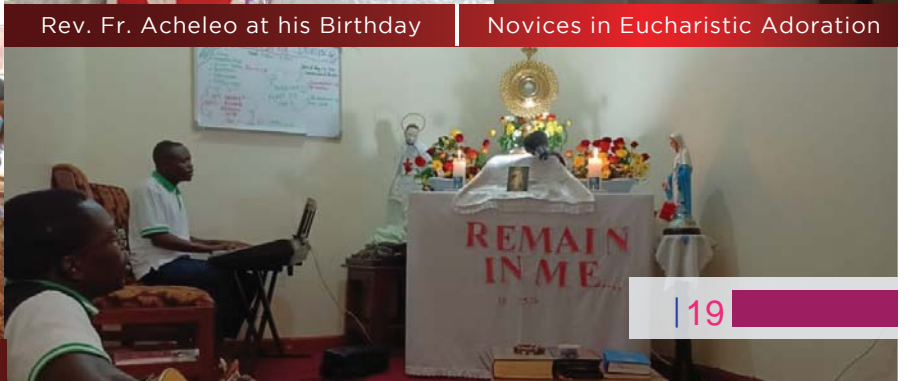
Rev. Fr. Acheleo at his Birthday



Novices in Eucharistic Adoration



Kimaka Pro-sa Vocational Training Beneficiaries





CADIS Vocational Beneficiaries at St. Camillus



Bro. Gyavira celebrating his birthday in Fort Portal