



Ministers of the Infirm

# Newsletter

Camillian world seen from Rome, and Rome seen from the world

N. 94



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Message of the Superior General

## World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocation

Dear Confreres,

In the Year of Prayer proclaimed by Pope Francis, we are invited to deepen our relationship with God as we prepare for the Church's Jubilee Year in 2025. Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of embracing prayer as a way of life, guiding us closer to the heart of God and to each other. Prayer illuminates our path, helping us discern God's will and surrender to His divine plan.

The Camillian Charismatic Family has decided to establish **June 29 as the World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocation**. This day commemorates the canonization of St. Camillus, celebrating his legacy of charity and holiness. It is a day dedicated to prayer for vocations and a celebration of the precious calling we have received from the Lord.

Fishers of men  
in the sea of Charity  
(cf. Mk 1: 16-18)

## First World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocation

June 29, 2024



***Like St. Camillus, with courage and humility, we have responded to the call to serve Christ in the sick; today we are called to be “fishers of men.”***

The theme for this year’s World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocation is taken from Mark 1:17-18: **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** It emphasizes the significance and urgency of our mission.

The call to holiness is at the heart of our Camillian vocation. Like St. Camillus, with courage and humility, we have responded to the call to serve Christ in the sick; today we are called to be “fishers of men.” Let us open our hearts to welcome others into our Camillian family, inviting them to join us in our mission of compassion and healing.

As we prepare for the Jubilee of St. Camillus’ conversion in 2025, let us unite in entrusting our religious consecration and our life of service to the heart of St. Camillus. May this initiative renew our spirits and strengthen our determination to be ministers of compassion and merciful love for the sick, following the footsteps of St. Camillus.

**Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI**  
*Superior General*

## Rebuilding peace in Haiti

Address by Superior General **Fr. Pedro Tramontin** on the situation in Haiti during the 101st Annual Gathering of Superiors General in Assisi, May 22, 2024. The theme of the gathering was: The USG's Commitment to World Peace. This article was written with contributions from Fr. Massimo Miraglio and Fr. Antonio Menegon.

Since 1992 (32 years), Camillians have been present in Haiti with two missions: the first in the capital city of Port-au-Prince, with the “Foyer Saint Camille” Hospitaller Center which includes a general hospital with 120 beds, a dispensary for basic medicine and a cholera center with 23 beds, and the “Foyer Bethléem” which shelters 120 physically and mentally severely disabled children.

The second mission in the town of Jérémie where we have a hospital (80 beds) and a center for food distribution to the population and a mobile clinic on the ground for preventive health care and treatment.

As of August 2023, the Bishop has asked us to take a Parish in Pourcine, a long way from the capital.

Haiti is a country with no infrastructure, no roads, no water, no electricity and no idea of sanitation either. The country lacks everything. The country, one of the



poorest in the world, has always experienced a deep crisis, which began with the January 2010 earthquake that left deaths, disease, disability and misery on the ground.

Since 2021, the country has been in a humanitarian crisis, with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and the rise of

armed gangs that dominate the country with unprecedented violence and ferocity. Killings, rapes, kidnappings, and terror paralyze all activities. In Haiti, life is worth little and people die for nothing.

In this situation the Foyer Saint Camille, the general hospital, continues amidst a thousand

difficulties to provide health services to the population. So far, armed gangs have spared it even though they have entered the premises several times, threatening and terrorizing religious, health workers, the sick and disabled children.

Father Erwan writes us from Port-au-Prince: "They allow us, upon 'payment of pizzo' (protection money), to go out every now and then with the ambulance to buy food and oxygen for the hospitalized and for surgeries, but the situation is more dangerous every day!"

For the Religious, the challenge is daily, the danger of being killed is real but, as they have told us several times, they will never leave the sick, children and co-workers at the mercy of themselves, because they feel the responsibility to continue to be present to witness to the Gospel of Christ and to live the 4th vow that we Camillians profess: "Service to the sick, even with the danger of life."

To continue this service amidst a thousand difficulties, to care for all the sick, even the wounded who are arriving in the hospital in increasing numbers, without asking them to which gang they belong, to give hope to a population totally at a loss, without any point of reference and in total despair is to live peace in a country at war.

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Through our ceaseless work, we are making an important contribution to the slow process of PEACE in Haiti:

- by continuing to keep its doors open, we are working to keep the right to health alive, a concrete way to fight against the violation of human rights and the injustices that fuel the country's instability.
- standing by the victims of violence and the most vulnerable segments of the population with concrete projects, Camillians are committed to keeping alive the Gospel values of compassion, solidarity, and forgiveness, starting points for rebuilding a path of PEACE in Haiti.
- the way in which relations with the armed gang occupying our neighborhood were handled by the Religious is

an example of moral and spiritual leadership that encouraged mutual respect and the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

- We have decided to maintain our presence in the effort to find paths that will lead the country toward holding democratic elections that will confirm the authorities and institutions necessary to embark on the path of reconstruction.
- It is essential that we establish the rule of law and legality that can protect the fundamental freedom to live with dignity.

Peace is not a word, it is a truth that needs concrete facts, needs to get on the side of the weakest, those who have no one to protect them. Our presence today, in this situation has even more meaning and significance and is the best witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ who did not escape death on the cross.

## May 25, 2024: 30th anniversary of the Day of Camillian Martyrs of Charity



**A time of reflection to retrace the heroic commitment of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity and to discuss new challenges through the direct testimonies of those who, today, stand in the service of the sick**

by **Giulia Calibeo**

*Communication & resource mobilization officer, CADIS*

**O**n May 25, 2024, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Camillian Martyrs of Charity Day and the birth anniversary of St. Camillus de Lellis.

To commemorate the heroic commitment of the Camillians who lost their lives in their service, on Friday, May 24, the Secretariat for the Ministry of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm and the Foundation CADIS



(Camillian Disaster Service) International organized a conference “Martyrdom of Charity Today: Challenges and Opportunities for the Camillian Charismatic Family.”

It was a time of reflection to look back on the heroic commitment of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity and to discuss the new challenges through the direct testimonies of those who, today, place themselves at the service of the sick. Nearly one

hundred participants and eight speakers followed each other in a historical, theological and contemporary review.

After greetings from moderator Fr. Medard Aboue, MI, consulter for ministry, Fr. Pedro Tramontin, MI, Superior General of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm, shared his greetings and reflection to those present, then passing the floor to Fr. Felice de Miranda, MI, who, with a historical excursus, reviewed the history and lives of the Martyrs of Charity.

P. Aris Miranda, MI, Director CADIS International, shared the Foundation's humanitarian mission and the importance of continuing to operate today. At the conclusion of the first part of the conference, Fr. Giuseppe de Virgilio, biblical scholar, provided a biblical-theological and pastoral reading of the martyrdom of charity.

The second part resumed with a panel of testimonies by Camillian religious and lay people serving in the most difficult situations: Fr. Mathieu Ouedraogo, MI, a medical surgeon in Pescara, recounted his medical and pastoral experience during



the first dramatic months of the spread of Covid-19.

Next, Dr. Enrico di Salvo, medical surgeon and lay missionary, took us around the world to witness multiple missions in the most difficult medical and socio-political conditions.

Sister Maria Ruby Chilito Penagos, a nurse from the congregation of the Daughters of St. Camillus, and Sister Teresa Laksanavadee Kitbumrung, a nurse from the congregation of the Ministries of the Infirm of St. Camillus, shared with the audience their work as health workers especially in the delicate phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The day ended with Holy Mass at the Magdalene Church in Rome, presided over by Superior General Fr. Pedro Tramontin. In his homily, he stressed, "From the beginning of our history, Camillus and his companions have distinguished themselves not only by serving the sick but especially by serving them in difficult and prohibitive circumstances such as plagues. With great courage so many of them lost their lives for their suffering neighbors, translating that fourth vow into deeds." Reflecting on the image of the Good Samaritan, Fr. Pedro pointed out that we are all wounded, but by facing our sufferings with humility, we can learn to love more deeply and encourage others to love.





## A LIFE DONATED!

# Solemn religious profession of Lorenzo Lettere

by Fr. Walter Vinci MI

**O**n May 25, the day on which we commemorate the birth of St. Camillus, we had the joy of celebrating the Solemn Profession of our own Lorenzo Lettere, a simple professed of the Roman Province.

Thinking about this article, a question came to me: What is Solemn Profession? It is a gift that is placed in the heart of the Church and in the living of this humanity of ours.

Yes, each person who consecrates himself or herself through solemn profession of vows is first and foremost a gift from God to his Church, so that that particular form of life - poor, chaste and obedient and at the service of the sick - which Jesus chose for himself and which he points out to us as “a” privileged way to be happy is visibly manifested. It is a form of life that does not shrink the heart or will or desire, but on the contrary expands them in view of a greater love for the brethren.

Solemn profession is the act that seals the consecrated person’s belonging to Christ: properly, it is the consecration that God works by binding the consecrated person to Himself, with a covenant of love, the living memory of that



covenant, that nuptial, eternal and faithful love, with which God has always loved humanity and which has been fully revealed and fulfilled in “Christ who loved the Church and gave Himself for her” (Eph. 5:25).

Concretely, this came about through the rite of profession placed within the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Father Antonio Marzano, Provincial Superior, which expresses its deeper meaning and content: the offering of self is united with the offering of Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit. It is His total and forever Yes that makes and has made possible and fruitful every other Yes, particularly at

this moment that of Lorenzo.

A rich, special, intimate and profound celebration. Every single “fragment” of the rite highlighted two fundamental aspects of the life of the man and of Lorenzo: with the interrogations, the free will of the person to consecrate himself to God through the great family of St. Camillus was manifested; with the prostration during the singing of the litanies, the total surrender in the awareness of one’s own littleness was expressed, the intense supplication placed in the hands of the heavenly Church, of those who have already preceded us on this same path of following.

Then the rite continued with





the two most significant moments: the profession of vows in the hands of the Provincial Superior - promising to “serve the sick in perpetuity, even with the danger of life, in perfect chastity, poverty and obedience according to the Constitution and Dispositions of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm” - and the solemn prayer of blessing or consecration which is the culmination of the entire rite in which the celebrant invoked

the gift of the Holy Spirit on Lorenzo, so that “by his consecrated life, to the God of love, he may edify the Church, promote the charism of charity toward the sick and, meeting his suffering brother, may rediscover in him the face of the Redeemer in order to serve him with a mother’s heart.”

The two explanatory signs followed: the handing over of the crucifix, “a sign of resurrection and life: it reminds

you of the Lord’s continuous presence beside us and the constant commitment to the service of our suffering brothers and sisters,” and the embrace of peace with the brethren, a sign of welcome “among the followers of St. Camillus.”

Words are not enough to express the mystery and gift of grace that was accomplished in Lorenzo, so we entrust him to Him: “that inflamed with the fire of the Holy Spirit he may be persevering in the love of the Son”





## ***San Camilo humanization center in Spain receives Red Cross Gold Medal***

by **Juan Pablo Hernández**

**I**n an emotional ceremony held in Oviedo, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain presided over the presentation of the 2024 Honors of the Spanish Red Cross, commemorating the 160th anniversary of this humanitarian organization.

During the event, Queen Letizia expressed her deep gratitude to the Red Cross and its

volunteer corps, stressing that “whatever happens, we will always find the outstretched hand of the Red Cross.” She highlighted the organization’s historical commitment “with the sole objective of mitigating human suffering, in all its forms” and congratulated the award winners, pointing out that “your work is useful and has social relevance.”

The *San Camilo* Center (Health Humanization and Care Center) received the Red Cross Gold Medal for its humane and holistic approach to caring for people in vulnerable situations and its mission to provide dignified and just care.

Brother José Carlos Bermejo, Provincial Superior of Camillian Religious in Spain and general director of the *San Camilo* Center, thanked for the recognition and stressed that “we are living a global moment in favor of the humanization of health care around the world.” Brother Bermejo expressed the need to treat people not only as patients with pathology, but with “the heart in the hands.”

In his speech, Brother Bermejo also stated that “we are dissatisfied because we seem to be in danger of reducing people to pathologies, while our deep desire is to make access to care and health and health care itself something accessible that truly gives fullness of dignity to the human being.” This recognition, celebrated on World Red Cross Day, underscores the shared values between the *San Camilo* Center and the Red Cross by reference to integral and humanitarian care.

Queen Letizia, knowing the work of the *San Camilo* Center, reinforced the importance of caring for the person until the natural conclusion of his or her existence. In her words, expressed privately, she praised the empathy and expertise of Camillians in the world of suffering, stressing that “care until the end, care with the heart, care by claiming the dignity of all people.”



**This recognition, celebrated on World Red Cross Day, underscores the shared values between the *San Camilo* Center and the Red Cross by reference to integral and humanitarian care.**

## St. Camillus Province, India: Solemn and Temporary Religious Profession

by Fr. Tinto Valamparackel MI



**F**ive temporary professed religious, namely Kuruthukulangara Sumesh, Absalin K., Kappukattil Able, Dhanwar Rohit, and Barla Sumit Kumar, made their solemn religious profession, and one novice, Harshit Topno, made his first profession on May 13, 2024, at Snehadaan Chapel in Bengaluru.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist, was presided over by Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the Provincial of St. Camillus Province, India.

Members of the provincial council and Camillian confreres from different communities concelebrated the Mass. Priests and religious from neighbouring communities, and the relatives of the newly professed joined to witness this auspicious event.

This significant event marked a profound milestone in their journey of faith and commitment to the Camillian religious life.



## Meeting of chaplains, coordinators, and agents of pastoral healthcare in the Brazilian province

by **Fr. Júnior Moreira MI**

*Provincial Councilor for Pastoral Health and Mission*

**A**s part of the annual program of the Brazilian Camillian province, a meeting of Camillian chaplains, coordinators and pastoral health agents who collaborate with the confreres was held last April in São Paulo at the headquarters of the Camillian Works Foundation.

The event was attended by about 20 Camillian religious from different communities in Brazil, including Fr. Mateus Locatelli, provincial superior, Fr. Zaqueu Geraldo Pinto, provincial councilor for formation, and Fr. Junior Moreira, provincial councilor in charge of pastoral health care and missions.

Keynote speaker at the meeting was Camillian religious Fr. Ademar Rover, who addressed in a very broad way, the theme of Camillian chaplaincy in our present day. He highlighted several aspects:

- the new context of spiritual care in Brazil, which limits in many ways the most effective presence in hospitals and health care facilities;
- the need for a single program of basic, in-depth and specialized training for



all those involved in this type of ministry;

- the need to create a network of trainers-multipliers for healthcare ministers engaged in this area of work and service.

In addition to his live presentation, Fr. Ademar left abundant training materials on different topics that will be sent to chaplains for further study and use in the training of pastoral agents. On the first day of the meeting, all participants had the opportunity to share their own experiences, hopes and joys of mission, accentuating the gradual process of resuming work with volunteers in this post-Covid-19 period; the

different initiatives of the Camillian Laudato Si' year, already activated in their own work units, were explained; the aimposium on ecological-spiritual integration held with the directors, animators and chaplains of the hospitals of the Northeast Region; and the numerous events, congresses and ordinary activities of the different chaplaincies and regional coordinating sections of the Brazilian religious province.

At the end of the day, Fr. Mateus Locatelli presided over the celebration, celebrated for all the participants of the meeting in the parish of Nossa Senhora do Rosário de Pompeia.



On the second day, a guided tour of the São Camilo University Center - Campus Pompeia was held with the aim of strengthening knowledge and relationships among the different areas of activity and ministry in the province. As part of the program, the ProMoVe Clinic, a Health Promotion and Rehabilitation and Social Integration Center operated by the university center, was presented, offering

quality care to the population in need. Its infrastructure spread over an area of 5470 m<sup>2</sup> is managed by highly specialized group of people to work in an interdisciplinary way, adopting behaviors that promote the improvement of the quality of life and the achievement of autonomy of the people taken care of. There was also a visit to the Realistic Simulation Center, which provides the academic community and external users

with state-of-the-art realistic simulation equipment. With 11 classrooms and the capacity to accompany 70 students at the same time, the center provides training in health care for numerous students and professionals from various fields of education and health care in the São Camilo Network. The meeting concluded with a convivial lunch, offered at a restaurant near the Camillian Foundation headquarters.



# Camillian Brazilian Province celebrates the priestly ordination of Genildo Guarino

by Felipe Rodrigo de Almeida

On May 25, 2024, at the church of Our Lady of Aparecida in the city of Avorada do Gurguéia, Genildo Guarino da Silva, MI was ordained a priest by His Excellency Dom Marcos Antônio Tavoni, Bishop of the Diocese of Bom Jesus do Gurguéia, Piauí.

Family members, friends, members of the parish community, members of the Brazilian Lay Camillian Family, diocesan priests and several representatives of the Brazilian Camillian Province were present at this special moment.

After the mass, Father Genildo thanked all the people who were by his side throughout his priestly journey.

Father Mateus Locatelli, provincial superior, also conveyed words of congratulations to Father Genildo, to the entire Camillian province that now welcomes the new priest, to the entire community present and to Dom Marcos Antônio Tavoni who with great affection celebrated the ordination.

Father Genildo celebrated his first Mass in his hometown, at the Church of Our Lady of Aparecida in the city of Avorada do Gurguéia, Piauí, Brazil.



On May 1st in Prachimburi (Thailand) we had the entry into novitiate of two young Thai men, the First Profession of two other young Vietnamese men, and the renewal of vows of 4 Thai temporary professed. Fr. Paul Cherdchai Lertjitlekha, Provincial of Thailand, presided, and Fr. John Toai, Delegate of Vietnam, was also present.



Annual celebration of the Camillian fraternity day at the shrine of Caravaggio in the northern Italian province, on May 29, 2024

Polish Camillian Province:  
Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Dyl, Hensel, Czaja and Zajac.







## **Fr. Antonio BARZAGHI** **[1926-2024]**

On July 17, 1950, he was placed in the S. Camillo Nursing Home in Milan for services. The death of his mother in a car accident in Pisa on December 23, 1950, cast a shadow of sadness over the beginnings of his ministry. From August 1953 he was assigned to administrative offices. On Oct. 6, 1956, he was appointed chaplain at the Pius Ophthalmic Institute. On February 3, 1958, he was sent to the Sanatorium Village in Sondalo (SO) as chaplain to the 5th Pavilion and assisted the Catholic Nurses Association. On October 10, 1965, he was transferred as spiritual father to the minor seminary of San Vito di Pergine (TN). On November 6, 1968, he was assigned as chaplain to Borgo Trento Hospital in Verona, and was local assistant to both the Catholic Nurses Union and the Missionary Circle. On September 9, 1981, he was transferred as chaplain to the Civil Hospital of Sondrio, which until its closure in 1999 was a residence of the Sondalo Community, and then moved to the Como Community.

The sudden death of Brother Fr. Leonardo Rattin and the consequent closure of the chaplaincy, brought him on April 16, 2007 to the "S. Anna" Hospital in Como, where he served as a volunteer.

On January 1, 2009, he was

transferred to Besana Brianza (MB), where he breathed home air again, and as of May 27, 2011, he was moved to the Community of Capriate S. Gervasio (BG). He unexpectedly survived the Covid contagion, from which he emerged totally non-self-sufficient, so hospitalization in the "O. Cerruti" RSA became inevitable, where he died on the afternoon of May 30, 2024.

P. Anthony, very small in stature but strong in temperament, was a well-rounded Camillian, who loved the Institute in the same way he loved the sick, whom he visited for several decades in hospital spiritual care. He had a passion for researching eminent figures of the Institute, especially the living places of the Holy Founder and Blessed Enrico Rebuschini, material he also published. In fact, visiting significant places, especially shrines, was one of his hobbies. With the same care and fidelity he maintained correspondence with his missionary brethren. He insisted to municipal administrations to name a street after St. Camillus. He was precise, had the scruples of the archivist, dutiful to rules and acts of piety, good-naturedly grumpy at times.

Because of his physical presence, somewhat of a madman, he nevertheless aroused natural sympathy, not least because he presented

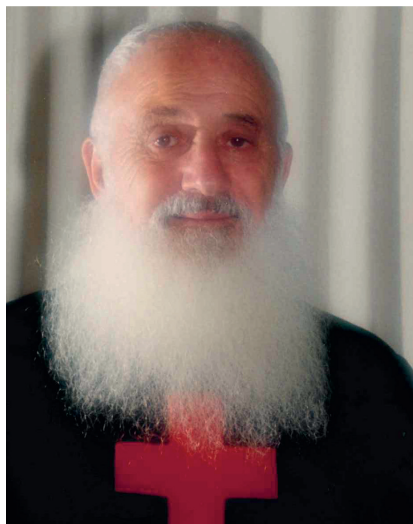
**H**e was born on June 11, 1926, in Romanò Brianza di Inverigo (CO), to Michele Andrea and Angela Maria Frigerio.

He entered the Camillian Seminary of Villa Visconta in Besana Brianza (MB) on September 30, 1937, for middle school, continuing his high school in October 1940 at Mottinello Nuovo in Rossano Veneto (VI). He entered the Novitiate in Verona San Giuliano on September 7, 1942, concluding with Religious Profession on September 8, 1943, the historic date of the armistice, which entailed civil war and bombings, so from November 1944 to August 1945 the group of seminarians was secured in Valle Colorina (SO). From September 1946 he began Theology in Mottinello, where he made his Solemn Profession on October 5, 1945. He was ordained Deacon on December 8, 1949 and Presbyter on April 8, 1950, both times in the Diocesan Seminary of Padua and by Bishop Msgr. Gerolamo Bortignon.

himself in a playful manner, forewarning of his severe deafness-and he really was! - so communication could work if he was the one talking. And it did, indeed! How much that handicap must have pained him because he loved company so

much. He did not fail to keep in touch with sick villagers, whom he visited as soon as he could get by the house. He was also proud to be a Brianzolo, keeping a few operettas or dialect pamphlets. Given his spirit and energy, he had been prophesied

to live 100 years: he would have gotten there, had it not been for the Covid. In the moments of death he was very serene and almost smiling. Who knows, maybe he was beginning to “hear” heavenly harmonies--without earphones this time.



## **Bro. Angelo ALDEGHERI** **[1934-2024]**

he was transferred to the Venice Alberoni facility. On October 20, 1962, there is a move to the Bologna house, for housework and as sacristan of the Rain Shrine.

On August 24, 1966 he moved to Verona to the mother house of S. Maria del Paradiso, again for housework and concierge service. In January 1969 he became a general nurse at the Borgo Trento Civil Hospital, and the following summer he remained in San Giuliano awaiting his destination, which from October 13, 1969 was established at the St. Camillus Nursing Home in Cremona, as a nurse. On April 18, 1972, it was Cervia's turn at the Milano Marittima (RA) facility, which has a beach and serves as a summer camp for boys, but he also served as a nurse in the homes.

On September 10, 1975, he was transferred to the Opera S. Camillo in Predappio (FO), which had recently started-anticipating the Basaglia Law of 1978 - an innovative experience of caring for former inpatients of psychiatric institutions, in agreement with the province. On August 29, 1978, he was sent to Rome, to the General House of La Maddalena, as deputy

bursar. On April 5, 1980, he was transferred to Milan to the S. Camillo nursing home, in aid of the Missions Secretariat, where he matured the missionary idea, so that on November 24, 1980, he left for the Philippines, to Makati City, where he was a nurse among the slums.

On December 10, 1987, he moved to the Community of St. Camillus Polyclinic, Pasig City, as Bursar but continuing in slum care. In 2001, he became Director of the Home of Charity in Marikina City.

In 2004 he moved to the St. Camillus Hospital community in Colbayog City, with various duties. On December 20, 2008 he returned to Italy, momentarily in Castellanza (VA). On September 14, 2009, he moved back to the St. Camillus Nursing Home in Milan, this time to rest, and on October 20, 2017, he was admitted to the RSA C.C. Bresciani in Verona, where he died on the morning of May 28, 2024, having turned 90 two days earlier.

A collection of 150 signatures, from self-described priests from Romagna to avert his transfer from Cervia, gives a sense of his affinity as a “religious in the lay state” (the

**H**e was born May 26, 1934, in Campiano di Cazzano di Tramigna (VR), to Bortolo and Perlina Grigolo Castaldi. He was baptized on February 10, 1934, and confirmed on September 11, 1947.

Nineteen years old, on September 12, 1953, he entered the St. Camillus Apostolic House in Cremona as an aspirant and began his postulancy on March 19, 1954. On September 15, 1954 he was transferred to Verona San Giuliano for the novitiate year that began on September 25 and ended on September 26, 1955 with religious profession of vows.

On October 4, 1955, he returned as a professed brother to the St. Camillus Nursing Home in Cremona for auxiliary nursing services. As a religious, he was released from military service in February 1956. On November 29, 1957,

Brother) who interfaces with the truly secular world. Brother Angelino to them is “a good person, because he is good, charitable and humane....

When we see him driving around Milano Marittima as

he goes to lend his services to some sick person, on his rickety moped, we consider him one of our own and unconsciously envy him because we feel he is better than we are ... The nurse can be replaced, but the simplicity, communicativeness and smile

of that man cannot be found on every street corner.” It is this way of being, in simplicity and humility, in helpfulness, that made him beloved even in the slums of Manila, with that long, white beard of his that the children enjoyed pulling.



## Bro. Vincenzo CODELLA [1921-2024]

who was a field worker for his family, was thunderstruck by that cross and took information about who the student was and to which Order he belonged. Thus he became acquainted with the figure of St. Camillus de Lellis and the work of the Camillians in the service of the sick. He decided to submit this to Padre Pio, and left for the Gargano. Father told him, “Mo I bless you, do well my son. And once you’ve packed your bag, don’t look back!” And so it was for Vincent who, almost 50, became a Camillian brother serving the sick.

He left Calitri and went to Messina under the guidance of Father Gino Cisternino, who truly became a spiritual father to him. During his years as a religious, he took on various tasks: sacristan, assistant chaplain at Monaldi Hospital, minister of the Eucharist. At the Monaldi Hospital in Naples he loved to make himself a missionary animator for the Camillian mission in Benin by collecting substantial offerings from staff members.

Everything went to charity for the erected African mission. He did simple apostolate,

distributing medals, rosaries, little pictures. Great was his Marian devotion: he never left the rosary beads behind. In the summer, he loved to go on vacation to Mangano in Sicily, with the disabled boys of the John XXIII Institute, sharing their day and getting busy in the vineyard and garden. He returned a bit to the farmer he had been in Calitri.

The character was jovial, almost joking. As chaplain at Monaldi he loved to spend the evening hours in recreation playing cards with the brethren in endless challenges. He also lived for some years in Acireale, where he loved to return, as long as his strength would allow, to celebrate with the volunteers and the poor guests of the canteen, his solemn birthdays. Solemn in terms of age attained, but very simple in terms of celebration. During the pandemic COVID was in community in Messina while that house had become a novitiate house. A young professed then novice thus remembers him: Brother Vincent taught us the joy of consecrated life!

Brother Vincenzo was a native of Calitri, in the province of Avellino, and boasted that he had Padre Pio of Pietrelcina as his confessor. He went one first time to San Giovanni Rotondo, confessed to the Father his desire to become a Capuchin: the holy friar looked at him and perhaps reading in him some inconsistency or that the Franciscan way was not his, said to him, “Guagliò, do you have the strength?” Vincenzo did not answer and left.

After a long time he returned to San Giovanni Rotondo: he had learned of the existence of the Camillians, because a Camillian student from his village had returned to Calitri for his vacation fresh from his habit, with the beautiful red cross prominently displayed on his habit.

The now mature Vincent,



**Our land. Our future.**

*June 5*

**World Environment Day**

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

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