



Al Superiore Generale
Superior General

Prot.n.7/2024
Rome, July 31, 2024

Dear confreres,

Warm and fraternal greetings from Rome. After the meeting of the major superiors held in Colombia, I was in Brazil for some medical check-ups and now I am back in Rome. I hope you have celebrated the feast of our holy father, Saint Camillus in a meaningful and fruitful way, in your provinces and delegations. I pray that his spirit will continue to inspire, guide and bless each of you in your ministry.

I wanted to write you this note on the gathering of major superiors held in Bogotá, Colombia, from June 1 to 8, 2024, but I preferred to send you the message on St. Camillus for the month of July, thinking it would be more appropriate.

I am sending you this summary now, also because we sent the proceedings of the meeting to all the major superiors. If you would like to go deeper into some topic, you can ask the major superiors for a copy.

Almost all provincial superiors and delegates attended the meeting, except the provincials from India and Burkina Faso, for reasons beyond their control but who joined online. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to meet again and to share experiences with each other, exploring the challenges and opportunities the Order is facing, oriented towards the future based on hope.

We joyfully celebrated the **60th anniversary of the Camillian presence in Colombia**, with a visit and celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Cardinal Luis José Rueda Aparicio, Archbishop of Bogotá in our community. We also participated in the Eucharistic celebration in the Bogotá Cathedral with Auxiliary Bishop Mgr. Alejandro Diaz Garcia, as well as in the festivities prepared by our confreres in the Colombia-Ecuadoran delegation.

The participants from the Latin American zone shared the life and activities of their provinces and delegations. Their focus included vocation promotion and formation, chaplaincies, parish, hospital, social welfare and rehabilitation ministries. They also discussed challenges and opportunities, such as addressing generational transitions, aiming for financial autonomy, declining vocations, and aging religious. Despite these challenges, the commitment to serve the sick and promote the Camillian charism remains strong.

The meeting was an opportunity to learn about the missions and missionary activities in Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Haiti, and Barranquilla, presented respectively by the provincials of the Roman province, the North Italian province, and Spain, and by Fr. Cyrilo Swinne (of the German province) who was present in Bogotá for the festivities. The missions are at the heart of our Order and present serious challenges at the moment. It is essential that each provincial administration assess the current situation of these missions, make evangelical discernments and take appropriate decisions regarding their sustainability and continuation. Ensuring the fraternal and community life of every religious involved in these missions is crucial. Interprovincial collaboration should improve the quality of our missionary activities. Provincials and delegates are encouraged to take the necessary steps to revitalize mission life, provide religious personnel and strengthen missionary activities with adequate community and apostolic structures in the years to come.

The reality in Latin America is complex, especially when some works are carried out by one person, making continuity more difficult. It is worrying that many religious are reluctant to work on

vocation promotion and formation. The life and future of the Order depend on this crucial task. If we have received much from the Order, it is our duty to promote and preserve it. Vocation promotion is closely related to our witness of life. We must ask ourselves whether we are true witnesses capable of attracting new candidates. Perhaps focusing on a single presence could be a solution. We cannot keep depleting certain provinces, vice-provinces and delegations by trying to save the unsalvageable. Solidarity and collaboration are needed.

Consecrated life is in a survival phase and it is no longer enough to "**make fire with the wood we have.**" We need to go back to the basics. The problems that arise in works, ministry and financial sustainability are secondary to what our Constitution gives attention to - spiritual and community life. A process of personal and community conversion is needed.

To sustain our works, we must not only seek outside help but also ensure good internal management. Transparency and honesty are crucial for the good of others and not for personal gain. When there is good internal management, external providence comes.

I would like to share some essential themes and relevant points from our discussions for your attention and implementation. We evaluated the **Order's Strategic Plan**, noting positive signs that it is treated as a concrete project. Efforts to unify various communities in Europe and address legal, administrative and financial issues in a systematic way are ongoing. Although patience is needed, serious work and meeting deadlines are essential.

We celebrated the first **World Day of Prayer for Camillian Vocations** as a united family, thanking the Lord for our religious consecration and praying for more vocations in our Camillian Charismatic Family. I pray that many more young people will join us to continue this healing ministry of Jesus.

We have updated our "**Handbook for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults and Protocol for Prevention and Intervention in Cases of Sexual Abuse**", available in both English and Italian. This manual contains clear guidelines for clergy, staff and collaborators, who must know and accept them with signature. Educational and preventive aspects should be given great attention and importance. Therefore, I request all provincials and delegate superiors to read and discuss this manual. Based on the discussions and in accordance with the guidelines of your country, as well as the directives of your episcopal conferences, please draft a manual tailored to your respective country. These manuals must be sent to the General Consulta by **December 2024** and implemented throughout the Order, adapted to each reality and in line with the plans established by Episcopal Conferences and civil laws.

Agreements of interprovincial collaborations and agreements with the local church or public agencies must be updated and maintained to prevent future problems. It is also essential to evaluate our financial management systems in each unit of the Order by paying attention to competence, transparency and sobriety in financial practices. We need to update financial control methods and appoint a second General Treasurer to support this vital task.

Regarding personal projects managed by religious, **all projects should be authorized and endorsed by the Provincial Superior and approved by the General Consulta** for better coordination. Projects sent to and accepted by CADIS and *Salute e Sviluppo* must be approved by the Superior General. New missions must be carefully analysed and discerned to ensure sustainability and continuity. The presence of local vocations is a key criterion for decisions regarding new Camillian foundations, requiring prior approval from the General Consulta.

Father Charly Olivero, a priest from the Diocese of Buenos Aires, an invited speaker, discussed **the reality of addictions** and the **need to address them openly within religious communities**, with mutual support among confreres. The use of the genogram during initial formation to understand genetic and familial predispositions to addictions is suggested. Training on addiction prevention and management of the risk factors such as stress and frustrations is of utmost

importance, and the use of therapies, medication support, self-help groups in addiction treatment and fraternal commitment and responsibility is encouraged.

Father Mateus Locatelli presented common canonical cases in Camillian Provinces that require serious treatment in accordance with canon law and our Constitution. Vicar General Father Gianfranco stressed the need to deal with these situations justly to prevent future problems with errant clergy. Major superiors are urged to spend time dialoguing with religious and addressing these complex situations with care and responsibility.

Father Victor M. Morales S.J., invited speaker, explored new realities, perspectives and horizons of religious life today, stressing the importance of adapting to social changes while maintaining fidelity to religious identity and principles.

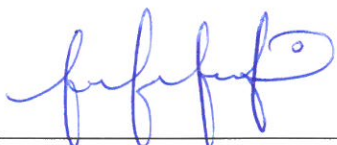
Dr. Hugo Sarubbi Cysneiros presented principles and practices of efficient administration, governance and sustainability, offering practical strategies and answering questions on contracts, civil foundations and current administrative challenges. His team will continue to advise our Order.

We have highlighted all these aspects: revitalization, reorganization, the canonical, legal and financial aspects, to improve management effectiveness, promote unity and solidarity within the Order, and prepare the entire religious community to respond effectively to contemporary challenges.

Before concluding, I invite each of you to reflect on and plan various programs for the Jubilee Year 2025, which marks the 450th anniversary of the conversion of St. Camillus to be celebrated with the entire Camillian Charismatic Family, starting with the general program drawn up by the Central Commission.

I pray that the decisions made at our meeting in Colombia and the proposals that emerged may be implemented in all our provinces and delegations to make them a concrete reality. May the spirit of St. Camillus and the gift of the Camillian Charism enrich our religious consecration daily, making us authentic witnesses of the merciful love of Jesus.

Let us remain united in prayer and may St. Camillus guide and bless each of you with his thousand blessings.



Fr. Pedro Tramontin MI
Superior General



Superiore Generale
Superior General