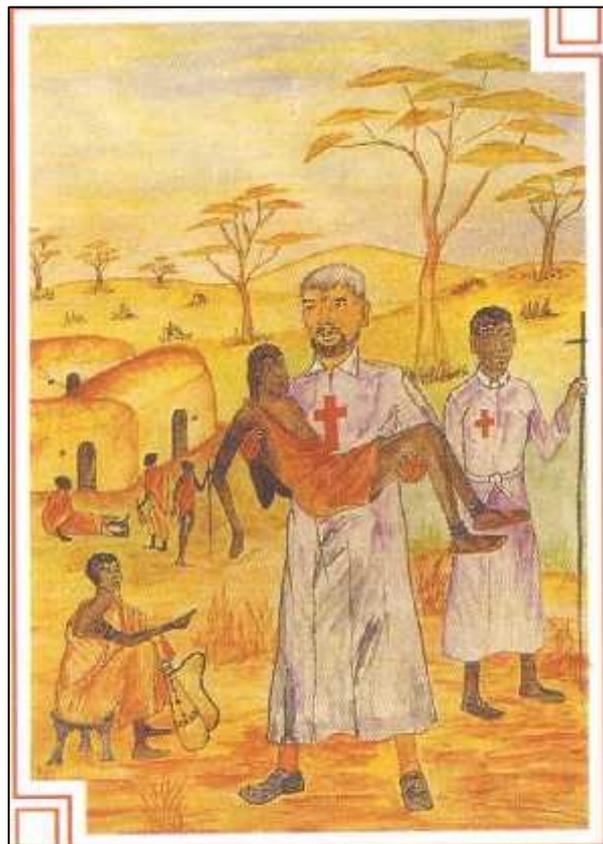


40 Years Camillians in Kenya

1976



2016



ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS
*Patron of the Sick
and Healthcare Workers*

1976: TABAKA

The first to arrive in Kenya and experience first-hand the reality of Kenya were Fr. Francesco Avi and Fr. Rino Meneghello, followed some months later by three Camillian Sisters: Sr. Maria Grazia Lucchesi and Sr. Veronica Tondini, Italians and Sr. Emilia Balbinot, Brazilian.

The two Fathers arrived in Tabaka and began their work without wasting time: Father Avi started with seeing patients in the clinic, while father Meneghello was busy with various activities.

The official start date of the Foundation of Tabaka's House was 5th September 1976.

The period from 1976 to 1980 were the starting phase of Tabaka Hospital with many challenges that were overcome. Almost all issues were addressed and resolved in the 1980's. After completion of the first phase of the Hospital, Fr. Meneghello went to Nairobi to purchase a new home. Tabaka hospital was started with four religious namely: Fr. Francesco Spagnolo, Fr. Francesco Avi, Br. Albano Balzarin and Br. Fabio Zeni. Then it was necessary to request from Italy new and qualified religious, including Fr. Mario Cattaneo, who embarked immediately to solve the problems he encountered, while Fr. Valentino Gastaldello and Br. Pietro Pedernana, both nurses began nursing duties at the Hospital. After the death of Br. Zeni (1983) arrived at Tabaka Mission Hospital Br. Patrick Brady, Br. Camillo Mc Hugh (the Irish Province), Fr. Emilio Balliana, Fr. Pierino Cunegatti and Fr. Giuseppe Proserpio.

At the same time, Tabaka was becoming an increasingly efficient medical facility with competent staff. Mobile clinics were set up, hospital improvements were made with new diagnostic and surgical procedures.

Since 2001 there is also a nursing school in Tabaka Mission Hospital.



Br. Albano Balzarin



Fr. Francesco Avi

1979: NAIROBI – BOLECH HOUSE

The idea of establishing in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, a person or location, which the Tabaka Mission Hospital could refer, was clear already to the early pioneers of the mission and became an indispensable requirement when the hospital was started and there was some issues that could be solved only in Nairobi.

On 19th March 1979, after some missed opportunities, Fr. Meneghello saw a house just 3 kilometers from Central Nairobi and with the formal authorization from Italy, he concluded the purchase of the House.

On the door of the new building was affixed a plaque to commemorate its major sponsor: Fr. Pietro Bolech, a Camillian of the Austrian' provinc.

Today the Bolech House is Pastoral Centre and resident of Chaplain at Nairobi Hospital.



Nairobi: the colonial style chaplain's house which was acquired on 19th March 1979.



Glimpse of new structure in Bolech House

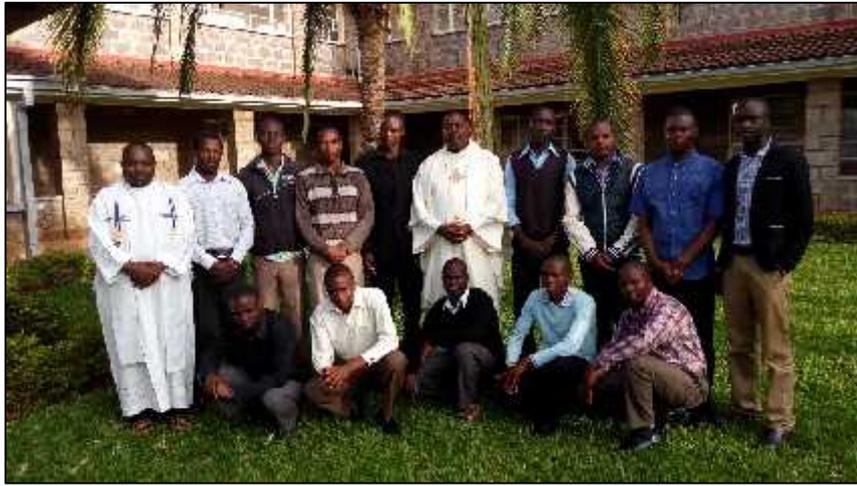
1986: NAIROBI - SEMINARY

One of the main objectives of the presence of the Camillians in Nairobi was pastoral work for vocations. A land was identified on which to erect the St. Camillus Seminary in Nairobi and, on 7th February 1985 during the opening ceremony, the first stone was laid.

In May 1986, the construction work was completed and the Seminary could start.

The order of St. Camillus is made up of priests and brothers. The three stages of formation: philosophy, novitiate and theology, have a vision determined to pursue their own objectives.





1993: KARUNGU

After having started the Hospital in Tabaka, the Camillians received numerous proposals to open health clinics and hospitals.

In 1992, the Passionist Congregation who were already running a mission in Karungu division, which is 80 km from Tabaka next to the Lake Victoria, acted as a starting point for the Camillians to open a small health clinic.

In 1993 Fr. Emilio Balliana and Br. Valentino Gastaldello, appointed responsible for the mission which was to be built in Karungu, completed the purchase of land on which to erect the new hospital.

Construction started immediately and year after year, the hospital starts. The first part of the hospital, comprising of the O.P. D (Out Patient Department), pharmacy, laboratory, and 25 beds as General ward, was officially opened on 14th July 1997.

Dala Kiye program arose as a result of the dire situation experienced in St. Camillus Hospital where a large amount of terminal patients with AIDS died, leaving orphaned children.

The idea of Dala Kiye was founded in 1999 and a project was developed in building 6 foster homes where 60 orphaned children with HIV/AIDS were hosted.





Karungu's Mission also includes: B.L.Teza Complex school, with Nursery, primary and secondary; the Novitiate and Catholic Bookshop in Rongo.



The Camillians, working primarily on these three fronts: Health, Pastoral and Formative, continue to expand, keeping as a reference point the human promoting and evangelization.

Over the past years, having increased the number of religious, other communities and residencies were opened:

2012: NDUNDU - OUR LADY OF HELP PARISH

2014: RODI – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH



2014: NAIROBI - CHAPLAINCY AT MT. KENYA UNIVERSITY

2014: NAIROBI - CHAPLAINCY AT ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL



2015: NAIROBI - ST. PETER PARISH



2015: NAIROBI - CHAPLAINCY AT MATER HOSPITAL

2016: NAIROBI - CHAPLAINCY AT NAIROBI HOSPITAL