

"Memorial", when it was also moved to the anniversary of his death, 14 July. In the USA it is currently an optional "Memorial" celebrated on 18 July, because on 14 July there is the obligatory "Memorial" of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

Saint Camillus de Lellis is the Founder of Religious Orders and Universal Patron of the sick, hospitals and nurses.

### SCAPULAR OF HELP OF THE SICK

The **Scapular of St. Dominic** is a Roman Catholic devotional scapular.

In the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene in Rome, there is a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is specially venerated under the title of Help of the Sick. This picture is said to have been painted by the celebrated Dominican painter, Fra Angelico and before it Pope Pius V is said to have prayed for the victory of the Christian fleet during the Battle of Lepanto (1571). This picture suggested to a brother of the Order of Saint Camillus de Lellis, Ferdinand Vicari, the idea of founding a confraternity under the invocation of the Virgin Mary for the poor sick. The confraternity was canonically erected in the above-mentioned church in 1860.

The scapular is black and the front has an image of the Virgin Mary and at her feet St. Joseph and St. Camillus, the two other patrons of the sick and of the confraternity. The other side has a little red cloth cross. Indulgences were granted by Pope Pius IX and Pope Leo XII in 1860 and 1883; these were last ratified by the Congregation of Indulgences, 21 July 1883.

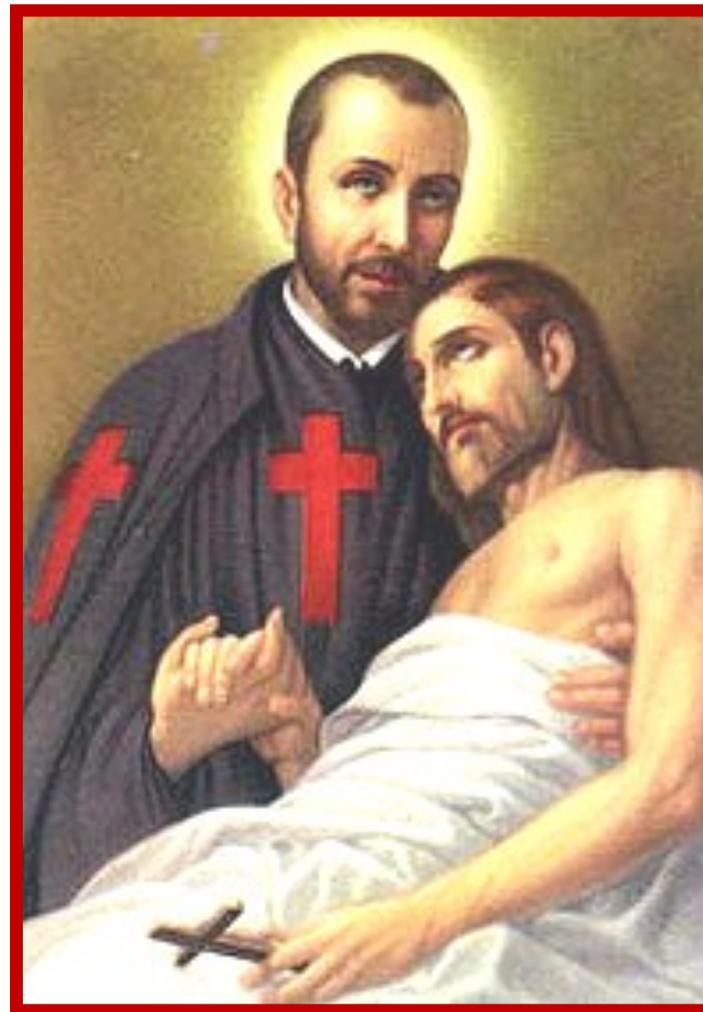
\*(excerpted from en.wikipedia.org)

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## ***Saint Camillus de Lellis***

**Feast Day: July 18**

**Patron Saint of Nurses**



**Saint Camillus**  
(with a Patient)

## ***Saint Camillus de Lellis***

\*Camillus de Lellis was born at Bucchianico (now in Abruzzo, then part of the Kingdom of Naples).

His mother died while he was still a child and his father was an officer in both the Neapolitan and French royal armies. As a consequence Camillus grew up neglected. Camillus joined the Venetian army while still only a youth. After his regiment was disbanded in 1574 Camillus worked in a hospital for incurables, however his aggressive nature and excessive gambling led to his dismissal. He later rejoined the Venetian army and fought in a war against the Turks. After the war he returned to the hospital in Rome from which he had been dismissed, he became a nurse and later director of the hospital.

Camillus established the Order of Clerks Regular Ministers to the Sick, better known as Camillians. His experience in wars led him to establish a group of health care workers who would assist soldiers on the battlefield. The red cross on their cassock remains a symbol of the order today. Members also devoted themselves to the plague-stricken. Camillus was so distressed at how hopeless plague cases were treated during his time that he formed the "Brothers of the Happy Death," for plague victims. It was for the efforts of the Brothers and his alleged supernatural healings that the people of Rome credited Camillus with ridding the city of a certain plague and, for a time, Camillus became known as the "Patron Saint of Rome".

In 1594 Camillus also led his friars to Milan where they attended to the sick of the Ca' Granda, the main hospital of the city. A memorial tablet in the main courtyard of the Ca' Granda commemorates his presence there.

Throughout his life Camillus' ailments cause him suffering, but he allowed no one to wait on him and would crawl to visit the sick when unable to stand and walk. It is said that Camillus possessed the gifts of healing and prophecy. He died in Rome in 1614.

Camillus was beatified by Pope Benedict XIV in the year 1742, and canonized by him four years later in 1746.

## **VENERATION**

Popularly, Camillus is the patron saint of nurses, and against gambling. His mortal remains are located in the altar in the Church of Mary Magdalene, Rome, Italy, along with several of his relics. Also on display is the cross which allegedly spoke to Camillus, and asked him, "Why are you afraid? Do you not realize that this is not your work but mine?" which has become the motto associated with St. Camillus, as well as healthcare workers who were inspired by him.

The Congregation of the Servants of the Sick of St. Camillus, the Daughters of St. Camillus, the Secular Institutes of Missionaries of the Sick Christ Our Hope, of the Kamillianische Schwestern and of the Lay Camillian Family, were born later of the charism and spirituality of St. Camillus.

St. Camillus' feast day was originally inserted in the Roman Calendar in 1762 for celebration on 18 July, since 14 July, the day of his death, was at that time taken up with the feast of Saint Bonaventure. It was then given the rank of Double, changed in 1962 to that of "Third-Class Feast" and in 1969 to that of an obligatory