



1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

To the Missionaries of St Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians  
To the Missionary Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians  
To the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries

Dearest all,

On this date, so significant to all of us, we are happy to send you the new version of the basic text of the *Traditio* Scalabriniana. As you know, it is a text common to the three Institutes of the Scalabrinian Family, a sort of manifesto in which the Institutes recognize themselves, through which they introduce themselves and which they share with those who wish to collaborate in the mission with migrants.

The first basic text was drafted as a result of the research on the specific features of the Scalabrinian vocation, spirituality and mission, a research stimulated by the 1996-1997 conferences on the Scalabrinian spirituality and by the beatification of Msgr. Scalabrini in 1997. The general administrations of the three Institutes met on these topics in 1998 in Solothurn, in 1999 in Fatima and in 2000 in Rome, while the editing was entrusted to a team with one representative from each institute. In a joint letter dated September 25, 2000, the general administrations of the three Institutes presented for the first time to the Scalabrinian Family the basic text of the *Traditio*, considered the fruit of a "significant journey of communion" and an "outline to be filled up and deepened". In order to fill up and deepen that outline, in 2005 the bi-annual publication *Traditio* Scalabriniana was born, in which studies, meditations and testimonies of the religious of the three Institutes converge.

At the meeting of the three Institutes in Villabassa in 2019, it was decided to proceed with a revision of the basic text, on the basis of the experience made in these years. The drafting was a collaborative effort, like the first time. The various drafts were shared with others within each Institute. Due to the pandemic, a meeting of the three Institutes could not be held this year, but the new text was approved by the respective general administrations.

This text maintains substantially the structure of the first basic text, particularly with regard to the three elements that characterize the witnessing we are called to give in the footsteps of Scalabrini – welcome, itinerancy and communion in diversity – as well as the fruits of such witnessing. At the same time, the language has been widely revised, the role of the laity has been heightened and in particular more relevance has been given to Scalabrini as founder and inspirer of the three Institutes and to the way in which his vision of migrations can be reinterpreted in the contemporary context. The term *Traditio* was kept because it connects with the origins but at the same time conveys both receiving and transmitting, what each of us is called to with creative fidelity.

We invite you to make ample use of this text, both in personal and community reflections, as well as in meetings with the laity and with those who collaborate in our mission. The basic text can also be appropriately used in the formation program. It remains an outline to be developed, particularly through the contributions we are invited to make with our insights, meditations and testimonies to be shared in the bi-annual publication.

Looking back to when Scalabrini started his mission with migrants, we see a long history, made of passionate responses and leavings, of courageous initiatives and weariness. But it is above all a history of dynamic and silent fidelity, in which the action of the Spirit is recognizable. It is our *Traditio*. But *Traditio* is also the path we are walking now, the furrow we are opening to welcome the seed that the Lord wants to sow, the hopes we have for a tomorrow in which relationships can "reveal the true homeland from which we all come and towards which we walk: communion with the Father in the Son through the Holy Spirit". The *Traditio* is us and we must feel responsible for the gift we have received and how we transmit it.

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P. Leonir Chiarello, cs  
General superior

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