



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)
CASA GENERALIZIA - VIA DI MONTE DEL GALLO, 68 - 00165 ROMA - TEL. 06 39377320 - 06 6390369

“Like
Jesus Christ,
forced
to Flee”
(Pope Francis)

Rome, 20 September 2020

Prot. n° 135/2020

Subject: Message for the World day of Migrants and Refugees

Dear Sisters, Formands, and Lay Scalabrinian Missionaries

With the slogan “Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee”, chosen by Pope Francis, we celebrate the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, on 27 September 2020. The theme, inspired by the apostolic constitution *Exul Familia* (01/08/1952) of Pope Pius XII, has, as its starting point the experience of Jesus Christ: “In His flight to Egypt, little Jesus experiences, together with His parents, the tragic condition of displaced and refugee marked by fear, uncertainty, and hardship”. Pope Francis, continuing on this path, reaffirms the Christological reason for Christian hospitality in the theme he has chosen.

In his message, Pope Francis reinforces that the “drama of the displaced within their own nation”, mainly of those “living in a state of dire poverty”, is one of the challenges of the contemporary world. A tragedy, the Pope underlines, “that the world crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated, whose severity is due to its geographical extension”. Pope Francis expresses his personal concern for a particular category of people on the move, internally displaced, who are often forgotten. We are talking about more than 40 million people, displaced, just that they are unable to cross borders and remain in their own national territory.

Therefore, the importance of recognizing Jesus in this humanitarian emergency is, says Pope Francis, because “the displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord, even if our eyes find it hard to recognize Him: with torn clothes, with dirty feet, with deformed face, wounded body, unable to speak our language”. (Pope Francis, Homily, 15/02/2019)

As we can perceive, the message continues on six pairs of verbs that translate very concrete actions, connected in a cause-effect relationship: knowing and understanding, becoming neighbor and serving, reconciling and listening, growing and sharing, involving and promoting, collaborating and build. Responding to the four verbs previously presented by the Pope is a pastoral challenge to be embraced with open arms by us MSCS Sisters, Formands and Lay Scalabrinian Missionaries: to welcome, protect, promote and integrate.



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)
CASA GENERALIZIA - VIA DI MONTE DEL GALLO, 68 - 00165 ROMA - TEL. 06 39377320 - 06 6390369

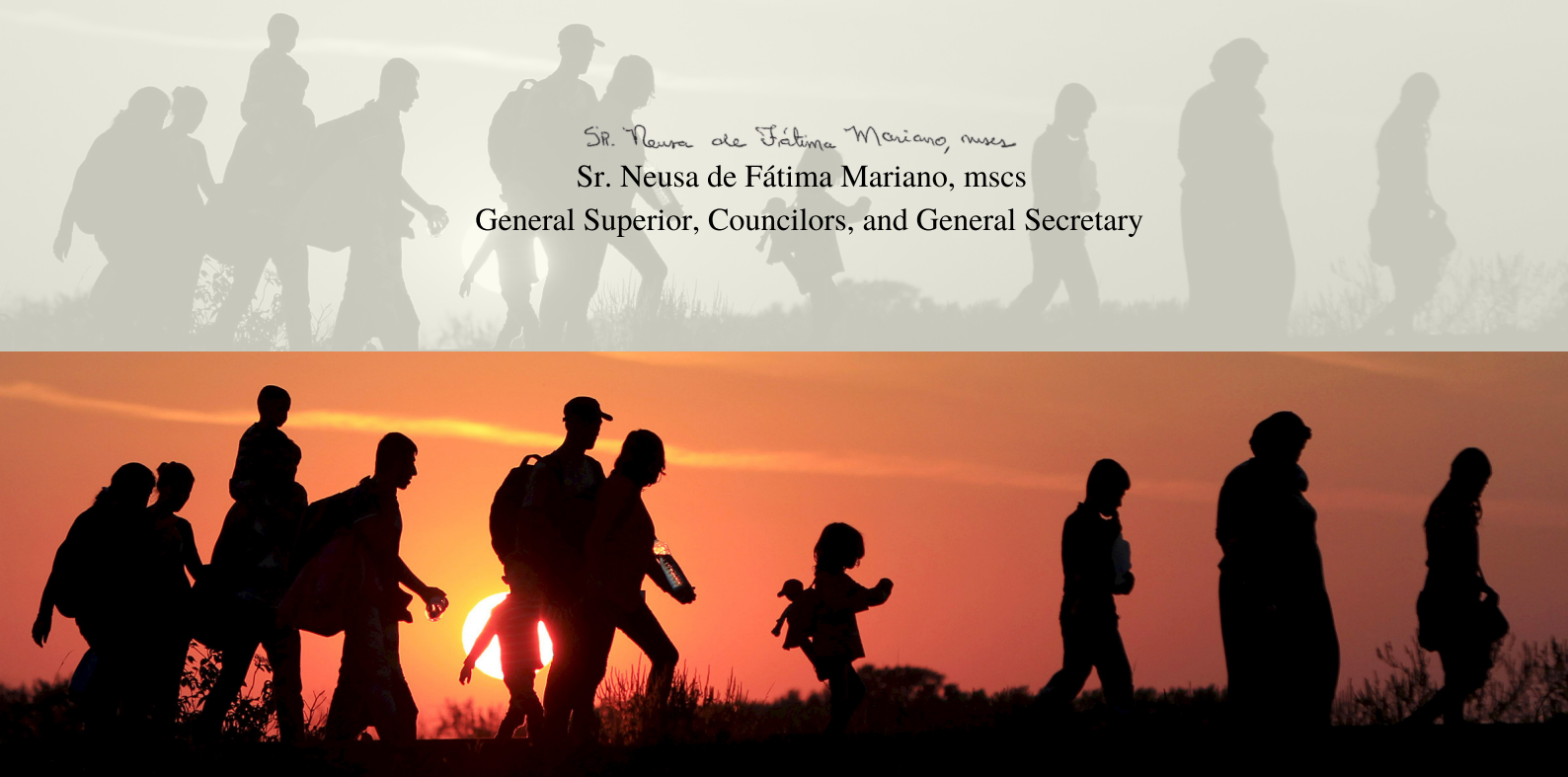
It is worth remembering that the XIV General Chapter, through its final document, wisely guides us that the prophetic evangelizing thrust asks us to encourage the protagonism of the migrant, as an active and responsible subject of its history, in building the Church and in building a new society that respects the dignity of people, takes into account the promotion of human rights and promotes the human and integral development of people.

In this year of the Congregation's Jubilee celebration, we are called to awaken the world in favor of migrants and refugees, infecting it with the witness and radicalism of following Jesus Christ, making the face of Jesus Christ shine with a new light in the experience of the Scalabrinian charism, radiating the beauty of living as consecrated women, as happy and fulfilled MSCS Sisters, giving our life to God and neighbor, in the service of migrants and refugees.

Therefore, I invite you to live this day intensely, united in one heart and one voice, through countless programs, activities and initiatives that will be accomplished in different parts of the world where we have a Scalabrinian female presence; through a warm embrace of peace to all those we meet on the paths of migration, we want to express our solidarity and communion and wish to affirm you that we are close in prayer and mission.

May the Lord, through the intercession of our founder, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, our co-founders Blessed Assunta Marchetti and the venerable servant of God Fr. Joseph Marchetti and the patron Saint Charles Borromeo, inspire us to respond to the challenges presented by Pope Francis, in his message for this day, as a sign of our commitment in the Church in serving migrants and refugees, letting his words echo strongly in our hearts: "In their faces, we are called to recognize the face of Christ who is hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, stranger and incarcerated (cf. Mt 25, 31-46). If we accept this challenge and recognize him, we will be the ones to thank Him for having been able to meet, love and serve him".

In communion of prayers,



Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs
Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs
General Superior, Councilors, and General Secretary