



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)
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Rome, June 1st 2021

Prot. n° 270/2021

Subject: Founder's Feast, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini

Dear Sisters, candidates, and Lay Missionaries Scalabrinians,

The celebration of the founder's feast, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, this year assumes an even greater significance since we are in the jubilee of the Congregation, which itinerary is being permeated in the light of the motto of the XIV General Chapter: "*Walk humbly with your God*" (Mic 6:8), which leads us on a journey of inner renewal concerning our consecrated being and, at the same time, gives us new spiritual strength, a sign of new courage and missionary thrust, moved by the Holy Spirit, who *makes all things new*, instills upon each of us a new ardor of holiness, conversion, spiritual and apostolic vitality, to be witnesses of the Lord to the ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8).

This jubilee year of the Congregation motivates us to intensify the search for a revitalization of our being consecrated and missionary as Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters, in fidelity to the Scalabrinian charism, in openness to the new calls of the Lord, in living out and strengthening our own identity, being a sign of the Kingdom of God, witness and prophecy, in the world of human mobility.¹

Therefore, let us allow that the words of Scalabrini echo strongly in our hearts, in this time of jubilation and thanksgiving we are living: This jubilee is one of the most chosen and extraordinary graces; it is a loving visit of Jesus to our souls (Pastoral Letter 79). For the shepherd Scalabrini, the jubilee is, first of all, a spiritual fact and precisely a means by which Christ's grace arrives in our history. The jubilee is, above all, a call to holiness: "Let us make this year truly holy for everyone, striving more than ever for our own sanctification" (Pastoral Letter February 2, 1900).

On this day in which we joyfully celebrate our founder's feast, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, we join in one only voice to raise to God a great hymn of thanksgiving, of gratitude for the gift of the founder, from whom we received the gift of the Scalabrinian charism at the service of migrants and refugees. Let us welcome this great call to cultivate the spirituality inherited from our founder, a spirituality that is the answer to today's times, constantly to be nourished following Jesus Christ, "always on the way" towards each person of our time, whom He has entrusted to our care.

¹ Circular Letter n. 01/2020 – Announcement of the jubilee celebration of 125 years of the Congregation's foundation

For us, the Missionary Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo Scalabrinians, it is not enough to know some ideas or facts of Blessed Scalabrini's life because he is much more than a page of history or an exemplary figure for his time: he transcends his era. He walked humbly, making humility a way of life, allowing himself to be questioned and asked by the humanity of the migrant because he was convinced that God acts in history with them and through them.

Also, today, thanks to this great model of Scalabrini, we feel called to make Scalabrinian creativity flourish together with migrants and refugees. More and more, the Congregation is called to go out into the streets of every existential periphery in order to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, ready to widen its tent to embrace everyone. Among those dwelling in those existential peripheries, we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached.²

In Scalabrini, we find a renewed stimulus to continue growing in our charismatic identity, which sustains our daily vocational response. Let us ask his intercession to revive, in all the Sisters and communities of the Congregation, the commitment of the incessant prayer for vocations and the personal involvement with vocational animation.

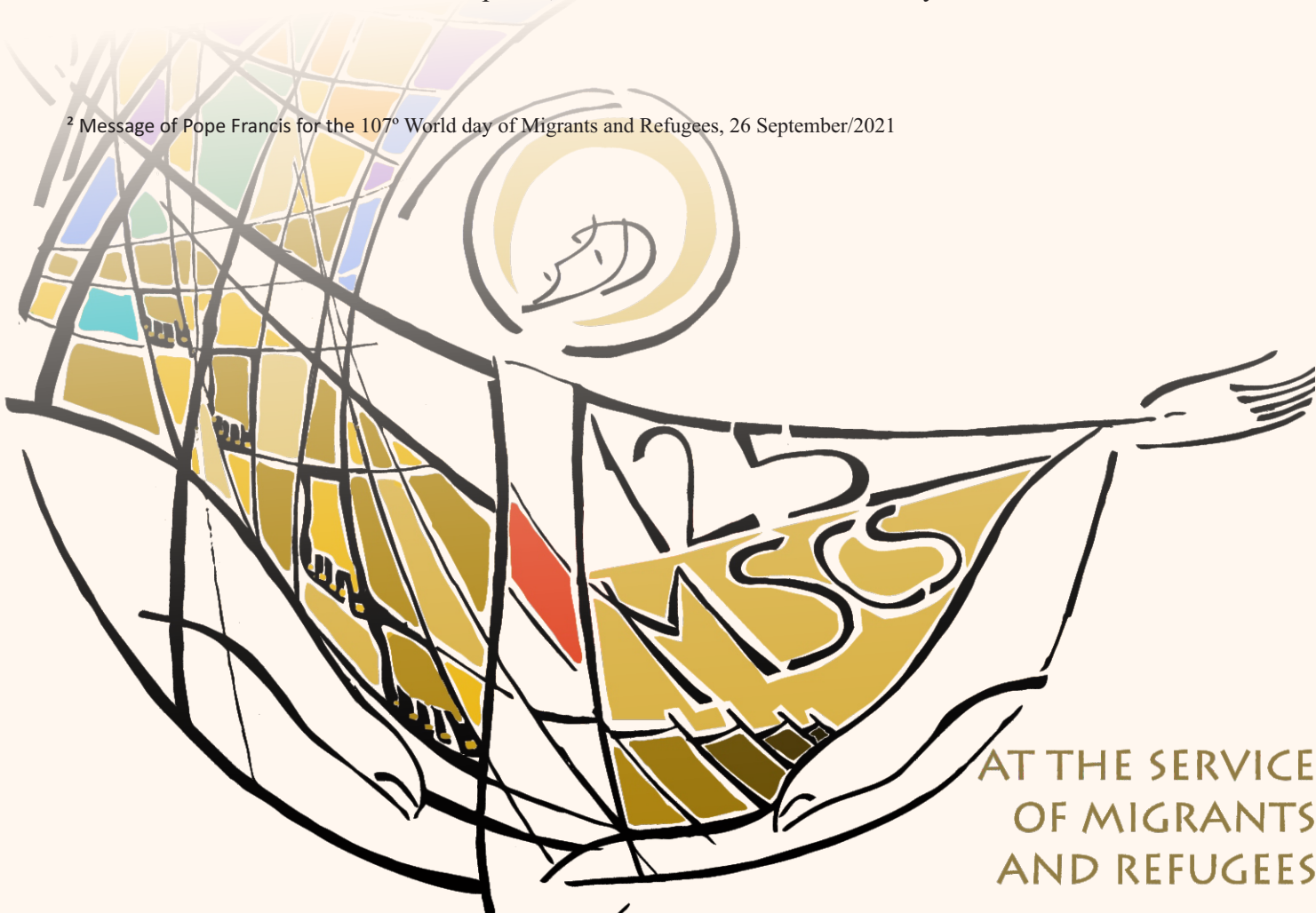
Moved by the same Spirit that animated the founder Scalabrini - *Apostle of migrants*. Let us welcome with renewed ardor the appeal of Pope Francis expressed in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees this year: *I also make this appeal to journey together towards an ever wider "we" to all men and women, for the sake of renewing the human family, building together a future of justice and peace and ensuring that no one is left behind!* So, let us make *everything to everyone*, and with this commitment of Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, let us serve the world according to the Father's will.

Happy feast of Scalabrini!

Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs

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General Superior, Councilor and General Secretary

² Message of Pope Francis for the 107^o World day of Migrants and Refugees, 26 September/2021



AT THE SERVICE
OF MIGRANTS
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