

Scalabrinians

Christmas
Edition

Special Content:

*Joyful Testimonies
of Scalabrinian
Missionaries*



God's calling exemplifies serving God's people

From Vietnam to the World: Living the
Scalabrinian Mission.

Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana in D.C. Honor Scalabrinian Presence

Our 65th anniversary in D.C.

Migrants, Missionaries of Hope

A Jubilee Celebration with the
Scalabrinians and the Universal Church



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promote and integrate the
least among us in society**



humilitas
SCALABRINIANS

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO PROVINCE

Refugees from conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo leave the Nyakabande transit camp in Uganda for an eight hour journey to Rwamwamba refugee settlement, further into southwest Uganda. (Wikimedia Commons)

IN THIS ISSUE



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8



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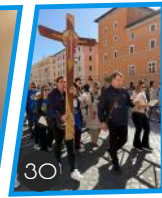
22



25



28



30

3 Editorial

Love in its deeper connections
– intertwined with God's light.

4 Message from our Provincial Superior

Let us be welcoming.

5 God's calling exemplifies serving God's people

From Vietnam to the World: Living the Scalabrinian Mission.

8 Embracing the Challenges as an Immigrant - A rewarding experience

A touching story of a Brazilian immigrant.

11 Hope in a diverse setting - A defining experience

Finding God's Presence in the Beauty of Diversity.

13 Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana in D.C. honor Scalabrinian presence

Our 65th anniversary in D.C.

15 Peregrinación jubilar a Chiquinquirá, Colombia

Emotivo encuentro lleno de fe y alegría, visitando la Virgen patrona de Colombia.

18 The tapestry of my calling - A continuing challenge

A Missionary Journey Shaped by Struggle and Faith.

20 My Scalabrinian Vocation - A Way to Holiness

Answering God's call to serve and inspire new vocations.

22 Loving God and People - A constant journey of my vocation

A lifelong mission with purpose and meaning.

25 Embracing a diverse community of faith at St. Paschal Baylon Parish

Celebrating Faith, Culture, and Communion in the Heart of Toronto.

28 Life is grace, freely bestowed on my vocation

A Testimony of Grace, Migration, and Missionary Commitment.

30 Pilgrimage to Italy - In the Footsteps of St. John Baptist Scalabrini

A journey touched by faith and history.

32 The language of God - soaked in loving

A Reflection on Love as the Heart of Faith and Humanity.

33 Migrants, Missionaries of Hope

A Jubilee Celebration with the Scalabrinians and the Universal Church

EDITORIAL

Love in its deeper connections - intertwined with God's light

The current crop of American films dealing with immigration is as diverse as the immigrant experience itself. It shows the ongoing phenomenon of the American dream, which serves as a magnet to many cultures worldwide. With tolerance of differences, fairness, equal measures of complex economic analysis, and compassion, it is evident that the process deserves attention. It is indeed good for us, as a nation of immigrants. However, like in any business transaction, it is also an asset that needs better management.

Since we are a nation built by immigrants, we tend to look more deeply into what is happening in our lives, our society, and the world at large. The more we do that, the more we explore the mystery of each human being. It is similar to what English poet William Blake observed about seeing the world in a grain of sand and eternity in an hour.

Our way of life, focused and straightforward, represents a form of commitment and discipleship that Jesus himself emphasizes with his community of disciples. Along with that, our sense of hope helps us focus on how we can face the future and view our present situation as an opportunity. Because of this, we

have every reason to believe that our faith episodes are densely layered with allusions to various sources, offering a treasure trove of insights as diverse as sacred scriptures.

Looking back more than a hundred years, when Cardinal John Henry Newman was on a ship heading back to his native England after visiting Rome, Italy, he found himself and other passengers stranded at sea. At that time, he was not yet a Catholic. However, he was already interested in the Catholic Church, which is why he went to Rome to gain firsthand knowledge of Catholicism. Because he was in such darkness and dissatisfied with his Anglican faith, Newman prayed earnestly for light during the incident when the ship was unable to move and drifted for

over a week at sea. He wrote his immortal poem, "Lead Kindly Light."

It is God's light, perceived through the eyes of faith, and that allows us to recognize his presence within us and respond to what we truly desire in life and what God asks of us. In the same vein, it is the right time to come and behold that light, the light of Incarnation that fulfills the promise of human salvation.

With the new covenant, God gives himself for our sake; his human form is his mystery, and his purpose is his great love for us. This is the whole meaning that Scripture teaches us. From knowledge flows love, and love, in turn, prompts us to infuse love into our actions, such as our capacity for sacrifice and generosity. //



Let us be welcoming

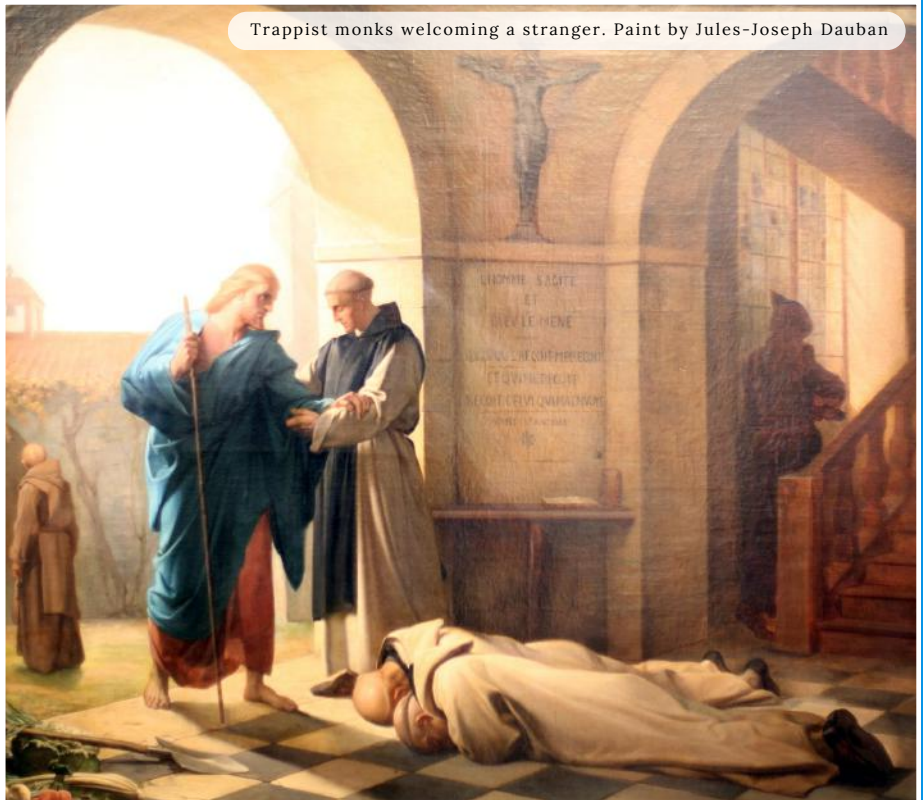
At the fall gathering of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a statement and a video were presented to all the faithful and society at large, in which the bishops reaffirmed the dignity of every human person, created in God's image and deserving of being treated with compassion and respect. They focused particularly on how immigrants are being treated in this country. This is not about keeping criminals free, since there is no question that a person who has committed heinous crimes is accountable to society and should pay for their actions. It is about advocating for those who are away from their homeland for survival, fleeing from violence, famine, war, and natural disasters, mostly dreaming of a better future for their children. Social media can be harsh toward people living in fear. Their lives should not be romanticized either. As Pope Leo said, there are courts of law to address the situation without causing chaos or fear. It is a time to be united in prayer, for the country and for these people. We may have different opinions and look at those issues from different viewpoints; however, we cannot ignore the fundamental teachings of Jesus: "love one another as I have loved you", "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me."

In this issue of the Scalabrinians Magazine, we have a few testimonies from Scalabrinian missionaries who share the joy of their vocation. Vocation is a call from God, a call to life, and a meaningful life. The missionaries describe how following God's call has brought joy and meaning to their lives. These are powerful testimonies from young men willing to dedicate their lives to serving others, especially the most vulnerable. The most vulnerable is the needy one we have in front of us at a particular moment, usually at the least convenient time. We need to forget about ourselves and give priority to them. May these testimonies encourage us to do the same, to share joy with those less fortunate.

“We don’t have to go far to make a difference; we can start with those around us.”

Christmas is approaching, and the year is coming to an end. It is a time to be grateful, a time to be hopeful. A time to thank God for being close to us through His Son, Jesus. Many things need to be different in the world we live in. Change begins in our hearts. May our hearts be generous in welcoming Jesus, the poor child of Bethlehem, and may we also welcome Jesus in our brothers and sisters who suffer discrimination just because some people believe they don't belong. In God's kingdom, everyone is invited; let us feel welcomed and be welcoming.

God's blessing to all ! //



Trappist monks welcoming a stranger. Paint by Jules-Joseph Dauban

God's calling exemplifies serving God's people

I am Father Sau Nguyen Van, a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians. I was born in Vietnam, a country with a deep-rooted Christian faith, where I frequently encountered challenges, persecution, and hope. From a young age, I have been profoundly devoted to the Church, particularly to Eucharistic celebrations. I perceived God's calling to dedicate my life entirely to His service, and on August 8, 2009, I started my studies at the seminary in Ho Chi Minh City, approximately 1,700 km from my place of birth.

After completing my philosophy studies in Vietnam, I was sent to the Philippines in 2012 to continue my formation. There, I experienced the postulancy and novitiate, which were intense periods of discernment and spiritual growth. On April 8, 2015, with great joy and gratitude, I made my first religious profession in the Congregation, taking the official step of consecrating myself to God in community and mission.

Following the completion of my first vows, I was designated to Bogotá, Colombia, to commence my studies in Spanish and theology. This period, although marked by difficulties stemming from the unfamiliar language

and cuisine, proved to be a blessing not only academically but also pastorally and culturally. It allowed me to fulfill my vocation amidst the Colombian people, who are deeply rooted in faith and humanity.

On November 3, 2019, after years of formation and service, I took my perpetual vows, fully committing my life to the Lord in religious life. Then, on September 14, 2020, I was ordained a deacon by Bishop Francisco Antonio Nieto Súa of the Diocese of Engativá at the Cathedral of Engativá in Bogotá, Colombia.

SCALABRINIANS MAGAZINE

Scalabrinians Magazine highlights our missionary work across communities in North and South America. It offers a Scalabrinian perspective on migration and related topics, reflecting our commitment to guiding migrants in faith and cultural values. Active in countries like Canada, the U.S., Colombia, and more, our ministry seeks to expand spiritual and pastoral care to migrants.

Inspired by our founder, Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, we strive to become more Christ-like through our service. The magazine invites reader submissions, which may be edited for clarity. Send your articles to:

info@scalabrinisaintcharles.org or markescobar25@gmail.com



Fr. Sau

The following year, I was ordained as a priest through the laying on of hands by Bishop Luis José Rueda Aparicio, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bogotá. This occasion signified the fulfillment of a divine promise of love that God had instilled in my heart since my youth. It was realized across various countries, cultures, and contexts, yet consistently under the same calling: “Follow me.”

The motto guiding my priestly ordination is, “Give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16). This verse, where Jesus speaks to his disciples about the hungry crowd, has continually inspired my life and mission. It encourages us not only to nourish our bodies but also to serve others selflessly in all their needs. As a priest, I genuinely feel called to be an instrument of Christ, dedicating my life to “feeding” those who seek hope, love, and faith.



Having spent a year and a half here, I have gained valuable insights into pastoral work, particularly Italian customs and religious festivals like St. Joseph's Table on March 19th, Our Lady of Audience, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th, and Our Lady of La Vang on August 15th. It is truly rewarding to engage with and support the community in their spiritual journey.

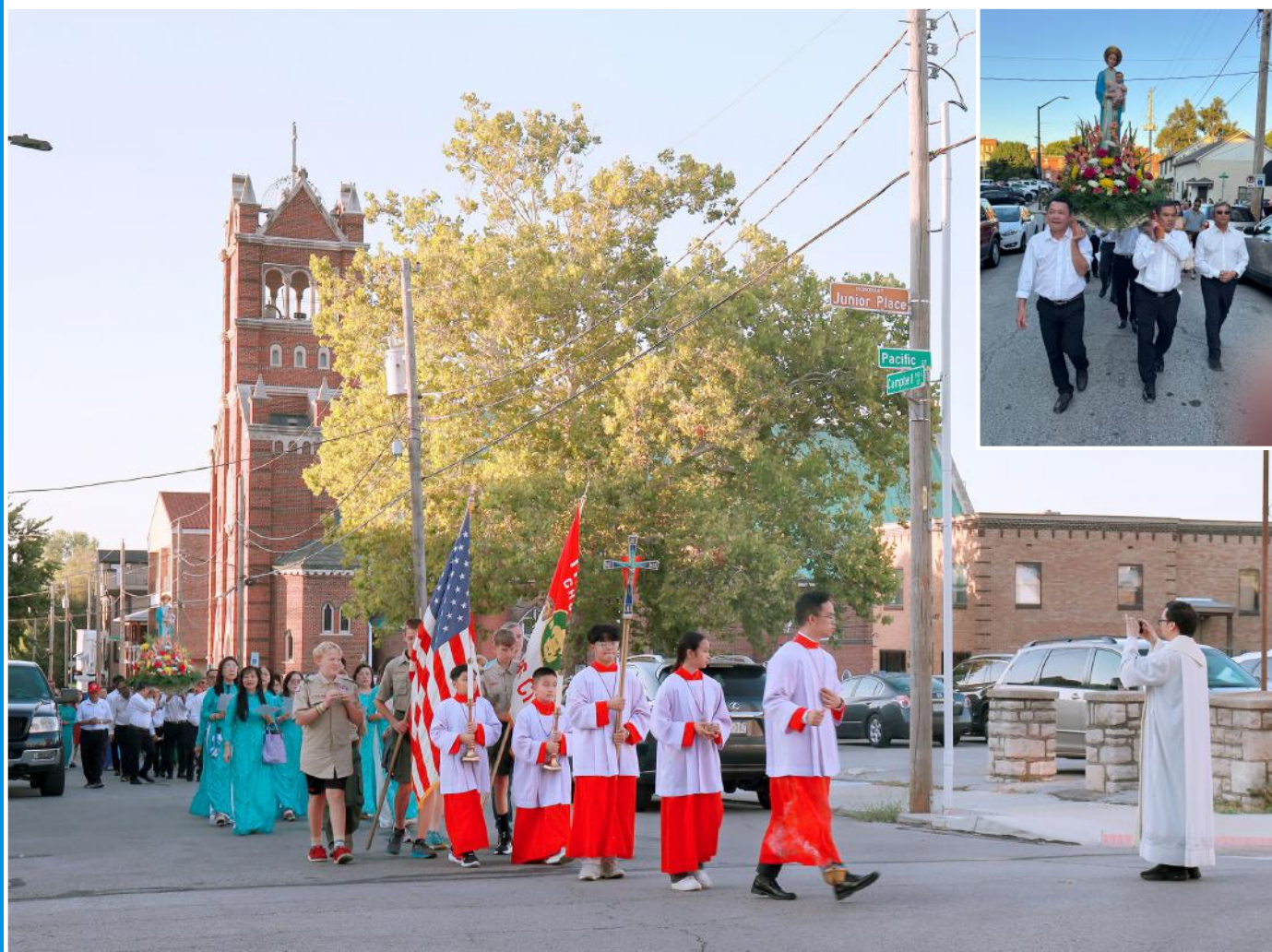
Having spent a year and a half here, I have gained valuable insights into pastoral work, especially regarding Italian traditions and religious feasts such as St.

Joseph's Table on March 19th, Our Lady of the Audience, the patroness of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th, and Our Lady of La Vang on August 15th. It is a great joy to meet and accompany people on this pastoral journey.

I am truly grateful to God for calling me to be a missionary through the Scalabrinian charism. My journey has brought me into contact with diverse cultures, especially those who are most suffering and impoverished in our society. It is a sacred calling for us to bring hope to those who see no

purpose in life, the oppressed, which wonderfully aligns with the spirit of the Jubilee Year 2025. Pope Leo XIV urges us to renew our baptismal calling to be *"missionaries of hope among the peoples."* He reminds us, *"Let us renew our commitment to the sweet and joyful task of bringing Jesus Christ, our Hope, to the farthest corners of the world."*

I pray and hope that every day there will be more vocations to the Church, especially among Scalabrinians, to work in different mission fields and to accompany society's most vulnerable people. //

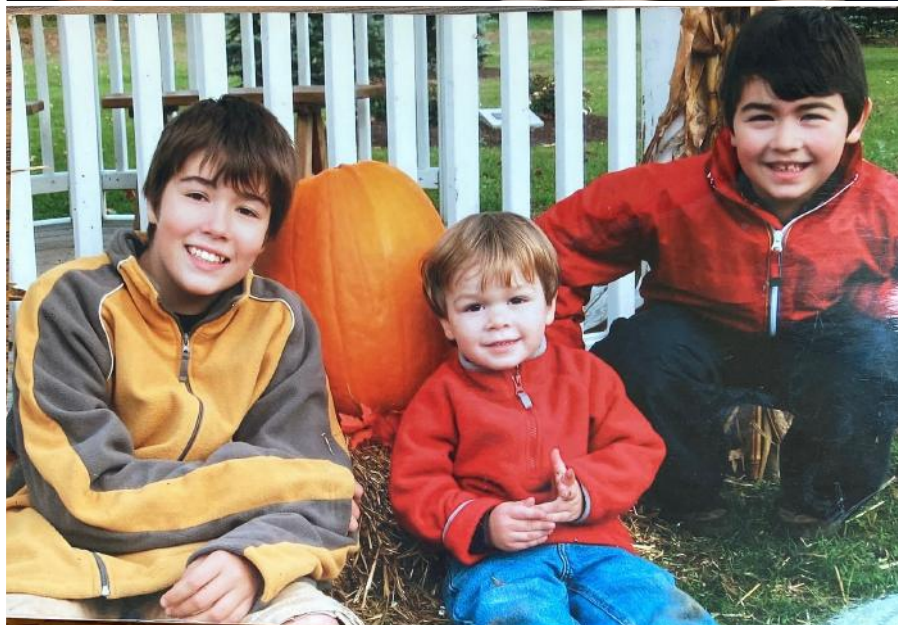


Embracing the Challenges as an Immigrant - A Rewarding Experience

My name is Glaucia Da Silva, a Brazilian immigrant from Monte Carmelo, Minas Gerais. I moved to Boston, Massachusetts, when I was 20. I am the mother of Felipe, 29, Nicholas, 25, and Thomas, 20. All three were born in the U.S., and their father is Portuguese. Nicholas often assists me with various tasks. Felipe has served in the United States Air Force for 10 years, working in a special operations unit and living in Texas. Nicholas works with cars, currently with Porsche, and helps me with document translations. Thomas, also in the Air Force, supports pilots with parachutes and lives in North Dakota. Everyone is thriving, happy, and always planning holiday get-togethers. I love them dearly and strive to set a good example as a dedicated Christian.

Despite facing difficult life experiences, raising my three children alone was a challenge. My strength and support always came from my faith in God and Our Lady of Guadalupe. I was able to teach my children moral and religious values because I am a woman of faith. One day, I overheard someone say, "You're in love with Jesus."

Upon my arrival, I enrolled in English studies at MassBay Community College. I understood the importance of learn-



ing English to improve my communication skills and enhance my job prospects. Although I faced many challenges in understanding the language, I remained persistent. I have always enjoyed academic pursuits and actively seek educational opportunities, whether through short courses or college classes. I worked at a hospital as a medical interpreter and obtained credentials to become a notary public. This allowed me to help the migrant community by translating documents. Additionally, I volunteered by guiding individuals to hospitals, registering them at educational institutions, attending court hearings, and providing translation services during banking transactions. Interestingly, I eventually gained employment at the organizations where I previously volunteered.

Twenty-one years ago, I obtained my real estate license. Ninety-five percent of my clientele have been migrants, and I continue to serve predominantly the same community. For ten years, I was employed as a bilingual secretary at Saint Tarcisius Church in Framingham, MA. This experience provided me with the opportunity to be part of many blessings in my life. I was privileged to work alongside Fr. Volmar Antonio Scaravelli, a Scalabrinian, who passed away in 2022.

I found it enjoyable to welcome visitors to the office with warmth and friendliness.

Over time, I felt God was watching over me, guiding me in how I interacted with others. Fr. Scaravelli often emphasized the importance of kindness and believed there was no justification for neglecting it. I agree with his view and strive to embody that same kindness. Our community is friendly and welcoming, especially to visitors at St. Tarcisius Church. I deeply admire the Scalabrinian Order, my favorite one, because the Scalabrinian Missionaries are passionately dedicated to helping migrants and truly making a difference in their lives.

As my spiritual journey grew deeper and I sought a closer relationship with God, I committed to attending daily Mass in English. At first, I was not familiar with praying in English, so I used a liturgy booklet, “*Word Among Us*,” to guide my prayers. Over time, I learned to pray in English through this practice. Since there is no Portuguese Mass nearby, I now attend Mass in English. With that, I have come to love praying in this language. This experience sparked my curiosity about Catholic doctrines.

In 2020, I joined a *Lectio Divina* group at St. Tarcisius Church, led by the missionaries Cesar Augusto Nunes de Oliveira and



his wife, Marjorie. Their teachings introduced me to many aspects of the Catholic Church I had not yet explored. Through the Transfiguration Movement, I read the four Gospels and strengthened my relationship with Christ. Currently, these groups operate here in the U.S., at St. Tarcisius Church in Framingham with Father Jairo Guerrini, and at St. Anthony Everett Church, with support from Father Khiet Dang Cao when needed. I also learned about the Liturgy of the Hours and pray it daily if I do not attend Mass. I find comfort in praying the Divine Mercy Rosary

and Marian Rosary, trusting in God's mercy. Despite all the challenges of living in the U.S., I can say I am a fulfilled mother because I have taught my three children the importance of the Catholic faith through prayer and Sunday Mass. Wherever we go, there is always a church we can visit to thank God for all He gives us. This year, I returned to the same college I first attended when I came to this country. I am taking a course on mental health to equip myself better to help those in need. That's why I chose this job, which is vital to assist especially teenagers who suffer from anxiety and depres-

sion, and often don't get treatment due to fear, shame, or lack of knowledge.

My current work involves helping people who struggle with depression, anxiety, and addiction, many of whom avoid seeking treatment. I find it rewarding to make a positive difference in their lives. Reflecting on my humble beginnings as an immigrant, I am grateful to God for the many blessings my family has received over the years. Faith in God has kept me committed, and I will always be a supportive sibling to those who need my help. //



Hope in a Diverse Setting - A defining experience

The Jubilee Year 2025, with its theme on “Pilgrims of Hope” (*Peregrinantes in Spem*), invites us to see life through renewed trust and joy. For me, living among different cultures is a journey embedded with hope. Saint Paul’s words, “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5), deeply resonate with me. These intercultural exchanges have enriched my life, and I feel truly blessed by these encounters. However, this does not happen automatically, it takes a process of growth and change. It involves opening oneself to new cultures, blending past experiences to shape the present, and looking ahead with hope.

I am originally from Vietnam, a country in Asia known for its rich cultural heritage. This is where I was born, raised, and where my Vietnamese identity developed. After my initial formation with the Scalabrinian community in Vietnam, I moved to the Philippines in 2009 to continue the next step in my formation. Since then, I have begun living interculturally, experiencing Filipino culture as well as the diverse cultures of my Scalabrinian confreres and fellow students at the university. This process helped me strengthen my Vietnamese identity while also learning to accept and value other cultures,



enabling me to integrate into this new environment. This formative experience guides me, nurturing hope and confidence in a multicultural environment. Currently, I live in an international Scalabrinian seminary as one of the formators, mentoring young religious seminarians about their vocations. This has enriched my experience of intercultural living. Our formation team comprises members from Colombia, Italy, and Vietnam, thereby emphasizing the global reach of the Scalabrinian community and its mission. The young religious in formation, who are preparing to

serve as missionaries, originate from nations such as Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Vietnam. This richness of cultures presents a valuable opportunity to experience unity in diversity.

The experience of hope has its implicit challenges in living together as a community. Variations naturally appear in ways people communicate, manage time, and structure organizations. However, these differences become opportunities for growth and shared enrichment when approached with openness and understanding.

Within our community, we host events that foster intercultural dialogue and appreciation. Cultural nights and national celebrations, like independence days, as members showcase their homeland's history, traditions, and cuisine. During birthdays, the celebrant shares family and personal insights. These activities aim to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen community spirit.

Knowledge and experience are essential to understanding, respecting, and appreciating different cultures. As such, cultivating cultural sensitivity is crucial for our development. The Scalabrinian charism inspires us to embrace and promote interculturality as a way to incarnate the hallmarks of unity spirit within diversity. In our formation communities, we aim to foster environments where everyone feels safe to express their cultural identities while also demonstrating respect and openness towards others. Through dialogue and communal living, we seek to cultivate a "culture of love", a spirit inspired by the Gospel and rooted in Scalabrinian values of charity, hospitality, and the pursuit of unity among all peoples.

My missionary experience in Colombia has grown through a close relationship with the local

community and Colombian Church traditions. The mission becomes real in people's lives, especially migrants and displaced persons, including Venezuelans seeking new opportunities and hope in Colombia. Their presence poses a challenge to deal with and calls us to live faith and charity with a more evangelical and compassionate spirit. In addition, my religious journey has also been shaped by hospitality where I was welcomed with generosity. It has fueled my missionary and priestly life. Community life, with its joys and challenges, is where Christ the Migrant becomes visible. Moreover, the Scalabrinian charism views

human mobility as a space for the God's kingdom. Encounters with migrants reveal Christ's face, urging us to foster communion and openness. Mobility extends beyond physical movement to embody readiness, listening, and service, which we can practice in seminary. The mission involves not just pastoral service but also about building bridges, healing relationships, and proclaiming God's love.

Inspired by Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, we seek to build intercultural communities as signs of God's love, demonstrating that through Christ, we are pilgrims of hope moving together toward the same homeland.



Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana in D.C. Honor Scalabrinian Presence

This year's celebration at Holy Rosary Church and Casa Italiana commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Scalabrinian presence, spanning from September 1960 to September 2025. Bishop Juan R. Esposito-Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, officiated the noon mass on Sunday, September 28, 2025, alongside Fr. Horecio Carlos Anklan, provincial superior of St. Charles Province, and two other Scalabrinian priests, Fr. Walter Tonelotto and Fr. Andrei Zanon. A luncheon followed, featuring a PowerPoint presentation of photos of Scalabrinian priests, both past and present, in the Casa Italiana Hall.

The community felt honored by the visit of the new Italian Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Marco Peronaci, who came with his wife and son. Some parishioners and members of the said church, along with leaders from other parishes and affiliated groups, gathered to take part in this significant celebration. The event also included a mini-concert featuring four songs, *La Cantata di Casadei*, *Tornerò* by I Santo California, *Caruso* by Lucio Dalla, and *Volare* by Domenico Modugno, from previous years (2017-2019), performed by Fr. Ezio, the former parish priest. Recognition was given to Fr. Nicola De Carlo, a diocesan

priest who established the Church of the Holy Rosary in 1913, along with highlights of the significant achievements and contributions of the many Scalabrinian pastors and priests involved with the parish.

Additionally, greetings and messages of congratulations were read from His Eminence Cardinal Christophe Pierre (Apostolic Nuncio to the United States), Father John Massari, c.s. (who served as Parochial Vicar in the 1970s), Father Ezio Marchetto, c.s. (Pastor from 2013 to 2021), Piero Frattin and Gianfranco Perlini, both former members of the parish. Also included were messages from Father Joseph





Spigolon, c.s, who was pastor from 1963 to 1970.

Historically, the Scalabrinian Missionaries assumed leadership of the parish from Father Nicholas De Carlo, who established the church in 1913 and led it for nearly fifty years. In 1960, the influx of Italian immigrants into the city became a significant concern for the Scalabrinians. What was initially just pas-

toral support for these immigrants grew into a vital effort to help them preserve their faith through worship and sacraments, reinforcing their rich Catholic traditions.

Fr. Caesar Donanzan, a Scalabrinian pastor, founded Casa Italiana, a social and cultural center. Over the years, the Scalabrinian priests have expanded the parish's religious and cultur-

al initiatives in an area originally settled by many early Italian immigrants. Scalabrinian priests who served at Holy Rosary include: Fr. Giulivo Tessarolo, Fr. Giuseppe Spigolon, Fr. Mario Bordignon, Fr. Caesar Donanzan, Fr. Tarcisio Bagatin, Fr. John Massari, Fr. Charles Zannoni, Fr. Lydio Tomasi, Fr. Ezio Marchetto, Fr. Andrei Zanon, Fr. Peter Polo, Fr. Segio Dall'Agnese, and Fr. Walter Tanelotto. //



PEREGRINACION JUBILAR A CHIQUINQUIRÁ

Mi nombre es Armando Anzola, vivo en Bogotá, el pasado 19 de septiembre de 2025, aproximadamente 80 personas, emprendimos la peregrinación desde Bogotá hacia la ciudad de Chiquinquirá, con el propósito de cumplir con el jubileo convocado por el papa Francisco, para el presente año 2025, queríamos recibir la gracia, el perdón y la renovación espiritual que la Iglesia Católica celebra, con el objetivo de que los fieles obteníamos la conversión y fortalecamos nuestra fe y que practiquemos la misericordia, de paso, compartir con amigos, parientes y misioneros Scalabrinianos en lo que fue una muy emotiva peregrinación.

El destino ésta vez fue Chiquinquirá, lugar icónico de peregrinación de los Católicos en Colombia; bajo la dirección del padre Edison Adolfo Osorio Agudelo, cs, rector del Seminario Misioneros de San Carlos Scalabrinianos y varios padres que dieron el soporte a la peregrinación. En ésta oportunidad los fieles fuimos invitados a peregrinar a una iglesia jubilar como Basílicas, catedrales etc., durante la travesía, se llegó a la ciudad de Ubaté, donde el grupo jubilar degustó un gran desayuno, como parte de la integración del grupo y se partió con muy buen ánimo.

Posteriormente, se continuó con la travesía y contando con guías y motivadores, dentro de los buses, se rezó el rosario y se entonaron canciones alusivas a la virgen, con mucha alegría, mientras se llegaba a nuestro destino en la ciudad de Chiquinquirá, en cuya Basílica, para contextualizar, se encuentra el lienzo de la Virgen de Chiquinquirá que fue pintado hacia 1560 por Alonso de Narváez con materiales sencillos, y con el tiempo se fue deteriorando hasta quedar casi borrado y abandonado en una capilla en ruinas. En 1586, una mujer llamada María Ramos lo rescató

y lo colocó en su casa para rezar frente a él, aunque apenas se distinguían las figuras. El 26 de diciembre de ese mismo año, según la tradición, el lienzo se iluminó de repente y los colores recobraron su brillo original, las grietas desaparecieron y la imagen quedó renovada, con la Virgen del Rosario al centro y Santo Domingo y San Antonio de Padua a los lados.

Este prodigio, llamado la “*renovación milagrosa*”, fue considerado un signo divino y dio origen a la gran devoción nacional a la Virgen de Chiquinquirá, hoy patrona de Colombia.





Armando (right) with Fr. Edison (left)



Desde muchos lugares viene la gente a hacer promesas, rogativas, agradecimientos, especialmente en fechas litúrgicas como el 9 de julio, que es el día de su coronación canónica.

Una vez llegamos a nuestro destino, asistimos a la misa, ofrecida por el grupo de padres Scalabrinianos que acompañaron al padre Edison, como cabeza de la peregrinación. Después de una hora de misa, compartimos en grupo en el atrio de la Iglesia y tomamos algunas fotos de recuerdo con los participantes, luego proseguimos al sitio donde los peregrinos, degustamos de un delicioso almuerzo, en la ciudad de Chiquinquirá, posteriormente recorrimos algunos sitios de la ciudad y luego nos dirigimos a la ciudad de Ráquira, Boyacá, que es la Capital artesanal de Colombia, donde compramos artesanías y otros recuerdos y probamos la deliciosa comida local.

Mas tarde, viajamos de regreso a la ciudad de Bogotá, llegando sobre las 9 p.m. Ésta peregrinación vivida en el marco del año jubilar, nos permitió adquirir la gracia, se renovó nuestro corazón y conseguimos indulgencias que la iglesia nos concede; regresamos fortalecidos en la fe y bajo la protección maternal de la virgen del Rosario de Chiquinquirá; también hicimos amigos y se fortaleció

el grupo, para futuros invitaciones, eventos y apoyo a nuestros hermanos Scalabrinianos.

Recomiendo a cualquier creyente vivir éstas experiencias con la Iglesia ya que son bastante renovadoras y revitalizantes, incluso en muchas ocasiones, luego de visitar sitios de peregrinación y profunda devoción, éstas se curan de enfermedades de todo tipo, leves o terminales, abundan en nuestro caso particular Colombiano, en lugares de peregrinación como Chiquinquirá, las historias que así lo confirman. //



Summary at a Glance

My name is Armando Anzola, and I live in Bogotá. On September 19, 2025, around 80 of us set out from Bogotá on a Jubilee pilgrimage to Chiquinquirá, answering Pope Francis's call for the Holy Year of 2025. Our goal was to receive grace, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal, to strengthen our faith and live out mercy, while sharing this meaningful journey with friends, relatives, and Scalabrinian missionaries. Led by Father Edison Adolfo Osorio Agudelo, C.S., rector of the Scalabrinian Missionary Seminary,

and accompanied by several priests, we traveled joyfully, praying the rosary and singing Marian hymns along the way. We stopped in Ubaté for breakfast and fellowship before arriving in Chiquinquirá, home to Colombia's most revered Marian shrine. There, we learned about the miraculous renewal of the 16th-century image of the Virgin of faith and hope for the nation. At the Basilica, we celebrated Mass with the Scalabrinian priests, shared moments of reflection and gratitude, and took photos to remember the experience.

Afterward, we enjoyed lunch, visited local landmarks, and made a stop in Ráquira, the artisan capital of Colombia, before returning to Bogotá that evening. This pilgrimage, lived within the Jubilee Year, renewed our hearts and deepened our faith. We received the indulgences granted by the Church, strengthened our bonds as a community, and placed ourselves under the maternal protection of Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá. I encourage all believers to experience such pilgrimages, they are truly healing, revitalizing, and faith-affirming.

The tapestry of my calling - A continuing challenge

I believe that each person has his own path in life, especially when it comes to vocation. As a child, I was very mischievous. I often left home without my parents' permission to play with my friends in the village. I am from a town in southern Vietnam; my hometown is near many rivers and large rice fields. In my parish, I served as an altar server and was a member of the choir. At thirteen, I asked my parents for permission to live in the seminary at my parish. The parish priest and vicar greatly helped us strengthen our life of consecration. They taught us how to pray, study, and live as religious. Over time, I finished high school and began my vocational journey.

I learned about the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians, from a small book given to me by the vicar. It described the life and work of Bishop Scalabrini, who dedicated himself to helping migrants. After reading the book and praying, I was deeply inspired by Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini's life. In 2009, I decided to join the Congregation. From 2009 to 2012, I underwent preparatory and philosophical formation in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Later, I moved to Manila, Philippines, to continue my studies, including a year of English.

Afterwards, I went to Cebu City, Philippines, to complete the postulancy and novitiate. I made my first religious profession on April 13, 2016. I then studied theology at Maryhill School of Theology in Manila. Thanks be to God, I completed all formation phases successfully, earning the trust of my formators and brothers in the Scalabrinian Congregation. My request for perpetual profession was approved and submitted on November 4, 2020, in Manila. I then prepared for diaconal and priestly ordination. I was ordained deacon on December 12, 2020, in Manila by Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco of the Diocese of Cubao, and I was ordained a priest on November

21, 2021, by the same bishop. Reflecting on my vocational journey and the training programs I undertook, I find it difficult to believe that I achieved success. I was not an outstanding student; I failed the entrance examinations in philosophy and theology, which prevented me from joining the congregation's preferred formation. In addition, an injury to my knee ligament necessitated a one-year hiatus from my formation to facilitate recovery. Despite these obstacles, my confidence in my vocation as a Scalabrinian remained unwavering. I trust in the Lord and sincerely believe that He has called me to serve our migrant brothers and sisters.



I spent nearly three years, from 2022 to 2025, in Mexico City studying Spanish. During that time, I engaged in various pastoral activities in addition to language learning. I stayed at the San Juan Bautista Seminary, where I participated in Mass and community events. I also helped promote vocations in various parts of Mexico, including during Holy Week in Veracruz and at a migrant shelter. Additionally, I anointed the sick and heard confessions. Thanks to God, these years in Mexico enabled me to learn about people's lives, their culture, and

many other things that have significantly enriched me. Currently, I serve as the parochial vicar at Señor de las Tres Caídas Parish in Tecún Umán, Ayutla, San Marcos, Guatemala, appointed by the superior and his council. The parish covers about 23 communities. My pastor is Father Querubín Pelayo, CS, from Colombia. I've only been here briefly, so I don't have many experiences to share yet. However, the parish organizes activities such as Masses, confessions, training sessions for various groups, catechism classes for children and adults, and

social programs to help those in need. I am adjusting to the local climate, food, and learning about Guatemalan culture and language. My priest companion assists me with pastoral duties.

I have participated in the communities' patronal festivals, including processions, music, and prayers. I also joined the parish prayer group, where we pray the rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours each morning. I celebrate the Eucharist at the parish and in various communities, and I hear confessions from parishioners. //



My Scalabrinian Vocation - A Way to Holiness

I am Father Quyen Phan Ba, c.s., originally from Vietnam. When I was fifteen, I dreamed of becoming both a pilot and a language translator. In 2007, a visitor from the Scalabrinian community, who was a formator and vocational promoter, came to our Ha Thanh parish, that year marked the start of a personal journey that aligned with God's plan: to serve as a spiritual pilot and translator for migrants. God guides and sanctifies this vocational calling.

On August 8, 2009, I entered the Seminary of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians, joining 27 other young men from various regions. The Scalabrinian religious and missionary community became my new family.

The formators teach and guide me through the five pillars of the Congregation: human, spiritual, community-religious, intellectual, and pastoral. My peers help me in overcoming my weaknesses.

After a year of Propaedeutic studies and two years of Philosophy, I traveled to the Philippines. During a year of studying English, a year of Postulancy, and a year of Novitiate in these islands, I met new companions from Indonesia and the Philippines, along with others from Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil. At these stages, they helped me to live as a migrant among migrants. After my first religious profession in 2015, the General Administration assigned me to Bogotá, Colombia, for the The-

ology stage. During this period, I learned to embrace "*humilitas*" within a community of "*communio in diversity*."

After ten years of formation in the seminary, I took my perpetual religious vows, dedicating my entire life to the apostolic service of migrants. Bishop Francisco Antonio Nieto Súa then ordained me a deacon on September 12, 2020, at the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista de la Estrada parish in the Diocese of Engativá.

Archbishop (the current Cardinal) Luis José Aparicio Rueda ordained me a priest on March 6, 2021, at the Cathedral of Bogotá. After my priestly ordination, I experienced the joy of the Gospel through my





first love in my ministerial life, St. Anne Parish in the Dominican Republic, where I served as parochial vicar. During my mission in Santo Domingo, I assisted in parish ministry and supported efforts for Haitian and Venezuelan migrants, as well as vulnerable seafarers. This experience helped me better understand the need for the “welcome, protection, promotion, and integration” of migrant brothers and sisters.

Currently, I am the vocation promoter in Colombia. It is a challenging position, but one filled with joy and hope. In this ministry, I use the talents God has given me to help young people discern vocations and improve their lives through the love of God and His Word, for the Church, and for migrants, following in the footsteps of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini. //

Loving God and People - A constant journey of my vocation

Reflecting on my decision to follow Jesus as a Scalabrinian missionary priest, many memories from my childhood, adolescence, and youth surfaced. When people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I often said I wanted to help others find happiness. I have always had a vivid imagination; I dreamed of being a doctor, lawyer, firefighter, politician, and clown, all so I could help people.

My journey of becoming a missionary began in high school. At the age of 16, I became involved in a prayer and apostolate group led by the Marist Brothers. We met weekly to engage with the Word of God, pray, and reflect on various faith-related topics. Each week, we also taught catechism and occasionally participated in retreats and missions.

After finishing high school, I went to university to study economics. During that time, I tagged along with a friend as he spoke with a Marist Brother about his future. When the Brother asked about my own goals, I asked my friend to wait so I could join the conversation. My friend was patient, and by the end of our talk, I realized that prayer, service, and helping the poor were central to my life.

At 20, I worked at a high school affiliated with the Missionaries of Guadalupe, where I coordinated students' social service activities on Saturdays, organized retreats and camps, and listened to young people searching for meaning in life. I believed I was doing what priests do. While I enjoyed the work, I realized I couldn't spend my whole life in a school, so I sought a more meaningful mission.

During my vocational search, two inspiring moments truly enriched my understanding of the mission with migrants. The priest leading my summer school shared heartfelt stories of his missionary work with Mexican migrants in Los

Angeles and handed out brochures about the Scalabrinian Missionaries. I felt captivated by his tales and eagerly read the pamphlets. Not long after, a student I interviewed shared her experience volunteering at the Casa del Migrante in Tijuana.

These meaningful “God-incidences” sparked a deep desire in me to explore more and learn from these powerful encounters.

At the Scalabrinian seminary in Guadalajara, I was profoundly touched by Father Román's joy and enthusiasm for the mission. He generously offered to help me discern my response to God's call. I eagerly accepted the challenge.



Before my departure, Father Román invited me to the dining room, where I noticed photographs of three priests, Father Pedro, Father Livio, and Father Luis, whom I recognized and who had each played a significant role in my life. This moment felt like a confirmation that I had indeed discovered *“the mission I had been seeking.”*

Once a month, I attended *“vocational discernment”* at the seminary, connecting with other young men and joyful seminarians serving Jesus among migrants. In addition to engaging in talks, activities, and prayers, I had meaningful conversations with Father Román. After three meetings, we learned about the opportunity to volunteer at Migrant Houses in Tijuana or Ciudad Juárez.

At the end of 1991, I told my mother I wanted to volunteer for six months. She worried I might drop out of university, but she supported me. On February 14, 1992, I arrived in Ciudad Juárez to work with migrant children and adolescents. When I arrived at the seminary in Guadalajara, the rector required me to participate in all activities with the seminarians. I started to feel torn between dreaming of Africa and being in the seminary. A classmate reminded me that God works in mysterious ways, leading me to reflect on my purpose there.





Looking back on the past 32 years, I feel grateful for the opportunity to serve migrants and refugees. After completing my philosophy degree, I began my novitiate in Purépero, Michoacán. I took my first vows and then moved to Chicago to study English. Later, I continued my theological studies in Manila and gained valuable pastoral experience in Indonesia, where I took my perpetual vows in 2002. I was ordained a deacon in 2003 and became a priest in 2004.

My first assignment took place in Argentina, where I worked with sailors and migrants and helped in forming future missionaries. After spending 17 years in service abroad, I returned to Mexico, where I fulfilled my dream of assisting those in need and providing them with guidance and comfort. Throughout this journey, I have witnessed the profound impact of compassion and have become a source of community for many who find themselves far from home. Ultimately, my commitment to loving God and serving others constantly gives my life purpose and meaning. //

**Want to be a
Scalabrinian?**



Let's talk!

Embracing a diverse community of faith at St Paschal Baylon Parish

Our Mission Statement defines us: We are the Roman Catholic community of St. Paschal Baylon Parish, guided by the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians. Our parish has a distinguished history of service to Catholic immigrants and newcomers within the Greater Toronto

Area. Grounded in the Eucharist and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we endeavor to bring the Gospel of Jesus to one another and to all whom we encounter. We address the spiritual, physical, social, and cultural needs of our diverse community within a welcoming environment.

We celebrate the Eucharist, pray, and collaborate under the protection of our Patron Saint, Saint Paschal Baylon, trusting in the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church. Through evangelization, education, and cultural integration, we commit ourselves to sharing the love of



Christ with all communities and welcoming individuals of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

Founded on October 1, 1957, by Cardinal James C. McGuigan within the Archdiocese of Toronto, Saint Paschal Baylon Parish has continuously been led by the Scalabrinian Missionaries.

The parish was officially dedicated on December 20, 1957, to serve the growing Italian immigrant community in Thornhill, located on Toronto's northern outskirts. Under the leadership of Fr. Vincent Lo Savio, C.S., and Fr. Ralph Villella, C.S., it developed into a center of Italian Catholic life, focusing on devotions, social customs, family tra-

ditions, and the Eucharist. Named after St. Paschal Baylon (1540–1592), a Spanish Franciscan brother renowned for his profound devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, the parish's activities primarily center around the Eucharist. Currently, a chapel for perpetual adoration stands as a concrete symbol of this devotion.



In its early days, Masses were held at a nearby Veterans' Hall. However, it didn't take long before efforts began to build a new church. Parishioners, many of whom were skilled construction artisans, contributed not only their labor but also their hearts, establishing a foundation of faith, hospitality, and community that continues to influence the parish today. The Italian community has remained the traditional core of what has now become a multiethnic parish.

Over the years, St. Paschal Baylon Church has grown into a vibrant, multicultural parish that welcomes families from diverse backgrounds. Today, the largest ethnic group in the parish is the Filipino community. Starting in the early 1990s, Filipino families brought with them a rich tradition of Marian devotion and Eucharistic faith. With the help of Father Mario Lorenzana, c.s., monthly Filipino Masses began in 1993. Soon after, other cherished devotions and celebrations flourished.

The Filipino Support Group (FSG) continues to organize events such as Flores de Mayo, Simbang Gabi, and the Santo Niño, enriching the parish's spiritual life and strengthening community bonds.

In 2016, in response to the growing Korean population in the area, the parish began offering Masses in Korean. Celebrating liturgies in the native languages of various ethnic groups, such as Italian, Filipino, Korean, and, of course, English, helps newcomers experience God in their own language and culture. This initiative underscores the parish's dedication to welcoming all nations and integrating them into the life of the Church. Through these pastoral efforts, St. Paschal Baylon Parish supports the Scalabrinian mission of welcoming migrants as active participants in building a faith-filled community, turning migration into an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship.

Today, the parish's spiritual life is strengthened by Fr. Ezio Marchetto, the Pastor, who is supported by Fr. Mario Lorenzana, the Associate Pastor, and Fr. Camilo Lando, the resident priest. Their work reflects the Scalabrinian commitment to guiding migrants, families, and individuals in their faith journeys, ensuring everyone feels connected and supported.

Each year, the parish celebrates the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, its patroness, with a solemn Mass, a procession, and community festivities that honor Mary's maternal protection.

Through Masses, novenas, adoration, and religious and social celebrations, the parish lives its mission statement faithfully:

“Though many, we are one.”
(Romans 12:5).



Life is grace, freely bestowed on my vocation

Warm greetings. I am Father Nefer Pérez, a Scalabrinian priest ordained on July 16, 2022, in Callao, Peru, by Bishop Luis Alberto Barrera Pacheco, CCI of the Diocese of Callao, Perú.

Growing up in a family with ten siblings, three of whom are in religious life, including myself as a Scalabrinian, I encountered experiences that shaped my

vocation. Accompanying my sisters on a mission trip, I became aware of the urgent need for priests, inspiring me to pursue ministry with greater commitment. My family's migration ties, especially with two sisters in Spain, further strengthened this calling. I was drawn to the Scalabrinians' mission of serving foreigners and caring for those seeking God.

Their welcoming community fostered a strong sense of inclusion and appreciation, which has significantly shaped my identity as a Scalabrinian, a commitment I cherish deeply.

My journey in consecrated life began in 2010 when I decided to follow Jesus more closely to serve others. I spent two years in Peru before joining the propaedeutic group in Jundiá, Brazil, in 2012. From 2013 to 2015, I studied philosophy in Curitiba. Between 2016 and mid-2017, I completed my postulancy and novitiate in Guaporé and Porto Alegre. I then studied theology in Bogotá from 2017 to 2021, including a pastoral year in the Dominican Republic from June 2019 to December 2020 during the pandemic. In early 2022, I finished my theological studies and carried out my diaconal internship in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, until May 2022, when I returned home to prepare for priestly ordination.

Following my ordination, I served for nearly three years as a parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Los Angeles, where I collaborated with a predominantly Spanish-speaking community. The community experience with Father Luiz Kendzinski was enriching



and cultivated through fellowship. I encountered the challenges of ministering within a migrant Hispanic congregation in the United States.

Besides thanking God, it's important to reflect on the uncertain lives of undocumented immigrants in our country. During Pope Francis's Jubilee Year, we are called to be a beacon of hope in the midst of darkness. Fear shadows their lives in the USA. Holy Rosary Parish prays for all migrants at every Mass to raise awareness, promote solidarity, and ensure they feel supported by the parish and church community.

Another approach we considered was to continue with all our activities as usual. After some initial reservations, the traditional patron saint festival was successfully held. Many said on that occasion that after a long moment of silence and anxious waiting, they celebrated in the safety of the parish, which organizes the festival in the style of their native communities. It is no surprise that many eagerly await these patron saint festivities to enjoy moments of relaxation in a safe and healthy environment.

I would like to highlight the 11th World Day of Migrants and

Refugees, celebrated on October 18th under the leadership of Bishop Albert Bahhuth. This observance was initiated by the parish's youth group, known as "Pilgrims of Hope," inspired by persecuted Hispanics who organized various activities within the parishes. Guided by our charism, we supported and hosted these events. The day included a Holy Hour, a Mass, and an intercultural gathering featuring food, dance, poetry, and songs from different nations. The bishop's homily emphasized that the Church supports persecuted, burdened, and impoverished migrants. //



Pilgrimage to Italy - In the Footsteps of St. John Baptist Scalabrini

From October 19th to 29th, 2025, fifty Pilgrims of Hope from Resurrection Catholic Church traveled through Italy, living a profound experience of faith, prayer, and community.

Our pilgrimage began at Milan Central Train Station, where Saint John Baptist Scalabrini once felt God's call as he witnessed the pain of migrants leaving for the Americas. There, Fr. Adriano Tezone, our Spiritual Director, reminded us that we are also called to welcome, listen, and walk with hope as pilgrims and migrants in this world. In Milan, we visited the majestic Duomo Cathedral and the crypt of Saint Charles Borromeo, patron of the Scalabrinian Fathers.



We also celebrated the first Mass of our journey at Sant' Alessandro Church, offering to God all our intentions.

Our next stop was Piacenza, where Saint Scalabrini rests. Praying before his body, we entrusted to the Lord all migrant families and their stories of courage and renewal.

In Assisi, we experienced the peace of Saint Francis, Saint Clare, and Blessed Carlo Acutis, who remind us that holiness is possible in daily life.

We continued to San Giovanni Rotondo, venerating Saint Padre Pio, a model of mercy and total trust in God, and then to Cascia, where we prayed before Saint Rita, the saint of perseverance and reconciliation.

At Lanciano, we contemplated the Eucharistic Miracle, a visible sign of Christ's Real Presence, and visited the Cave of Saint Michael the Archangel on Mount Gargano, a place of spiritual strength and protection. Our pilgrimage concluded in Rome, where we passed

through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran, and Saint Mary Major, praying before the tomb of Pope Francis. Throughout the journey, Fr. Adriano Tezone celebrated and concelebrated nine Masses, making the Eucharist the heart of every step.

We returned home renewed and strengthened in faith, grateful for the grace of walking together as God's pilgrims, discovering His presence in every place, every person, and every moment shared. //



The language of God - soaked in loving

I remember the Beatles' song "All We Need Is Love." However, Virgil went a step further, arguing that we need not worry about anything because "*love will conquer all*" (*amor vincit omnia*). Across cultures, the meaning of love has long been debated and discussed, as seen in works by Shakespeare, who claimed it "*never did run smooth*," to contemporary episodes of celebrity marriages. These include irreconcilable differences that seem to be the major reason relationships fall apart. There are mood swings, illicit affairs, jealous pangs, money woes, kids to feed, and bills to pay. The ups and downs teach us how to handle the ebb and flow.

To date, we have faced several challenges, including intense political pressure to strengthen enforcement against undocumented immigrants in this country. Thousands of them have already been caught in raids. Deportations are continuing to increase. This, however, has galvanized left-wing groups and other activists. Reports indicate that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have also faced some lawsuits and restrictions since late last year.

The question of upholding the law, the institution's integrity,

and compassion toward these undocumented individuals is connected to our commitment to justice and the ministry of charity. As a church, she cannot take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the state. Her role is to present rational arguments for justice and to awaken the spiritual energy needed to support the families affected.



In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI emphasized a deeper understanding of love as a gift from God to be shared both personally and socially. This reflects Jesus' core teaching throughout his ministry. As a teaching moment, "*Love one another*" remains the greatest commandment in both the Old and New Testaments (Jn. 13:31-35; 14:15-24; 15:12-17; 16:27; 17:21-26; Lev. 19:18 with Deut. 6:4f). The true measure of this love is "*laying down his life for his friends*" (Jn. 15:13).

Jesus tells his disciples to share that love that knows no color, creed, or particular reference. It is love that inspires others to move into action. Jesus shows us this perspective in a very concrete situation: a model for us Christians, the foot-washing that one must serve one another. This is the purpose for which the disciples have been sent into the world (Jn. 13:20; see also Jn. 17:18).

As we grapple with numerous complex ethical issues within the church and the world, let us journey with hope and courage to emerge from this time stronger, more loving, more compassionate, and more committed to living out the challenges of the gospel. Let us always remember that all true religion is fundamentally about love. The more our faith looks back to its source, especially to the time of Christ, the clearer the path to eternity becomes. This clarity is evident when we plunge into the mind of Christ through prayer, reading the Scriptures, and endeavor to understand what is going on in our family, society, and nation. In this light, the Holy Spirit guides us and becomes the source of 'holiness' as sanctifier and mediator of the Father and Son. St. Bonaventure describes this mystery of the Trinity as God's "*fountain fullness*" of love. //

Migrants, Missionaries of Hope: A Jubilee Celebration with the Scalabrinians and the Universal Church

In October 2025, the Scalabrinian family joyfully joined the global Church in commemorating the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, a special moment made even more meaningful by its coincidence with the Jubilee of Migrants and of the Missionary World. Under the inspiring theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV “*Migrants, Missionaries of Hope*”, we embraced both a spiritual journey and an active mission.

“In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope”
– Pope Leo XIV



In his message for this day, Pope Leo XIV reflects deeply on the connection between migration, hope, and mission. He notes how, in a world marked by war, injustice, economic inequality, and climate crises, migrants and refugees stand as privileged witnesses of hope. He draws on Biblical imagery, for example, the people of Israel wandering in the desert, sustained by God’s care (cf. Psalm 68:7–10), and finding refuge under divine wings (Psalm 91:3–6), to show how contemporary migrants mirror this spiritual journey.

The Holy Father urges the Church to recognize migrants not only as recipients of hospitality but as active missionaries of hope, calling for support through pastoral care, inter-ecclesial cooperation, and empowerment so that migrants

may share fully their gifts, talents, and cultures. He also entrusts all migrants, and those accompanying them, to the maternal protection of Mary, “*Comfort of Migrants*,” asking her to keep alive the flame of hope in their hearts.

Pope Francis, in his earlier encouragement to the Scalabrinian Missionaries, similarly emphasized how migrants teach us the virtue of hope. He urged the Scalabrinians to walk alongside migrants, learn from their resilience, and foster solidarity rooted in trusting “*in God and in God alone*.”

For us, the Scalabrinians, the Jubilee year presented a profound calling: to live more deeply as “*migrants among migrants*.” On our provincial website, the message for the 111th

World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we highlight precisely this vocation. We describe migrants as “*vessels through which God pours forth... renewal and grace... not only for themselves, but for the Church and the world*.”

Throughout October 4–5, several Scalabrinian communities around the world gathered to celebrate. Parishes in places such as Montreal, Panama, St. Vincent (FL), Resurrection (FL), St. Antony (MA), and others, held special liturgies, prayer services, and cultural events.

These celebrations were marked by joy, diversity, and the lived experience of faith, in song, in food, in the cultural expressions of migrant communities, all reflecting the richness that migration brings to the Church.

We underscores the “*missio migrantium*”, that is, the mission carried out by migrants. It calls for robust support, pastoral formation, inter-ecclesial collaboration, and hospitality that goes beyond charity to genuine inclusion. As part of that, our community also entrusted every migrant and every accompanier to Mary, the Comfort of Migrants, just as Pope Leo XIV recommended.



This page: Celebrations at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Delray Beach, FL



Celebrations in Montreal, Canada



What emerges from the convergence of the Pope's words and the Scalabrinian response is a powerful vision: migration is not simply a problem to be managed. Rather, migrants are missionaries, people whose very journey embodies hope and invites the Church to conversion. According to Pope Leo XIV, their presence helps revitalize ecclesial communities that may have grown rigid or inward-looking.

As Scalabrinians, we are not only called to welcome but to empower. By accompanying migrants in their lives, spiritually, culturally, socially, we give



Celebrations at San Pablo VI Howard Parish, Panamá



Celebrations at Jubasca Foundation, Ecuador



them a platform to contribute, to evangelize, and to enrich the Church's mission. Our celebrations during the Jubilee are not just symbolic; they are living testimonies that migrants are brothers and sisters, not guests, part of a shared family.

In doing so, we also answer the Pope's call for multilateral solidarity. In his message, he warns against insularity, the *"wide-spread tendency to look after the interests of limited communities"*, and calls instead for co-operation, responsibility, and a global sense of the common good. Scalabrinians, by working across borders, cultures, and languages, model precisely that universal solidarity.

This Jubilee, as we reflect on the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we stand firm in the conviction that hope is not passive. It is active, transformative, deeply theological. Migrants, in their courage, in their faith, in their daily struggles, embody a hope that challenges the Church and the world to be more compassionate, more just, more inclusive. Through our celebrations, our pastoral work

and our unity with the Pope's vision, the Scalabrinian family offers a profound witness, that migration is not a crisis to be feared, but a gift to be embraced; that migrants are not burdens, but messengers of hope. May we continue to journey together, sustained by faith, rooted in solidarity, and guided by the promise of our true homeland, the Kingdom of God. //



Celebrations at St. Anthony's Parish, Everett, MA



Celebrations at St. Vincent Parish, Margate, FL



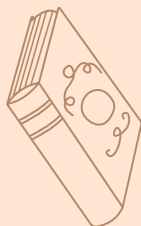
Celebrations at Resurrection Parish, Winter Garden, FL

The frenzy of the holiday season

With the flow of people in the city
the time to put reason into Christmas shopping,
has its moments of attaching a price tag
to their affection in this Christmastime.



Perhaps that obscures the true spirit
of what Christmas really means.
Our attitudes and backgrounds
would paint the meaning in our time.



Being asked to let go of old wounds
and other things that are not of God.
We take a journey of change,
prayer, and real purpose of our lives.

Looking at our biblical gift
when Christ became one of us.
He gave us a second chance
to be partakers of his Kingdom.

While we recall and relive God's love for us,
the gift of redemption and our mission;
Re-align us to be transformed
into a new creation.

As we enter the shopping crowds,
we come to struggle with sweeping ads.
The siren call of some ad wizards
makes us discern and opt for the right tone.



Hearing Christmas carols elsewhere,
with solemnity, subtlety, and beautiful melody,
There's a whiff of warmth and introspection
That highlights the season of great devotion.

Thorns and Thistles

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- Our Missions and Parishes.
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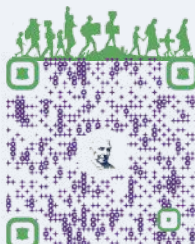
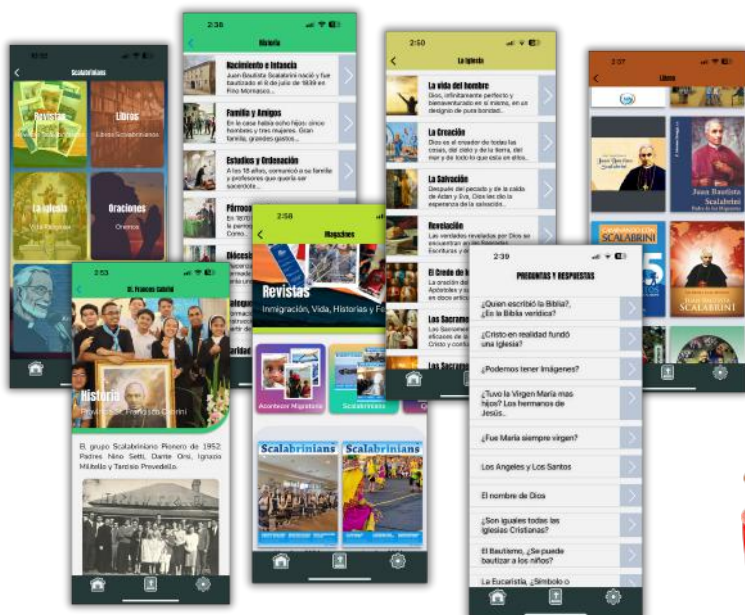
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Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo
PROVINCE

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Scalabrinians



The human heart has a deep-seated longing to look upon God. A hidden God would not suffice, and it was precisely to satisfy this need that the pagan world turned idols of wood, stone and metal (...). God took pity on man's plight and made himself known. By an amazing initiative of his love, crossing the distance between us and him, in his goodness he deigned to come to us, and by taking our flesh, he became human like us.

(St. Scalabrini. Homily of Christmas Day 1894)

