

Pope Francis grants sainthood to Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, a "father to all migrants and refugees"

In St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced that as of October 9, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini is officially a saint. Scalabrini was the Bishop of Piacenza, founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo and the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo Scalabrinians and inspirer of the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries.

Born in Fino Mornasco in the province of Como, Italy, in 1839, Scalabrini was deeply moved by the drama of so many Italians forced to emigrate to the United States and South America in the late 1800s, he did not remain indifferent. He gathered information, raised awareness in society and sent his missionaries and missionary sisters around the world to help and support migrants in ports, on ships and upon arrival in new countries. He is considered a father to all migrants and refugees.

More than a century after his death, his legacy lives on: thousands of Scalabrinian religious and lay people in 39 countries follow in his footsteps, serving in parishes, houses for migrants, schools, orphanages, hospitals, ecclesial bodies in conferences of bishops and dioceses, study centers, ports and borders

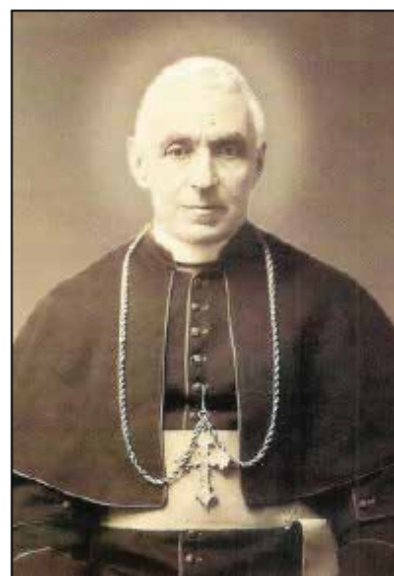
around the world.

"Scalabrini was a bishop who dedicated himself completely to ministry in his diocese, but he also knew how to look beyond, to those who were forced to leave their homeland," commented Fr. Leonir Chiarello, CS, Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Charles.

"He gave a concrete response to the phenomenon of migration, involving the Church, the government, society and calling everyone to an awareness. He fought what the Holy Father today calls 'the culture of indifference and discard.' By proclaiming him a saint, Pope Francis invites us to have his gaze of welcome and love toward all," he said.

A bishop who made himself "neighbor to neighbor, a man of action, a spiritual man, passionate, dynamic, strong in an incarnated spirituality," said Sister Neusa de Fatima Mariano, Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo Scalabrinians.

"This news made us very happy for the whole Church and for all migrants," commented Regina Widmann, general director of the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries. "His prophetic vision will become better known,



that is, the conviction that precisely in the hard ground of emigration a treasure is hidden: the possibility that different and far away peoples may find themselves close and recognize themselves as part of one human family."

Calendar

♦ **October 9, 2022.** Columbus Day Mass at 10:30 am, followed by a civic ceremony in Piazza Italiana, near the Christopher Columbus statue. Light refreshments, hosted by the Lido Civic Club, follow in Casa Italiana Hall.

♦ **October 10, 2022.** Columbus Day Ceremony at 10:45 am, at the Christopher Columbus Memorial in front of Union Station. Ceremony hosted by the National Christopher Columbus Association.

♦ **October 23, 2022.** Lecture by Professor Vito Tanzi on his book "ITALICA l'unificazione difficile tra ideali e realtà," at 4:00 p.m. Casa Italiana Hall. Hosted by Casa Italiana Sociocultural Center, Inc.

♦ **November 19, 2022.** Lido Civic Club Past Presidents Night at the Hilton McLean, Tysons, Va, honoring Lou Donatelli, Founder and Chairman of Donatelli Development.

♦ **November 20, 2022.** National Gallery of Art opens exhibition of works by Renaissance artist Vittore Carpaccio.

♦ **November 20, 2022.** Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society luncheon program and wine-tasting with the Washington Wine-makers. 1:30 p.m. in Casa Italiana Hall. Registration required. Contact: Nancy De-Santi at 703-967-2169.