



Annual Report

2025

of the Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo - Scalabrinians



Introduction

Message from the Superior General Fr. Leonir Chiarello

The year 2025 has been, for the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles – Scalabrinians, a time that has strongly reaffirmed the vitality of our charism and its relevance in today's world. In an era marked by profound transformations, conflicts, and new forms of human mobility, our mission continues to take shape in the daily encounter with migrants, in whom we recognize the face of Christ.

Looking at the figures presented in this report, we see a broad and multifaceted reality: hundreds of thousands of people welcomed, accompanied, and supported in their life journeys; communities built; rights defended; hopes sustained. Yet beyond the numbers, what truly matters are the faces, the stories, and the paths shared.

The four verbs indicated by Pope Francis—to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate—are not for us a theoretical framework, but a daily practice that takes on new forms in the different contexts where we are present. To welcome means to be there, often on the margins of the world, when everything seems uncertain. To protect means to take responsibility for people's vulnerabilities and to defend the dignity of



every person. To promote is to believe in each individual's potential and to accompany paths of growth and autonomy. To integrate, finally, is to build communities where diversity becomes a source of richness and an opportunity for encounter.

This journey is not lived by missionaries alone, but together with many lay people who share the Scalabrinian charism. Co-responsibility today is one of the most meaningful expressions of our mission: together, with different gifts and vocations, we take part in building a Church that walks with migrants and allows itself to be transformed through encountering them.

The year 2025 was also marked by significant events for our Congregation and for the Church: the Jubilee of Migrants, experienced as a sign of hope and communion; the episcopal ordination of Cardinal Fabio Baggio; and the opening of new missionary presences, such as in Panama, which testify to an ongoing readiness to set out and respond to emerging needs. More than a century after the death of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, his vision continues to challenge us: a vision capable of seeing beyond fear, of recognizing in human mobility not only a challenge, but also an opportunity for encounter, renewal, and communion.

This report is not merely a collection of activities, but the story of a mission in progress, of a presence that seeks to remain faithful to both the Gospel and history. It is an invitation to reflect together on what has been lived, in order to continue discerning, with hope, the steps ahead. We entrust this journey to the Lord, that He may continue to sustain our mission and make fruitful the service of the many missionaries and lay people who, each day, choose to be "migrants with migrants".

Fr. Leonir Chiarello, CS
Superior General of the Scalabrinian Missionaries



Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, the life that gave rise to a mission

«Deeply in love with God and extraordinarily devoted to the Eucharist, he was able to translate the contemplation of God and of His mystery into an intense apostolic and missionary activity, becoming all things to all people in order to proclaim the Gospel» — Saint John Paul II

Throughout his life, Giovanni Battista Scalabrini had a clear vision of his goal, heaven, and the path to reach it, charity. A bishop and founder of two congregations, **the Missionaries and the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo**, Scalabrini was above all a shepherd, capable of recognizing in the least the gaze of Jesus.

Born **on July 8, 1839, in Fino Mornasco**, into a humble and devout family, the third of eight children, he entered the seminary in 1857 and was **ordained a priest on May 30, 1863**. Although he desired to become a missionary abroad, he carried out his apostolate in Como as a teacher and rector of the minor seminary, and later as parish priest of San Bartolomeo.

The Bishop for Everyone

«I will spare no effort to make myself a father to the afflicted, a teacher to the unlearned, a guide to priests, and a shepherd to all, so that, becoming all things to all, I may win all to Christ».

At just 36 years of age, **on December 13, 1875**, Giovanni Battista Scalabrini was appointed **bishop of Piacenza** by Pope Pius IX. He grounded his 29-year ministry on two pillars: charity toward those most in need and **the spread of the faith** through the teaching of Christian doctrine.

He devoted himself to **the formation of the clergy** and to the education of **young seminarians** in the three diocesan seminaries. Aware of the importance of communication, he made use of the means of his time to spread faith in Jesus Christ: in 1876, he launched the monthly magazine “**Il Catechista Cattolico**”. For this reason, Pope Pius IX, presenting him with his pectoral cross, called him the **Apostle of the Catechism**.

He celebrated three diocesan synods, consecrated 200 churches, and issued sixty pastoral letters. Yet the “dearest of his duties,” as Scalabrini himself described it, were the **pastoral visits** to the 365 parishes of his diocese. He reached his faithful, many living in small mountain and hillside villages, traveling on the back of a mule. As a bishop, he **remained close to his people**, understanding their needs and anticipating their challenges.





A Father for Migrants

«I myself, more than once, witnessed at the station in Piacenza the departure of emigrants, and I confess that, seeing their poverty and sorrow, thinking of the countless and most serious hardships they were about to face, and of the abandonment in which they would remain, deprived of all spiritual assistance, my heart was deeply moved. I wept over their fate and resolved to try to do something».

Between 1875 and 1915, nearly **9 million Italians emigrated**, most of them heading to the Americas. Scalabrini studied this phenomenon and discovered that 12% of his parishioners were living abroad: uprooted from their cultural context, many Italian migrants were losing their faith.

For Scalabrini, the step from compassion to action was immediate: **on November 28, 1887**, in Piacenza, he founded the **Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo**, and on October 25, 1895, the **Congregation of the Missionary Sisters**. Nor did he forget the laity: in 1889, the **St. Raphael Emigrants' Aid Society** was established, a lay institution tasked with being present at ports of departure and arrival.

He died **on June 1, 1905**, the Feast of the Ascension, upon returning from his final visit to Brazil, having spent himself completely in proclaiming the Gospel. He was **canonized on October 9, 2022 by Pope Francis**, who recognized in him a model of holiness to be imitated: *«Scalabrini looked beyond, he looked ahead, toward a world and a Church without barriers, without strangers».*

Migrants with migrants

Today, **thousands of missionaries**, missionary sisters, and lay people around the world embrace the Scalabrinian charism, becoming “**migrants with migrants**” in order to collaborate in God’s dream of bringing all peoples together into one family.

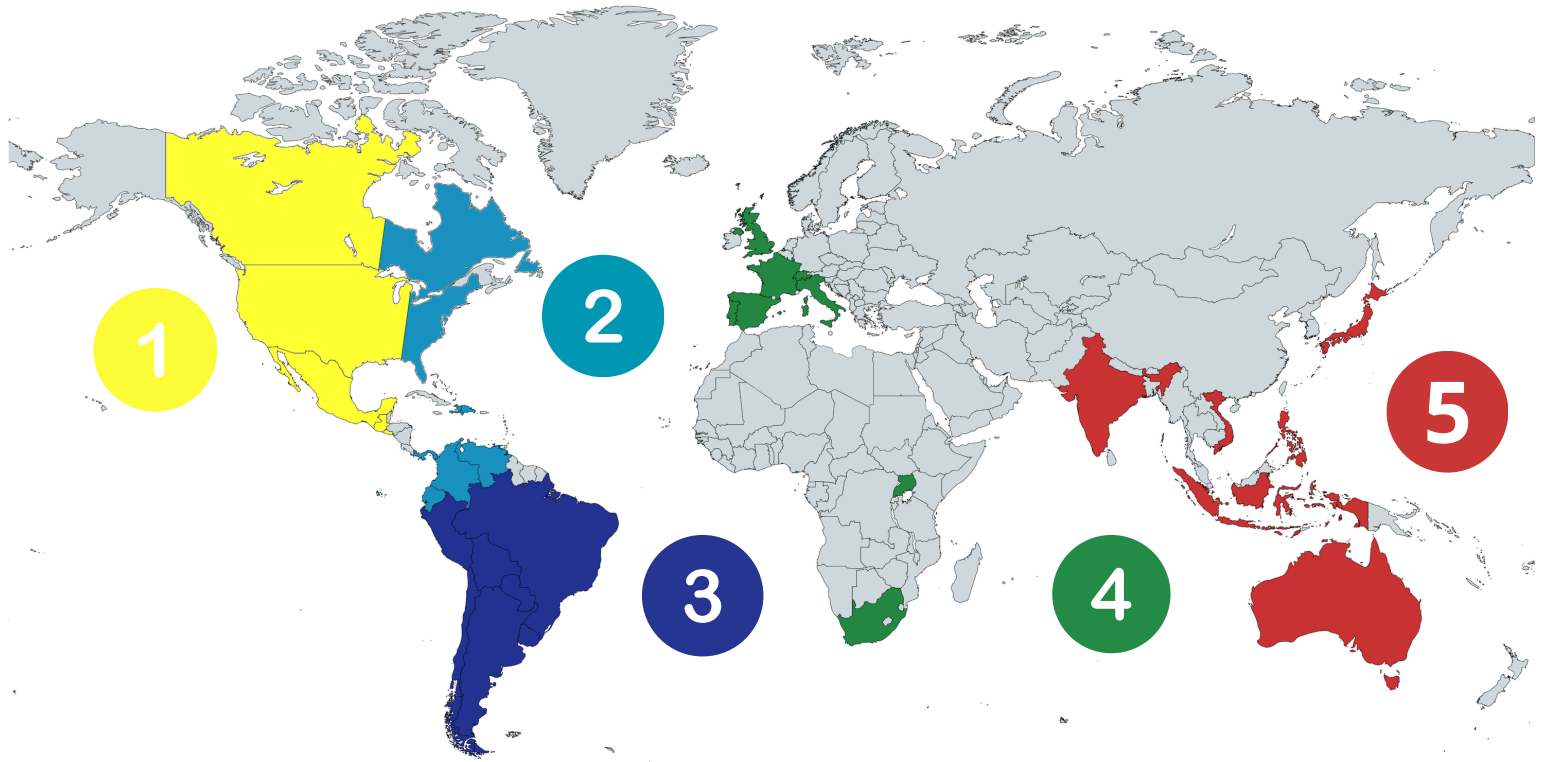
The **613 Scalabrinian religious** come from 42 different nations and share a mission: to **open themselves to God through encounter with migrants**. They become companions of the most vulnerable, discovering with them that Jesus walks alongside them; they promote respect for human dignity and uphold the cultural freedom of peoples, who are bearers of both rights and responsibilities.

They serve primarily in parishes and chaplaincies, and manage **52 Houses and Centers for Migrants and 16 Centers for the Apostleship of the Sea**, where they provide support to seafarers and maritime workers.

Scalabrinian spirituality is a spirituality of incarnation: living the faith within the concrete realities of migration, sharing in the struggles, hopes, and journeys of migrants. It is expressed through welcome as a way of life, mobility as a readiness to set out, and communion as the building of bridges between different cultures.



The Scalabrinian Missionaries worldwide



1 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVINCE

- Usa West
- Canada West
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- El Salvador

2 ST. CHARLES BORROMEO PROVINCE

- USA East
- Canada East
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Haiti
- Venezuela
- Dominican Republic
- Panama

3 OUR LADY, MOTHER OF MIGRANTS REGION

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Uruguay
- Brazil
- Peru
- Paraguay

4 SCALABRINI ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST REGION

- France
- Germany
- England
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Portugal
- Spain
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Uganda

5 ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI PROVINCE

- Australia
- Philippines
- Japan
- Indonesia
- Taiwan
- Vietnam
- India

2025 at a Glance



Migrants assisted

546,429



Seafarers assisted

70,588



Parishes and missions

136



Houses and Centers for migrants

52



Stella Maris

16



Hospitals

3



Job training

25,033



Schools

14



Study Centers

7



Homes for elderly missionaries

4



Magazines

21



Seminaries - seminarians

16 - 271



A mission on a journey

WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE, INTEGRATE

The four verbs indicated in 2018 by Pope Francis — welcome, protect, promote, and integrate — during the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees outline the path of the Scalabrinian mission worldwide: a style of presence that accompanies people on the move over time, bringing together proximity, protection, growth, and community belonging.

Welcome

Across different contexts worldwide, **welcome** takes on diverse forms, yet it retains a common feature: it is a concrete and immediate response to people on the move experiencing precariousness, loneliness, and uncertainty about their future.

Parishes and chaplaincies are often the first place of encounter. In many contexts, they serve as **multicultural spaces** where people of different languages, cultures, and backgrounds find a vital point of reference. Welcome is expressed in the ability to recognize this diversity as a resource, fostering coexistence and shared prayer. Scalabrinian Missionaries are present in **136 missions** across **35 countries**.

Inspired by Scalabrini's prophetic vision, **Houses and Centers for migrants** were established more than 50 years ago to provide shelter, safety, and dignity in the early stages of the migration journey. Here, welcome is translated into essential support: accommodation, meals, basic information, and, above all, a human presence that restores trust and hope. The first center was opened in 1974 in São Paulo, Brazil. In 2025, the Missionaries assisted **546,429 people** worldwide, providing **354,429 hot meals** throughout the year.



A specific and significant area of the Scalabrinian mission is the **Apostleship of the Sea – Stella Maris**, dedicated to people working in the maritime and port sectors. Scalabrinian Missionaries are present in **16 ports worldwide**, where they have established **Stella Maris Centers**: places where they encounter often invisible men and women, offering listening, assistance, and pastoral care.

Despite carrying out work that is essential to the global economy—considering that 90% of world trade is transported by sea—seafarers often lack legal protection, live in precarious conditions, and at times even risk their lives.

The Apostleship of the Sea operates as a **support network** that promotes and safeguards workers' rights. In the past year, the Missionaries carried out **2,729 ship visits, assisting 70,588 seafarers**.



Protect

For the Scalabrinian Congregation, protection is not an isolated act, but a **continuous process** that accompanies people over time and adapts to the different forms of vulnerability that emerge in contexts of human mobility.

In Houses for Migrants, Stella Maris Centers, and parishes, the Missionaries have developed **services of psychological, medical, and legal assistance** to respond effectively to situations of trauma, illness, legal vulnerability, and lack of legal protection. This integrated approach makes it possible to address both the inner wounds and the regulatory complexities that often accompany the migration experience.

Particular attention is given to the **care of vulnerabilities**, especially those of women and minors, who are exposed to forms of exploitation, isolation, and invisibility.



Scalabrinian Missionaries follow the example of Giovanni Battista Scalabrini: already at the end of the 19th century, the Founder understood that the protection of the most vulnerable could not be entrusted to isolated initiatives.

Scalabrini personally worked to promote **concrete collaboration among the Church, civil institutions, and associations**, convinced that only shared responsibility could prevent exploitation. This vision of cooperation remains highly relevant today, as demonstrated by the commitment of the **Santa Marta Group**, an international network established by Pope Francis, which brings together civil authorities, law enforcement, and religious leaders in the fight against human trafficking, and of which the Scalabrinian Missionaries are members.

This community dimension of the mission goes beyond individual action and is rooted in the conviction that the protection of human dignity is a shared responsibility.





Integral care of the person



Psychological support

**8,440 migrants
2,902 seafarers**



Medical support

**52,433 migrants
774 seafarers**



Legal support

**36,249 migrants
4,597 seafarers**



Pastoral support

**647,643 migrants
23,244 seafarers**



Promote

Promote means accompanying the **integral growth of the person**, investing in each individual's capacities, resources, and future.

Education and training represent one of the main areas of this commitment. Through schools, educational programs, and training initiatives, the Congregation helps create opportunities for learning and personal development, especially for children, youth, and adults experiencing mobility and marginalization. The Missionaries have established **5 orphanages and 14 schools and educational centers** in Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, and South Africa.

Job placement pathways are another central dimension of promotion. In 2025, the Missionaries provided **25,033 vocational training** opportunities to equip migrants with skills and support their entry into the labor market, while **5,372 migrants** secured stable employment through training programs promoted by scalabrinian centers.



An important role is also played by the **16 houses of theological formation**, which contribute to the human and spiritual growth of new missionaries. Formation, understood as a continuous process, is experienced as an investment in the future of the mission and in the quality of the Scalabrinian presence worldwide.

Research activities represent another form of promotion. The **Scalabrini Migration Study Centers (SMSC)** form a network of **7 study centers**, located in major cities around the world—New York, Paris, Rome, Cape Town, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, and Manila—aimed at deepening understanding of migration. The centers are engaged in the production of specialized publications and provide documentation services, along with a rich program of conferences and training activities.

Through **studies, publications, and cultural initiatives**, efforts are made to promote alternative narratives of migration, too often interpreted solely as a threat to social stability. In this way, Scalabrinian Missionaries and lay collaborators contribute to the public debate, offering perspectives that bring together faith, social justice, and human mobility.



Integrate

Integrate means **building inclusive and intercultural communities**, capable of welcoming diversity as a resource rather than an obstacle.

Community and pastoral life is the privileged setting of this process. In parishes, religious communities, and pastoral contexts, integration takes shape through experiences of sharing, co-responsibility, and participation, where each person can find a recognized place. Pastoral accompaniment extends throughout the entire life journey of the faithful: Scalabrinian priests also serve in retirement homes for elderly people who, after working in a foreign country, often find themselves alone and far from their roots.

The Missionaries are directly involved in **25 diocesan and national offices and in 9 national ecclesial organizations**, a sign of an active and recognized presence in the life of the Church. This commitment translates into a concrete contribution to the pastoral care of migrants, through collaboration with dioceses, Episcopal Conferences, and ecclesial bodies, offering the expertise gained through direct experience alongside people on the move.



The involvement of **scalabrinian lay people** is another essential dimension of this journey. Through their talents, skills, and charisms, the laity make a decisive contribution to the development of pastoral and social activities, giving concrete and everyday expression to the Scalabrinian mission.

Two examples stand out: **Antonella Mattei**, a Scalabrinian lay woman, dedicated her life to welcome and community-building, creating spaces where everyone could feel at home. She passed away prematurely on January 23, 2025, yet her joyful witness remains a model of faith. Equally inspiring is the life of **Marisol Castro**, a Scalabrinian lay woman who was murdered in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, in 2011 for denouncing migrant trafficking and drug-related crimes in her region: a martyr of our time, who stood against injustice and criminality until the very end.

A significant role is also played by **elderly missionaries**, who represent the **living memory** of the Congregation. Their long missionary experience and fidelity to the Lord help pass on values and strength to new generations. There are currently four houses where elderly missionaries live: two in Italy, in **Bassano del Grappa and Arco**; one in Brazil, in **Passo Fundo** (Rio Grande do Sul); and one in **Jundiaí** (State of São Paulo).



Key Events

1

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF CARD. FABIO BAGGIO

On January 11, 2025, in Bassano del Grappa, the Episcopal Ordination of Fabio Baggio, a scalabrinian missionary, took place. An important recognition for the Congregation and for the mission of the Church in service of migrants.

2

SOLIDARITY WITH MIGRANTS AT RISK OF DEPORTATION

In Chicago, scalabrinian missionaries and lay people took part in various initiatives of solidarity for individuals detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. federal agency responsible for enforcing immigration laws.

3

JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On October 4, 2025, scalabrinian missionaries and lay people participated in the Jubilee of Migrants in Rome, sharing moments of communion and fraternity.

4

OPENING OF A NEW MISSION IN PANAMA

The Congregation opened a new mission in Panama, with the assignment of Fr. Mario Geremia to Saint Paul VI Parish in Panama Pacific.



Snapshots of Hope





Faces, Stories, Signs

YOUNG PILGRIMS OF HOPE

by **Lígia Rolo**

Between July 28 and August 3, 2025, we experienced in Rome the great gathering of young people for the Jubilee, convened by Pope Francis under the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” As the Scalabrinian group “Scala a tua fé” from the parish of Amora, in Portugal, we set out on July 26 on a pilgrimage to the Eternal City, with the desire to meet other young people, the Pope, and above all Christ.

Our journey was marked by meaningful stops—Loyola, Ávila, Assisi, and Taizé—which helped us rediscover a simple and shared faith, allowing us to understand that holiness is for everyone. In Piacenza, the city of Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, we strongly felt our charism: to walk alongside migrants.

In Rome, we were welcomed at Casa Scalabrini 634, where we met migrants and refugees. By sharing meals, stories, cultures, and moments of joy, we witnessed that hope continues to live even in the midst of difficulties. During those days, accompanied by Fr. Jonas Donazzolo and together with other Scalabrinian youth, we felt part of one great family.

The most intense moment was the gathering at Tor Vergata with the Pope and the vigil before the Eucharist: a time of silence, communion, and renewal of our relationship with God. We returned home with full hearts. This experience strengthened our faith, our friendships, and our awareness that we too, as young people, are called to be living signs of hope in the world.





Faces, Stories, Signs

FR. EMIDIO GIROTTO: 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD, MISSIONARY AMONG MIGRANTS

Celebrating fifty years of priesthood means rereading one's life in the light of God's faithfulness. On January 5, 2025, Fr. Emidio Giroto, CS, reached the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination, bearing witness to a vocation born in prayer, matured in mission, and lived in service to those most in need.

His calling emerged from childhood, in a simple dialogue with his mother, and developed as a story in which God's grace meets human openness. A Scalabrinian missionary, he served in various regions of Brazil in vocational promotion, formation, and pastoral ministry, encountering young people and communities and fostering a culture of saying "yes" to God's call.

Among the most significant experiences is his mission alongside migrant workers in the farms of Minas Gerais, São Paulo, and Rondônia, where the Eucharist, celebrated in the places of daily life, became a sign of dignity and hope.

Since February 2024, he has been serving at the House for elderly priests in Jundiaí, where daily care is expressed through listening, patience, and gratitude—signs of a priesthood that remains fruitful.

To young people, he offers a simple message: fear is part of the journey, but trust in God transforms uncertainty into mission. His life remains a testimony to the Scalabrinian charism: to serve migrants, promote vocations, and remain faithful to God's call.



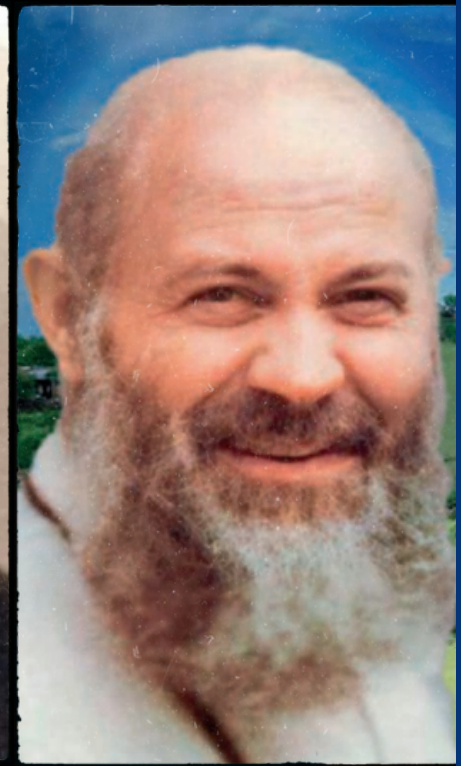
Scalabrinian Missionaries on the Path to Holiness



FR. MASSIMO RINALDI
(1869-1941)



FR. GIUSEPPE MARCHETTI
(1869-1896)



FR. TARCISIO RUBIN
(1929-1983)



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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Saint John Baptist Scalabrini	4
Scalabrinian Missionaries Worldwide	8
2025 at a Glance	9
A Mission on a Journey	10
Welcome	11
Protect	13
Promote	16
Integrate	18
Key Events	20
Faces, Stories, and Signs	22
Missionaries on the Path to Holiness	26

