

SCALABRINI AT THE RAILROAD STATION IN MILAN

A Moment That Changed History



THEY WERE MIGRANTS!

“As I walked through the Railroad Station, I saw hundreds of individuals, poorly dressed and separated into various groups. There were old men bent with age and labour, young men in the prime of manhood, women carrying their little ones, boys and girls—all united in a single thought, all heading to a common goal. They were migrants!” — St. John Baptist Scalabrini

A SHEPHERD MOVED BY COMPASSION

Watching these families prepare to leave Italy for the Americas, Bishop Scalabrini saw more than economic hardship. He saw fathers, mothers, and children leaving behind their homes, their culture, and often their faith. Deeply moved by their suffering, he asked: “What can I do to help them?”

BREAD FOR THE BODY... AND BREAD FOR THE SOUL

“How many, though they find bread for their bodies, will have no bread for their souls?”

“Tell our bishop that we always remember his advice. We ask him to pray for us and to send us a priest, because here we live and die like animals.”

A MISSION IS BORN

November 28, 1887 – Bishop Scalabrini founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians) to provide spiritual and moral assistance to migrants throughout the world.

July 12, 1888 – He entrusted a crucifix to the first ten missionaries sent to America.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
Matthew 25:35

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI
Father of Migrants and Refugees