

THE CANONIZATION October 9, 2022

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI (1839 - 1905)



The Missionaries of St. Charles - Scalabrinians is a congregation that serves the migrants, refugees and seafarers.

Who is Saint John Baptist Scalabrini?	4	40 years of the Scalabrinians in the Philippines	10
<i>Who is St.</i> Scalabrini for me?	6	My Vocation Story	12
<i>My Journey to the Canonization of St. Scalabrini</i>	8	Our Activities	15

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Publisher: Scalabrini Vocation Office - Philippines Editor: Fr. Joseph Tran Quoc Bao, cs - Vocation Promoter Contributors: Fr. Roger Manalo, cs Br. Hugo Facio, cs Br. Yohanes Don Bosco Londa Da, cs Bro. Klaudius Heronimus Luruk, cs Design & layout: Br. Nhat Tan, cs Proofreader: Mrs. Joy Viray Gatmaytan

MISSION STATEMENT

Exodus magazine is a vocation-oriented magazine directed to young people and, like a trusted friend, wants to help young men in their discernment process through practical articles that will guide them to understand the meaning of Religious Vocation, its implications and skills.

Contact us at: csvocations1@gmail.com

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MISSIONARIES OF ST. C SCALABRINIAR ECITOPICI



Viva Santo Scalabrini!

This year marks a wonderful time for the Scalabrinian family with the Scalabrinian Year (November 9, 2021 – November 9, 2022), 70th Year of Scalarinian Presence in Australia, 40th Year in the Philippines, 20th Year in Indonesia, and 17th Year in Vietnam. Topping this is the canonization of our holy Founder Scalabrini on October 9, 2022. This has reinforced the Scalabrinian charism to the whole world and also inspired all Scalabrinians to imitate him in serving the migrants as a way to holiness.

With abundant joy and happiness from a lot of graces that the Lord has given to the Scalabrinian family this year, the Scalabrini Vocation Office resumes its vocation-oriented magazine, aptly named Exodus. Its name is taken from the book of Exodus in the Bible, which means journeying to God as the people of God. The articles are meant to give reflection, and to share vocation journeys which may inspire the young to recognize the call of God and respond to it in their journey of life and of faith.

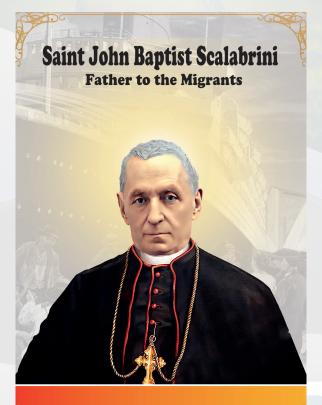
The theme of this special edition is about St. John Baptist Scalabrini. He is one of the newest saints in the Church, having been canonized by Pope Francis on October 9 this year. He was ordained a priest in 1863 and became Bishop of Piacenza, Italy at the age of 36, from 1876 to his death in 1905. Struck with

what he saw at the train station in Milan where people were leaving their homeland for the Americas due to poverty and other reasons, he asked himself, "What can be done for them?" With a fatherly care for his people, he decided to translate this care and love into action. With the papal approval, he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles (CS) on November 28, 1887 and the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo-Scalabrinians (MSCS) on October 25, 1895 with the charism to look after the needs of the migrants. He was also the inspirer of the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries(MSS) and is acknowledged as the Apostle of the Catechism and Father to the Migrants.

With the purpose of introducing St. John Baptist Scalabrini, Father to the migrants, this special edition features sharing and reflections about Scalabrini and also the journey going to the Vatican to attend the canonization. There is the vocation story of Fr. Roger, who is a Scalabrinian missionary, now the Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples (ECMI), an office under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). Bro. Yohanes Don Bosco Londa Da shares his reflection on the 40th year of Scalabrinians in the Philippines.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue. Share with us the joy of having the great Saint Scalabrini, the man of God and the Father to the migrants. May God bless you all.

> Fr. Tran Quoc Bao, cs Editor



CANONIZATION ON OCTOBER 9, 2022 AT ST. PETER'S SQUARE, ROME, ITALY

with the migrants.

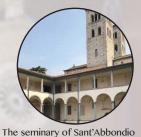
WHO IS SAINT JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI?



John Baptist Scalabrini was born on July 8, 1839 and was baptized on the same day in Fino Mornasco, Como in the northern part of Italy. He was the third son among the eight children to Luigi Scalabrini and Colomba Trombetta, a humble and religious family.

In 1870, he was appointed parish priest of Saint Bartholomew. Here, he became interested in all the social issues of his parish. He personally treated cholera pa-

On May 30, 1863, he was ordained priest after finishing his program in the seminary of the Diocese of Como. He was assigned a professor at the Minor seminary in Como and later on became its rector.





The Parish of St. Bartolomeo in Como

In 1875, he wrote the "Little Catechism for Children" after he sensed the importance of religious education for young people.

tients in Portichetto, receiving a civilian medal for valor.





At the age of 36, he was named bishop of Piacenza by Pope Pius IX on December 13, 1875.

During his time as a bishop, he dedicated himself to promoting the formation of priests and young seminarians, and he reformed the studies in the three seminaries of his diocese. He visited the 365 parishes in his diocese five times and organized three diocesan synods.





In 1877, he published the "Catholic Catechism", and in 1899, he organized the First National Catechetical Congress in Piacenza, the first of its kind in the world. Pope Pius IX called him "The Apostle of Catechism." In 1879, he established the Institute for Deaf-Mute and the Association for the Rice Field Workers in 1903.





At the Milan train Station, he met around 500 migrants at the Milan Railroad Station in 1880, He was deeply affected by the plight of his faithful forced to make their fortunes in South America and the United States.

The tracks of the old central station in Milan

On November 28, 1887, he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles for the spiritual and material assistance to migrants.





In 1889, he founded a lay people association named the Saint Raphael society. In 1895 he founded the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo.

In 1901, he arrived in the United States for his first visit, as a papal delegate, to the Italian emigrants. Three years later, he made the second visit, this time in Brazil and Argentina.





After returning from his second visit to the Americas, he felt ill and eventually died on June 1, 1905, on the Solemnity of the Ascension.

He was proclaimed blessed by Saint Pope John Paul II on November 9, 1997.



On October 9, 2022, he was canonized by Pope Francis as the "Father to the Migrants."

SANT SCALABRIN FATUER TO THE MIGRANTS



WHO IS ST. SCALABRINI FOR ME?

Scalabrini is a father who has inspired me to give my life to God through the persons I have met as a missionary.

Br. Hugo Facio, cs

Hello everyone! My name is Hugo Facio, and I am a Scalabrinian missionary living in the Philippines.

Who is St. Scalabrini for me?

For me, Saint John the Baptist Scalabrini is a saint with a very concrete spirituality. He found God not only in prayers



but also in the encounter with all the people he met every day.

It is fascinating how his way of seeing God was through those people who suffered the terrible weight of another day. Scalabrini was a person who knew how to accompany his people in poverty and, in concrete ways, to respond to problems related to migration.. He saw a face, a name, a human dignity in each person.

In this way, for me, the title that has been given to him is well-deserved. He is called the Father to the migrants, refugees, and seafarers. As we know, a father is a person who cares for his children, accompanies them, and above all, always concerned with their well-being. This is the exact figure of Scalabrini. He was the father who cried with his people, suffered with the displaced, and accompanied the migrants through his missionaries.



Saint John Baptis, Scalabrini (1839-1905) Bishop of Piacenza Apostle of Catechism Father to the Migrants



His love for them was so great that it is still transmitted through the congregations that he founded and inspired. His love as a father is still reflected in each Scalabrinian missionary. They continue accompanying those who have abandoned their land and sought new ways of life. In other hand, it continues to be reflected in the missions that seek the safety of each person they receive.

Indeed, Scalabrini is a father who has inspired me to give my life to God through ther persons have met as a missionary. He is a father who has left us a great family to continue being the voice of those who have lost hope in this life. Picture of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini at Thanksgiving mass in St. Anthony of Padua Parish in the Philippines

7

Canonization

Bro. Klaudius Heronimus Luruk, cs

MY JOURNEY TO THE CANONIZATION OF **ST. SCALABRINI**



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Those are migrants who speak different languages but gather together at the Vatican as one family regardless of all their differences.

On May 21, 2022, Pope Francis approved the canonization of our founder Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini. It was unique and extraordinary because there was a dispensation of the second miracle requi-

rement. Thus, with great anticipation, everyone began to ask, "When will it be?"

The question was answered on Saturday, August 27, 2022. The canonization date

was announced at an audience granted to Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. At this same time, Pope Francis also approved the canonization of Blessed Artemide Zatti, a Salesian co-worker and missionary in Patagonia.¹ Both of them were to be canonized on October 9, 2022.

Indeed, this good news spread quickly throughout the world. For the Scalabrinian family, this year has been full of blessings. Among other celebrations, this year, as we celebrated the Scalabrinian year, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Scalabrini's beatifications. God gave us a very precious gift of Bishop Scalabrini becoming a saint. He is recognized as the patron saint and Father of the Migrants, as the acknowledgment of his dedication in caring for thousands of Italian migrants who moved to the Americas. His

¹Pope Francis approves canonization of two Blesseds, https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-05/po-pe-francis-approves-canonization-of-two-blesseds.html (Accessed October 20, 2002)

actions and visions toward the migration phenomenon depicted the Church's motherly love for the peoples on the move. Bishop Scalabrini was also named as the Apostle of the Catechism by Pope Pius IX, due to his zeal in transmitting the faith to the young ones.

Responding to this grace, the Scalabrinian family throughout the world kept themselves busy planning the activities to welcome this glorious and historical moment. Even the decision on who would go to Rome to attend the canonization was included in the agenda. For the Scalabrinians here in Manila, three priests, two staff and I-a theologian-departed for Rome on October 5, 2022. We left Manila with cheerful hearts. We had a stopover in Dubai and the next day, proceeded to Rome. Dubai Airport was not crowded that day, but still many people walking around. At 06.00 PM (Dubai Time), we continued simple Novena to Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini. We prayed in our languages. I realized that many people were on their journey to Rome during those days to attend the canonization. They also took with them the joy of the canonization.

October 9 dawned and Rome was chilly. Thousands of people were moving toward Saint Peter's square. The modest pictures of the two new saints were hanging on the facade of the Basilica. They welcomed the pilgrims with their smile just as when they were still alive. After a short while, the square became colorful with the flags of various countries. The differences in nationalities, identities, cultures, and languages did not hinder the people from celebrating and welcoming as one these new saints into the Church, a colorful representation of the universal Church. The people waited joyfully for the moment when these two Blessed would be officially proclaimed as the Catholic Church's newest saints. A couple of minutes later, Pope Francis entered the main altar in front of the Basilica, where the celebration was to take place. I heard the rumble of hands clapping in lively rhythm of welcome across the square. The people were laughing, smiling, and shouting, expressing their happiness seeing their Pope coming in. During the homily, the Pope pointed out the simplicity, practical actions, and wisdom that mark these Blessed holy. They have sacrificed their lives





and surrendered their possessions for God's sake.

The next day, we had an audience with the Pope, exclusively for the Scalabrinian family. During this meeting, the Pope encouraged the Scalabrinian missionaries to continue promoting the message of Scalabrini to all humanity and encounter among the people while never hesitating to be creative. Furthermore, the Pope particularly mentioned the diversity of the assembly by saying, "You well represent the breadth of Bishop Scalabrini's work, the openness of his heart to which, so to speak, one diocese was not enough." The Pope invited all the Scalabrinian missionaries to continue and to extend this noble mission

by being ambassadors of God's love to the needy through the path that Scalabrini had shown.

The canonization is over but, with fervent hearts, we hope that the spirit of sainthood continues to grow in each heart, flaming unceasingly, exemplifying our mission to serve our migrant brothers and sisters.



After 40 years of the Scalabrinian presence in the Philippines, all of these involvements, in one way or another, have changed the way the Filipino Church sees the reality of migration.



On September 21st, 2022, the Scalabrinians celebrated the 40th anniversary of their presence in the Philippines at the covered court of Scalabrini Formation Centre, 7th Street New Manila, Quezon City. It began with the holy mass presided over by Cardinal Jose Advincula Jr., Archbishop of Manila. Many religious priests, sisters and friends, as well as many OFWs and seafarers attended this special event. This marks an important event in the history of the Scalabrinian Congregation in the Philippines.

History reveals that the Scalabrinians, at the very beginning of its missions, cared specifically for the Italian immigrants in the Americas. There was the focus until the 1950s when the Scalabrinians expanded their presence to include Australia following the Italian immigrants. Everything was done for the sake of helping the migrants. However, "in 1982, the Scalabrinians in Australia took the most daring and risky decision by expanding to the Philippines, to serve the landbased and seabased Filipino overseas workers."¹ Frs. Anthony Paganoni, John Iacono and Luigi Sabbadin pioneered this expansion. There are many reasons the Scalabrinians chose to expand the mission to the Philippines. In my opinion, one of them is the shift of the needs in migration reality. At this time, the European immigrants were 'no longer' immigrants because they had already become permanent residents. Now, the migrants were mostly Asians.

These shifting and expansion of the mission were not without difficulties or challenges. In fact, the challenges were even greater than the ones the missionaries had been facing. Previously, the missionaries were Europeans interacting with European migrants, but in the new mission, the missionaries had to face something very new and different. For one, the Philippines, a Catholic-majority nation, is "an archipelago" with diverse culture, language, tradition and beliefs. This diversity added to the challenges the missionaries had to face. However, the pioneer fathers felt the call and knew fully well the need to "move out into the deep" as a mark of the radical shift in the Congregation's mission, opening the ministry to international migrations.² This "move into the deep" is not simply to move farther from the shore, but to move where there are more 'catch,' both for vocation and mission. The Filipino missionaries are needed to help and serve the Filipino migrants, their own kababayan, and not to simply fill up the empty monasteries in Europe like what many Filipino thought at that time.³

In the Philippines, the Scalabrinians played an important role, especially in world of migration and service to the overseas workers, both landbased and seabased. Fr. Paganoni worked tirelessly to bring the issue of migration into broader level with the appointment of a Scalabrinian priest as chaplain of Stella Maris (previously Apostleship of the Sea), the establishment of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) to work alongside the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the Scalabrinian Centre for People on the Move (SCPM), a temporary shelter for seafarers and fishers in Metro Manila while they work on their documents and/or are waiting to be deployed, the Scalabrini Mission Centre to research on the phenomenon of migration, and especially, the establishment of formation houses to nourish the vocation to work for the migrants.

During the pandemic, all of these establishments proved to be worthy of their names. Stella Maris continued the service for the seafarers, especially in their 100th anniversary right in the midst of the pandemic. SCPM and the other centres were still running even though they were hit badly financially by the pandemic. The formation houses, like the Scalabrini Theological House of Studies (STHS), opened themselves to the poor, such as those who live in the squatter areas in the neighborhood by giving out some goods and food, holding some other charitable activities, and especially celebrating the Eucharistic every Saturday evening. When there was a restriction of gathering, STHS provided held online mass and some other celebrations, including the Simbang Gabi.

After 40 years of the Scalabrinian presence in the Philippines, all of these involvements, in one way or another, have changed the way the Filipino Church sees the reality of migration. Apart from this, the Philippines also plays an important role for the Scalabrinians in Australia-Asia, because the country is the stepping stone for the expansion of the missions to Taiwan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, and now, India. Hopefully, by the grace of God in the years to come, the Scalabrinians will continue to dedicate themselves to serve God through the pastoral care for migrants and also contribute to the welfare of the Filipino migrants and their families left behind.



Br. Yohanes Don Bosco Londa Da, cs

¹Desmond Cahill: Missionaries on the Move, 2004, 354. ²Dino Torresan: Asian Perspectives or Latin Captivity?, 2011, 3. ³Desmond Cahill: Missionaries on the Move, 2004, 356.

HARDEN STORY Fr. Roger Manalo, cs.

" Being a Scalabrinian Missionary is a tangible and real response to the direct command of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Roger Manalo, cs- in his Ministry



Growing up, I never wanted to be a priest. I always thought that life without a family of my own would be very difficult for me. I grew up in a family of WBF (visits the church only when there were Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals). How, then, did I end up to be a priest? When I was 14 or 15 years old, I grappled with these questions: How can I be useful to the world? What is the meaning of life? What is it that I can do to find my place in the world? Finding the answers to these led me to my quest to the path towards the seminary.

I am Fr Roger Cortuna Manalo, CS, a Religious Priest of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo-Scalabrinians. I was born and raised in Mindoro, Philippines, 21 years in ministry, and currently working in the Philippines as the Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

It was not a deep personal relationship with God that I nurtured since childhood that led my decision to enter the seminary and become a priest. As I was growing up, I knew that I was not special nor talented. I was not holy or pious. My vocation journey was not magical. My path was not obvious. Maybe this is ringing bells for many young people. I actually entered the seminary not sure about wanting to be a priest. After finishing high school, my parents would like to know what I was planning to do in college. Just 15 years of age, I was not so sure of the course of so many things, even as simple as what program I would like to take in college. But I had this lingering question in my mind and heart of how I could make my life meaningful.

You can just imagine the chagrin of my siblings when I told them that I would like to enter the seminary. Nobody took me seriously but it did not dampen my spirit because I was not entering the diocesan seminary to be a priest. That does not mean that I was not serious about entering the seminary for I had my own good reason: to discern about my life and nowhere in the world could I do it better than in the seminary.

I stayed in the diocesan seminary for 4 years. However, serious family problems and personal issues made me decide to voluntarily leave. I landed a teaching job in one of the parish schools in my province and I worked there for 2 school years. In those two years, I was haunted by the ques-

tion: Do I really have a priestly vocation? I came to conclusion that if I didn't t really have a vocation to priesthood, even a little, why was I still holding on to God, still getting directions from Him for my life, and still strongly believing that only God could really lead me to right path of life and make my life more meaningful?

Those 2 years of weighing priestly vocation and career outside seemed like an eternity for me. There were sleepless nights, angst,



dissatisfaction with my work, self-searching, soul-searching and a whole gamut of emotions. Then I slowly realized that my relationship with God was the only thing that mattered, that I held on to God because I loved him. It was only when I surrendered everything to Him, when I emptied my heart to Him, that I realized that God was really calling me to HIM.

The truth is that we are all called to give ourselves to God, whether we admit it or not. We all have a vocation: for some, it is through giving of themselves to another in marriage. For others, it is through single blessedness or living a single life that frees them to work on themselves and their personal relationship with God. For others still, it is through a priestly or religious life where they share themselves with all of God's children and guide them into relationship with Him through words and actions.

My vocation story is not really unique, as other priestly and religious vocation stories are, but the underlying truth in all vocation stories is that they are what should lead us to a relationship with God. It is our love story with Him. I was ordained to priesthood on January 12, 2001. Since then, I have experienced being an assistant parish priest, chaplain in different migrant communities, port chaplain, director of Stella Maris International Seafarers Center, parish administrator, Director of the (then) Apostleship of the Sea, and being a Parish priest.

In serving the migrants, I have ministered to people of different races: Taiwanese, Japanese, Koreans, Albanians, Italians, Latin Americans, Greeks, Australians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indonesians, Indians, to name a few. I have lived my life as a migrant among migrants. Many of them left their country because of poverty, war and political conflicts, or family re-unification. Some of them crossed the sea on small boats, some even swam for hours, others stayed in refugee camps for years, and some lost everything they had. To leave one's homeland in search for a better future for themselves and their families is never an easy decision. It means giving up family and friends, heading to a foreign land unsure of the future, becoming vulnerable and feeling alone. A person who has to migrate suffers for what has been left behind and for what has not been found upon arrival. Migrants are forever bumping into racism, xenophobia, class prejudices, and suspicions.

Paradoxically, in the midst of chaos and profound suffering brought about by migration, I found my place in the world I had been looking for since I was 14 years old. It is not in earning so much money, or accumulating material possessions, or being famous, or making a name for myself that mattered, but it is in encountering Jesus in the lives of the migrants.





In the Gospel, Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." This was the invitation for me to care for strangers and for people more vulnerable than I am. Being a Scalabrinian Missionary is the tangible and real response to the direct command of Jesus Christ. The Scalabrinian way of life is expressing the love of God to the migrants to the strangers.

As a Scalabrinian, I found answers to my questions. In my quest to find my place in the world, I found the courage to move beyond my own fears and doubts to truly open my heart to loving God and neighbor without distinction. I finally discovered that I am called to be a missionary priest to love and care for others as we would hope others would love and care for us.

OUR ACTIVITIES



PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

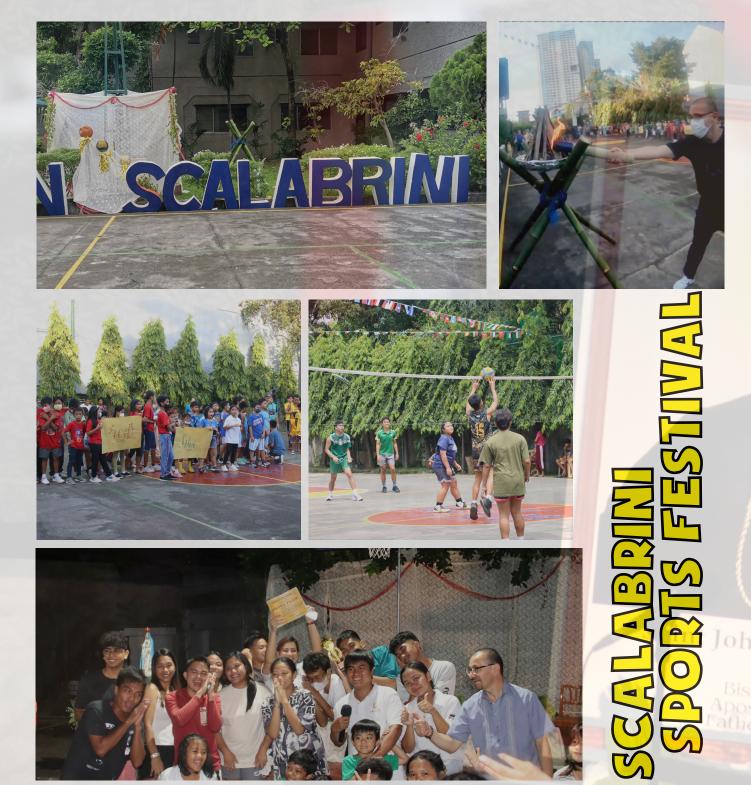
Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Province



Wednesday September 21, 2022 at 6:00pm (Manila) | Thanksgiving Eucharist with Most Rev. Jose F. Cardinal Advincula, Jr., D.D., Archbishop of Manila, as Presider and Homilist.

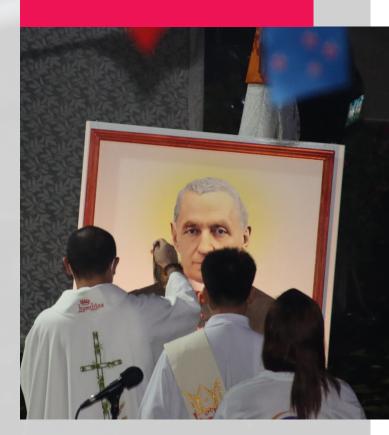


SCALABRINIANS



THANKSGIVING MASS FOR THE CANONIZATION OF ST. SCALABRINI

AT THE SCALABRINI THEOLOGICAL HOUSE OF STUDIES IN MANI



Together with all the Neigbours around, we celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass right after the Canonization of Our Founder at the Scalabrini Theological house of Studies on October 9, 2022.









The Thanksgiving Mass for the canonization of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini and the clonclusion of the Scalabrinian Year.

















THANKSGIVING At St. Anthony de Padua Parish Batasan Hills, Quezon City

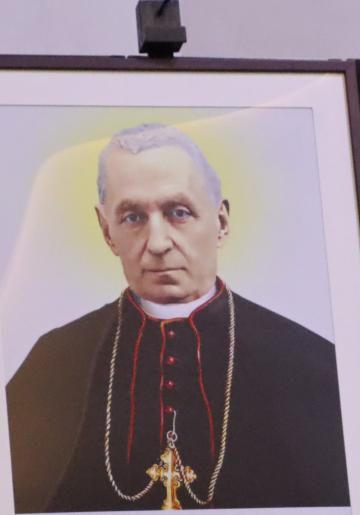
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Saint John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905) Bishop of Piacenza Apostle of Catechism Father to the Migrants



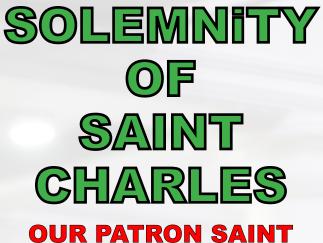
























INSTALLATION TO THE MINOR MINISTRIES: LECTORS AND ACOLYTES











135 FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY 1887 - Nov 28 - 2022







SOLEMINITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY DEVOTIONAL RENEWAL OF VOWS







THE MISSIONARIES OF ST.CHARLES SCALABRINIANS

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" $\mathcal{M}_{25:35}$



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SCALABRINIAN?

Contact Us

SCALABRINI VOCATION OFFICE



Ø

0945-155-0525

SCALABRINIAN VOCATIONS

CSVOCATIONS1@GMAIL.COM

Manila: #4, 13TH ST., NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY Cebu: SAN CARLOS HEIGHTS, QUIOT, CEBU CITY 6000 humilitos SAINT J. B. SCALABRINI Father to the migrants

PASTORAL CARE FOR:



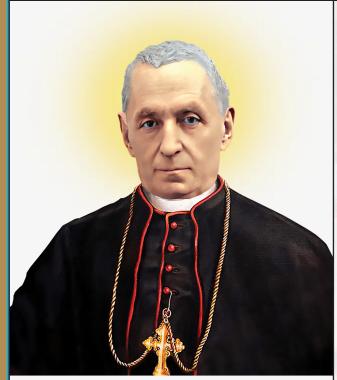








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Saint John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905) Bishop of Piacenza Apostle of Catechism Father to the Migrants

PRAYER TO SAINT JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI

O Saint John Baptist Scalabrini with the heart of a bishop and the zeal of an apostle, you gave yourself completely to all. You listened to the cries of migrants, spoke in their name, defended their rights. You found sustenance in the Eucharist solace in the cross of Jesus. comfort in Mary, Mother of the Church. Through your intercession may God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit grant peace to all humanity, protect those who cross seas and borders sustained by hope. bless us and our loved ones and grant us the grace that we entrust to your fatherly love. Amen

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI

Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles-Scalabrinians and the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo-Scalabrinians Inspirer of the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries

SCALABRINI VOCATION OFFICE #4, 13th street, New Manila, Quezon City 1112, Philippines

0945-155-0525

csvocations1@gmail.com

