February 24, 2022

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: Thursday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: In honor of our bishop-elect the Reverend Fr. Jacques E. Fabre, today we look at his religious order, the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, also known as Scalabrinians.

3. Quotes of the Day: Quotes from the founding Bishop of the Missionaries of St. Charles - Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini

~"He who lives from faith not only loves God, but feels impelled to make others love him.... Hence the fever of saints to sacrifice their whole selves for the salvation of souls. And hence those wonders of charity and zeal that we read about in their lives and that call forth the admiration of every age. The zeal of God's glory consumed them, never letting them rest for a single instant" (Pastoral Letter of 1877).

~"The spirit, the character, the sole ambition of the bishop lies in sacrificing himself in every way to spread the kingdom of Jesus Christ in people's souls, risking, if necessary, his own life for the salvation of his beloved flock, placing himself, so to speak, on his knees before all the people in order to beseech the favor of their permission to do them good. He uses everything - his whole authority, skill, health, strength - for this noblest of purposes"

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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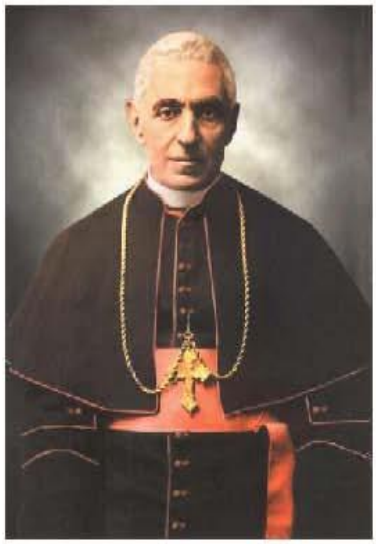
The Missionaries of St. Charles-Scalabrinians are an international community of religious missionaries dedicated to the service of migrants of differing cultures, religions and ethnicities. We are a religious apostolic community called by God to share in the mission of the church by helping migrants discover and carry out the plan of salvation during human migration and within their lives.

The Congregation was founded on November 28, 1887 by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905), Bishop of Piacenza, Italy.

A bit of History



When Bishop Scalabrini came to the United States in 1901, his missionaries prepared a gift for him, a bound set of watercolors of every mission the community had at the time of the bishop's visit. Today, the Saint Charles province has the book.

One of Bishop Scalabrini's tasks during his 1901 visit was to re-start the Saint Raphael Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants.

The organization had been founded in 1891, when Father Pietro Bandini came to New York and opened the mission at 113 Waverly Place in Greenwich Village.

Father Bandini had only five-year vows with the Scalabrinians, and, at the end of his vows, he accepted another mission, as chaplain of a community of Italian immigrant sharecroppers in Arkansas. (When the owner of the plantation on which they worked died unexpectedly, Father Bandini led his parishioners to form Tontitown on the western side of Arkansas.) The Scalabrinians had no one else with the time and skills to minister to migrants on Ellis Island.

Finally, during his 1901 visit, Bishop Scalabrini appointed Father Giacomo Gambera to the job. Father Gambera had not yet arranged for the mission to work with the Pallottine Sisters at 8-10 Charlton Street when this watercolor was made, so, rather than a picture of the mission, we get this image of an angel guiding a ship full of immigrants to the Statue of Liberty.

Missionaries for Migrants

The Scalabrinians care for migrants and refugees in a variety of ways: socially, culturally and spiritually. In addition to spiritual ministry and community building, they provide education in schools, local organization for cultural activities, care for the sick, counseling and legal referral, advocacy and care for the elderly. They also encourage the study of migration through research centers and the dialogue with political and civil groups through specialized magazines.

They are in charge of shelter homes for refugees or migrants in transit or deported aliens, seamen's centers, villages for elderly migrants, and centers for migration studies. They publish newspaper and magazines and conduct radio and television programs. They run formation houses for religious and lay people, they

are members of migration committees of Bishops' Conferences. They are engaged in preaching missions to migrant communities, teaching, or running multi-cultural parishes and ethnic missions.

Our religious congregation is present in 34 countries around the world. The Province of St. Charles encompasses 7 of those countries. Our missionary work includes advocacy and promotion of human rights of migrants, research and studies, migrants' centers and pastoral services in multi-cultural parishes.

Our new bishop, the Reverend Fr. Jacques E. Fabre

Sources: scalabrinisaintcharles.org and scalabrinians.org