



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF
ST. CHARLES – SCALABRINIANS



“St. Frances X. Cabrini” Province in Australia and Asia

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Mosman, 23 May 2022

Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini to be proclaimed a Saint

Dear Confreres, Sisters, Brothers, and Seminarians,

What excellent news we received on May 21, 2022, from the General Superior, namely that Pope Francis, with his shepherd's heart and with the smell of sheep, has decided to canonise the Father of Migrants, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, a shepherd of God's people, in particular with the smell of a migrant.

Our founder Scalabrini had the great merit of being ahead of his time and predicting that the world of Migration is not temporary but has deeper roots that encompass the social, political, economic, and cultural. Therefore, Migration is an intrinsic reality of human existence.

The Holy Father, in His wisdom and practicing synodality, has listened to the Holy Spirit, who, through the Cardinals gathered on May 17, expressed his opinion on the holy and heroic life of our blessed Father Scalabrini.

With this great news, Pope Francis is giving the Church of Christ a new saint, a visionary, and a promoter of the dignity of migrants and all itinerant people.

Now more than ever, the migrants, seafarers, refugees, and fishermen will find in this new saint John Baptist Scalabrini a Father, an intercessor, and a protector in their lives characterized by suffering, misunderstanding, rejection, loneliness, and sacrifice in order to offer their loved ones a more dignified life.

The Holy Spirit has spoken and manifested his will precisely during the Scalabrinian Year, in which we will celebrate 25 years of the beatification of this holy visionary and pastor on November 9. And during this time, the Pope invites us to live in synodality. In addition, this year, we will celebrate 70 years of our presence in Australia (November 2, 1952); 40 years of our arrival in the Philippines (September 21, 1982); 20 years of our presence in Indonesia (June 29, 2002); 19 years of our arrival in Japan (September 12, 2003); 18 years of our presence in Taiwan (June 1, 1994); and 16 years of our arrival in Vietnam (September 8, 2005).

Congratulations to each member of the Scalabrinian Family, including the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles – Scalabrinians, the Scalabrinian Secular Missionaries, and the Scalabrinian Laity.

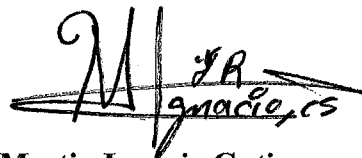
I do not doubt that our Blessed Founder Scalabrini looks down on us from heaven with optimism and encourages us to interpret the signs of the times in order to continue his legacy of *encountering* migrants, engaging in *dialogue* with them, and *proclaiming* the good news that God in His mercy has given the world a new saint and Father to the migrants.

Therefore, let us continue serving migrants and itinerant people with enthusiasm, creativity, and a vision of the Church in synodality until all of us migrants from this world may reach our final home in paradise with God.

We eagerly await the official date of the canonisation of John Baptist Scalabrini, our Founder and Father.

Let us entrust our beloved SFCP to the intercession of our Blessed Founder, Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Migrants, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Sincerely in the Migrant Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Ignacio, CS". The signature is stylized, with a large "M" and "I" and a horizontal line through the middle.

Fr. Martin Ignacio Gutierrez, CS
Provincial Superior

