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Subject: Message for World Refugee Day

"It is not just about migrants: it is also about our fears. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, to build the bridges that are necessary."

(Pope Francis, 2019)

Dear Sisters, Formands, and Lay Scalabrinian,

 In this World Refugee Day, our hearts turn with compassion and commitment to the millions of men, women, and children who today are forced to leave their homes, their lands, and their histories in search of security, dignity, and peace.

As we look ahead to 2025, the refugee crisis is taking on even more urgent dimensions. Prolonged conflicts and new hotbeds of war, such as in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and many other regions often overlooked by the media, are causing continuous waves of displacement. Entire families are embarking on journeys filled with pain, uncertainty, and abandonment. Children are growing up in refugee camps without complete access to education. Women are becoming easy targets for violence and exploitation. Young people are losing their prospects. And many, too many, lose their lives along the way.

Amidst this global suffering, characterized by a troubling rise in indifference, closure, and misinformation, the Scalabrinian Family is called to action. We are called to offer what we hold most dear: our solidarity, our welcome, our attentive listening, and our prophetic and missionary action.



The Scalabrinian charism is a gift from the Church and a legacy of the evangelical sensitivity of St. John Baptist Scalabrini. It challenges us to do more than just provide assistance; it calls us to be a bridge and a living presence at geographical, cultural, and existential frontiers. In every person forced to migrate, we are reminded of the presence of Christ knocking at our door, asking not only for material welcome but, above all, for recognition, dignity, and communion in diversity.

Celebrating this day, therefore, is not just remembering a date on the calendar. It reaffirms our vocation to be a sign of the Kingdom amid today's realities and contexts, with their challenges and hopes. It makes visible the human face present in statistics; it sees migrants as persons, a treasure for all. It is fighting for more humane and supportive public policies. It is opening spaces for listening, healing, and reintegration. Above all, it is recognizing that every forced migrant carries with them a cry of hope, a call for the world to be a home for all once again.

To all of you, Sisters, formands, and lay people who, in so many realities and cultures, bear witness with courage and tenderness to the Gospel incarnate in the reality of human mobility and spread appreciation for the person of the migrant, we express our deep gratitude. May your steps remain firm, sustained by faith, hope, and love.

Let us continue in communion with an attitude of permanent outreach to and for refugees so that none of them may feel invisible, discarded, or alone. May the power of the Risen One inspire us to be instruments of reconciliation, builders of bridges, and prophets of a world where universal fraternity is real and concrete.

Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of those who have preceded us in love and service: St. John Baptist Scalabrini, father of migrants and apostle of pastoral charity; Blessed Assunta Marchetti, mother of migrant orphans and woman of compassion incarnate; and Venerable Father Joseph Marchetti, a young missionary who gave his life for the poorest and most forgotten. May they intercede for us and help us to remain faithful to the call to be a living Gospel among the migrants and refugees of our time.

In communion of prayer,

Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs

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General Superior, Councillors, and General Secretary

