

São Paulo, August 1, 2026

Vocational Month

Vocational Communities: Encounter, Testimony, and Mission

“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart.” (cf. Acts 2:46)

Dear Sisters, Aspirants, Scalabrinian Missionary Laity and Collaborators
of the Province of Mary, Mother of Migrants – São Paulo/SP,

The radical following of Jesus is the essential hallmark of Consecrated Life, which constitutes a living memory of Christ’s way of being and acting. To the consecrated, Jesus demands total commitment, implying the renunciation of all (cf. Mt 19:27), to live in intimate communion with Him. It is the Holy Spirit who stirs within individuals a compelling attraction toward such a demanding way of life and shapes the spirit of those called, configuring them to Christ, chaste, poor, and obedient, and urging them to embrace their mission through specific tasks aligned with the needs of the Church and the world¹.

Living in community is a fundamental requirement for those who embrace faith in Jesus Christ. In His relationship with the Father, Jesus reveals Himself as the Son; in relation to us, He reveals Himself as a brother. Thus, belonging to the same family is intrinsic and inseparable from the Christian faith: believing in Jesus Christ means becoming a child of the same Father and a brother to all the faithful².

The response of communities to the challenge of fostering vocations for mission and promoting missions open to vocations must be rooted in a comprehensive understanding of the task of awakening, accompanying, and forming missionary disciples. From a vocational and missionary perspective, we are called to interpret and incarnate the Gospel in today’s reality, demonstrating that accompanying a person in discovering their vocation means helping them to recognize their full humanity, created by God and called to the fullness of life.

A personal encounter with Christ is realized through discipleship and mission. Jesus freely calls those He desires to follow Him, entrusting them with a mission: *“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* (Mk 1:17). Indeed, the call to discipleship and missionary sending are inseparable moments of the same divine action, shaping the believer’s identity. This essential relationship between vocation and mission can be expressed in these words: *“When a disciple is passionate about Christ, they cannot refrain from proclaiming to the world that only He can save us.”* (cf. Acts 4:12).

¹ Thematic axes of the Scalabrinian Vocational Animation. Sisters Scalabrinian: Consecration and Charism. Sister Analita Candaten, MSCs. Page 37. 2025.

² Base text of the 5th Vocational Congress of Brazil. Vocational Communities, Encounter, Testimony, Mission. (No. 31). CNBB Publishing – 2025, Page 29.

The Vocational Month invites us to cultivate a spirituality that sustains vocational choices, fosters human and spiritual maturity, and strengthens our fidelity to God. It especially helps each person become aware of their vocation and embrace it wholeheartedly. Therefore, a prayer life enables a profound experience of faith, establishing a loving encounter with God in which we can praise, thank, share life, and perceive His love that illuminates and guides our journey.

Vocations are gifts that have never ceased to flourish within the Church. God continues calling His daughters and sons to participate in His divine life. This was true for Mary of Nazareth and many other women and men throughout history. It remains true today, as each baptized person, aspiring to holiness, responds “yes” to a specific vocation upon discovering their calling from God. Following Jesus, within the ecclesial community, God offers young people a life’s project animated by the Holy Spirit, in which they can realize themselves as persons, Christians, and citizens. This project is concretized in various specific vocations, including religious life³.

Vocational accompaniment of youth is essential for helping them discern the profound meaning of their lives amid the challenges and uncertainties of contemporary society. This process goes beyond choosing a profession or life state; it is a journey of listening, dialogue, discernment, and human and spiritual maturation. When accompanied with empathy, welcome, and authentic witness, young people feel encouraged to answer God’s call with freedom and responsibility, discovering their mission within the Church and society.

May this Vocational Month inspire us to contemplate, care for, and give thanks for the vocation each one has received from God. As Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters and Laity, let us renew our commitment to promoting vocations within the Church, rekindling in our Congregation the enthusiasm for vocational animation. Let us strive so that a vocational culture is embraced by all, through shared responsibility, as a true way of life, personally and communally, witnessed through mission and service to migrants and refugees.

May Mary, Mother of Divine Vocations, Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, Blessed Mother Assunta Marchetti, and Venerable Father José Marchetti intercede for us and bless all vocations dedicated to serving migrants and refugees.

Fraternally

Sister Carmen Lúcia Oliveira Pereira, MSCS

*On behalf of the Provincial Superior, Sister Alda Mônica Malvessi,
and the Provincial Councilors
Province of Mary, Mother of Migrants*



³ Thematic axes of Scalabrinian Vocational Animation. Anthropological, Psychological, and Theological Context of the vocation. Fr. Rafael Ferreira Junior, FMS. Page 26. 2025.