Feast of the Patron Saint, Saint Charles Borromeo

Dear Sisters, Formands, and Scalabrinian Lay Missionaries

On November 4, the Church will rejoice as we honor **Saint Charles Borromeo**, a radiant shepherd whose life continues to inspire holiness, courage, and missionary zeal. His feast calls us not only to remember his extraordinary legacy, but to celebrate the grace his witness still pours into our Congregation and the whole Church.

Recent Popes have acclaimed him as one of the master builders of the sixteenth-century ecclesial reform, a man ablaze with charity, clarity, apostolic fervor, and deep prayer. His tireless work to bring the Council of Trent to life, his fatherly care, and his steadfast commitment to forming virtuous clergy became pillars of the Church's renewal.

Recognizing this saint's greatness, Saint Scalabrini chose him as patron of the Missionary Priests and Missionary Sisters of St. Charles. He entrusted us with the joyful mission of reflecting his virtues: fearless constancy, generous patience, ardent charity, magnanimous zeal, and a passionate love for souls.

Amid the vibrant Renaissance, St. Charles saw both its cultural brilliance and the urgent call for true reform. His personal conversion awakened a conviction that still echoes today: true renewal begins within; reform oneself to reform. With integrity and a spirit of collaboration, he led his diocese and the wider Church toward deeper faith, unity, and moral clarity.

His heart burned for the salvation of souls. Seeing the clergy of Milan in need of formation, he breathed new life into catechesis and education, founding seminaries, schools, and centers of learning so that faith could be taught, understood, and lived with conviction. He reminded the Church that "no one loves what is unknown," urging a renewed proclamation of God's Word.

Rooted in Scripture, prayer, and Eucharistic devotion, Saint Charles embraced a life of contemplation that blossomed into heroic charity. During the plague in Milan, he became a living sign of Christ's compassion, tending to the afflicted, comforting the dying, and giving away all he owned to the poor and needy. He left this world with only what was essential for life, yet enriched by immeasurable virtue.

Clothed in holiness, St. Charles remains a radiant witness of fidelity, love, and faith. As a shepherd who walked closely in Christ's footsteps, he continues to inspire pastors, missionaries, and all the faithful on the journey to sanctity.

Dear Sisters**,** on this festive day, may Saint Charles fill our hearts with renewed joy as we journey with migrants and people on the move, bearing witness to the tender love of God the Father. May this feast strengthen our unity, rekindle our enthusiasm, and deepen our commitment to serving Christ in every person we encounter.

With heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to bringing Scalabrini's dream to life, we pray that St. Charles may continue to guide and protect your mission.

In the spirit that guides us,

Rome, november 4, 2016

S. Marissônia Daltoé

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On behalf of the General Superior, Sr. Luiza Dal Moro, and the General Council