

Humilitas | SCALABRINIANE

SEDE GENERALIZIA

Congregational Vocational Promotion Day
and the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo

Dear sisters, novices, and Scalabrinian lay missionaries

"The Lord God provides us with the means
by which, if we wish, we can accomplish much."
(St. Charles Borromeo)

On this November 4, we celebrate, with joy and gratitude, the memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, our patron, and Congregational Vocational Animation Day. These two dimensions, though distinct, illuminate one another and invite us to renew the zeal with which we live out our vocation and mission.

St. Charles inspires us with his profound pastoral and missionary dynamism, marked by love for Christ and the Church, closeness to the people, and attentiveness to the challenges of his time. His witness calls us, as Scalabrinian Missionaries, to renew our commitment to recognize the signs of the times and to respond, with creativity and courage, to the needs of migrants and refugees—especially the most vulnerable—by promoting human dignity and encounters between peoples and cultures, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Within this same framework, we celebrate the Congregational Vocational Animation Day. Established during the previous six-year term[1] , it has become a special opportunity to renew and strengthen the entire Congregation's commitment to vocational animation. In this six-year term, we are called to continue this tradition, recognizing that vocational animation is *"a vital dimension of religious and charismatic fruitfulness."*[2]

From this perspective, the final document of the XV General Chapter presents the decision to create the Congregational Vocational Animation Service[3] with the goal of coordinating, promoting, and strengthening vocational initiatives at the congregational level. As one of the first steps, the process of establishing this Service is underway, under the coordination of the General Animator for Vocational Animation, with the support of an external advisor and the Congregational Commission for Vocational Animation. This initiative seeks

1 Neusa de Fátima Mariano, Circular No. 02/2020, Ref. No. 163/2020, Rome, November 4, 2020.
2 Final Document of the XV General Chapter, 2025–2031 term, p. 14.
3 Ibid., p. 15.

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to strengthen communion and shared responsibility among the different realities of the Congregation, promoting a culture of vocations that involves all the Sisters, communities, and apostolic presences in the mission of awakening, discerning, nurturing, and accompanying vocations.

The Scalabrinian Vocational Alliance reminds us precisely of this shared responsibility. We are called to build, together, a true culture of vocations, in which every person can feel welcomed, heard, and accompanied on their journey of discernment, as well as a culture in which our communities are spaces capable of sparking questions, fostering an encounter with Jesus, bearing witness to the joy of consecration, and helping every young person recognize and respond to the call that God addresses to them.

That is why we are invited to ask ourselves: What kind of vocational culture are we building in our communities? What witness do we offer to the younger generations? Are our communities spaces where people can sense that God is calling them and find others who will walk alongside them?

Vocational animation arises from an encounter with Christ and is strengthened by the witness of a consecrated life transformed by the Gospel. We are called to build communities that are spaces of welcome and discernment, where each person can recognize God's call and find someone to walk alongside them.

On this November 4, we wish to renew our commitment to Congregational Vocational Animation that springs from an encounter with Jesus Christ the Pilgrim and that, enlightened by his Spirit, impels us to awaken, discern, nurture, and accompany new vocations for the mission alongside migrants and refugees.

May Saint Charles Borromeo intercede for the entire Congregation and help us to live out our missionary vocation with joy and fidelity. May Mary, Mother of Migrants, teach us to welcome the Word and to respond generously to God's calls.

With gratitude for the gift of vocation and hope in the future that God continues to open before us, we entrust every sister, every young person in formation, and every person seeking to discern their path to the Lord's care.

Happy St. Charles Borromeo Day!

Happy Congregational Vocational Animation Day!

With fraternal affection and in communion,

Rome, November 4, 2026

Sr. Luciana Pitol, mscs
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