# bumilitas SCALABRINIANS OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROVINCE 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# 1954-2024







# CATALOGUE SHEET

Organization: Communication Commission

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Prayer: Sr. Inez Bordignon, mscs.

Photos: Our Lady of Fatima Province Archives.



### PRESENTATION

ith joy and a grateful heart, I present this brief historical account of the life and mission of the Province of Our Lady of Fatima. It is our shared history, encompassing both the Sisters who were part of this

Province, who lived, worked, and built a magnificent and rich chapter of history, and each one of us now present in different parts of the world, into opportunities and limits that became strengths, advances, and hopes. This publication was created with passion, love, and creativity. It involved careful research, including dialogue with our elderly sisters who, with their presence, participated in the writing

> of the preceding pages of the history of the province in North America and Asia. I reiterate my deepest thanks to the province's Communication Commission

committed to the mission with migrants and refugees.

of the Canonical Foundation of the Province of Our Lady of Fatima

Our history,

though humble, was lived profoundly in faith, hope, and self-giving, leading to a missionary presence in creative fidelity to the Scalabrinian charism. This publication holds significant pieces of our shared history. It will serve as a beacon and a historical reference for generations, especially for those who follow the noble Scalabrinian way of life.

The Lord, through His Spirit, guided and accompanied our journey with His love and fidelity. He helped us embrace it as grace, with challenges that turned Let us celebrate

and to everyone

who, in one way

or another, helped

make this possible.

our 83 years of presence in the United States and the 70th anniversary of the canonical foundation of the Province of Our Lady of Fatima, which is currently present in North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

> With much gratitude, Sr. Luiza Dal Moro, mscs. Provincial Superior

Melrose Park, Illinois, May 13, 2024 -Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day

May this booklet help us to revive in each Scalabrinian missionary sister the charismatic leadership exercised within the congregation in this period of history, as well as the spirit that animated so many MSCS sisters to seek new and creative forms of fidelity and concrete responses to the Scalabrinian charism in the context of human mobility.





# OUR LADY OF FATIMA, OUR PATRONESS Explanation:

he image shines on the reality of Our Lady of Fatima Province with a missionary presence in the countries of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. The face of Mary, mother of the different peoples of the Americas, has the eyes opened to the reality and the lips of an empowered woman who announces and denounces in defense of everyone, prophetess of justice and peace. Her welcoming arms and her mantle with many folds represent the infinite ways of protecting everyone with love and tenderness without distinction. Her Immaculate Heart radiates mercy and pleads for the prayer of the Rosary. The three shepherd children represent the migrant family, especially the children who from an early age face the adversities of the migration journey. The two feet with the cross represent the Scalabrinian presence



in the world of migration, praying with Isaiah 52:7, 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace!' The golden color symbolizes the Divine and Sacred appropriate of the Mother who helps to awaken humanity's trust in her Son who was also a migrant, and the hope that we are not alone on this pilgrimage.

(Design by Sister Elda Broilo, mscs)

### BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROVINCE

t the end of the 19th century, Italy experienced one of the greatest crises in its economic, social and political history, with mass emigration to the United States of America, a time when this country built the largest railway system in the world. Italian immigrants found great opportunities to work in the United States, in the world's fastest-growing industrial cities, such as Chicago.

In 1940, the Provincial Superior of the Scalabrinian Fathers requested the collaboration of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Scalabrinians (MSCS), to work at the Sacred Heart Seminary. Finally, in 1941, four young sisters: Sister Caetana Borsatto, Sister Albertina Vezzaro, Sister Laura Migliorini and Sister Marina Paggi left Brazil and traveled to the first Scalabrinian mission in North America to work at Sacred Heart Seminary, Illinois. There, they carried out their mission convinced that they were helping to build the Kingdom of God among the Italian-American communities. contributing to the formation of future Scalabrinian Missionary Priests.

Six years later (1941-1947), four young American women who were drawn to the sisters' life of work and prayer joined and remained with them. In 1947, seven more Italian sisters joined.

Then on June 25, 1947, three sisters left for the East Coast: Providence, Rhode Island, USA. And in 1949 the Saint Charles community was founded at Saint Charles Seminary, Staten Island, New York, with a mission similar to that of Sacred Heart Seminary. And, since 2005, aforementioned community the concluded its mission in the Seminary and began to work in the Regional Coordination of Catechesis in the Archdiocese of New York. Beginning in 1952, the sisters started to work in the field of education for children of Italian immigrants, in various parishes of Chicago and Melrose Park. In 2000, the Blessed Scalabrini Educational Institute was opened in the Philippines. In 1951, they began the pastoral care of the sick and care of the elderly at Villa Scalabrini, Northlake. Then, in 1966, at Villa Rosa Nursing Home, Mitchellville, Maryland. And, in 2008, they began the chaplaincy work in the health area.

In the area of Pastoral care of Migrants, expanding the mission from coast to coast, San Conrad Mission was inaugurated, in 1964, in Los

Angeles, California, for catechetical instruction and social services. In 1985, the Province expanded to the United States-Mexico border and opened the mission of Santo Angel de la Guarda, Tijuana, for the pastoral care of migrants, particularly women and children. Broadening its services, in 1994 it opened the Mother Assunta Institute in the same city. In addition, in 1995, the community of Albergue San Vicente, in Ensenada, Baja California, was also opened to provide well-being and spiritual assistance to people in need, specifically, migrants deported from the United States.

The mission work was reinforced with the opening of the Community of Saint Anthony on South Forestville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, in 1998 with a program of evange-

lization and parish ministry; Our Lady of Guadalupe Community in Mexico City in 1994; Our Lady of Aparecida Mission in Boston, Massachusetts in 2000,

whose mission was the pastoral care of the Brazilian migrants (Brazilian Apostolate), with an extension into the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey in 2014; and the Scalabrini Mission in Trivandrum, Kerala, India, in 2005. In addition, in 2006 a Missionary Sister of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians, integrated the United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops as the Human Mobility Coordinator in the Office of Migrant and Refugee Services then the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, and later Asian Pacific Islander Ministry.

Catechetical ministry has always been a priority in all areas of action of the sisters, both in direct work with adolescents and young people, as well as in the field of parish or archdiocesan coordination. The Novitiate was canonically established in 1948 and, in August 1965, it became part of the newly built Bishop Scalabrini House, intended for the Province's Headquarters, Retreat House and Novitiate, was located at 1414 North 37th Avenue. Melrose Park, Illinois until the year 2022.

> The area of Vocational Promotion and Formation crossed the border of the United States to Canada, where the Mother Assunta community was opened in 1977 in Toronto, Ontario.

In 1979, the sisters moved to Mississauga, Ontario. Subsequently, other communities were opened for pastoral work and formation to Consecrated Life: Quezon City, Philippines; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; Maumere, Flores, Indonesia; and Trivandrum, Karala, India (since 2005).

70 Years of Service 1954-2024

The Sisters were canonically established as Our Lady of Fatima Province in 1954. The Sisters were canonically established as Our Lady of Fatima Province in 1954. In 2000, the Fatima Home was inaugurated in Melrose Park, Illinois, to assist elderly and retired sisters. Starting in 2015, the MSCS Congregation began its process of internal reorganization with a focus on mission, reaffirming the "commit-

ment with the migrants, the visible face of Christ and the theological place for the Scal-

Province's Headquarters, Retreat House and Novitiate, was located at 1414 North 37th Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois until the year 2022. Maryland; in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey; Archdiocese of Boston, Mas-

abrinian missionary sister", resulting in the structure of three territorial provinces: One in North America, Central America and the Caribbean; another in South America and Africa; another in Europe; and a delegation in the Asian continent.

For this reason, on September 12, 2019, the communities: Mother Asunta Marchetti in Dominican Republic; Father José Marchetti in Honduras; and Cristo Peregrino in Costa Rica, officially become part of the Province of Our Lady of Fatima, based in the United States, which currently includes the countries of Canada, the United States, Honduras, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

On the other hand, four communities and the vast majority of the sisters from the Asian continent became part of the delegation sachusetts; Villa Scalabrini, Northlake, Illinois; Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; and San Jose, Costa Rica).

of Asia, ceasing to belong to the

Province of Our Lady of Fatima.

Considering the current context of the Congregation, the challeng-

es of the apostolic mission and fi-

delity to the Scalabrinian charism,

from February 2019 to December

2023, six presences were concluded

(Mission in Vila Rosa, Mitchellville,

However, the recent invitations to open new missionary presences in strategic spaces are seen as an appeal in response to the drama of the "Stations of Milan" today. We believe that trusting in the Grace of God, we can respond with human, spiritual and professional quality to the Scalabrinian charism in these spaces. Thus, today, we celebrate with joy the 83rd anniversary of our presence in the United States of America and the 70th anniversary of the canonical structure of the Province of Our Lady of Fatima. With faith, hope and determination, we continue to live and expand our vocation to "be migrants with migrants" so that they may keep their faith and find their "homeland in the land that gives them bread".

### OUR PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS





1954 - 1960

1960 - 1971



1971-1978



1978 - 1984; 1999 - 2005 and 2014 - 2018



1984 - 1993



1993 - 1999 and 2008 - 2014





2018 - 2026

2005 - 2008

### OUR CURRENT MISSIONARY PRESENCE

### United States of America



Solution in the area of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, Catechetical Ministry, and Health Ministry. The elderly Sisters reside at Fatima Home, in Melrose Park, Illinois, and continue their mission through the apostolate of prayer.



### Canada

Present since 1977, the sisters now work in the office of refugees and persecuted Christians in the Archdiocese of Toronto and coordinate the Youth Ministry.





### Mexico



Since 1985, the Madre Asunta Institute in Tijuana, Baja California, has been welcoming migrant women and children of different nationalities.

The Scalabrinian Mission with Migrants and Refugees (SMR) in Mexico City, founded in 2013, owns the Casa Mambré shelter and offers assistance and consultation to twenty-three other shelters, in addition to a set of services on behalf of the rights of migrants.





### Honduras



The sisters have been active since 1991, rigorously assuming the protagonism of migrants and their families, with the leadership of the National Commission for the Pastoral Care of Human Mobility-Episcopal Con-

ference of Honduras, escorting the families of disappeared migrants and returnees with physical disabilities and forced displacement due to violence. In San Pedro Sula, they minister to deportees in a reception center.



### Dominican Republic



The sisters arrived in the country in 1991 and in 2004 they formed the Scalabrinian Association at the Service of Human Mobility (ASCA-LA) for a more effective action in the promotion and defense of the human rights of the most vulnerable migrants, mostly Haitians, and their descendants, in the Eastern and Northern regions (border with Haiti).

# 70 Year caring about the poor.

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# "I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOME ME" (MT. 25:35)









### Decree of Canonical Erection of the Province

514/25



### S. CONGREGATIO CONSISTORIALIS

Beatissimo Padre,

Giovanna de Camargo, Superiora Generale delle Suore Missionarie di S.Carlo (Scalabriniane), umilmente prostrata al bacio del S.Piede, ottenuto il voto favorevole del suo Consiglio, chiede la grazia di poter erigere negli Stati Uniti d'America una Provincia religiosa della sua Congregazione, a norma dei sacri canoni. Che della grazia, ecc.

Sacra Congregatio Consistorialis,vigore facultatum a SSmo Domino Nostro PIO Divina Providentia PP.XII sibi tributarum, benigne annuit pro gratia iuxta preces. Contrariis quibusvis non obstantibus. Datum Romae, die 31 Martii 1954.

H. A. Card Jiaya Equis Sabur & Maurle.

70 Years of Service 1954-2024

Josephus Ferretto, Ameror

# Virgin Mary of Fatima Mother and Lady of Fatima

Mother and Lady of Fatima Inspirer and protector of the Province, We trust in you!

Mother of the Church, Mother of humanity, Consolation of migrants. Blessed among women, of all races, cultures, and peoples. Mother of the eternal universal Love, we place ourselves under your maternal protection.

We welcome Jesus who pitched his tent among us, who shares our fragile humanity, and reveals that we are all brothers and sisters.

Give us the decision to walk and live with willingness and joy, the vocation of service and encounter with your Son Jesus in the migrants. Give us the grace, dear mother, to be generous like you: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word."

Give us ears, heart, and attentive hands to listen and act on what your child tells us; remaining faithful to the vocation and mission with migrants and refugees, wounded by poverty, uprooting, discrimination, and denial of the right to citizenship.

Virgin Mary of Fatima, may our life be a prophecy of peace, fraternity and dignity without borders; May we have a merciful heart to welcome Your Son with tenderness and respect, in those who share the journey and mission.

> Increase in us, Mother, the trust and determination to be with Jesus, always and everywhere. Give us your Maternal Blessing. Amen.

> > Prayer of Sr. Inez Bordignon, MSCS







The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Saint Charles Borromeo, Scalabrinians, (MSCS) was founded by Saint John Baptist Scalabrini in Piacenza, Italy, on October 25, 1895, with the aim of providing evangelical and missionary service to migrants, particularly the poorest in vulnerable situations, who require specific assistence. Its co-founders are Blessed Assunta Marchetti and the Venerable Servant of God Father Joseph Marchetti.

Today the Congregation is present in 27 countries, with approximately 420 Sisters, Provinces: the Province of St. Joseph, with headquarters in Piacenza, Italy; the Province of Our Lady of Fati-

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Saint and is composed of three Charles Borromeo, Scalabrinians, (MSCS) was founded by Saint John Baptist Scalabrini

ma, based in Melrose Park, Illinois, USA; the Province of Mary, Mother of Migrants, based in Sao Paulo-SP, Brazil; and by an Asian delegation, based in Manila, Philippines. The General House is in Rome, Italy. The MSCS Sisters carry out their mission through catechesis, Christian education, health ministry, social action and migration ministry. They operate in all places that need attention, such as schools, hospitals, orphanages, prisons, rest homes, houses of formation, ethnic-cultural communities, parishes, dioceses, international organizations, civil organizations and in centers for listening to and reception of migrants. The spirit that animates the congregation is that of universal communion because it wants to make visible the vocation of the members which is to recognize, love and serve Christ in the person of migrants.

Illuminated and inspired by your word, we ask you, Lord, for those who have already followed and now live your call.

For the bishops, priests, and deacons. For the consecrated: brothers and sisters. For your missionaries and for those generous lay people who work in ministries instituted or recognized by the Church.

Protect them in difficulties, comfort them in persecution, and confirm them in faithfulness. We ask you, Lord, for those who are trying to open their souls to your call or are already preparing to follow it. May your word enlighten them, your example captivate them, and your grace guide them.

For all of them, Lord, may your Word be a guide and support, so that they may know how to guide, counsel, and protect their brothers and sisters, with that strength of conviction and love that you possess and that only you can give. Amen.

**POPE PAULO VI** 

For more information: vocation.olf@scalabriniansisters.org scalabrinianas.av@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



"From generation to generation, the deeds of the Lord are told" (Psalm 145:4)





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Misioneras Scalabrinianas/Fatima Province



