

## SCALABRINI FATHERS

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles – Scalabrinians – is an international religious community of missionaries, who follow in the footsteps of Bishop Scalabrini on behalf of the migrants.

The Congregation was founded by The Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini on November 28, 1887, to assist the migrants who were crossing the Atlantic to reach the Americas. Today, our Congregation is present in thirty countries.

We are religious, being consecrated to the Lord by the vows of obedience, chastity and poverty. Most of us are priests, but we also have a number of religious lay brothers.

We live in community and are called to proclaim the Good News to the migrants, to defend their rights, to promote a more human society where the migrant is not seen as a foreigner or an illegal, but where his rights are ensured and promoted, because we are all sons and daughters of the same Father.

We exercise our ministry in formation houses, parishes, missions, chaplaincies, reception centers, shelters for the migrants, and at seaports.

# who we are

*"They were migrants. Who knows how many misfortunes and hardships they were to endure to make these painful steps seem weightless! How many of them would be victorious as they struggle for a better life? How many would lose the faith taught by their parents? Confronted with this deplorable situation, I wonder: what can I do to help them?"*  
J.B. Scalabrini, 1886



We started our presence in Africa in 1994, opening our first mission in Cape Town (South Africa). However, our interest and commitment to this continent are growing higher and higher, as we try to be present where migrants are living and moving.

In 1998 we opened our second mission in **Mozambique**, in the surroundings of **Nampula**, the biggest centre in the north of the country. Here we are based in St. Francis Xavier Parish, not so far from the Refugee Camp of Maratane, where more than 13000 people have lived since 1995. Most of them come from the Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda.

We are also working in **Johannesburg** in our mission at **St. Patrick La Rochelle**, one of the areas where refugees and asylum seekers are the most concentrated. Here we take care of the local community as well as other many ethnic and linguistic groups, as the Portuguese, Nigerian, Zulu, and Sotho communities.

## OUR CONTACTS

### Holy Cross Parish

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### St. Agnes Parish

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### Scalabrini Centre

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### SIHMA

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### Lawrence House

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### The Avenue House

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theavenuehouse@scalabrinicapetown.net

### Apostleship of the Sea

Mission to Seafarers - Cape Town Port  
www.apostleshipofthesea.org.za

### Vocational Program

vocation@scalabrinicapetown.net

visit us on

[www.scalabrinicapetown.net](http://www.scalabrinicapetown.net)

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MISSIONARIES OF ST. CHARLES  
SCALABRINI FATHERS



# Scalabrini Mission Cape Town

serving people  
on the move  
in Africa

INSPIRED BY THE BLESSED  
JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI



## what we do

### PASTORAL CARE AND SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE

#### ST. AGNES AND HOLY CROSS

We serve different kinds of migrants and refugees at **Holy Cross Parish in District Six**, working with local and the Italian chaplaincy and at **Saint Agnes Parish in Woodstock**, an amazing intercultural community with South Africans, the Portuguese community, and the French speaking chaplaincy, that aggregates many other refugees based in Elsie's River (St. Claire Parish) and Bergvliet (Holy Redeemer Parish).

We help them to preserve the linguistic and cultural traditions of their countries of origin, but we also work for **integration** with locals, sharing the same Catholic faith in a spirit of universal brotherhood.

#### GROUP OF CHAPLAINS

We coordinate the work of the **11 linguistic and ethnic communities** of our Archdiocese, addressing their spiritual and material needs, organizing also meetings and events, like the traditional Festival of Nations.

#### APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

We provide **practical and pastoral care to all seafarers**, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Our port chaplain, director and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship and for Catholics the Holy Mass (every Saturday evening), sacraments and pastoral care of the sick.

## SOCIAL PROJECT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### SCALABRINI CENTRE

Perceiving migration as an opportunity, the Scalabrini Centre is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting development in the Western Cape while fostering integration between migrants, refugees and South Africans. In providing our assistance, we advocate respect for human rights and use **a holistic approach** that considers all basic needs.

The Centre sees around 2000 people each month accessing our various services, working Monday to Friday with a team of more than 25 staff members and the revolving help of about 40 volunteers.

Scalabrini Centre offers services through **6 main programme areas**: Advocacy, Employment Access Programme, Welfare, English School, Women's Platform and Unite.

### SIHMA

Established in 2014 the **Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa** conducts research that contributes to the development of informed policies and promotes the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees in Africa.

Besides the **research** focus, SIHMA publishes an accredited academic Journal (AHMR) and other articles and popular reviews on migration.

We provide **formation** and skills building training courses for pastoral agents of migration. In a large **network** with universities, NGOs and other organizations and institutions, we promote events, workshops, and conferences on human mobility in Africa. Our findings are also disseminated through a website and social media.

### LAWRENCE HOUSE

Lawrence House is a **Child and Youth Care Centre** registered with the Department of Social Development. The house is based in Woodstock and can accommodate up to 25 children and youth. We specialise in the **care and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors and refugee children**, as well as of children who have experienced trauma. Core interventions focus on the topics of identity, sense of belonging and self-discovery as central aspects of a healing and growth journey, in order to ensure a successful transition from institutionalised living to independence.

## CHARISMATIC ACTIVITIES

### HOUSE OF FORMATION AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

Scalabriniani Fathers accompany African youth in their vocational discernment of the missionary vocation in order to serve migrants, refugees, and seafarers.

Those who are admitted to the programme, attend the introductory year at St. Francis the Xavier Seminary. Thereafter they attend Philosophy at Redemptoris Mater Seminary.

### SCALABRINI LAY MOVEMENT

J.B. Scalabrini envisioned a proactive and prophetic presence of lay people among the migrants, calling them forth to join his religious missionaries to welcome, counsel and defend migrants and refugees. This group consists of laity who, aware of their baptismal calling, wish to live it in a commitment to the migrants in accord with the Scalabrinian spirit and charisma. They attend regular meetings with activities and prayer.

### THE AVENUE HOUSE ASCS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

This friendly and colourful house hosts volunteers working in the different programmes of our mission, and also friends or collaborators who come to visit the projects. Beside the specific Volunteer Programmes of Scalabrini Centre and SIHMA, our Agency for Cooperation and Development (ASCS) selects and trains the candidates for this experience with and for migrants.

