



Rome, February 11, 2025

Most Reverend Excellency Monsignor Timothy Broglio,
President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and, lying, say all kinds of evil against you for my sake. Rejoice and exult, for great is your reward in heaven” (Matthew 5:11-12).

On behalf of the **Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo - Scalabrinians**, we would like to express our full solidarity with you, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and all the Catholic communities in the country who, in these days, find themselves courageously defending Gospel values in the face of migration measures that put at risk the dignity and fundamental rights of the most vulnerable people.

We have followed with deep concern the Trump administration’s decision to intensify mass deportations, even authorizing law enforcement to carry out raids in **churches, hospitals and schools**, spaces that human and Christian tradition recognize as sacred shelters for those in need. In this context, we join your voice to reiterate that **the protection of migrants and refugees is not an option, but a moral duty**.

As you mentioned, Your Excellency, the suffering of people reveals **the face of Christ**, and we will be judged on how we treat them. We Scalabrinian Missionaries have been carrying out this mission for **138 years in the United States and 35 other countries on five continents**, and we are **direct witnesses to the challenges, suffering and hope of those who leave their homelands in search of a better future**.

In the United States, we are daily serving migrants and refugees in the major cities and along the borders: we are present in parishes and welcome centers, offering legal assistance, pastoral support and integration projects. We know the faces of these men, women and children. We know of their sleepless nights, fears for tomorrow, tears shed for broken families. But we also know of their strength, their desire to work, their desire to contribute to the common good.

Migration must be governed with justice and humanity, not repressed with measures that generate only fear and division. The Church recognizes the right and duty of states to regulate migration flows, but **filtering does not mean indiscriminate rejection.** Uncontrolled influx can create social instability, but blind closedown of the borders only fuels suffering and injustice. Current policies risk turning families into targets, further marginalizing the weakest, and undermining the cohesion of American society. As Scalabrinians, since the 1960s, we participate in the analysis migration trends and participate in the dialogues on migration governance in the United States with the contribution of the New York-based Center for Migration Studies (CMS) and, for the past 15 years, the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), promoting an ethical and responsible perspective of public policies on migration.

“Where is your brother?”, God asks Cain after killing Abel. It is a question addressed to each of us. **Today the voice of rejected, persecuted, deported migrants resonates in our consciences. We cannot remain indifferent and close our hearts to the suffering of those who knock on our doors.**

For **more than a century**, our Congregation has been following the teaching of **St. John Baptist Scalabrini: every migrant is a brother and sister to be welcomed, protected and accompanied.** It is in this spirit that we want to **strengthen our collaboration with the North American Church**, working together with the Bishops’ Conference and the Dioceses where we are present to offer concrete alternatives to restrictive policies and guarantee migrants a path of integration that respects their dignity and their rights.

With gratitude for your tireless testimony and with the certainty that God does not abandon those who work for justice, **assuring you of our prayers and our concrete and synodal commitment, we renew our fraternal closeness to you.**

In Christ,

Fr. Leonir M. Chiarello, CS
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Superior General

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