

SCALABRINI AND THE PRESENT TIMES

Sister Leticia Gutierrez Valderama*

Thinking about Scalabrini and bringing him to the current times is the most beautiful thing we can do. Contextualizing our reality with the vision, the zeal and the love of this great pastor will produce, certainly, a great anxiety to all people that would read this short article.

Mons. Scalabrini tells us the scene that touched him and that would be decisive to develop his missionary actions in favor of the migrants of his time: *I saw a scene in Milan, many years ago that left in my spirit an impression of deep sorrow. Going through the station, I saw a large room, the lateral porticos and the contiguous plaza invaded by three or four hundred of poorly dressed individuals, separated into diverse groups. In their faces, tanned by the sun and, marked by the precocious wrinkles that deprivation generally prints, the turmoil of affections that agitated their hearts at that moment. ...were migrants.*¹

These words full of Scalabrinian love interpellate us today; the Milan Station keeps and repeats in many countries of the world, hurt by the economical disproportion of a globalized world that is not trying to be fair in its essence.

Thinking these words since the corridor that México is, where our migrant brothers and sisters are victims not only of the globalization, but also of all ways of violence that follow their migration. This shows in manifest that the pastor, Scalabrini, of the XIX century is as current as the migrations are nowadays.

Yes, brothers and sisters, the migrants are not only leaving their lands, their motherlands, searching new spaces where “find a better life” and to this “rooting out” are adding more weights that the migrants are sustaining during their path. Nowadays they are shouting for help to the ones that have consecrated us to them, are asking us to be with them, to live with them and enjoy with them, in this violent, exploitable and aggressive world in which the migration has been transforming itself.

Scalabrini sends us to the Milan Station, because certainly this is the Station that Scalabrini would be interpellating, the migrants that are kidnapped, physically and sexually constrained, threatened by the organized crime, thrown to the sea by African motor boats, displaced by the Colombian wars etc.

In these nowhere lands, in this Milan Station is where the Scalabrinian family will have to organize itself, to risk accompanying the migrants and search them to show hope, love, the presence of a living church and of God that is always with his sons, the most loved: the migrants

That our Lord concedes the grace of searching His face and allow us to interpellate for Him these days that need us and needs that we live more the mission that trusted us: the service and surrender to the migrants

* We thank Sister Letícia for the collaboration to CSEM for this article.

¹ M. FRANCESCONI, *Giovanni Batista Scalabrini, vescovo di Piacenza e degli emigrati*. Roma: Città Nuova 1985, p. 57-58.