

STATEMENT: LATINOS CAPELLANES MOSMAN 2016.

August 30, 2016

We, the Scalabrinian chaplains accompanying the Spanish speaking communities in Australia, have gathered at the provincial house of Mosman. Starting by acknowledging the pastoral work with migrants, we have analyzed and discussed the situation, challenges, and needs of the different communities we assist.

We recognized the intense pastoral work with migrant communities from Latin America, and we see, at the same time, the need for better organization that should start with better communication between Chaplains in order to achieve a long-term pastoral project that, at the same time is specific to the Scalabrinian charism and it may serve as a bridge for the integration of migrants in the local Church.

Among the challenges presented is the new migratory flow mainly composed of students arriving to our communities. Although some initiatives of pastoral care are being already carried out, we reaffirm the great need to create better welcoming spaces, being aware that we are facing an unstable minority due to their situation of study, work, housing, and of course immigration status.

It can be seen the constant effort in the work of evangelization and faith formation in our communities. There is of course the need to continue this pastoral work; however, fatigue is perceived and sometimes disinterest or simply routine in the work and pastoral activities that take place in our communities. In this situation we perceive the need to seek and find new strategies and pastoral methods and not just stay with the methodologies already known in typical ecclesial movements.

In our pastoral plans it should not be forgotten that the ecclesial movements are not an end in themselves, but different methodologies to reach the communion of the whole Church, beginning at the local church.

In the formation of ecclesial movements and communities in general, we have to look for the help of preachers (laity, priests and bishops) from abroad. We have concluded that the chaplains are primarily responsible for the decision and organization of future visits of preachers; therefore, for

events between two or more communities, the decision and logistics must be carried out in dialogue between Chaplains, except when a chaplaincy wish to do so independently, and in that case the dialogue always should start between chaplains and their pastoral council.

We have decided to invite, every two years, a scalabrinian preacher or a preacher invited by the Scalabrinians to strengthen the unity and the specific charisma of our pastoral work with migrant communities.

Now that the annual meeting has been restored, the chaplains to the Spanish speaking communities are committed to:

- participate in the annual meeting, being next on 29th and 30th of August 2017.

- Improve communication and interaction between chaplains and chaplaincies, starting specifically by sharing:
 - * The pastoral community project when ready.
 - * Training programs that are being developed.
 - * The schedule of annual pastoral activities of the community, preferably before the start of the year. That way some people or communities can participate or take advantage of the activities that other communities organize.

- Organize an activity a year to gather resources for bursary fund.

- Start a process (to reflect) for the creation of a body of chaplaincies with a common goal.