

October: remember our infirm missionaries

This special month is ours too. We entrust to Mary, star of the new evangelization, all our infirm and elderly Scalabrinian missionaries who reside in the retirement centers of the Congregation, or are in hospitals. Our thoughts and prayers go to the confreres of these homes in particular: South Morang (Melbourne), Passo Fundo, Jundiá (São Paulo), Arco (Trento), Bassano del Grappa (Vicenza), Mitchellville (Washington), North Kingstown (Providence) and Sun Valley (Los Angeles).

The general councilor in charge of the Secretariat for Religious and Pastoral Life, Fr. Peter Polo, from his bed of illness sends a fraternal greeting to all confreres scattered around the world. He thanks the expressions and gestures of solidarity received by - confreres, sisters, consecrated missionaries, lay people - who have shown their closeness through prayers, messages, calls, letters and personal visits. He reminds everyone that, in closeness to Christ's passion and in his ministry of suffering accepted with joy, offers his unexpected apostolate especially for vocations and for young priests and religious.

We let you know that Fr. Peter Polo is lodged at St. John the Baptist Hospital in the outskirts of Rome since September 21. The community of the General Administration with the generous collaboration of the religious at Via Casilina Community, and with the help of a hired nurse, who gives him the necessary attention, he is well taken care in his get well process. He is beginning to walk and to lift his left arm, with the help of a walker and/or a helping hand.

Keeping in our heart Fr. Polo's condition and the witness of all infirm and elderly confreres housed in retirement centers, we invite each Scalabrinian religious to remember them on this feast of Our Lady Aparecida and on World Mission Sunday.

October 12, 2007