

VILLA SCALABRINI
 Retirement Center & Special Care Unit
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VILLA SCALABRINI
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NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2022 - VOLUME LXIII

Dear Villa Scalabrini Family,



The year 2022 is ending soon and we realize that the Christmas Season is just around the corner, and it is always such a beautiful time! We celebrate God, who loved us so much that he pitched his tent with us and made his home with us forever to share our joys and sorrows, our graces and temptations, our failures and successes.

It is comforting to remember that for the first Christmas, over two thousand years ago, things were not going very well at all in the world for countless numbers of people. Christ was not born into a world that was getting along nicely, far from it. People were walking in overwhelming darkness of spirit, suffering poverty and injustices and with many generations praying that a savior would come soon, to help them.

The world today knows all too well what that feels like. A few years ago, we were plunged into the obscurity of the worst global pandemic in living memory but in the darkness, a great light has begun to shine, including real hope that an end to this crisis is in sight with the development of promising vaccines. We are not out of the woods yet, but there is certainly a light we can see at the end of the tunnel.

The year 2022 will go down in history marked by some sad and some blessed events:

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine that unfortunately does not seem close to come to an end. It is a sad page in today's history having already caused so much suffering, death, and an escalating economic crisis.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II during this year certainly marks the end of an era in England and across the Commonwealth countries. Elizabeth II was Britain's oldest and longest-reigning monarch and she died at the age of 96, having come to the throne at the age of 25. Her funeral ceremonies seen around the world could be compared to a spectacular movie production.

The canonization of Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini by Pope Francis on October 9th, in Rome, was surely another historic and blessed event for the Catholic Church, particularly for the Scalabrinian families and for all the migrants in the world. Since 1979 Villa Scalabrini, named after him, has provided assistance and loving care to the elderly population. Now this institution, with the residents, their families, and the staff, have a patron Saint to pray to and to invoke for blessings and protection.

The COP27 - United Nations Climate Changes Conference held this year from the 6th to the 18th of November in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. This summit will be another amazing opportunity to reflect and bring light to the climate challenges that our planet is facing.

And finally, the 32 teams representing their countries that will participate in the World Cup in Qatar from November 20th to December 18th will certainly be another special event this year, mainly for those who are soccer fans, like me!

Dear Villa Scalabrini family, during this Christmas Season let us rejoice and be thankful because our Savior has been born for us. He came humble and laid in a manger and grew up to offer his life as a selfless gift to save us all. He is the word that became flesh and dwelt among us!

On behalf of Villa Scalabrini, I wish that the birth of Jesus be your guiding light during this Blessed Season. May His presence in our midst grant you and your family the gift of joy, the blessing of hope and the promise of peace throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale! Feliz Natal! Joyeux Noel! Maligayan Pasko! Shenorhavor Surp Tsenunt! Happy 2023 to everyone

Fr. Adilso Luiz Balen, cs
Executive Director

VILLA SCALABRINI RETIREMENT CENTER



villascalabrini.com

La Piazza AT VILLA SCALABRINI

The Best in Retirement Living

An exceptional living experience at an affordable price!

Individual homes make our community exclusive and special.

- Enjoy your own beautifully appointed home with more than 1200 square feet
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bath all on ground level
- Soaring 10' ceilings
- Full gourmet kitchen
- Attached carports
- Private patios
- Utilities included
- Pet friendly
- Complete maintenance, including weekly housekeeping and linen service
- Lunch and dinner served Monday/Friday
- Landscaped grounds, walking paths
- Putting green, gym facilities, library, Club house
- Weekly wellness program, movie nights, games and more
- Secure premises, 24 hours a day



WELCOME TO LA PIAZZA!

Our Active Senior Community is an oasis of peace and serenity like no other. Surrounded by the Verdugo Mountains, La Piazza is a friendly community offering privacy along with centralized services, engaging social activities, great meal choices and more.

Open for occupancy in 2011, La Piazza units have been consistently occupied by active seniors looking for a beautiful new home, with all the comforts and no responsibility of maintenance, in natural surroundings, with good services, good company and the opportunity to live their best possible life.

With qualified staff, medical professionals on site and the availability of higher levels of care, La Piazza at Villa Scalabrini is the ideal choice for seniors who want to face the future with confidence, knowing that assisted living or long-term care services are right next door, conveniently accessible should they ever be needed.

Aging does not change people's wish to be independent, nor does it diminish the natural desire to socialize and share common issues. With these considerations in mind, finding a safe environment and the right community for the next stage of life is essential.

Check us out!

To inquire about residence availability, to schedule a tour or request a brochure please contact Laura Mesrobian

(818)660-0531 or Laura@villascalabrini.com

Wishing everyone Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



John Baptist Scalabrini, a New Saint for the Church



Since the year 1979 the Scalabrinian Missionaries have embraced the mission of assisting and caring for the elderly at Villa Scalabrini in Sun Valley, CA. They have been inspired by the deep spirituality and example of their founder Saint John Baptist Scalabrini who cared for those in need, particularly the migrants.

Born in 1839 in Fino Mornasco, Province of Como, Italy, very early in life Scalabrini heard the call of God to dedicate himself to priestly ministry in the Church. He was ordained a diocesan priest at the age of twenty-four but felt a strong desire to be a missionary.

In fact, as a young priest he signed up with the Institute of Foreign Mission in Milan.

His bishop decided instead to assign him to the task of priestly formation as teacher and vice rector and later rector of the diocesan minor seminary.

At the age of thirty-one, Scalabrini was named pastor of St. Bartholomew, a parish in the industrial suburb of Como with a population of 6,000. It is here that he began to display his exceptional pastoral gifts, especially in the areas of instruction in the faith. At the early age of thirty-six, Scalabrini was named bishop of Piacenza. There he remained for twenty-nine years until his death in 1905. His accomplishments as a diocesan bishop are truly amazing. As shepherd of his flock, Bishop Scalabrini chose as his role model another great bishop in the Church who lived in the sixteenth century, St. Charles Borromeo.

The social dimension of Bishop Scalabrini's pastoral activities is perhaps best seen in his founding three religious institutes: the Missionaries of St. Charles (1887); the St. Raphael Society (1889); and the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles (1895). In these three extraordinary accomplishments, we see the prophetic side of Bishop Scalabrini.

The heart of the pastor would not allow him to remain oblivious to the fact that in 110 years over 25 million Italians emigrated, in large part to North and South America. He saw 11% of his own people of Piacenza leave Italy for foreign countries.

Bishop Scalabrini took immediate action. He travelled up and down Italy trying to sensitize public opinion to the seriousness of the phenomenon of migration. He was instrumental in the formulation of Italy's policies and legislation concerning emigration. He recruited lay men and women volunteers for the St. Raphael Society to help at the ports of departure and entry. This Society opened secretariats in Genoa and New York as well as nineteen committees in Italy.

The Scalabrinian Congregation of priests and brothers now totals more than 700 members while the Congregation of Sisters numbers more than 1,000. These spiritual sons and daughters of Bishop Scalabrini, scattered in all corners of the globe, dedicate their lives to the pastoral and social work of evangelization on behalf of migrants, refugees, and people on the move.

As part of the ministry to migrants, Scalabrini recognized the importance of social advocacy on their behalf. He defended the right of people to emigrate when this was done in a way consistent with human dignity. He was quick to denounce social injustices and the exploitation of migrants as well as unjust political structures which caused the need to emigrate. He opposed the enforced assimilation of migrants and defended the social model of multiculturalism long before this term became fashionable. He rightly deserves the title "Father of the Migrants" and to have his name inscribed in the wall of honor in Ellis Island, New York, the port of entry where, by the time of the death of Bishop Scalabrini in 1905, 1,771,000 Italians had arrived.

On November 9, 1997, Pope John Paul II formally declared Bishop Scalabrini Blessed.

On October 9, 2022, Pope Francis proclaimed John Baptist Scalabrini Saint as Founder, Apostle of the Catechism, Father of the Migrants, Refugees and Seafarers.

Read more at www.villascalabrini.com

Start your Holiday Giving Season with an end-of-year charitable gift to Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center and Special Care Unit

A heartfelt Thank You to all our benefactors. Your donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated and make a big difference!

We are grateful for the many gifts of financial support we receive throughout the year. These gifts help us meet the needs of our Retirement Center and the senior residents it serves.

Unrestricted donations will be used toward general facility improvements.

Restricted donations will be used for the purpose designated by the donor.

We appreciate your generous support.

Benevolence Fund - The Benevolence Fund supports one of our missions - to provide comfortable and dignified living choices to under-served or otherwise compromised seniors, whose income and assets are insufficient.

Special Projects - Funds donated towards special projects will be allocated for facility improvements.

Where Most Needed - We always appreciate unrestricted funding, which is directed to general operating costs. In the end, all our resources enable us to provide the best care and services to our residents that we possibly can.

Ways to Give: Cash, Check, Credit Card Gift or Online Donation - The easiest, most direct way to support Villa Scalabrini.

Make a Donation to Villa Scalabrini

To make a donation to Villa Scalabrini you can access our website www.villascalabrini.com/waystogive and donate using your credit card via Paypal, or you may print a donation form and mail with your check.

Through the philanthropic support of donors, Villa Scalabrini will be able to enhance its services and impact the lives of its senior residents.

Your generosity is vital and allows us to provide the excellent care and services you have come to expect from Villa Scalabrini.

Fathers of Saint Charles (Villa Scalabrini) is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization as described in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

 What if Villa Scalabrini earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Use it just like any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Villa Scalabrini as the organization you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! Please spread the word!



Great News

Once again Villa Scalabrini has been voted 2022 Best Assisted Living Community by the readers of the Los Angeles Daily News. We are proud of this recognition, and we thank our voters, past and present residents, and their families.



ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Our residents, guided by our fantastic Activities Team stay busy planning and supporting a variety of fun and highly entertaining activities.

Indoor activities and outings fill our monthly calendars (check them out at www.villascalabrini.com)

Kudos to our residents for a consistently high participation and a warm thank you to our very creative teams: Marilyn and Geo at the Retirement Center and Sr. Joy, Yolanda and Sr. Geri at the Special Care Unit.

Retirement Center



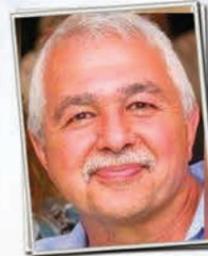
Special Care Unit



Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center is now processing new admissions. Application forms can be found at www.villascalabrini.com Do not miss our Virtual Tour! For more information, please contact Alicia@villascalabrini.com or call 818-660-5694.

SPECIAL CARE UNIT

Dear Villa Scalabrini family and friends,



The Special Care Unit and the Retirement Center are looking forward to another special Holiday Season filled with many engaging activities for our beloved residents.

We anticipate with gladness the blessings of the 2022 Holidays and give ongoing thanks for all that is good and that has made us better. Our many VS families and friends are certainly included in our thanksgiving prayers.

Alongside our central mission of the daily delivery of services and loving care for our residents, I would like to share few challenges that we are facing here at Villa Scalabrini:

- **Inflation:** Red-hot inflation drives senior living asking rates to record high, but Villa Scalabrini team and I continue working diligently to keep our rates as affordable as possible to our valuable seniors.
- **Staffing:** Widespread staffing challenges in the senior living sector remain heightened because of the pandemic stresses. Exceptionally, we are blessed that our VS staffing retention has remained quite stable and that our team remains comprised of very committed, professional, and high-performing staff with long histories at Villa.
- **Safety expenses:** Whenever needed during the pandemic, the urgency of covering internal nursing staff forced Villa to use outside staffing resources for vetted and reliable professional coverage. The health and safety of our residents and team members always remain paramount, so these additional operating costs and those of additional PPE supplies, although sometime exceeding projected budget allocations, were always prioritized.
- **Administration & Reporting:** While there was a time when nursing homes were more high touch than high-tech, clearly that description is no longer accurate. In every aspect of senior living, administrative documentation and reporting requirements and oversight have gotten more complex and time-consuming.

The future continues to look brighter as the long threat of COVID-19 pandemic wanes, and I can assure you that my team, and certainly our many beloved Villa Scalabrini residents, welcome more opportunities for interactions and positive energy.

Whether in our Retirement Center or in our Special Care Unit, our many residents sure do appreciate and need the gift of smiles, conversations, and the sharing of special memories and simple pleasures.

Your engagement and visits, both in person and/or virtually, are deeply treasured. Please stay in touch (and do share your email address with us for special communications!)

We appreciate you for continued friendship and vital support. Be blessed!

Blessing to you all,
Ardy Afshar
Administrator

