

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

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TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING by S. Casarotto 3/15/09

The Harvest and the Workers

According to the latest statistics released by the Holy See, while the number of vocations is still declining in North America and especially in Europe, in other parts of the world, like Asia and Africa, the Church is being blessed with many vocations.

In the past year and a half, the Scalabrini Fathers have established 4 new seminaries (Indonesia, Vietnam, Guatemala and S. Africa). Presently, a novitiate is being built in Cebu, the Philippines. Who said that miracles are not possible? Parishioners and friends of St. Anthony's have made these miracles happen, contributing generously to these and many other missionary projects around the world. Especially, they have offered their prayers and sacrifices. Today, there are about 450 students in the Scalabrinian seminaries in Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Africa.

It is always God who calls and makes the seed fruitful. However, the Lord said, *"Pray to the Lord of the harvest so that He may send workers to His field."* Because the Church is not ours but His, we must be confident that He will not abandon us nor that He will not provide the vocations needed for His work. We must be grateful for the gift of priestly, religious and missionary vocations, no matter where they come from. They are God's gift to the Church and to the world. St. Paul was the immigrant apostle to the Gentiles.

In 1892, Blessed Scalabrini wrote about vocations: *"Do not fear that your hopes will be disappointed. Even if among the young candidates in the seminary most will leave and only few will reach their goal, nevertheless these few will be worth a treasure and will be the joy of both the heaven and earth. Among the hundred drops of rain that fall to earth, ninety eight become mud; of the other two, one falls on the head of the infant in baptism and gives a son or a daughter to the Church, the other falls on the priest's chalice, mingles with the Blood of Christ and gives God to us."*

The 7 sins in the world

Wealth without work. Pleasure without conscience. Knowledge without character. Commerce without morality. Science without humanity. Worship without sacrifice, Politics without principles. *(Mahatma K. Gandhi, +1948)*