



*SCALABRINI HOUSE  
Of DISCERNMENT*

Washington



**Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Church  
Our Lady of Fatima Church**

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Office hours Monday-Friday 10am–5pm



Dear Friends,

With this communication we are happy to share with you the joy of a new beginning in our religious family. Last year two students have begun a new experience of priestly formation in a parish context and this year with two more students we have opened a new house of formation for your men who desire to discover and grow in their priestly and religious vocation.

This September 1<sup>st</sup> officially we have opened the “Scalabrini House of Discernment”, which is located in the former convent of the Scalabrinian parish of St. Bernard in Riverdale Park, Maryland, in the outskirts of Washington DC. The Provincial Superior visited us various times and we are happy to present to you the participants in this new formation program.

FR. MARK ESCOBAR, C.S, local superior y confessor.

FR. RICHARD GERARD, C.S. pastor and rector of the new community.

FR. WALTER TONELOTTO, C.S. vicar and spiritual director..

SECOND YEAR OF PHILOSOPHY - Josue Hernandez – Cesar Camarena.

FIRST YEAR OF PHILOSOPHY – Lukas Silva – Vinicius Dias

**OUR COMMUNITY LIFE**

The life of the small community is based on Prayer, Studies and limited pastoral activity in the parish. Great emphasis is given to community prayer, as the basis of all the future formation process. We get up at 6:00am, we pray from 6:30am to 7:00am; then we have breakfast and prepare for school. Classes begin at 8:30am at the FULTON SHEEN SEMINARY, run by the Missionaries of the Incarnate Word, which is situated only 20 minutes by car away from the parish. The curriculum of studies is

according to the Pontifical guidelines of ecclesiastical studies with strong accent on Thomistic Philosophy.

At 1:00pm at home from school for lunch with the fathers of the parish and then free time for study.

At 6:00pm every day we have one hour of Eucharistic Adoration with vespers and holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass (7:30pm) at the parish and supper. Free time for more study and lights out at 10:00pm. No iPhone is permitted after 10:00pm till the morning.

Other activities include sports twice a week and weekly conference with a community meeting. On Saturday there will be cleaning, shopping and music practice. Twice a week Cesar prepares supper in the house. On Sunday each student participates in their own group pastoral activity. Each of them is engaged in one pastoral activity per week.

### **WHY THIS BULLETIN?**

The scope of this bulletin is to ask for your prayers. As Jesus has told us, before we ask for “workers for the vineyard” we must pray the Lord of the harvest. Every Thursday in our parish we have “Eucharistic Adoration” and we are happy to see hundreds of faithful participating. We invite all parishes and groups to organize, especially on the first Thursday of each month, ONE HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. For this reason, it is necessary to establish a group of LAY SCALABRINIANS, who commit to prayer and service according to the Scalabrinian charisma.

With the recent canonization of our Founder, St. John Baptist Scalabrini, we feel a new renewal in all our missions and a renewed interest in young people to follow Christ in service to migrants and refugees. We must seek the moment offered to us by our founder and become involved in the work of the church for migrants.

### **OUR FACES**



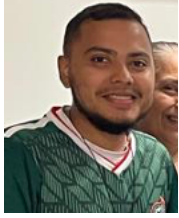
CAMARENA CESAR. (Second Year of Philosophy)  
Born in Mexico on December 27, 2002  
Emigrated with his family to Florida (Orlando) on 2007.  
Joined the seminary in August 2023 from our Parish of Winter Garden.



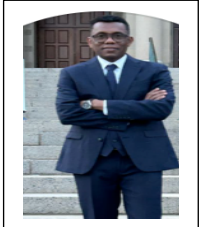
VINICIUS DIAS (First Year of Philosophy)  
Born in Brazil April 17, 2004.  
Arrived in Florida 2016  
Joined the seminary on February 2025 from the Resurrection, Catholic Church – Winter Garden FL.



LUKAS SILVA. (first Year of Philosophy)  
Born in Brazil on March 11, 2003. Emigrated to Boston (Mass) on March 27, 2022. Enter the seminary on March 31, 2025. (St. Anthony, Sommerville)



**JOSUE HERNANDEZ.** (Second Year of Philosophy)  
 Born in El Salvador on February 11, 2001  
 In 2003 emigrated to Atlanta and joined the Seminary in August 26, 2023, from our parish of San Felipe de Jesus.



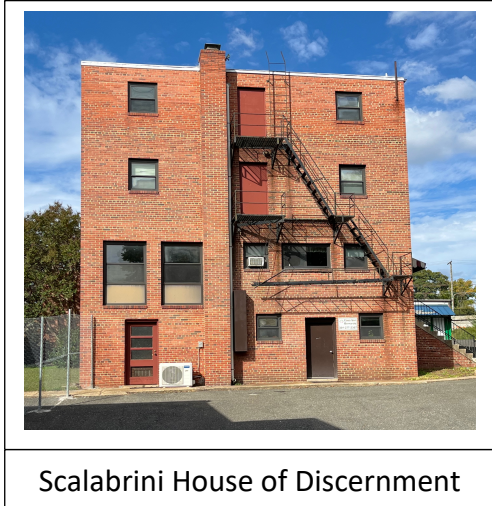
**FR. RICHARD GERARD, C.S.** (Rector)  
 Born November 18, 1974 - Les Cayes, Haiti - Ordained July 8, 2006  
 Studies in Rome (Gregorian) and St. Paulo, (Brazil). After a pastoral experience in Brazil is not the pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Riverdale, MD and Rector of the Scalabrini House.



**FR. WALTER TONELOTTO, C.S.** (Spiritual Director)  
 Former director of Formation in our seminaries and with an extensive pastoral experience; he celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination last year. Happy to spend his last years of priesthood accompanying our new missionaries.

## OUR HOME

BIRTHDAY OF FR. WALTER, with seminarians and parish staff. *(Some good 78 moons!)*  
 (Fr. Richard is taking the picture!)





*THE CHAPEL for community Mass and Daily Eucharistic Adoration – DINING ROOM, KITCHEN and LIVING ROOM.*



**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW OUR SAINTLY FOUNDER?**

<https://www.scalabrinisanto.net/en/canonization/>

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SCALABRINIANS?**

<https://www.youtube.com/@scalabrinipress3049/featured>

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT "LAY SCALABRINIANS"?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYOT9IKBtU0>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYWT1X9cQwVyOQnz64eWYYQ>

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A RELIGIOUS VOCATION?**

Call Fr. Noe Vera, C.S. (347)274-7791; Fr. Khiet 237-149-4632, Fr. Lino (240) 883-1170 or contact our Scalabrini House of Discernment at: 5700 St. Bernard Drine, RIVERDALE, Maryland 20737, Fr. Walter: (404) 452-0830 and leave a message.