



Missionaries of S. Charles – Scalabrinians

Press Release

Padre Mosè:

**the biography of the Peace Nobel Prize nominee, to be presented at
Scalabrinian Center**

A priest and refugee aid worker, Fr. Mussie Zerai, has been and is involved in the rescue of refugees in distress at sea for more than ten years with unparalleled effort. His story is now a book which will be presented on January 17 in Rome.

[Centro Studi Emigrazione Foundation \(CSER\)](#) and [Scalabrinian Communication Office \(UCoS\)](#) organized in Rome – **17 January 2017, at 15h30, Via Dandolo, 58** – the official presentation of Fr. Zerai's biography, written by Giuseppe Carrisi and Fr. Mussie himself and edited by Giunti.

Special guests will be **Carlotta Sami**, spokeswoman at **UNHCR SouthEurope**, and **Msgr. Silvano M. Tomasi**, secretary for Justice and Peace Dicastery. Their intervention will help participants to better understand the actual situation migrants and asylum seekers are facing in this part of the world. **Fr. Mussie Zerai and Giuseppe Carrisi will be joining the presentation too**, completing the list of speakers for the day. A projection of a documentary by GaiaProduction about Fr. Mussie will close the meeting.

The book focuses on the Fr. Mussie's life, starting in 1992 when he was just 16 years old and arrived in Italy as a refugee. After the studies in theology and philosophy and his ordination to priesthood, he was sent to Switzerland as a minister among Eritrean migrants. His current commitment in helping migrants in distress begins in 2003 when he worked as an interpreter in a Libyan prison. There for the first time he comes into contact with Eritrean refugees on their way to Europe. The stories of his compatriots won't let go of him from then on and he sees it as his duty to help. Soon after his visit to prison he starts receiving calls from refugees in distress at sea. Someone had etched Mussie Zerai's phone number into a prison wall with the note: *In emergencies, call this number!*.

In 2006 Fr. Zerai founded the aid organization [Agenzia Habeshia](#), in Italy, whose task it is, among other things, to support migrants and refugees in their dealings with authorities and in matters of integration. Soon Fr. Mussie and his organization also engage in lobbying and public relations work, he speaks on the radio and television, writes to politicians and aid organizations.

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