



27 SEPTEMBER

Isle La Réunion: 20 DECEMBER

**BLESSED SCUBILION JEAN-BERNARD ROUSSEAU**

Religious  
(1797-1867)

*La Réunion: Memoria*  
*Institute: Memoria ad libitum*

As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, Jean-Bernard Rousseau was serving as a catechist when he was introduced to the Brothers, who had just opened a school in a nearby town. He entered the Paris novitiate in 1822. After ten years in elementary schools throughout France, Brother Scubilion left France in 1833 to dedicate the remaining thirty-four years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

Remembered as the "catechist of the slaves," he inaugurated evening classes for them, which were well attended, even after a long day of exhausting labor. He devised special programs and techniques, suited to their needs and abilities, in order to teach the essentials of Christian doctrine and morality, and prepare them to receive the sacraments. He won them over by his kindly manner and his respect for them. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he continued to care for them and to help them adapt to their new life of freedom and responsibility. In the last years of his life, despite failing health, he assisted the local pastor in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging vocations, and even effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated everywhere on the island as a saint.

Born in Tharoiseau, France 21 March 1797  
Died on the Island of Reunion 13 April 1867  
Beatified 2 May 1989

## MASS

*Common of saints: religious*

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Isa 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation.

### OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)

O Lord,  
you made Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau  
an exemplary teacher who by his faith and zeal brought hope to the slaves.  
By his example and intercession,  
grant that we may learn how to evangelize the poor  
and lead sinners to be reconciled with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### FIRST READING

Isa 52:7-10

*All the ends of the earth can see the salvation of our God.*

### A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Listen! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy,

For they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord's return to Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted his people, has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; All the ends of the earth can see the salvation of our God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95

**R/. Your salvation, O Lord, is for all peoples.**

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his marvelous deeds.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,  
give to the Lord glory and might;  
give to the Lord the glory due his name!

Declare among the nations: The Lord is king.  
The world will surely stand fast, never to be shaken.  
He rules the peoples with fairness

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 28: 19-20

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.  
**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

Mt 28: 16-20

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.*

**A reading from the gospel according to Matthew**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Brothers and sisters, let us humbly implore Almighty God, through the intercession of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, for our salvation and that of our communities. Let us pray to the Lord:

**R) Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessions...

Let your grace, O Lord, make our prayers and our efforts pleasing to you. Through the intercession of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, we ask you to extend your merciful hand over us. Through Christ our Lord.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, accept the gifts your people bring in memory of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau. May our sharing in this sacrifice help us to express in our lives the power of your love. Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mk 16: 15; Mt 28: 20

He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

All powerful God, may this holy meal help us to follow the example of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau by showing in our thoughts and deeds the light of your truth and the love of our brothers and sisters. Through Christ our Lord.

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

*Common of saints: religious*

### SECOND READING

*You are the Salt of the Earth!*

**From the «Homily on the Beatification of Brother Scubilion Rousseau» by Pope John-Paul II**  
*(AAS LXXXI, 1989, p. 138-1243)*

Brothers and sisters of La Réunion, you who by your faith are salt of the earth, I offer you my heartfelt greetings and express my joy at being with you to honor Brother Scubilion, the first person from among you to be beatified. The proclamation of the gospel has already produced fruit in abundance here, and Brother Scubilion is a remarkable witness to that progress towards holiness which was started in this island by the first missionaries.

Take part in the Church's celebrations wherever you are, and look on the development of your Christian formation as a priority to which time needs to be devoted. In addition, without relaxing your participation in the Church services, increase your contribution towards the building of a society in which the dignity of the human person is respected.

This concern for the dignity of the human person was something to which Brother Scubilion gave witness during his years of service as a missionary. He was born in France at the end of the XVIII century, in what is today the Diocese of Sens-Auxerre, and which is represented here today. He entered the religious life as a Brother of the Christian Schools, and in order to make a total dedication he offered himself as a volunteer for an apostolate in far off lands. He arrived in La Réunion in 1833 and stayed there until his death.

Love of God and love of neighbor were inseparable for him. In the eyes of all, he shone with a powerful love which revealed the God of Love. He was a light to others, as Christ wishes us to be. «You are the light of the world». He drew light from Jesus Christ and he enlightened others with the light of Christ through his example and especially through his work as a catechist among the slaves.

As a good educator, Brother Scubilion loved to teach catechism. He planned attractive catechism lessons with great enthusiasm. His love of young people and his cheerful nature inspired him to take his pupils on exploration trips to the heights of the Ravine-des-Chèvres or the caves of Trois-Trous. He even attempted with them the ascent of the Piton du Charpentier. These excursions were also pilgrimages in which they visited the churches of Rivière-des-Pluies, of Notre-Dame de Bel-Air and Notre-Dame de Bon-Secours. In the light of this world, Brother Scubilion helped them to discover the light of their souls and the light of Christ.

Brother Scubilion understood and lived the love of neighbor in the gospel sense. With his whole being he succeeded in becoming an image of God. He loved in the way God loves. In the footsteps of Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, the Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, he showed a great tenderness towards those entrusted to him. He helped them to gain confidence and trust, to forgive one another, to give meaning to their lives, to go forward in hope. He also distinguished himself in his care for the sick, showing great compassion to them as his brothers and sisters in distress. He practiced that love so highly praised by the Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians.

The greatest commandment of the Law is to love God with all one's heart and one's neighbor as oneself. Christ made this law of love his own personal commandment. This is what is new about the gospel, which completes and fulfills the old Law. «I have not come to abolish it but to fulfill it». And Jesus goes on to praise all those educators like Brother Scubilion: «Anyone who rejects just one of the smallest of these commandments and teaches people to do the same will be declared the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the one who observes them and teaches them will be declared great in the Kingdom of Heaven». (Mt 5, 19).

Following in the footsteps of Brother Scubilion, learn to be saints. Like him, build your lives on the mystery of the cross, on the life-giving power of the Eucharist, on devotion to Mary, Queen of Apostles.

May that loving Mother protect you and lead you in peace towards her Son, Jesus!

**RESPONSORY**

**Mk 16: 15; Jn 3: 5**

**R/.** Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. \* Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

**V/.** No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

\* Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

## **PRAYER**

O Lord, you made Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau an exemplary teacher who by his faith and zeal brought hope to the slaves. By his example and intercession, grant that we may learn how to evangelize the poor and lead sinners to be reconciled with you. Through Christ our Lord.

## **MORNING PRAYER**

**Ant. Ben.** Only the person who loves can teach and guide disciples just as the good shepherd does.  
(**T.P.**Alleluia)

### **CANTICLE OF ZACHARY**

Lk 1: 68-79

*The Messiah and his forerunner*

### **INTERCESSIONS**

United in morning prayer, let us pray to our Lord so that we may serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our lives.

**R) Lord Jesus, sanctify your people.**

Intercessions...

Our Father.

## **PRAYER**

O Lord, you made Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau an exemplary teacher who by his faith and zeal brought hope to the slaves. By his example and intercession, grant that we may learn how to evangelize the poor and lead sinners to be reconciled with you. Through Christ our Lord.

## **EVENING PRAYER**

**Ant. Magn.** Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
(**T.P.**Alleluja)

### **CANTICLE OF MARY**

Lk 1: 46-55

*Rejoicing in the spirit of the Lord*

### **INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray to God, source of all holiness, to help us lead a life worthy of our baptism, through the intercession and example of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau.

**R) Sanctify us, O Lord, for you are holy.**

Intercessions...

**PRAYER**

O Lord, you made Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau an exemplary teacher who by his faith and zeal brought hope to the slaves. By his example and intercession, grant that we may learn how to evangelize the poor and lead sinners to be reconciled with you.

Through Christ our Lord.