



## Prayer in Vocation

**Feast of Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau (Sept. 27)**

### **A School Prayer:**

Loving Creator, by becoming Jesus, the person of peace and justice, you liberate us from responding to injustice with injustice.

Today, we remember Blessed Brother Scubilion who spent his life educating freed slaves.

May we assist others in freeing themselves from the external and internal barriers that hold them back from becoming all you have called them to be.

We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

### **A Classroom Prayer:**

As the school year begins we often set goals for what we want to accomplish.

Lord, as we set goals, may we recall Blessed Brother Scubilion and his commitment to being a person for others coming to understand their freedom.

May we commit ourselves to goals that allow us to be persons of God.

May we today help at least one person come to understand that he or she is good, gifted and loved. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Parents** *(could be used in a newsletter):*

Blessed Brother Scubilion worked tirelessly with the slaves on the island of Reunion off of the coast of East Africa, helping them seek the freedom within that allowed them to handle the freedom from slavery they were eventually given. May we, as parents, help our children to rely on the goodness of God within them, such that they may open themselves to learning with, giving to and loving family, friends, school and the community. Amen.

### **The Story:**

As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, France, Jean Bernard Rousseau was serving as a religion teacher 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.

Today, The Catholic faith dominates the island's religious character. It is visible in the shrines along every highway and byway, in caves, on cliff tops and in the many saint's days and holidays.