



INSTITUTO CALASANCIO
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA

Derang, December 2, 2017

Prepare a way for the Lord,
and rough roads made smooth (Lk. 3, 1-6)

TO ALL THE SISTERS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

Dear Sisters: :

We begin this Advent 2017 filled with the joy experienced by the canonization of Father Faustino. Our hearts still vibrate with this feast of the sanctity to which we have been invited, that we celebrated in the month of October in Rome and we continue celebrating it in the different places where we are present.

What a long time waiting for the canonization of Father Faustino! It has been a long, eager wait during which we did not lose heart. And now that it has arrived, that it has past, it is the time to ask ourselves what has this long wait signified, meant, such a long wait, and above all, the arrival of what we were expecting, waiting for. What a favorable time, this time of Advent which we are now beginning, to go deeper into this dynamics. How good it would be that we knew how to stop, to reflect what this gift of the canonization of Father Founder has been for each one, what has moved me, what has questioned and challenged me what positive thing has it provoked in my life, what has it generated. Or perhaps we have let this go by just like one more event.

I believe that what is more important of the canonization, besides that from the Calazancian Family, Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, we offer a saint to the universal Church, is that it has given us the possibility to rediscover Father Faustino like a man always on the way toward sanctity. And it was like that, and only in that way, that he became a road toward God for others. Hopefully, having gone deeper into his life will have helped us to recognize the beauty of feeling and knowing that we are journeying toward God, under the dynamism of the Spirit who prevents us from living paralyzed and at a standstill.

Now we have a favorable time to assume that we are a way through which the Lord arrives, just as Saint Faustino knew how to be one. And, thus, we want to live this Advent holding his hand.



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John the Baptist, one of the personages of this liturgical time, invites us to "prepare a way for the Lord, and the rough roads make smooth". To sincerely accept this invitation another year, urges us to ask ourselves if vitally, we want to be disposed, ready to smooth the rough roads through which he is arriving. And certainly to reflect what it means to prepare the way.

I believe that Saint Faustino can help us in this task. Looking at him we feel that because of his authentic being, his limitless surrender, his fidelity in Love, he was a smooth road which led many to the encounter to the One who out of love comes to us, to our world.

Father Faustino teaches us that the way through which Jesus arrives is that of humility, that of simplicity, that of emptying oneself, that of smallness and that of self-forgetfulness. A way which our new Saint made his own and which led him to forget himself so that the Lord would grow in his life and, in this way, through him, His Presence would be a reality in the world of his time in which he lived. He was convinced that only according to these attitudes and life style, it is possible to be a simple road through which the Lord travels and arrives.

This is why; to celebrate Advent is to smooth out our lives, which is nothing other than to empty them from the ego which paralyzes us, so as to make possible the arrival of God, to accept His coming, to keep our doors open to receive Him and so that the presence of the Lord may be a reality at the table of our world.

To celebrate Advent is to empty ourselves of our fragilities and, sometimes useless hopes, to center ourselves in waiting for the Lord who needs us, full of His Life and centered on Him, for His Kingdom. It is to remain, day after day in the hope that does not disappoint and which is the only one that supports our being; Love and God's fidelity.

My best wishes for all that you have a happy Advent filled with hope.

Greetings for each one filled with gratitude for your dedication to God's Cause, which is that of the little ones.

M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.
Superior General