Madrid, October 15, 2018

To the Sisters and Religious Communities.
To those who share the Calasancian Educational Mission
Of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.
To those who feel attracted by the Calasancian Charism
Of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.
Bequeathed by Saint Faustino Miguez of the Incarnation

J.R.E.N.C

My desire for all is that Jesus, the Lord, may continue to be present in our hearts y enriching us with his gifts.

The canonization of Saint Faustino, an experience of grace

Today, October 15, 2018, we joyfully celebrate the first anniversary of the canonization of Saint Faustino Miguez. We recall an event, which no doubt, has been, in this moment of the history of our Congregation, a blessing of God for the entire Calasancian Family.

I am sure that what we lived on Saint Peter's Square, on October 15, 2017, is engraved in the mind and heart of those of us who were in Rome, as well as in that of all those who, not being able to be present, followed all the acts through Internet.

I believe that the canonization of Father Faustino has been **an experience of grace** for the Calasancian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, for all those with whom we share the educational mission, for the committed Laity identified with the Charism of Saint Faustino, for the families, pupils, former pupils and friends.

On October 15, 2017, the Yes of Saint Faustino to the Will of God, his surrendered life, his solidarity, his tireless search for truth and justice, his fidelity in Love, the Charism inspired by God in him and his spirituality became universal. Father Faustino Miguez, our Founder, was becoming the patrimony of all; proposed as model of sanctity for the universal Church.

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We can very well say that when, on October 15, 2017, the Church pronounced, in a loud voice, the name of Faustino Miguez, recognizing his sanctity, hope filled our lives, recognizing in him a man close to us, simple, who walked through the paths of daily life, full of passion for God and for his Cause and who was being proposed to us as a spiritual path for many.

First anniversary of the canonization of Saint Faustino, a day of a grateful memory.

I desire that we all live this day, of **grateful memory** as an opportunity to thank for what has been for us a sign from God on the road of the Congregation: the confirmation that our weak, simple, small and, at the same time, passionate institutional community is a gift which has enriched and continues enriching the Church, and it is wanted by God.

Moreover, we are the ones granted to be witnesses of this profound reality, which, in turn, urges us to vivify, to strengthen and revitalize, in creative fidelity, the Charism of the Calasancian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. So as to continue offering it to the world, to continue giving the children and young people of today, acceptance, accompaniment, goodness and tenderness, in order to help them to be happy and to go through life doing good.

The year that has gone by, a time of a more profound moving, advancing toward sanctity

I am convinced that with the canonization of Saint Faustino we have understood better the meaning of sanctity. My desire is that this year that has gone by, from his canonization, it has constituted for each one of us a **more profound moving, advancing toward sanctity.**

Because of this, I invite you to live the celebration of this first anniversary as an occasion to listen, once again, the common and personal call to sanctity. Saint Faustino will tell each one of us today, wherever we are and whatever we do that we are here to be saints.

It is the time to look at him once again, and discover his itinerary of sanctity, which we can concretize in fidelity, in Love and in the joyful Yes to the Will of God up to the last consequences, in the great or small things of every day.

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That was his way of responding, -just as one more, from anonymity, from the simplicity of daily life- to the Project that God had for him, to the mission entrusted to him. All this lived in self-forgetfulness to fix his look on the other, on the little ones, on the simple ones, on the children and the young people. His life was knitted by a Samaritan look and by a hand extended to others, motivated only and exclusively by the passion for God.

With this event, we have understood vitally that sanctity is for all, as Pope Francis tells us in his Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudette et Exsultate", that truly we are all capable of sanctity, being all called to open ourselves to friendship with God who invites us to be simple instruments, facilitators in the service of the Kingdom.

Saint Faustino Miguez, Saint and human

I also encourage you to live this first anniversary as a favorable moment to rediscover in Saint Faustino the man with "H", the man saint and human at the same time. A man totally surrendered in the service of others, in a special way of children and young people, with the conviction that in this way he made of his life service and surrender to God. In this way, **he knew how to unite sanctity and humanity**. Today he calls all of us to know how to unite in our daily life sanctity and humanity, as two inseparable faces of one only reality the call of God to all and each one to be his sons and brothers.

Let us thank God for the work and the spirit of this new saint of the universal Church. His life is for us, an authorized word which invites us to live the joy of faith, of the yes to the Will of God, to allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit and to live seeking and placing ourselves, unconditionally and *limitlessly* in the service of the Kingdom of God.

Congratulations to all! I desire and ask that we all know how to transmit the beauty of the Calasancian Charism, which was born in the Church by the surrender of a man, today a saint, Faustino Miguez. May he intercede for us.

A fraternal embrace,

M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.
Superior General

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