INSTITUTO CALASANCIO
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA

*Mirada samaritana*

Madrid, January 2, 2019

**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 Míguez de la Encarnación.**

**J.R.E.N.C.**

I wish you a Happy Year 2019, loaded with Peace and Good for all.

On this second day of January, like in previous years, we all congratulate one another. In addition, we do it because we celebrate that 134 years ago something new sprang in our world. This was made possible by a man, Faustino Miguez, who open to the Spirit, placed his being, his life at the disposal of God. This was the secret of his sanctity recognized by the Church.

Saint Faustino became a channel and bearer of the novelty of the Spirit, in a situation of marginalization and abandon. This was a novelty, which became concrete in a simple, small sprout or shoot, like everything that refers to the Kingdom: the Association of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. This was a sprout or shoot that gradually grew, became mature, expanded, until it became the Calasancian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. A sprout or shoot that continues to bear fruit of life today. A sprout or shoot that after 134 years cannot lose that mark of being the novelty of the Spirit, in its responses to the challenges presented by the world in which we live.

We all congratulate one another because 134 years ago an Institution was born for the service of a better world, happier, making present the Kingdom of God – which is acceptance, goodness, life, happiness – among the children and the young people. An Institution came into being which bears within it the possibility of a look of kindness and blessing for the little ones, for the marginalized, as the manifestation of the love of God.



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We congratulate one another because it was the beginning of a way in the Spirit, in which many of us have found the way of living our condition of believers. Some according to the lay vocation and others according to religious consecration. For ones and the others, we feel it is a way of happiness, of response to the Project of God. Ones and the others, we live the conviction that according to the Calasancian identity, we share the same way of sanctity.

Moreover, it is for each one of us, the possibility of responding, in a creative manner, to the needs of our time. This religious family, the Calasancian Institute, was born with a beautiful ministry: *to seek and to guide or direct,* which is the clearest movement of the heart of God, which always comes out to seek us, to accompany us, and this is what we have just celebrated at Christmas: He became man, He allowed Himself to be found by us and He placed His tent on our land to accompany us in our daily journey.

Besides congratulating one another, today is a day in which we have to feel challenged or questioned. It is the day to direct our look to the beginning of this work, and to rediscover how Father Faustino and those first women, running the risk and courageous, who consecrated their life to God, took care of the growth of this sprout or shoot of the Spirit, strengthening this gift; they allowed this dream of God to go through their identity, *to seek and to guide,* in the service of which they placed the best they had.

Today, in celebrating this anniversary, each one of us is invited to continue taking care of this dream of God; to question ourselves, at personal and community level, on what I do, what we do to take care of this gift, to embellish it. We are urged to reflect on how we live our Calasancian identity.

We, who rejoice and celebrate the birth of this charism in the Church, we are called not to allow it to become opaque, to strengthen it, to continue offering it, in all its beauty, with the profound conviction that it is a gift from the Spirit which our world needs today. Greetings to all. With a fraternal embrace,

M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.
Superiora General



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