



INSTITUTO CALASANCIO
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA

Madrid, March 8, 2018

To the Sisters and to the 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 the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess
Bequeathed by Saint Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación

Greetings to all on this day in which we celebrate the first feast of F. Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación proclaimed and recognized saint by the Church.

On October 15, many of us had the gift of participating in his canonization and of feeling invited to accept, sincerely and vitally, the call that we have received to be saints. And today, we want to continue learning, as believers, from his life and his sanctity.

From Manuel Míguez to Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación

In the letter that I wrote at the beginning of Lent I invited everyone to live this time in simplicity and poverty. Today, in the celebration of his feast, I propose that we contemplate Saint Faustino as the one who felt called to follow Christ by the road of lowering himself and of smallness. This was a call that he accepted since he was very young and which he expressed without any doubt, guided by the Spirit, with the change of name.

His entry in the Pious School was for him like a birth to a new life, to a new identity. Like in the Biblical narratives he felt that his vocation was like a new name pronounced by the mouth of the Lord (Is. 62, 2).

Manuel Míguez, in beginning his Scholapian journey, decided to change his name for that of Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación, the etymological significance of it is "happy event of the Incarnation". This decision on his part allows us to deduce



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that he wants to follow this path in the contemplation of the Mystery of the Incarnation which speaks to him about the love and humility of the God-Man, and which he considers the most admirable of all.

In this change of name we can discover some of the pillars on which he wants to found or establish his journey as believer:

- The Incarnation is the feast of the YES of God to men and of the YES of Mary to God. It is as if in giving himself this name, Faustino Miguez wants to make of his life a Yes to God. This is how we have approached him during all this time of preparation for his canonization. And this is how the Church recognized him in the Decree of the Heroic Virtues: "His life was a joyful Yes to the Will of God, from which he never wanted to separate himself during the hard moments of trial and pain".
- This new name shows the desire to follow the One who becomes man, who annuls himself, who becomes a servant out of love.

Faustino de la Encarnación: spiritual identity

I believe that we can well say that the name of "Faustino de la Encarnación" reflects the more profound spiritual identity of the new Saint. It is for him:

- A call to live detached from self, from personal interests, from one's own comfort in order to be at the service of others, like the One who did not come to be served but to serve (Cf. Mk. 10, 45). Thus, Faustino Miguez is the man, every day more available to God and to his Project. He is the man of the Yes to God and to the little ones.
- It is an invitation to become one among many, feeling part of a people before which he cannot be indifferent. As a Scholapian he feels that he belongs to the people and for the people and consecrated to teaching them..
- He has total openness and obedience to the Will of the Father which leads him to surrender *without any limit*.

F. Faustino Miguez lived, already during his time, what Pope Francis said to the Scholapian Priests in the letter that he wrote to them on the occasion of the 400 years of the birth of the Pious Schools as a Religious Congregation and of the 250 anniversary of the canonization of Saint José de Calasanz.



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«To be a Scholapian is, by definition, to be a person in a state of lowering self, a little one who can be identified with the little ones, a poor one with the poor. The history of our salvation is the history of a supreme lowering of self... To follow Jesus is to follow his lowering, it is to arrive like Him, to the most profound depth of humanity, of our weakness and there to become a servant, like the One who came, not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Cf. Mt. 20, 28)»

Saint Faustino, as a man of a profound and coherent harmony between the word pronounced and lived (from what he has in the heart and intends to live, he speaks) he invites us, all who feel attracted by his spirit, to feel highly honored always when we make ourselves little with the little ones out of love for the One, who being the Son of God, annulled himself and took the form of a servant out of love for us Cf. CF 203, XIII).

F. Faustino Miguez, man of God and of the people, encourages us to travel by the path of simplicity, of lowering self, of humility, of service to the little ones. This is the best gift that each one of us can offer so that Life continues today to overflow in our common house, so that it continues to become flesh in our world.

A happy day of Saint Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación for each one and for all

Affectionate Greetings,

M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.
Superior General