

Instituto Calasancio Hijas de la Divina Pastora



Mirada samaritana

Madrid, March 6, 2019

To the sisters and religious communities To those who share the Calasancian Educational Mission Of the 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 de la Encarnación.

To all my desire that the Lord Jesus continues modeling and conforming our lives, according to his style, in the vocational option according to what each one of us is living, our condition as believers.

This year the beginning of Lent coincides almost, on the date, with the celebration of the day of Saint Faustino. Congratulations for this feast, which always gives us joy, brings us together as a charismatic family and, at the same time, moves and challenges us on our journey as believers toward sanctity, according to the reality of each day.

We look at a man, who has been declared by the Church a person adorned with the beauty of God; a person who passed through our earth making of the passion of God for the little ones, for the one in need, the motive and the dream of his life. It is a dream that survives today in all those who feel identified with his spirit.

For this reason, it has seemed important to me to get close to Lent from the perspective and the look of our dear Founder, Faustino Miguez, to learn from him how to live this liturgical time.

A sermon has arrived to us: *Man does not only live by bread alone* (HPF, page 104) which is his own reflection around the Lenten moment.

The definitions that he gives of them are acceptable time, days of health, time of mercy and grace. Affirmations, which lead us to question ourselves on which is our personal position before this liturgical moment, which the Church places before us.

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Sometimes, we allow ourselves to be dragged by the routine of "another year more", "always the same". San Faustino invites us to rediscover like a space of possibility, of grace, of health, of life, of mercy, of novelty in our lives. He feels it as the journey to undertake a new life convenient for the followers of Jesus.

For this reason, he speaks to us of the need to dispose ourselves so that torrent of grace, of health, of life, which is given to us as a gift during this time does not fall in a recipient that allows the gift to be lost.

One of the dispositions which becomes concrete in three points for the Lenten journey and which become for all of us calls in this time:

- Fast in what can lessen or diminishes the forces of the spirit. Each one of us knows what is it that weakens us what paralyzes us, what separates us from the dream of God in our lives, from his project of fraternity for all. He invites us to fast from all this, but to leave space for the gift which he gives us, which invigorates or gives us new energy, and impels us.
- Fasting of indifference, before everything that moves the heart of God: the one in need, the little one, the one who suffers the marginalized for any cause, the one rejected... and not the one far away but the one close to me.
- The nourishment of the Word of God, because *Man does not live by bread alone.*

We can say this is the Lent itinerary proposed to us by Saint Faustino, a new Saint of the universal Church. My desire is that we all know how to accept it, as the best form to celebrate the feast.

My best greeting for each one,

Sacramento Calderón Superior General

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