



INSTITUTO CALASANCIO
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA



**La comunión genera comunión
y esencialmente se configura
como comunión misionera.**

Madrid, October 13, 2019

**To all the Sisters, and religious communities
To all those who share the Calasancian Educational Mission
To all those who feel attracted by the Calasancian Charism
Of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, bequest of Saint Faustino Míguez**

J.R.E.N.C

Dear Everybody:

My desire is that the Lord fills our lives with his Love and that the Spirit makes us his witnesses.

In this month of October 2019, proclaimed Extraordinary Missionary Month by Pope Francis, we celebrate the holiness of our charismatic Family of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, remembering the two years that have gone by, since the canonization of Saint Faustino and the six years of the Beatification of Blessed Victoria.

As we all know, with this Extraordinary Missionary character of the month of October, the Pope wants to celebrate, in a special way, the centenary of “Maximum illud”, Apostolic Letter of Benedict XV who opened the Church to a new form of understanding the mission “ad gentes”.

October 2019 is a month that has begun, as always, looking at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Patroness of the missions; found in the DOMUND, this year under the motto “Baptized and Sent”, and which is filled with Amazonia air. The Pope in the Message for the World Day of the Missions 2019, affirmed that “the providential coincidence with the celebration of the special Synod of the Bishops for the Pan-Amazonia Region, leads me to stress that the mission entrusted by Jesus with the gift of his Spirit, continues to be actual and also necessary for the inhabitants of these lands”.

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In the Message mentioned above, the Pope addresses us a call to feel that we are mission when he affirms: "I am always a mission", you are always a mission; every baptized person is a mission".

For this reason and in this framework, I invite you to look at the sanctity of San Faustino Miguez as that of a man who looked at himself and understood himself as mission. A man, who in his passage through life, felt urged by the Spirit to make fructify, with the audacity and creativity of the Spirit, what he had received. He did this, placing his life, his being at the service of the Kingdom, giving attention to the marginalized, to the excluded to announce to them the Good News of the overflowing Love of God for the human being.

Faustino Míguez, as a man on mission and for the mission, knew how to be in movement, to get out of self, giving himself to the one in greater need and generate realities of life, of acceptance, of inclusion. Moreover, he did it in *a limitless way*, without complaining, without fear, which paralyzes us so much. He did it by getting out of the center, to place others in the center (Cf. Message of the Pope, DOMUND 2019).

This is also, what our Founder desired for us, Calasancian religious and Laity; he wanted us and wants us on mission, he dreamt us and dreams us for the mission, to *seek and to direct*,

Blessed Victoria knew how to accept this desire of the Founder, as the desire of God for her, and in mission, she freely and generously surrendered her life for her sisters.

I believe that today Saint Faustino would tell us again and strongly all of us: do not forget that you have been associated for always to the evangelical mission of the Church (Cf. TE). He would tell us with the Pope, do not forget that you are mission.

There is no doubt that a beautiful form of celebrating, in this month of October 2019, sanctity in our Family, can be by reviving in each one of us the missionary concern, *the apostolic challenge*, the passion for the Kingdom; it can be by strengthening our missionary identity, open to the Spirit, the giver of every gift.

That as charismatic family we will dare to pronounce, during this time of grace with new impetus, "send me" (Is. 6, 8). "Send us".

That our prayer during this missionary month be: Here we are, ready to surrender ourselves, as your witnesses and filled with You, among the smallest, among those excluded of our world. Here we are, liberated and out of the center, to go out to the one who needs us. We are here to be sent to the reality of our world. Here we are open to your Spirit so that he can break our fears and discouragement and make us men and women having the novelty of the Gospel.

Lastly, I encourage you to participate, as far as possible, in the activities organized at Diocesan or parochial level, on the occasion of this missionary month. Also to unite all together in prayer for the Synod Assembly of Amazonia so that the fresh air of the Spirit floods this beautiful zone of the earth, its people and their lives.

May Mary, the Divine Shepherdess, whom we contemplate during this month as Our Lady of the Rosary, impel our evangelizing passion in simplicity, humility and surrender,

I embrace each one of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M. Sacramento Calderón R. de G.
Superiora General