



*INSTITUTO CALASANCIO  
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA*



**Communion generates communion  
And it essentially models itself  
As missionary communion.**

Madrid, January 2, 2020

**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**

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

I desire you a happy year 2020, full of Peace and Blessings from God for all.

Joyfully we celebrate today; 135 years ago, the Cardinal from Seville, Fray Ceferino González, approved the Bases of the Association of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. In this way, a new Religious Congregation was being born in the Church.

A simple work, a new shoot of life, hearten by the Spirit, born with the signs of identity of the things of God, as we have just contemplated in the Nativity: God is born from the humility of a young Virgin who opens herself to the will of God, in the weakness of a child and in the simplicity of a manger.

The Calasancian Institute is born from the humility of a man, without violence to the wishes of God in his life, but who accepts them and from these, he becomes gift for others: is born from the courage of some women, who in their weakness, want to place what they have in the service of the Cause of God, who are the little ones, because they feel, in their lives, the force from on High; and is born in the simplicity of a school, as an educational institution, with great faith in the possibilities of growth and development of the human being.

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I believe that this anniversary of the foundation of the Institute is a "favorable time" to remember our origin, in order to enlighten the present, it is the time to bring to the heart, especially, faith in God and the apostolic impulse which moved some lives, that of Father Faustino and that of the first religious, and encouraged some actions that, because of the action of the Holy Spirit continue moving today other lives and arousing new actions.

Today, each one of us who feels attracted and identified with the Calasancian Charism of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, is called to be a link of a long chain of love and surrender which began 135 years ago and arrives up to today; and also to give thanks for having received this call to form part of this history of life.

We are invited to contemplate the links of the beginning and take from them all the best: their firm and trustful spirituality, their missionary spirit, their capacity always to be going out, their surrender and educational passion, their attentive look at the needs of the surroundings and their courage and creativity to give an adequate response according to the Spirit.

I invite everyone today to remember, to pass through the heart once again, that the Calasancian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess was born in the Church for:

- To be bearers of God, of His Good News, in the midst of those who are abandoned, forgotten, excluded and marginalized.
- To give life in realities where the horizon is missing, of lack of sense, of death.
- To be an alarm clock of the possibilities of the human being, image of God.
- To enlighten with the light of Truth, those realities dominated by the darkness of ignorance.
- To be a blessing of God in our world, from and with a look that loves, dignifies and respects.
- To be the companion on the road of many disoriented children and young people, who need a horizon of sense.
- To defend the noble Alliance of knowledge and virtue, in the service of Piety and Letters.

Contemplate; pass through the heart, so that we do not forget our reason for being in the Church, in the world, and that we can respond to that for which we are called, living in creative fidelity to our origin, as part of this religious family in the Church.

A family, which in the year 2020 rejoices because of the celebration of 75 years of educational presence in Seville, of the 50 years of our arrival to Colombia, and of the 50 years of Calasancian presence of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess in La Coruña. For so many gifts received and so many seeds of good sown throughout these years, we thank God.

Greetings to all on this great Calasancian Day.

Fraternally,

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.  
Superior General