



*INSTITUTO CALASANCIO
HIJAS DE LA DIVINA PASTORA*



Quito, March 8, 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 the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess,
Bequeathed by Saint Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación**

J.R.E.N.C.

For all of you, my wish that the Lord bless your lives.

On this day, March 8, 2020, I congratulate you on the occasion of the celebration of Saint Faustino Míguez, from Quito. It is the place where today we live the joy of the generous self-giving to the Lord of two young women, Amalfi, Venezuelan and Fanny, Ecuadorian. Two young women who will say yes to God and the many children and youngsters who will be so lucky to meet these two Calasancian Sisters. They will make the children the center and focus of their lives, their reason for being, because they are God's favorite, the one they want to serve.

In such a meaningful date and setting for our Calasancian family of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, I invite you to pretend to be in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, our "Institutional Galilee", to feel Fr. Faustino Míguez's joy, in celebrating the Congregation's First Temporal Profession on August 1885, when five young women professed: our first five religious sisters. After so much uncertainty and suffering God's promise came true, must have been once again his deepest inner experience.

Perhaps on August 2 of 1885 and in that same place Fr. Faustino's heart vibrated thinking about his final Yes to the Lord, as a Piarist, pronounced at the San Fernando School in Madrid, when he was just 22 years old.

Experiences, shared joys, memories, vibrations all marked by a word pronounced and lived by a man who walked in our land generating in it life, possibility, horizons, meaning and happiness. And the word is: Yes.



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Therefore, today once again we thank Fr. Faustino for his life “for his yes” to the little ones, to goodness, to beauty, to the truth, to God. This is how John Paul II described him in the Decree of Heroic Virtues: His life was a joyful yes to the Will of God.

We look at him today, on his feast day, as the man whose Yes generated and enabled many more, among them that of each one of us, Calasancian Sisters who have centered our life to a yes to God and to all the little ones; and that of each one of you, lay people who feel called to live your faith based on this charism and have converted your lives into a fruitful yes for others.

Saint Faustino’s yes that has given meaning and fullness of life for many who no longer are with us, and for others who still walk the dream of a world in the style of God who, in his Incarnation, became a yes to humanity welcoming the path of smallness and anonymity.

In contemplating today his life, we feel that Saint Faustino is inviting us to continue pronouncing small yeses in daily life, because with them we sow, even without knowing it, seeds of good, of possibility, of life, of meaning, which in time will bear fruits. With them, even with the smallest ones, we make possible the impossible as it happened with Mary’s yes, with St. Joseph of Calasanz’s yes and with Fr. Faustino’s yes.

Congratulations to our two sisters Fanny and Amalfi, and thank you for your Yes.

And to all of you, Happy celebration of St. Faustino’s feast in this year 2020.

A fraternal greeting to all of you,

Sacramento Calderón
Superior General