



**Instituto Calasancio**  
Hijas de la Divina Pastora



Madrid, October 13, 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.**

I wish each one of us that the Lord will continue to bless us and take care of our lives, so that we too can take care of others, thus being channels of the Lord's blessing for our world, in the midst of this pandemic reality that we are living.

We are in October, and we can say that it is the month of the holiness in our charismatic family: M. Victoria has been beatified on October 13, 2013; Fr. Faustino, on October 25, 1998 and his canonization took place on October 15, 2017. A time, therefore, to celebrate God's goodness to us and to reflect on the call to holiness that we, as believers, have received.

### **Three years have passed since the canonization of St. Faustino**

So many memories in the heart, so many intense moments, the ones we lived! The words of the Pope declaring him a new saint in the Church still resound in us:

In honor of the Most Holy Trinity, for the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the growth of Christian life, with the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and of our own, after having reflected at length, invoking many times the help of God, and having heard the opinion of many brothers and sisters in the episcopate, we declare and define as a saint Blessed Faustino Míguez and inscribe him in the Catalogue of Saints, and establish that he shall be devoutly honored among the saints in the whole Church. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bringing these words to our hearts moves us and moves us to recognize, once again, in Father Faustino. He was the man who knew how to reflect the holiness of God in his life. He did so through simple and small evangelical gestures, on a daily basis; he invites us to rediscover his passage through this life as a path of passion for God, of trust in Him, of openness to reality and of dedication to the little ones.

### **Listening and Response Dynamics**

Father Faustino's holiness is woven from closeness, from contact and listening to God, to reality, to those who suffer, to the needy, to children and young people. This was the secret of his life: an attitude of listening and attentive look at what was happening around him in order to allow himself to be challenged and respond to the style of God, who was the True and Only Lord of his life.

We may well apply to him the words that Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, says about Saint Francis of Assisi: « He heard the voice of God, he heard the voice of the poor, he heard the voice of the infirm and he heard the voice of nature»<sup>1</sup>.

In addition, on that path of holiness, in that personal dynamic of listening and responding, assumed freely and with love, Faustino Míguez became a fruitful man for the Kingdom, for others<sup>2</sup>, through his dedication to children, to the sick, to the needy.

He was responding to the dream of holiness that God had for him, as a good steward of the grace and gifts that he had received freely (1 P 4,10), since he knew how to put them at the service of others, at the service of the project of a more human world.

### **The opportunity to listen to him**

I believe that this month, when we remember the canonization of Fr. Faustino, is also an occasion to listen to him, to welcome back his dream for all of us, which is God's dream:

The institution needs saints to honor it... I would like you all to be saints, all of you... None of you has an excuse, because the Lord offers you all the means and will give you all the graces you need for this purpose. Courage, courage and try to be holy!<sup>3</sup>

We may be tempted to think that responding to this call is more difficult today than in his time. In addition, I think nothing could be further from the truth.

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis. Encyclical Letter, *Fratelli Tutti* n. ° 48

<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* n. ° 33

<sup>3</sup> Cfr. Ep 226

Both yesterday and today, we are all called to be holy by living the passion for God and his Kingdom, expressed in a lifestyle of intimacy with Him, of love, listening, closeness and a look at the other that dignifies him/her. And each of us in the closest reality we have: community, family, group, school, and workplace. Before and now we are asked to make our own the dream of fraternity, the human family's innate vocation to fraternity, as Pope Francis tells us<sup>4</sup>.

In his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, the Pope gives us many clues to make possible, among all of us, this project of universal brotherhood that we desire so much.

### **Our today's response to the call to holiness**

I think it is possible to say that, for us believers, it points out how our response today to the call to holiness requires that we allow ourselves to be challenged by the situation of dehumanization, disagreement and disinterest in others, which we live, which our world lives. This reality does not respond to God's dream. He needs us to transform it. And we want to collaborate, from the educational ministry, to renew the society from its very base and to do it with the hope that sprouts from the deep conviction that God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family<sup>5</sup>.

A response that is made concrete, with simple and everyday gestures, in our closest surroundings, without forgetting the most distant, by promoting:

- the encounter and relationship with the God of Life
- the proximity and culture of encounter<sup>6</sup>
- the inclusive language, in which there is only "us"<sup>7</sup>
- the look at our life linked to that of others, and not disinterested in them
- a look that restores dignity to every human being
- the presence that becomes a response, simple and fragile but effective evangelically, to those who need it.

We are proposed a path of holiness that was the one that St. Faustino traveled on his way through this land. This is what we celebrate today with joy.

Fraternal Greetings to each one of you,



Sacramento Calderón  
Superior General

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<sup>4</sup> Pope Francis. Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* n.º 27

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. n.º 54

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. n.º 30

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. n.º 35