



**Instituto Calasancio**  
Hijas de la Divina Pastora



Madrid, January 2, 2021

**To the sisters and religious communities,  
to those who share the Calasanzian Educational Mission  
of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess,  
to those who feel attracted by the Calasanzian Charism  
of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess,  
bequeathed by Saint Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación**

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

Happy 2021! And congratulations for these 136 years of life of the Calasancio Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess! Today is a great day for all of us who feel attracted by this charism.

It has been 136 years since the Spirit, who scrutinizes the needs of the times, awakened in Father Faustino Míguez the courage to respond creatively and effectively to the need for human-Christian education of children and young women.

Our Institute came to birth in the Church through the devotion of Fr. Faustino Míguez who, moved by the Holy Spirit, felt an urgent need to respond to the needs of mankind in a service of unconditional love (C 1).

Father Faustino makes an evangelical reading of this need and responds to it by founding a religious Institute. A Congregation that begins with a group of women who, called by God, want to spend their lives in announcing the Good News of the Kingdom in that concrete and needy reality.

- **Seeking, welcoming, routing / centering, welcoming, involving**

At the recent meeting of the Education Commission of the USG (Union of Superiors General) and the UISG (International Union of Superiors General) on the occasion of the Global Compact on Education, Pope Francis expressed his desire to synthesize the seven essential commitments of the Global Compact on Education into three lines of action: ***focusing, welcoming and involving***.

I encourage you to take up again this synthesis that the Pope offers us. I believe that it is a gift for us, on this day. Because it shows that the world today is still in need of what we simply offer, all of us who feel part of this family of Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. What is the most genuine identity of our charism: to ***seek***, - ***to*** go out to meet, to make the other, the needy, the center and the reason for our lives because they are the cause and the preference of God, - to **welcome** and to **route**.

Today is the right day to revitalize our only reason for being in the Church, to renew what constitutes us as lay and religious Calasancians Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. Today is a day to tell us boldly that we are not to protect ourselves, to shut ourselves up because we were not born for that. Today is a day to tell us that we ARE in order to *seek*, to go out to meet children and young people, to welcome and accompany them, involving ourselves with them, in their journey towards human fulfillment, towards happiness, towards God.

In this way of being, our only reference is the accompaniment of the Good Shepherdess, which is woven and enveloped by the dynamics of care for the other, the common house, all that is human, and a relationship and look from love and trust.

Undoubtedly a precious charism with which we celebrate today that the Lord has embellished the ecclesial vineyard.

- **The charism of the Calasancian Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, a project of happiness.**

A charism in which our first sisters, to whom we look at today with gratitude, recognized the project of happiness thought out by God for each one of them, and which constituted them in community, in a family mediating God's project of happiness for the world through this charism.

And from this vital experience sprang up their dynamism, their passion for the Kingdom, their drive, their courage to give themselves without limits. They welcomed the charism and knew how to live it as a project of personal fulfillment which, in turn, made them bearers, simple but passionate, of the good news of happiness that God the Father has for his children.

This is what we are celebrating today, which is why we are happy and what we wish will continue to happen in each one of us.

At this time, in the midst of the pandemic that our world is suffering, God continues to go out in search of this world, to its encounter, - through the mediation of the calasanctian charism Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, through those who, like us, feel identified with it -, to accompany the world towards happiness, towards goodness, to open a horizon of hope and meaning.

Congratulations on this great day!

A fraternal greeting to each one,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Calderón", enclosed within a large, horizontal oval stroke.

Sacramento Calderón  
Superior General