



Instituto Calasancio
Hijas de la Divina Pastora



Madrid, April 24, 2021

**To the sisters and religious communities,
to those who share in the Calasanctian Educational Mission
of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess,
to those who are attracted by the Calasanctian Charism
of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess,
bequeathed by St. Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación.**

J.R.E.N.C.

As every year, also in this one the celebration of the "World Day of Prayer for Vocations" and that of Mary, Divine Shepherdess coincides with the celebration of the "World Day of Prayer for Vocations". In addition, in the Institute we also celebrate the Shared Mission Day.

This year, the motto proposed by the Spanish Episcopal Conference for the Day of Prayer for Vocations is "Who am I for?" a question Pope Francis asked young people in his Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* (nº 286).

It is an excellent proposal of interpellation for all those young people who seek, who long for a broad horizon for their lives, who wish - without knowing how and why - to get involved, from what they are and what they have, in a cause at the service of others : in the cause of the Kingdom.

On this day we pray in a special way for all the young people whom the Lord calls to follow him, from the different vocations in the Church, so that they may be able to ask themselves: for what and for whom do I want my life to be?

We ask the Lord of the harvest that the young people of today may discover, within themselves, the gift of Someone who looks upon them, so that by following him they may make present in our world his gestures, his attitudes, his creative gaze, his style full of goodness and welcome for all. We pray that they may welcome the gift of Someone who wants to count on them to put on the table of the world the bread of his Word and the bread of self-giving.

Along with the need for prayer, young people need the witness of people who live and vibrate with their vocation; of happy and joyful people who help them to discover the gaze of Jesus looking at them and saying to them: are you willing to give your life for me, and who encourage and accompany them in their response.

The Day of Prayer for Vocations is also a propitious occasion for each one of us to be able to ask ourselves, from the reality in which we live, "for whom am I, for whom is my life? And to do so, on this day in which we celebrate the Divine Shepherdess, looking at her, looking at her life, her journey, her response to God's dream for her.

We can affirm that the Virgin Mary was a woman for God; and, for this reason, her life became a gift and dedication to others. A woman in whom the protagonist was always God and for Him, the others, their needs, their worries. A woman on her feet, on the way to others, to whom she turned her gaze every day to attend, care for and accompany, as she did with her son Jesus.

Today we dwell on how St. Faustino presents her to us in the *Model of every Daughter of the Divine Shepherdess*: a woman who consciously and freely made of her life, a welcome to God. Thus he tells us that:

- *She was humble of heart.*
- *She only placed in God, to whom he referred everything, the judgment of her conscience.*
- *She was incapable of harming anyone.*
- *She was willing to do good to everyone.*
- *Her gaze shone with benignity.*
- *She only went to those gatherings where her charity, which knew no bounds, called her.*
- *She showed the same affability with everyone.*
- *She commanded respect from everyone who looked at her.*

Happy Divine Shepherdess Day! In this day we are invited, as Calasanctian religious and lay people, to transform our lives into spaces of God and for God, at the service of the smallest and neediest.

Congratulations, in a special way, to all of us who, from the Shared Mission, are and feel members of our charismatic family!

Fraternal greetings to each of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Calderón", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sacramento Calderón
Superior General