



Instituto Calasancio
Hijas de la Divina Pastora



Madrid, January 2, 2022

**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.

¡We wish you all Happy New Year 2022!

And, once again, on this January 2, we congratulate ourselves on the 137th anniversary of the life of the Calasancian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.

This year's date has a special significance for us since it coincides with the beginning of the XXIII General Chapter; and in addition, in 2022, we commemorate the centenary of the definitive approval of the Constitutions in Rome.

137 years of the gift of the Calasancian Charism of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess

We celebrate 137 years since the birth of a new charism in the Church and for the Church. A charism that today I invite you to look at, above all, as an experience of the Spirit (EN 11) that takes place in a faithful believer.

Faustino Míguez was a man who, from his sincere and vital openness to God, became receptive to Him. He knew how to welcome the outpouring of the Spirit's grace within him and let it transform his life, which was marked and shaped by this experience.

The response to the gift he received led him even more, at 54 years of age, to place his life at the service of the smallest, the most vulnerable, those who are denied access to spaces for life, growth and development: children and young women.

His was a life-generating response, which is the hallmark of the Gospel, for these marginalized children because he restored dignity and inclusion to them, and he illuminated a path of happiness and close and humble accompaniment that gives life, like that of the Good Shepherd.

This experience of the Spirit was embodied in the Calasancian Charism of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. A charism of which today we all celebrate its birth with joy, and to which we have been called to live according to it, to care for it in creative fidelity, to deepen and strengthen it (Mutuae Relation11s 11).

It is up to all of us today to take up the charism anew, to reread it in today's cultural context. We are invited to be a simple, small but life-giving response to the realities of our world that cry out and demand dignity, promotion, care and close accompaniment. Because that is what the Master and Good Shepherd did, whom we follow in the footsteps of St. Faustino. And because that is the charismatic identity that defines us.

Centennial of the final approval of the Constitutions

This year 2022 is a year of commemoration for us. We celebrate that 100 years ago the Church, through Pope Pius XI, definitively approved the Constitutions written by Father Faustino on July 27, 1922.

In the twilight of his life, when he was 91 years old, he received this great news that gladdened his heart.

In the Spiritual Testament that he writes to the Institute for this reason, he reveals to us the profound meaning that this word of the Church has for him. He understands this confirmation on the part of Rome, which *approves him as good and useful to the holy Church*, as God's Yes to the work he *had begun*, and in the course of which he found, in his own words, *no taste, displeasure, persecutions, calumnies and other such things*.

We let the words of Fr. Faustino resonate in our hearts as a way of holiness:

Now, my daughters, God's favors demand a correspondence, the greater the greater the number of those favors, and can you even imagine it? No; that in placing in your hands today those Constitutions approved by his Vicar on earth, as an infallible rule of religious perfection and Christian life, he says to you through them what one of his predecessors said to my Holy Father when he gave him his own: "Give me one that fulfills them faithfully and exactly to the end, and I will place it on the altars".

In this year we are invited to continue deepening the meaning of the Constitutions in our life. This centennial celebration urges us to live more faithfully and more in harmony with the spirit of the Constitutions, because this undoubtedly generates vigor, identity and growth in the Institute.

I encourage you to look at them as the book that gathers the experience of the Spirit of our Founder. An experience from which he lived and contributed his grain of sand for a better, more humane and inclusive world. This year is an opportunity for each one of us to approach the Constitutions and discover in them the key to live a more human and fraternal world, more in accordance with what God wants, based on our charismatic identity.

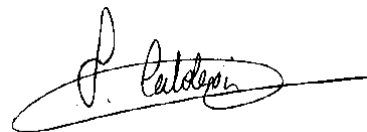
Celebration of the XXIII General Chapter

On this very significant day for us, our XXIII General Chapter begins.

All of us, not only the capitulars and lay people who will participate in it, are invited to make our Chapter Assembly an event of the Spirit.

We count on everyone's prayers so that it may truly be a space in which, open to God, we know how to make the right decisions to continue to insert ourselves, in a way that is appropriate to the Calasanctian charism of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, in the Church and in the contemporary world, and responding to its challenges and demands.

Fraternal greetings to each of you,

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

Sacramento Calderón
General Superior