



Instituto Calasancio

Hijas de la Divina Pastora

*"The only, the true happiness is in resembling,
in imitating the Author of happiness. "*
(Ep 70)

Madrid, 8th March, 2023

**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 Saint Faustino Míguez de la Encarnación**

J.R.E.N.C.

Today we celebrate with joy the feast of St. Faustino Míguez. All the religious communities, schools and centers of the Institute look to this great saint who knew how to combine his natural qualities with the gifts and grace of God in the service of children and young people in the educational mission.

This feast is always an occasion to rejoice and to express gratitude to God for the charism that St. Faustino knew how to transmit to us. It is also a family celebration because all of us, religious and laity, who form the Calasanctian Charismatic Family, Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, we feel the joy of belonging and we are introduced to the roots of our own identity.

St. Faustino Míguez was a man of the 19th century whose figure seems to grow more and more when contemplated in the light of the 21st century, showing the gift of prophecy that he carries within him. He knew how to be a witness of God's love with his life and, by his example, he traces a path for us to follow.

He was a man of God and a man for others, going so far as to say that *as a Piarist I am of the people and for the people*. For him faith was the light that illuminated his journey, and with his deep look at reality, he discovered the will of God in the events

of his life, in the depths of his heart and in the reading and reflection of the Word of God.

As a teacher and pedagogue, he set out some very current guidelines that today we see reflected in the Global Education Pact that Pope Francis is proposing to us. Putting the person at the center of every educational process, the pedagogy of love and tenderness, listening to children and young people, welcoming the most vulnerable and giving full participation to women. Father Faustino made this a reality in his life, and he did not hesitate to found a congregation dedicated to the education of women in order to restore their dignity and give them the equal rights and opportunities they deserved.

On the feast of St. Faustino, I invite you to delve a little deeper into his life and work. Knowing him will lead us to discover signs that can guide us in our daily life and in our own journey. He enlightens us on the way of love, of always doing good, of service, of listening to the Word of God in prayer and reflection.

St. Faustino inspires us in our commitment to live the Calasancian Charism of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, to allow ourselves to be shaped by the Spirit and to feel humble instruments in the hands of God; open to his grace we allow ourselves to be transformed by it to become light and life for others. We walk together, in synodality and we make a clear option to live fraternity and service.

May the intercession of Mary, the Divine Shepherdess, and of St. Faustino Miguez accompany us on this path of humility and closeness to God.

I wish to you all, to the entire Charismatic Family, friends and lovers of our Founder, a very happy feast of St. Faustino Miguez.



M. Mª José Sotelo Iglesias
Superior General