

Prot.S.299.2016

**TO ALL THE RELIGIOUS OF THE ORDER
TO THE CALASANCTIAN FAMILY
TO THE PIARIST FRATERNITIES
TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE IDENTIFIED AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE
CHARISM OF CALASANZ**

THE GRACE AND THE PEACE OF GOD, OUR FATHER

Dear brothers and sisters:

As you all know, on December 21, 2016, His Holiness Pope Francis approved the miracle attributed to Blessed Faustino Míguez, Piarist religious and founder of the Calasanctian Institute of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess (Calasanctian Sisters). We have received the news with an extraordinary joy, as a gift of God's love in this Calasanctian Jubilee Year.

We don't yet have the date of canonization, but what we do know is that, in a few months, we will be able to pray through the intercession of Saint Faustino Míguez of the Incarnation, Priest and Founder. We thank God!

Father Faustino Míguez will be thus the third Piarist Saint, with Saint Joseph Calasanz and Saint Pompilio Maria Pirrotti. His canonization will take place during the Piarist Jubilee Year. In the letter of call of the Jubilee Year we sent on July 26 this year, there is a paragraph that reads as follows: "*In this Jubilee Year, we want to celebrate in a special way the **gift of the Calasanctian Family**, and together with all our brothers and sisters from the different Congregations born of the common trunk of Calasanz, to thank God for the charism of all founders and foundresses of the Congregations of the Calasanctian Family. There will be a Day of the Calasanctian Family in this Jubilee Year, but its celebration date is not decided yet*". The reason of this vagueness was precisely the hope of Blessed Faustino's canonization.

Now we can already invite all to celebrate, coinciding with Blessed Faustino Míguez' canonization, the "***Calasanctian Family Day in the Calasanctian Jubilee Year, to thank God for the charism of all the founders and foundresses of the Congregations of the Calasanctian Family***".

In particular, I want to offer our congratulations to all the religious of the Congregation founded by the new saint, to all laymen and laywomen who share their spirituality, charism and mission, and to all the students that grow in their classrooms.

Father Faustino was a Piarist religious and priest deeply identified with Calasanz and with the Piarist mission. He lived intensely his vocation and could experience the various facets of being a Piarist: he knew the mission in America, working in the first steps of the foundation in Cuba; he was professor, director of boarding students, spiritual director, confessor, founder of schools, rector, etc. The passion with which he lived his love for the needy helped him to develop his scientific qualities, preparing medicines. His desire to serve to the poor opened his eyes to understand the marginalization of women and caused that he would promote and accompany an association dedicated to the education of girls. The intensity with which he lived his faith and his docility to the will of God led him, finally, to become a founder.

He loved deeply our Holy Father Calasanz, seeing in him the inspiration of his life. He entrusted his daughters *"to seek and to lead souls to God, by all means that are available to the charity"*. "Seek" and "lead" are two very active, very committed verbs. They express in an extraordinary way what the new Saint wished for the religious of the Congregation: to devote themselves in body and soul to the educational mission, so that the students would discover the love of God.

Blessed Faustino's canonization marks deeply the Calasanctian Jubilee Year. We can celebrate the sanctity of a son of Calasanz precisely in the year in which we commemorate the sanctity of the Founder and the consolidation of his work, the Pious Schools. I think that this fact proposes us a track that we should think, reflect, share, celebrate and pray: holiness. We are all called to live according to God's will, and to incarnate in our life the plan that God has for us. This is holiness, which appears in some people in an extraordinary way, and when this happens, the Church puts it in evidence for our good.

I recall the words of Pope Saint John Paul II in his homily for the Beatification of Father Faustino. Thus the Pope said: *"He who humbles himself shall be exalted (Lk 18: 14). When we raise to the glory of the altars the Piarist Priest Faustino Míguez, these words of Jesus that we heard in the Gospel are met. The new Blessed, renouncing his own ambitions, followed Jesus the Teacher and devoted his life to the education of children and youth, in the style of Saint Joseph Calasanz. As educator, his goal was the integral formation of the person. As a priest, he sought tirelessly the sanctity of the souls. As a scientist, he wanted to alleviate disease, freeing mankind suffering in the body. In the school and on the street, in the confessional and in the laboratory, Fr. Faustino Míguez was always transparency of Christ that welcomes, forgives and loves."*

We do not know what Pope Francis will tell us the day of the canonization of Father Faustino. But we do know is what he tells us in his message for the Jubilee Year: *"On the anniversary we celebrate and you will live as Calasanctian Jubilee Year, I hope you will remember what you are and what you are called to be. I ask the Lord to grant you to live those dispositions that made your Founder a saint. In this way, the Pious Schools will be what San Calasanz wanted and what children and young people need"*.

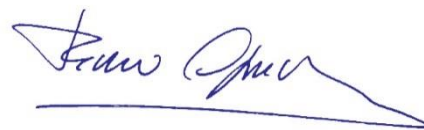
Congratulations to everyone for the new Piarist Saint! Let us pray especially for children and young people that live and grow in the Schools and Missions of the Calasanctian Institute Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. Let us ask, through the intercession the new Saint, that all members of the Calasanctian Family always be faithful witnesses of God's love.

It is good that together with the expression of our joy, we also express gratitude to all those who, with their work, have contributed to make possible the celebration of this canonization. In particular, to the responsible of the Calasanctian Institute of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess and to the various Postulators of the Order who have dedicated their time to boost the process. Thanks to all!

In that hope, I have signed this letter on the solemn day on which we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the most clear, permanent and free expression of God's love for all of us. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Fr. Francesc Mulet Sch. P.
General Secretary



Fr. Pedro Aguado Sch. P.
Father General

Rome, December 25, 2016, Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ