

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Faustino Míguez

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: March 8

IN BRIEF

Saint Faustino Míguez

Spanish Piarist priest, educator and scientist, founder of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.

Feast day	March 8
Born	March 24, 1831, near Celanova, Ourense, Galicia, Spain
Died	March 8, 1925, Getafe, Spain
Canonized	October 15, 2017, by Pope Francis
Era	20th century
Patron saint of	Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess (Calasanctian Sisters)

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Faustino Míguez for Teachers and the Sick

Novena to Saint Faustino Míguez

Credits and sources

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LIFE

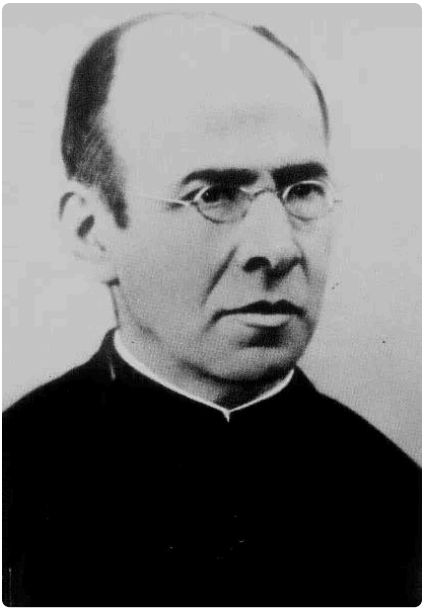
Saint Faustino Míguez

Saint Faustino Míguez, baptized Manuel Míguez González, was a Spanish priest of the Order of the Pious Schools (the Piarists), born in Galicia in 1831 and died in Getafe, near Madrid, in 1925. An educator, a scientist passionate about medicinal plants and a much sought-after confessor, he founded in 1885 the Calasanctian Institute of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess for the education of girls. Beatified in 1998 and canonized by Pope Francis in 2017, he is celebrated on March 8.

Who was Saint Faustino Míguez?

Faustino Míguez is an endearing figure of nineteenth-century Spain: a religious who united science and faith, the classroom and the confessional. A spiritual son of Saint Joseph Calasanz, founder of the Pious Schools and patron of Christian schools for ordinary people, he devoted some seventy-five years of religious life to the education of the young. He also cared for the illnesses of the body: his research on plants allowed him to develop remedies that brought relief to many sick people.

But his great insight was to see that girls were the forgotten ones in the education of his time. The Piarists taught only boys. So he founded a women's congregation to offer girls, especially poor girls, a complete human and Christian formation.



Father Faustino Míguez, Piarist priest.

Key dates

- **March 24, 1831**: Born near Celanova, in the province of Ourense, Galicia; he is baptized Manuel.
- **1850**: Enters the Piarists at the College of San Fernando in Madrid and takes the name Faustino of the Incarnation.
- **1850s**: Ordained a priest; he begins a long teaching career in the colleges of the order.
- **Second half of the 19th century**: Teaches in several Piarist colleges in Spain and devotes himself to chemistry and the study of medicinal plants.
- **1885**: In Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Andalusia, he founds the Calasanctian Institute of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.
- **End of the 19th century**: Settled in Getafe, he continues teaching, spiritual direction and his pharmaceutical research.

- **March 8, 1925**: Dies in Getafe at the age of ninety-three.
- **October 25, 1998**: Beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome.
- **October 15, 2017**: Canonized by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square.

A young Galician among the Piarists

Manuel Míguez González was born into a Christian farming family in Galicia. A brilliant student, he could have pursued a promising career, but he chose religious life. In 1850 he entered the Clerics Regular of the Pious Schools at the College of San Fernando in Madrid and took the name Faustino of the Incarnation. The charism of Saint Joseph Calasanz marked him deeply: to educate children in "piety and letters," beginning with the poorest.

Once ordained, he taught for decades in different colleges of the order. As a teacher of natural sciences, he knew how to awaken his students' curiosity and help them discover the order of creation. He was also an attentive educator who accompanied each young person in human and spiritual growth.

The scientist priest

Passionate about chemistry and botany, Faustino studied the medicinal properties of plants. From them he made preparations that brought relief to many sick people, and he developed several remedies, some of which were later sold in pharmacies. He also published scientific works. For him, science was not in competition with faith: it was a way to serve humanity and to admire the Creator in his works.

His scientific work did not take him away from his ministry. He spent long hours in the confessional and became a much sought-after spiritual director. Healing bodies and healing souls were, in his eyes, one and the same mission of charity.

The Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess

During his ministry, Father Míguez saw the ignorance and marginalization in which many women of his time lived, especially among the working classes. The Piarists, faithful to their constitutions, educated only boys. So in 1885, in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, he founded the Pious Calasanctian Institute of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess, also called the Calasanz Institute. He wanted girls to receive from their earliest years a solid human and Christian education that would make them free and responsible.

The congregation's name refers to the Virgin Mary honored as the Divine Shepherdess, a popular devotion in Andalusia: Mary who leads her children tenderly to Christ. The sisters, known as Calasanctians, opened schools and also organized spiritual retreats for women, something rare at the time. The institute later spread through Spain, Latin America and Africa.

A long and fruitful old age

Father Faustino spent the last decades of his life in Getafe, south of Madrid. There he went on teaching, hearing confessions and preparing his remedies, and he accompanied the growth of his congregation. He died on March 8, 1925, at the age of ninety-three. His remains are venerated in Getafe. His cause, opened in 1982, led to his beatification in 1998 and his canonization in 2017.

Why is Saint Faustino Míguez invoked by teachers and the sick?

Faustino Míguez shows that one can be fully a man of science and fully a man of God. He put all his gifts at the service of others: his knowledge to heal, his teaching skills to instruct, his priesthood to reconcile. He also had the courage to open a new path for the education of girls. This is why he is invoked for

teachers, students, researchers, pharmacists and health care workers, for the education of girls, and for the sick. He is, above all, the founder and patron of the Calasanctian sisters, the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Faustino Míguez

As a saint of the photographic age, he is usually shown from his portraits: an elderly priest in the black cassock of the Piarists. Devotional images sometimes show him with a book and medicinal plants, recalling his double vocation as a teacher and a scientist.

To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Faustino Míguez and the novena to Saint Faustino Míguez.

Where to pray to Saint Faustino Míguez

- **Getafe** (Spain): the town where he spent his last years and died, and where his remains are venerated.
- **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** (Andalusia): the birthplace of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess.
- **Madrid**: the Piarist College of San Fernando, where he entered religious life.
- **Celanova** (Galicia): his native region.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Faustino Míguez for Teachers and the Sick

Saint Faustino Míguez, a Spanish Piarist priest, was at once an educator, a scientist of medicinal plants, a confessor and the founder of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess for the education of girls. This page offers an original prayer for teachers, health care workers and the sick, along with intentions to entrust to him.

Prayer to Saint Faustino Míguez

Saint Faustino, you spent your life teaching children: teach me the patience of the educator, who sows without always seeing the harvest.

You studied plants to bring relief to the sick: bless researchers, pharmacists, doctors and nurses. May their knowledge always serve life and the dignity of every person.

You spent long hours in the confessional to reconcile hearts with God: give me the desire for conversion and the joy of forgiveness.

You founded a religious family so that girls could learn and grow: watch over all the girls who are denied schooling, and over the women who struggle for their dignity. May Mary, the Divine Shepherdess, lead them to her Son.

I entrust to you the sick I carry in my heart, and this intention: (name it in silence). Obtain for us health of body, if it is God's will, and peace of soul. Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

A short invocation

> *Saint Faustino Míguez, educator of the young and friend of the sick, pray for us. Amen.*

This invocation is an original text by Saintspedia.

Intentions to entrust to Saint Faustino

- Teachers, educators and students.
- The education of girls around the world, especially the poorest.
- Researchers, pharmacists and health care workers.
- The sick who are waiting for treatment or healing.
- Priests who hear confessions and spiritual directors.
- The Piarists, the Calasanctian sisters and religious vocations.

When to pray this prayer

His feast day is March 8, the anniversary of his death in Getafe in 1925. The date also coincides with International Women's Day, a fitting echo of his work for the education of girls. You can also pray to him at the start of the school year or before a medical test or treatment. To prepare for his feast, pray the novena to Saint Faustino Míguez, and to know him better, read the life of Saint Faustino Míguez.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Faustino Míguez

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Faustino Míguez, Piarist priest, educator, scientist and founder of the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, March 8, begin it on February 28 (February 29 in a leap year). It can also be prayed at any time, especially for a sick person, before exams or at the start of a school year.

How to pray this novena

Each day, entrust your intention to God, read the short meditation, then say the prayer of the day followed by an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. The small act suggested for each day helps you live something of Father Faustino's charity, which joined teaching, healing and forgiveness. You can pray it alone, as a family, in a school or with a parish group.

Father Faustino lived for ninety-three years and gave almost all of them to others: in the classroom, in his laboratory, in the confessional and in the congregation he founded. The nine days of this novena follow these different sides of his life, so that each day you can bring before God a different group of people: students, teachers, the sick, those who care for them, sinners in need of mercy, girls without school and the elderly.

Day 1: Choosing God

Manuel Míguez was a brilliant student who could have pursued a promising career. He chose instead to give his life to God among the Piarists, taking the name Faustino of the Incarnation. Every vocation begins with a choice that puts God first.

Prayer: Saint Faustino, help me to put God first in my choices, and pray for young people discerning their vocation.

Today: Pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Day 2: Piety and letters

Following Saint Joseph Calasanz, Faustino wanted to educate children in "piety and letters," beginning with the poorest. Education forms both the mind and the heart. A school can be a place where children discover both knowledge and God's love.

Prayer: Lord, bless teachers and schools, and give every child access to a good education.

Today: Thank a teacher who made a difference in your life, or pray for them.

Day 3: The patience of the educator

For decades, Faustino taught in Piarist colleges, accompanying each student. Educating is slow work: it means sowing every day without always seeing the harvest.

Prayer: Saint Faustino, give parents and educators patience, hope and kindness in their daily task.

Today: Listen attentively to a child or young person without hurrying.

Day 4: Admiring the Creator

As a teacher of natural sciences, Faustino helped his students discover the order of creation. For him, studying nature was a way to admire the Creator in his works.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to the beauty of your creation, and bless all who study it with honesty.

Today: Take a few minutes outdoors to contemplate creation and give thanks.

Day 5: Science at the service of the sick

Faustino studied medicinal plants and developed remedies that brought relief to many sick people. Science, for him, was a form of charity. Today, researchers, pharmacists, doctors and nurses carry on this service.

Prayer: Saint Faustino, bless all who care for the sick, and may their knowledge always serve life and the dignity of every person.

Today: Pray for a doctor, nurse or pharmacist you know.

Day 6: Healing souls

Father Faustino spent long hours in the confessional and was a sought-after spiritual director. He knew that the deepest healing is that of the heart reconciled with God.

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace of a sincere conversion and the joy of your forgiveness.

Today: Prepare to go to confession, or make a careful examination of conscience.

Day 7: Girls deserve to learn

Faustino saw that girls were the forgotten ones in the education of his time. In 1885, he founded the Daughters of the Divine Shepherdess so that girls, especially poor girls, could receive a solid human and Christian education. Even today, millions of girls in the world are denied schooling.

Prayer: Saint Faustino, watch over girls who cannot go to school, and over women who struggle for their dignity.

Today: Support, in some way, an initiative for the education of girls.

Day 8: Mary, the Divine Shepherdess

Faustino placed his congregation under the protection of Mary, honored as the Divine Shepherdess, who leads her children tenderly to Christ. Mary guides us as a mother and a shepherdess.

Prayer: Mary, Divine Shepherdess, lead me and those I love to your Son, Jesus.

Today: Pray a decade of the Rosary for a family member.

Day 9: A fruitful old age

In Getafe, Faustino went on teaching, hearing confessions and preparing remedies until he died at the age of ninety-three. Old age can still be a time of great fruitfulness when it is lived in love.

Prayer: Saint Faustino, pray for the elderly, that they may feel useful and loved, and for the sick who are waiting for healing.

Today: Visit or call an elderly or sick person.

Closing prayer

> *God our Father, you made Saint Faustino Míguez a teacher of the young, a servant of the sick and a minister of your forgiveness. Through his intercession, bless educators and health care workers, open the doors of school to every child, and grant healing to the sick if it is your will. I entrust to you my intention: (name it). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

To know him better, read the life of Saint Faustino Míguez or pray the prayer to Saint Faustino Míguez.

CREDITS

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