

Fundación Focus

The Focus Foundation offers the traditional yearly mass on the occasion of St. Ferdinand's Day

- The mass will be held on Tuesday, 30 May at 12.00, in the church of the Hospital de los Venerables with an accompanying organ recital played by Father José Enrique Ayarra.

Seville, 29 May, 2017 - On Tuesday, 30 May, the Focus Foundation will hold the traditional mass to celebrate St. Ferdinand's Day, Seville's patron saint, and also the patron saint of the church of los Venerables.

The event will begin at 12:00 midday with a solemn mass that will be officiated by Father Fernando García Gutiérrez S.J., the Diocesan Deputy for Cultural Heritage of the Diocese of Seville. The accompanying music recital will be performed by Father José Enrique Ayarra who is the organist for the Focus Foundation and Seville's Cathedral. This year he will be playing the following pieces:

- **Entrance:** *Prelude in C-minor* (J. S. Bach).
- **Offertory:** *Gavotte (Concierto nº 3)* (G. F. Haendel).
- **Communion:** *Coral Jesus bleibet (Cantata 147)* (J. S. Bach).
- **Exit:** *Pilgrim's Chorus* (R. Wagner)

The Baroque organ in the Hospital de los Venerables is an extraordinary instrument that is unique in Seville. It was built by the prestigious German organ player G. Grenzig in 1991, by order of the Foundation for the Church of the Hospital de los Venerables Sacerdotes. The organ has been recognized as a fundamental instrument used by the Focus Foundation in spreading culture and bringing it closer to society.

José Enrique Ayarra Jarne

Jose Enrique Ayarra has been the organist of the Chapel of Los Venerables ever since the Focus Foundation commissioned Gerhard Grenzing to build an organ for this church in Seville, in 1998. As an organist, he has performed in recitals in more than thirty countries in Europe, Africa, America and Asia. He has recorded over a dozen of them on radio and television and has also recorded albums on organs at different European schools.

Fundación Fondo de Cultura de Sevilla (Focus)

The Fundación Fondo de Cultura de Sevilla (Focus) was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas*

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Sevillanos (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period.

This cultural activity inspired and promoted by Abengoa, is based on the support and a series of activities which is of great benefit to society. The Focus Foundation was born from this conviction at the start of the 80s.

1991 became a key year in the organization's recent history as its location was moved to the Hospital de los Venerables Sacerdotes, a 17th century monument, owned by the Archbishopric of Seville in addition to inaugurating the exceptional baroque organ. From this point onward, the institution has organized 34 plastic arts exhibitions- visited by over one million people and continues to offer a musical program for the organ of international reference.

Since 2007 and following the acquisition of Velázquez's *Santa Rufina* by the Foundation, the Hospital de los Venerables has housed the *Diego Velázquez Research Centre*, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist. Attention to this crucial moment of the Golden Age is completed with the legacy of Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, received by the Foundation in 2011. Consisting of his library, photo library, archive and collection of artworks, its cataloging is enabling to create a library specializing in Baroque art and culture. This entire heritage is widely spread by Focus Educa, our area of education, by means of which we raise awareness and bring culture closer to society.

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