

AMICI DI ALBERTO E CARLA

June 2016
English version



JUBILEE OF MERCY

Pope Frances, with the bull of April 11th 2015 has announced the extraordinary Jubilee of mercy that started on December 8th and will end on November 20th, 2016. Our Magazine wants to share the Pope's invitation to show the merciful face of the Church.

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. The mystery of the Christian faith seems to find its synthesis in this word.

It has become alive, visible and reached its climax in Jesus of Nazareth "[...]"

We always need to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a source of joy, serenity and peace. It is a condition of our salvation.

Mercy: is the word that reveals the mystery of the SS. Trinity.

Mercy: is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us.

Mercy: is the basic law that lives in the heart of every person when a person looks with sincere eyes to a brother met on the journey of life.

Mercy is the link that unites God and man, because it opens the heart to the hope of always being loved despite our limits and our sins".

Alberto and Carla were true witnesses of God's mercy. Their faith led them to often beg God for mercy on the journey of their lives. They were sure that they were not going to be able to do anything good if God had not blessed them with his merciful love.

Alberto used to say: *"How do I feel small in front of your great goodness and mercy!" Jesus, I have absolute trust in your infinite mercy," "Lord I put my life in your merciful hands".*

Carla: *"God, in his infinite mercy, looked down on me. Mercy is love, God is merciful love. His plans are always merciful".*

Alberto and Carla believed in God's mercy and they have become themselves mercy for their brothers: they put into practice the material and spiritual works of mercy. In this issue of the magazine, in two articles, we highlight the impact of mercy in their lives.

"It will be a way - as the Pope says - to awaken our consciousness, often dormant in front of the problem of poverty and to enter more and more in the heart of the Gospel".



MERCY: PERFECTION OF GOD AND MAN

*not only must we believe in the mercy of God,
but we ourselves must become
merciful toward every man*

In Matthew's Gospel we read: *"Be as perfect as your heavenly Father"* (Mt 5, 48). Luke transforms Matthew's words into perhaps something closer to the essence of man and says: *"Be as merciful as your Father"* (Lk 6,36). He wants to precise that God and man's "perfection" comes from their mercy, which means "be compassionate to the poor": "Grace, mercy and peace be with you" is the comforting wish that often Jude, John, Paul and Peter bestowed on their disciples.

This word - and the concept that expresses - is for us as a new light of truth that we get from the Gospels and thanks to the teaching of Pope Francis; it also is the truth on which the saints have built their "life": they received it as a gift, simply because they have felt themselves in need of it.

Even in the Alberto's Diary and Letters we often find mercy as an attribute of God. Alberto lives it as a help that God gives us on our way toward holiness, to support what otherwise will remain just a good intention:

"I want to follow the path of the saints, Jesus, give me the necessary strength. Grant

me the grace to live a more intimate inner life, defeating all the temptations of the world.

Jesus, I have total trust in you and in your infinite mercy" (Diary, March 16, 1939).

He perceives it as compassion toward the fragility of men and as forgiveness of sins: *"I, o Lord, in spite of having sinned against you so many times, even though I fell too often, I call to Thee, Father of mercy, Lamb of God, that I may be able to keep my heart pure, white, shining.*

May the divine and heavenly light radiate to my heart, enfolding it in its shining halo, surrounding it with his heavenly perfume, overflowing it with the Living Water and may the vivifying Dew protect it from the darkness of the world and sin, and may defend it from the deceptions of the devil, may it stir toward the most heroic virtues". (Diary, January 1938).

He perceives it as mercy, consolation, proximity to children and those who are tried by grief:

"Dear Pratelli,

... I am close to you with my heart and with my fervent prayer to the Lord the infinite Mercy, although my commitments have

held me away from Rimini for a long time.

I who, from painful personal experience, know what such a loss means, and I know that in similar circumstances any human comfort has little to no value, I want to repeat only the gentle and sweet words of Jesus: "Come to me all you who are breathless and burdened, and I will refresh you.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Be assured that the Lord never forgets his faithful servants, and indeed, prayed and glorified by one more blessed person, He will cover those who remain with even more abundant blessings." (Massa Lombarda, September 22, 1937).

His faith in God's mercy, which often becomes prayer, leads him to become himself a mirror of the mercy of the Father in the gift of himself to others. In Alberto mercy and love toward our neighbor end up being synonyms: "Each city must provide for his works of mercy and charity", writes



Marilena in July 1946; "and Jesus, give me your will, your firmness of purpose, Your immense love for men and their miseries", she had written a few years earlier in the Diary. (10 October 1940).

They are not just good intentions. He is every action becomes the demonstration of that love which he draws from the Eucharist. "The final judgment will be based on justice, but also love. Jesus will ask the souls : "I came to ask you for food but you did not give me any; I asked you a drink and you denied me one etc... " "But I, oh Jesus, have never seen you. ' "And you did not consider the poor and the destitute? Don't

you know that every poor person was me? And now go into the everlasting fire. "And however he will say to the merciful : "You have given me food, drink etc. and now you will be blessed forever.

Let's turn into reality St Paul's sentence: «Caritas Christi urget nos», in every moment of our life, in every action. «Caritas Christi urget nos», " if we do not wish , in the presence God, to be shamed and thrown into the everlasting fire. «Caritas Christi urget nos», e specially in these times in which we can more easily practice our charity, both moral and material, to great advantage for us and for others."

In him mercy becomes forgiveness of offenses, received during the months of his city office, effort in the works of spiritual mercy, because the reconstruction of conscience is as important as the reconstruction of houses; and in the name of the charity he reforms the group of Catholic graduates and the People's University.

He becomes, during the long years of war, attention and aid to

those left without a friendly face and that are hungry, thirsty, that have no shoes, no clothes, no home.

Cinzia Motevecchi



ALBERTO MARVELLI ON THE INTERNET

- www.chiesa.rimini.it/albertomarvelli: life, pictures, writings, spirituality, prayers, magazines and publications.
- **Facebook page and profile:** www.facebook.com/centro.marvelli to follow the events, activities, publications, tours.
- **Twitter (@centromarvelli):** to receive a daily Alberto Marvelli's sentence

CARLA, HANDMAID OF MERCY

in this Jubilee year of Divine mercy Graziella Goths retraces the journey of Carla in the path of the charism of the secular Institute "Mater Misericordiae"

God, in his infinite mercy, has looked upon and claimed for himself Carla, still a teenage girl looking for her vocation. Carla welcomes the "call" with all the enthusiasm of her young heart: "God is mercy!"

After a nice and holy confession, she leaves her past behind and never dwells on it anymore: she has found a precious "pearl" and will never let go of it again.

Carla will describe her past to her spiritual director in the following way: she would say that she was so bad that the "Divine Mercy of the Lord" was necessary to free her from a bad situation in which she felt "torn" and she retained this conviction for all her life. God is Mercy!

The merciful God, in his infinite tenderness and paternal benevolence, was pleased with her and after a long journey has introduced her to His spiritual family: "Handmaids of God Mercy" to make her more intimately involved in the ministry of the spousal love between Christ and the Church.

She lives this spirituality with all her youthful energy, she considers herself a privileged instrument of the parish apostolate, in the education of the youth for many parishes, in helping the elderly and the children; Carla became evangelical ferment of everyday realities, "Itinerant

sacrament of Divine Mercy": she would do all this without ever forgetting her commitments to her own family and kinship. Mercy is love-service.

Carla, day after day, with actions, prayer, sacraments, has become the object of particular love, comfort and joy of the Three Divine Persons: grateful to the Lord for her divine call, she has opened her heart to be loved and to be "own" only by he who, in her, has brought to perfection the nuptial bond of baptism to let her exclaim: *"if God is in me, I'm a living tabernacle."*

The heart of Carla had space only for Christ, she followed him on a path of sharing, giving and total identification with him. Carla's look and her always smiling face is still alive in the people who have had the fortune of meeting her and having her close; like myself.

She would write to the institute's director: *"despite all the occupations and distractions that surround me, I always have in of me front and in my heart words, examples, and my total consecration to God and this helps me to overcome many things.*

I'm happy, my dear lady, happy with a kind of joy that I have never experienced before, I feel joy in living, forgiving, loving my spouse, and all the souls ... "

She transmitted the same joy to the training teacher: *"and now I am here to tell you that I'm happy: happy to fight, to suffer, to*

live, happy with everything that comes from my spouse, because even if many times it feels like we are dying, even if nature rebels, in the depths of our souls there is so much peace to make everything alright and knowing that he is always with me, especially in hard times, always gives me the strength to keep walking joyfully". Her program is wonderful: *"I have to blossom where God has planted me."*

Mercy is love, God is merciful love. Carla takes on with great joy and emotion the evangelical charism of virginity, poverty and obedience in which are summarized the sentiments of Christ that have enabled her to live only for him, as he give himself and to be at the exclusive and permanent service of God's infinite mercy in the joy of the Holy spirit.

Carla has received in her life the mercy of God and she strived to be, to testify and to implement mercy towards his brothers and towards God himself who asks us to be merciful. He suffers immensely because man not accepting his love, risk to be eternally ruined.

Carla has lived her life in full , total, joyful accordance with God's will and His plans are always merciful.

Graziella Goti



BOOKS TO READ AND TO PONDER

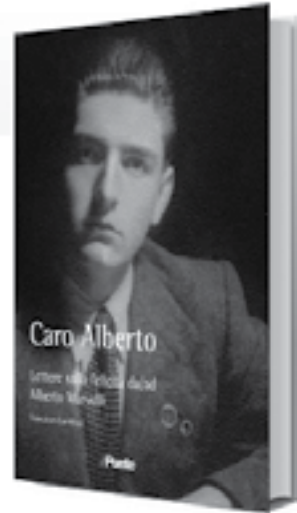
Caro Alberto

To close the year dedicated to Alberto, Bishop Francesco Lambiasi has published the homilies he held during the liturgical feast of the Blessed (Alberto): ten “letters”, sent by Alberto to teenagers or from the bishop to Alberto, eight of which are meditations on the beatitudes as they are told by the evangelist Matthew. It is a “dialogue” between earth and sky, between those who have already passed the bridge of life and those who are still struggling with time. A dialogue that has happiness as its core.

“Where then happiness lives? Not very far, indeed very close.” Those are Alberto’s words, who assures us that, despite everything, the way to happiness is possible. His life and his teachings are there to testify that even in the rubble of war and the effort of rebuilding, suffering can be overcome with love, death with life, despair with hope. The “secret” is all about letting Christ come with His love in our personal history, because we can be “the filmmakers of the charity of Christ in the world”, allowing him to become our traveling companion so that he can teach us to “become host” for the brothers; accepting his mercy so that we can be able to weep with those who weep; relying on his smile, so that we can learn docility, humility, tolerance, patience; enjoying his peace, to become ourselves peacemakers.

MONS. FRANCESCO LAMBIASI, *Caro Alberto*, Ed. il Ponte, 7 €.

(You can request a copy of the book at the Documentation Centre A. Marvelli).



In the sign of Mercy

In the sign of mercy. A new book about Carla Ronci that makes us say: *we will never get to know our Carla quite well.*

The two authors: Consuelo Manzoli and Maria Angela Canisio, both teachers of religious sciences, told the story of Carla in great detail of both bibliographical references, but especially with warm and friendly participation.

The book is divided into three parts: the life of Carla, her education and the history of the Mater Misericordiae Center. Flipping through the pages of the book we meet a living Carla, modern, which seems to want to talk directly to us and to provoke us into shaking up our sleepy consciences.



MANZOLI CONSUELO AND MARIA ANGELA CANISIO, *IN THE NAME OF MERCY*, Ed. EDUCATIONAL PASSION MATERA 2015, € 12, (THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE MARVELLI).

GEDE MARVELLI

For her Alberto Marvelli
was like a father

On October 19th, 2015 Gede Marvelli, sister of the Blessed Alberto, has returned to the House of the Father.

She was the last of the seven Marvelli's siblings and the only one who was born in Rimini, on August 2nd, 1932. She was only seven months old when her dad Alfredo suddenly died. She was the only one who stayed in Rimini with her mother, after her brothers had moved far away for work.

In 1958 she married an industrial worker in Caviago (RE).

When Albert tragically died on October 5th, 1946 Gede was only 14 years old. Yet the memory of his brother remained alive in her, for he had been for her the father she never had never known. With her mother she carried on the work of charity, which Alberto had started.

Gede was very similar to Alberto, not only physically, but especially in her mind strength and spiritual depth; she was determined and resourceful, generous and always willing to talk about Alberto to anyone who invited her for an event or a conference.

She often came to Rimini to pray on Alberto's grave and to visit the Documentation Center, of which she was a strong supporter. She had contributed to the creation of the Marvelli's Archive, by donating many precious objects and books that belonged to Alberto.

She was anxiously awaiting her mother's biography - just recently released - for



which she had made a valuable contribution.

She had never missed the celebration on October 5th in memory of Alberto; the only exception was this year, when because of illness, she had lost her independence.

She has suffered much, not so much physically, but spiritually. She could not stand having to be locked in the house, without being able to go to the parish to continue the charity work, to which she had totally dedicated her life.

You can safely say that she was incarnating Alberto's spirit, his faith, his abandonment to the will of God. Gede still lives in the hearts of all those who knew her and have appreciated her qualities.

We like to think that Alberto, her mother, and her brothers have welcomed her in Heaven; where the family, after the painful human experiences, is once again reunited in the light of the Lord.

(f.l.)

WORLD NEWS



Carla Ronci speaks several languages

The Religious Congregation Family of Mary in Rome (Aricea) publishes an interesting magazine, called *"Triumph of the heart"*, which is translated into various languages (English, French, German) and spread throughout the world.

In the October 2015 issue (pp. 22-25) there is an extensive article with gorgeous colored picture of Carla Ronci.

A seminarian from Poland

I am a seminarian of the seminar in the diocese of Pelpin. I pray the Lord to send us many saints to show us his holiness.

Carla Ronci and Alberto Marvelli are two inspirations for me: they are role models in the commitment and love to God and to the neighbor.



I would like to know more about them, so I ask you to send me prints and pictures and a relic.

I am committed to make their history, their lives

and quality known here. In a few years I will become a priest: I pray to them for their protection.

Sem. Szynon Chamier Cieminski

From Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Dear friends,

my name is Alexander and I would like a relic of the dear and venerable Carla Ronci, for my personal devotion and my prayer group.

I have converted to Catholicism just four years ago and I now feel the need to have young pure and holy Carla next to me to support my faith.

I would also like to help making her deeds known here.

Pray for my family who is going through a difficult time due to health reasons.

The Salesians celebrate Marvelli

On the occasion of Don Bosco's bicentenary and at the conclusion of the Marvelli's year, the Salesian family of Rimini, along with the Maria SS. Ausiliatrice parish, has welcomed the Rector Major Ángel Fernández Artime, the tenth successor of Don Bosco.

The rich program of the two day event (November 17th-18th, 2015) began in the church of St. Augustine at Alberto Marvelli's tomb in the presence of the Rector Major and a large group of Salesian leaders, national and provincial, and some diocesan priests.

The Salesian cooperator and collaborator of the Marvelli's Center, Ardea Montebelli, had presented in a brief and poignant meditation Alberto's spirituality in his Salesian roots.

The following Sunday the Rector Major presided the Eucharistic concelebration with

numerous Salesians and diocesan priests; at the end he blessed the painting of the blessed Alberto, located in the church, near the altar.

The Rector Major, in the Christmas present - a copy of a speech that he sends to the



the Rector major with Ardea Montebelli by Alberto's tomb

whole

Salesian family scattered throughout the world - had presented Alberto as role model for holiness.

Salesian Spirituality Day

The 34th edition of the spirituality Day of the Salesian family, entitled "*Together with Jesus we walk the adventure of the spirit!*"



was held in the executive Salesian house in Rome, from January 14th to the 17th 2016.

There were present more than three hundred people, clergymen and lay, coming from all the countries in which Salesians operate; Simultaneous translation was available in five languages.

At the round table of the second day was also present Professor Elizabeth Casadei, vice-postulator of the cause of beatification of Alberto Marvelli, who had presented Alberto's spiritual journey with a broad and documented report.

Opening with Alberto's life-summary-sentence, Love never rests, she then proceeded to talk about the three pillars of his spirituality: prayer, action and sacrifice.

Solidarity in Reggio Calabria in the name of Alberto

The young founders of the Solidarity Center of Reggio Calabria dedicated to Alberto Marvelli tell us their story: the solidarity Center "Alberto Marvelli" was born on December 5th, 2005, as a place for the promotion of volunteering and youth meeting.

The Center focuses mainly on gathering and distributing food to the families in need in the municipality of Reggio Calabria through agreements signed since 2007 with the food Bank Foundation NGO. Furthermore since 2007 the center has also been helping struggling students with the creation of centers which goal is to prevent the risk of dropping for the students involved; It organizes cultural activities such as the organization of exhibitions, film forums, books' presentations and a

guide to classical music listening; the center had also briefly helped with job search through the "Sportello Lavoro", a program that aims to effectively put in contact employees with employers.

The Center had proposed throughout the years many initiatives in support of AVSI Foundation (association of Volunteers for International Development) in the city with fundraising concerts and stands.

The Centre "Alberto Marvelli" adheres to the Federation of Solidarity Centres and National association of "Saint Catherine of Siena" with which it was and it currently is a partner in various projects, especially supporting socialization and social networking, aimed at families and aimed to end every forms of social exclusion.

Every effort in general aims to develop a set of personal skills and a sense of active citizenship as a model to compare and replicate.

