

AMICI DI ALBERTO E CARLA

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OF BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI AND OF THE VENERABLE CARLA RONCI



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AS CHRISTIANS, IN POLITICS

The presence of Catholics in politics is a recurring theme in different moments of our history and it is today more prominent than ever.

We would like to take into account here the example of a young Christian from the last century, Alberto Marvelli, whose political activism is of great relevance today. "A worker of charity", he considered his commitment in politics as the highest expression of living faith. He took in what Pius XI said in 1927 in a meeting with the young members of the Catholic students' union (FUCI) "politics is where a broader charity can be practiced: political charity". Alberto perceived and lived his commitment in politics as a service of charity to the community.

He was convinced that it was only through political commitment that the ideals of solidarity and justice, which the Church preached and which he knew well from reading the papal encyclicals, could be put into practice.

His political activism led him to develop open and even bold ideas for his time.

"The Gospel must be the norm of life not only for individuals, but for the peoples,

nations and governments of the world". "It is now time to shake hands with each other fraternally, to proceed with the immense work that awaits us in all fields of social and national life".

For him, politics was love, the extreme consequence of social charity and an instrument of truth.

His life, his deeds spoke louder than his words.

"We must work in the grace of God". That was the spirit in which he approached politics, without partisan interests, false ambitions, or a search for personal gain; he was only guided by the awareness that a just and supportive society needed to be built and this was possible for him only in and with the grace of God.

Political commitment as a service, coherence of words and life, serving without taking advantage; attention to those most in need, collaboration with everyone, even with political opponents: these are the principles of a supportive and constructive political action emerging from his writings, to which Alberto always remained faithful.

ALBERTO MARVELLI ON THE INTERNET

- www.chiesa.rimini.it/albertomarvelli: life, photos, writings, spirituality, prayers, magazines, and publications.
- **Facebook** profile and page: www.facebook.com/centro.marvelli to follow events, activities, publications, visits.
- **Twitter (@centromarvelli)**: to receive a phrase by Alberto Marvelli on a daily basis

60 YEARS OF MONSIGNOR FAUSTO LANFRANCHI'S PRIESTHOOD

On Sunday 23rd June we celebrated 60 years of priesthood of Msgr. Fausto Lanfranchi. Faithful shepherd, strong and serene leader, discreet friend. Thanking the Lord for having sent him to our Church, we would like to once again express our sincere esteem and affection, grateful for the treasures of experience and wisdom he continues to offer us with humble generosity.



CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE AND COMMITTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

There are so many ways to holiness that we have come to know and admire in the two-thousand-year of the Church's history. There is no doubt that the one taken by Alberto Marvelli is a rather rare and original way to holiness. What I mean by this is that Alberto's life and work represent one of the most shining examples of how it is possible to pursue both contemplative life and active commitment in the community. As Augustine pointed out, charity itself requires contemplation not to neglect active life. This idea will then be developed by Thomas Aquinas when, discussing the relationship between the two lifestyles, he pointed out that it makes no sense to give up or sacrifice the former in favour of the latter. Alberto provided a great example of how true this recommendation is.

Much has already been said and written about this illustrious citizen of Rimini. Thanks to the historical reconstruction by Cinzia Montevecchi and others, we know practically everything about his life and achievements. I therefore prefer to focus here on how the social and political dimension fulfilled at the highest level by Alberto can fit in the category of sanctity, that daily sanctity on which Pope Francis recently dwelled in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exultate*. This is the sanctity that manages to balance faith and the realism, avoiding the risk of moralism and utopia. Alberto's sanctity is that of a Christian who does not teach a spiritual doctrine without mysticism, nor practices

virtue without grace.

It is customary to attribute moral nihilism to Nietzsche, but it can actually be traced back to Judas. Evangelists Mark, Matthew and John place the origin of the Jewish betrayal in the moment when Jesus was anointed by Mary in the house of Lazarus. Seeing the bewilderment on the faces of those present because Jesus was being proclaimed as the Messiah (that is, anointed) by a woman, Judas says: "why wasn't this fragrant oil sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (Jn 12, 5). Here is the real danger of community action: by raising the "veil of money" in front of the disciples, Judas obtains that these "do not see" Jesus anymore - who is the true wealth - they just see three hundred denarii. Just like those who do not resist the Pelagian temptation, Judas declares that his only purpose is to help the poor. The poor, here, are being exploited, and used to cover up the perverse plans of the unfaithful apostle. It is against this sneaky risk of neo-Machiavellism that Alberto has constantly fought during his too short earthly existence.

Although being a very kind person - as we learn from his correspondence and the many testimonies - he was always a stark critic of those lines of thought that he considered extremist. Nothing would be more far away from the truth than to consider his kindness as a penchant for indulgence or compromise. He was patient, but firm in

his intentions not to fall through. Alberto has fulfilled the famous prophecy by cardinal Newman: "The time has come for Catholics, who live by faith, to defend reason, in order to be considered as such. And reason tells us that the time has come for Catholics who want to engage more in the society, to defend their nation state, but not just any nation state, the nation state that represents the civil society". If the goal of politics is to take care of the wellbeing of human beings, then its foundation must be sought in the idea of "being together". This is why charity like *philia* was never enough for Alberto. His great contribution to post-modern culture is that of having brought back charity considered as an *agape*, freeing it from the suffocating atmosphere of the private sector.

The words Coluccio Salutati - a great humanist of the fifteenth century and a successful merchant - wrote to Fra Raf-

faello Bonciani, in the twilight of his life, are well suited to interpret Alberto's life: "Standum est in acie, conserendae manus, luctandum pro iustitia, pro veritate, pro honestate". (We must remain in the battle, committed, fighting for justice, for truth, for honesty). Praise be therefore to Alberto Marvelli and to the extraordinary living witness he gave, may he inspire others who decide to follow in his footsteps. The editorial initiative that Caritas Italiana and Rerum.eu have decided to carry out is therefore undoubtedly praiseworthy. The cultural and educational project dedicated to great personalities of the twentieth century is like a "voice" that pushes us to cut the ties and venture into the open sea: this is the only way to overcome rampant misoneism and paralyzing apathy towards life (from the Preface of *Trasparente come il vetro*, Caritas Italiana and Rerum.eu, 2019).

Stefano Zamagni



CARLA RONCI, THE WITNESS OF LIGHT: HOLINESS IN AN EXHIBITION

"The journey towards holiness is the journey towards that Light that comes to meet us". These words of Pope Francis

well exemplify the meaning of the call to holiness: a road that can be taken by many, that each one of us is invited to follow, each with their own personal vocation.

From May 11th until June 7th last year, among the many initiatives that took place in Reggio Emilia for the 56th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, an interesting exhibition was held on witnesses of the faith in Emilia Romagna, curated by Fabiana Guerra. Ten panels dedicated to ten lay-persons or consecrated ministers from different times and places whose life was characterized by the total adherence to the Father's project. The consecrated laywoman Carla Ronci, who was truly in love with Jesus, was chosen to represent the diocese of Rimini. A brilliant light in the firmament of contemporary holiness, her strength and at the same time confident abandon to

the tenderness of God made her ordinary life extraordinary. Below is the text of the panel dedicated to Carla Ronci.

Carla was born in Rimini on 11th April 1936 and died of cancer in Rimini at the age of 33, offering her life especially for the sanctification of priests.

"From the moment I was born, I set out on a journey to Heaven", she wrote at the age of 21, and her journey was indeed marked by joys, sorrows, hardships, temptations and desires, tears and consolations: that's life.

She was a beautiful, modern and dynamic girl. The picture shows her on her Vespa: she could never keep still, both mentally and physically.

"I dress with modesty and elegance and try to make people understand, with my life, that Christianity lived is not a cross, but joy" (Letters). She designed and sewed her own clothes, because she was a very good seamstress and she always wanted

We renewed the site of Carla Ronci and uploaded her thoughts on Twitter and Facebook

www.chiesa.rimini.it/carlaronci

Twitter: search "Carla Ronci"

Facebook: go to the profile of Father Dino Paesani.

If you want to get in touch with the Secular Institute "Ancelle di Dio Misericordia"

Headquarters: via don Minzoni, 25 - 62100 - Macerata

Tel. 0733.230661 - fax 0733.236538

National headquarters: via Marconi, 2/4 - 60025 Loreto (Ancona); cell. 338 5064196

e-mail: bertonimariarosa@gmail.com

to look good.

What stands out, reading her Diary, is a healthy restlessness, a constant search for God's will and the desire to make Jesus - who was both her love and "torment"- known to others.

"I want to blossom where God has sown me," she used to say.

Carla is a consecrated layperson. She made her profession of vows on 6th January 1963, in the Secular Institute "Ancelle Mater Misericordiae" of Macerata, but even before this important stage, she was already following a Rule of Life agreed upon with her spiritual director. Delegate of Catholic Action and involved in a thousand activities in her parish, she also opened the "Cenacle of the little ones" in order to arouse priestly, missionary and religious vocations: she had a real gift to educate and guide young people with whom she spent a lot of time, listening to them with great tenderness.

She soon developed a relationship of serene trust with the girls she taught catechism to, so much so that they spontaneously asked to meet her for individual counselling. She understood that education is based on personal relationships.

"How wonderful it is, Jesus, to live among adolescents. It is difficult to understand them, and you have to be patient and take care of them, but it is wonderful, so wonderful!"

"My task is to bring Jesus into the world," she wrote, a mission that she took very seriously, especially after her time with the Ursuline Sisters when she saw her convent experience being interrupted both because her father was fiercely against her taking the vows, and because the Sisters themselves had understood that Carla's vocation was to live outside of the convent.

Step by step, always with a smile on her lips, Carla followed Jesus living her life as

a young consecrated layperson: she loved deeply and was loyal to the sacraments of Confession, which she often made, and the Eucharist which she received daily.

"The thought that touched me most is this: God is in me; I am a living tabernacle".

And she became increasingly aware of this: "In the communion I receive Jesus so that he lives in me and for me: Jesus, I want to live of you; you must reveal yourself to others through my poor life".

The Eucharist was always in the first place for Carla, who was a sensitive soul, always careful not to fail Jesus, not out of fear, but out of the growing love she felt for him.

When Carla fell ill, she was hospitalized and went through moments of intense pain and dullness, because she felt she had been abandoned, but also moments of comfort in Jesus.

"My heart in tatters and a smile on my lips: this is our mission in these days; despite everything I feel that life is wonderful".

And so went the last days of her earthly life. Those who visited her could see that she was tired, but at the same time joyful and always ready to listen to those who confided their sorrows or asked her for advice: their teacher, the mother of all. Her cancer was nevertheless implacable. On 2nd April 1970 Carla died, serene and lucid, after receiving the Extreme Unction, with these words on her lips: "Here comes the groom". Bending her head over her joined hands, without a whimper.

Her beautiful phrase will stay with us forever: "Only saints leave traces, everybody else makes just noise". Carla was proclaimed Venerable by John Paul II in 1997. Courtesy of the author, the text was used for the panel that the Documentation Centre and the parish priest Don Giancarlo Rossi put in the parish church of Torre Pedrera for the 50th anniversary of the birth of Venerable Carla Ronci.

by Cinzia Tedeschi

ALBERTO MARVELLI

From the United States



Good morning,
I would like to know if there is any literature on Blessed Alberto Marvelli in English. I'm looking for a biography and, in particular, for his Diary.
I would also like to know if there are any medals of Blessed Alberto and how to receive them.

Joseph Yodzis (Lewisville)

From the Philippines

We look forward to the celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines in 2021 with the theme: "500 YOC: Gifted to Give". (Mt 10, 8). We are glad to be part of the great family of Christ and our aposto-

late aims to remind not only the Filipinos, but also the whole world that, regardless of the colour of our skin, gender, and the different lives we live making us all different, that we are all called to be God's "champions". We would like to present to young people the lives of saints from different corners of the earth, to show that the call to holiness is for everyone, wherever they come from. We believe that the lives of Blessed Alberto Marvelli and Venerable Carla Ronci are a great testimony for today's youth in their search for holiness and we hope that their stories will touch the hearts of young people so that they can find inspiration.

In the name of the "Solidarity of All Saints" I would like to ask for the relics of Blessed Alberto and Venerable Carla to promote a campaign to raise awareness on our vocation to holiness. May our apostolate and devotion to the saints be a way to deepen our faith in God. As we connect with their lives and sacred relics, may we be blessed, healed, inspired and sanctified!

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo wrote: "I strongly encourage the parishes and churches of the Diocese to embrace this commitment so that every believer may have the opportunity to benefit from these treasures of the Church who promote spiritual enrichment for all. May each relic give us new momentum and be an example to follow to become the saints of the future. All for the greatest glory of God! Deo Grati-
as!

In Christ Jesus,

Bro. John Robert B. Obias
(Pugay San Jose, Camarines Sur)

CARLA RONCI

From Brazil

We contacted you some time ago to request the relics of Blessed Alberto Marvelli and the venerable Carla Ronci that we presented to the community and to young people! After some lessons to know more about them and their lives, we have chosen them as patrons of the youth group of the parish. Our pastor would therefore like to ask you if you could kindly send us novenas and texts that will further deepen our knowledge of Alberto and Carla, so that we grow through our devotion to the saints. We would also like to ask for a relic to be displayed in the shrine so that, while we get to know their lives better, we can also venerate them. We send a picture of the celebration of a Holy Mass in which the parish group is gathered. Please pray for us, so that we can be firm in the faith and communicate it with joy to our youth. Also, do not forget a prayer for vocations. Blessed Alberto Marvelli and Venerable Carla Ronci, pray for us!

Nathan Afonso (Nova Iguacù)

From the Philippines

Praised be Jesus and Mary, now and forever!

The saints are true champions of God and heroes of both heaven and earth. They have inspired us with their humility and unshakeable faith, they have suffered and accepted humiliation, criticism, pain and hardships only to be able to serve and love God. Their relics serve as an invitation to sincere prayer to obtain the graces that we desire from the Lord. They are tangible signs of the presence and mercy of God, who sends the saints to us to sustain our faith and our life journey towards Him. In relation to this I, Jerny M. Lavador, would like to ask you for a relic of Venerable Carla Ronci to spread her devotion in our parish. I hope and pray for a generous answer from your part. I assure you, on behalf of the parish community, that we will always be grateful to you and help spread the devotion to Venerable Carla Ronci.

May Jesus, the Lord of the harvest, for the intercession of Venerable Carla Ronci, send other holy workers to her Church.

In Christ,

Jerny M. Lavador (Cebu)8

BOOKS TO READ AND MEDITATE

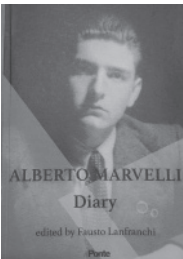


M. Taroni, *Alberto Marvelli - Una vita fatta dono*, Editrice Velar, Gorle (Bg) 2018 - pp. 47, € 4,00

It is a little book that is part of the rich collection (over 600 titles) "Messaggeri d'amore", edited by Velar. Using the testimonies collected in the canonical process, the author traces in a few chapters the life of the Blessed, with particular attention to the family and social context, which he brings out also through a rich repertoire of images.

M. Taroni, *Carla Ronci - Un cuore grande*, Editrice Velar, Gorle (Bg) 2018 - pp. 47, € 4,00

It is another small volume of the series "Messaggeri d'amore", with which the author, with his usual agility, reconstructs Carla's life from her carefree adolescence in Torre Pedrera, to the "discovery" of her vocation, culminating in the consecration in the institute secular "Ancelle Mater misericordiae", up to the sufferings of the illness offered for the good of the priests. As it applies to the whole series, this volume is also very rich in photos that portray Carla in the various moments of her life and show the faces of her many friends.



ALBERTO MARVELLI, *Diary*, edited by F. Lanfranchi, Ed. *ilPonte*, 2019 - pp. 71

It is the English translation of Alberto's Diary, kept in the archive of the Centro Marvelli. The translation and printing were possible thanks to the generosity of a great friend of Alberto, dr. Louis Carnendran, originally from the diocese of Pondicherry in India and cardiologist in Miami.

Those who wish to receive books, brochures, holy cards and devotional material about the Blessed Alberto Marvelli

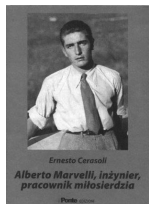
and the Venerable Carla Ronci can ask for them at the Documentation Centre "A. Marvelli": via Cairoli, 69 - 47923 Rimini.

Tel. and Fax: 0541.787183; infocentromarvelli@gmail.com

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS IN LANGUAGE

Alberto

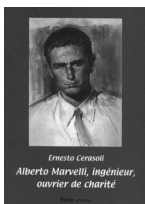
Ernesto Cerasoli



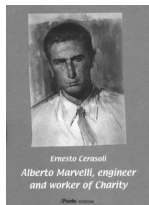
**Alberto Marvelli, inżynier,
pracownik miłosierdzia**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

Ernesto Cerasoli

**Alberto Marvelli, ingénieur, ouvrier
de charité**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24



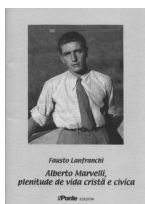
Ernesto Cerasoli



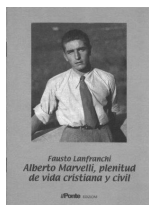
**Alberto Marvelli, engineer and
worker of charity**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

Fausto Lanfranchi

**Alberto Marvelli, plenitude de vida
crista e civica**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

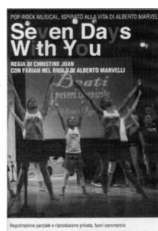


Fausto Lanfranchi



**Alberto Marvelli, plenitud de vida
cristiana y civil**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

**Musical Alberto
"Seven days with you"**



Docu-film



**Siamo fatti per il Cielo.
Alberto Marvelli
una vita tutta di corsa**

Carla

Dépliant



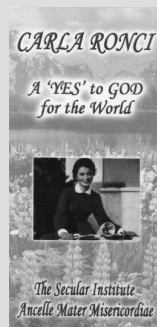
Portoghese



Spagnolo



Italiano



Inglese



Prayer to ask for Venerable Carla Ronci's intercession

Lord, we thank you for bestowing Carla Ronci upon us, and we thank the powerful action of Your Holy Spirit, which blessed her with many gifts. We praise you for her willingness to fully consecrate herself to Jesus Christ through chastity, poverty and obedience; for the great dedication she had to her educational task during her everyday ecclesial commitments; for her willingness to follow her priestly vocation and the sanctification of parishes; for her fervent prayers, which enabled her to endure suffering with strength and serenity; for her simple life the constant help she gave to her neighbours. Father, grant us, through Carla's intercession, the ability to follow our path as virtuously as she did. We also ask you for spiritual and material grace.

If your divine plan allows it, let Carla be beatified and known by the whole Church, for the sake of us and Your glory. Amen.

(Approved by the Church)



Prayer for asking for the intercession of Blessed Alberto Marvelli

Oh God, Almighty Father, rich of mercy,
We thank you for giving in Alberto Marvelli
a sign of your love for us.
We contemplate the wonders that you have created
in his life: his strong life of prayer,
his generous social and political dedication,
his ardent love for the poor.
In any aspect of his life he practised heroically
faith, hope and charity.
We ask you, Father, for the intercession of Alberto,
allow us to imitate his virtues and to become like him
witnesses of Your love in the world.
We also ask you any spiritual and material grace.
We ask you peace and salvation for Your Church,
that Alberto loved and served.

Make Alberto well-known all over the Church
for Your name's glory and honour.

Amen

With ecclesiastical approval