

AMICI DI ALBERTO E CARLA

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SIX-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF INFORMATION ON LIFE, THOUGHT AND WORKS
OF BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI AND OF THE VENERABLE CARLA RONCI



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D.L. 353/2003 (conv. in L. 27/02/2004 n. 46) art. 1 comma 2 e 3 CN/RN

SANCTIFICATION IS A COMMUNITY JOURNEY

The apostolic exhortation about holiness in the contemporary world of Pope Francis has aroused enormous interest in the whole Church, but especially for us of Rivista; for our function to present and propose young modern saints as models.

In some paragraphs (140-146), the exhortation deals with the topic of community, which forces us to pay attention to small details, as an expression of attention, of love, of service.

In fact, sanctification is a community journey.

"It is very difficult to fight against one's own concupiscence and against the hazards of the devil and of the selfish world if we are alone". Our superficiality leads us to live next to others without seeing, without loving, without serving.

Living communion opens up new spaces and new experiences for us to enjoy the presence of the Lord.

Community life is made up of many small

daily details, that is "life in the family, in the parish, in the religious community or in any other community".

Jesus himself invited his disciples to pay attention to details: the lack of wine in Cana, the widow throwing a few odd coins into the treasure of the temple, the foolish virgins left without oil, and many others.

These are details that seem small or marginal, but in fact they are so important to create communion.

They imply a strong sensitivity and attention to the other, forgetting ourselves to give ourselves in a service to our brothers and sisters, and to respond to the profound needs of those living with us.

It is through the small details that the members take care of each other.

And sometimes "in the midst of these small things, we are given consoling experiences of God".



ALBERTO'S "DETAILS"

Among the "characteristics of saints" that Pope Francis enumerates in *Gaudete et exultate*, there is what he calls "attention to details".

These are the details to which "Jesus invites the disciples to pay attention:

The small detail that wine was running out at a party.

The small detail that a sheep was missing.

The small detail of the widow who offered her two coins.

The small detail of having some spare oil for the lamps if the groom is late.

The small detail of asking the disciples to check how many loaves they had.

The small detail of having a small fire ready and some fish on the grill while waiting for the disciples at dawn".

A little oil, a sheep, five loaves, the water turned into wine for those who had already drunk perhaps too much...

Trivial details? Perhaps, but this is the way in which saints have to spread the joy of the Risen Christ.

We found out that even Alberto was attentive to details.

We do not always know them directly from him, because certain attentions come from the heart, without even noticing it. We discover them from the testimonies or, more subtly, from the letters of brothers and sisters, and

friends.

There was no banal or superfluous thing for him, if it could be used to give birth to a smile, relieve a pain, bring relief, make people feel close...

In January 1942, in the middle of the war, after graduating he found a job at Fiat and moved to Turin. Notwithstanding the tension that always involves a new job, in a new environment, far from home, he finds the time and the desire to send Lello, who is about to leave for the military service, some sweets at Epiphany: *"Thank you so much for your Epiphany gift, which we enjoy every evening"*.

Lello writes to him, moved.

To Lello, sent to the icy steppes of Russia, he also sends prayer books, holy pictures, but also comic books, which are literally snapped up by the young people at the front: *"The «Vitt» is selling like hot cakes and I barely have the time to read it"; "In the aforementioned letter you told me you had put in a «Victorious», but instead I found nothing. Maybe the envelope has been torn up a little, they will have seen that there was a newspaper, and zac"*.

For the guys of the parish here are the bike rides, the plays, the snacks, the games, the jokes that he neatly collects in a small column not to forget them. Because even the weapon of ridicule



can be useful in its own way if it serves to unmask the grossest aspects of official language, the clumsiness of those being in power, to undermine the authority of an unfair regime and point the finger, as in fairy tale by Andersen, to show that the king is “naked”.

What could then be more “useless” than thinking about an amateur dramatic society in the days of the disaster in Russia? But for Alberto it is that “detail” that will hopefully help young people live more serene, giving them an idea of normality: *“The performances continue. On Sunday 17th, we will give one that will make people laugh: The mole behind the ear with Miro, Vittorio, Ghinelli, and I”*, he writes to Lello

on 14th January 1943. A letter that his brother will never read...

It is also striking that, during the terrible months of the front, when the Allies opened their way by throwing tons of bombs on our territory, Alberto reminded the young people of his parish, displaced between Cesenatico and Cervia together with their families, the need for membership in Catholic Action. It would seem the concern of one who lives outside the world. Yet, even this is a way of taking care of his young people, to keep them attached to the good life, to overcome the inertia of days spent running without a purpose. A Luciano from Cesenatico writes to him: *“Living idly from morning*

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

to night, I lost any initiative. Your writings reached me one after the other and I wanted to reply immediately, but then I gave up and left it overnight, so that every time I thought of writing, my will rebelled more than the first sometimes and used so many pretexts, among which the greatest was that of shame caused by the delay. I was, in short, in a state of ineptitude from which I could not get out. I finally win thinking that it would be more shameful not to answer. I hope you will accept the proverb "better late than never" as a small extenuating circumstance, but I am convinced that I deserve a couple of slaps, while I am even more confident not to get them".

Not even the risk of bombing (four hundred in eleven months), and the concern for what remains of his family can make him blind to "details"; to discover them, he himself tirelessly walk through the countryside. Once the powdered milk for the newborn who is in danger of starving, once the pot that allows to make the herbs of fields edible, once the shoes for those who must run away to avoid combing, once a bunch of flowers to take to his mother, picked in an abandoned garden. A splinter of beauty in the midst of a hurricane of destruction.

Even during the months

when he is a councillor for reconstruction, in a morally and materially devastated city, he makes great achievements: he finds accommodation for 40,000 people, activates a canteen and a poor man's wardrobe, refurbishes the popular university and the graduate group of Ac, founds a building cooperative ... Just to mention some. But he can also see broken glass in the parish priest's room, the tears of a woman who has walked many kilometres on foot and is in danger of not being able to fix the issue she cares about... And he consoles her with a caress.

Although they are "trivial", they are, as the pope writes, "small details of love", "details" of those who live by taking care of others.



CARLA IN THE PARISH

One of the greatest concerns of the pastors of the Church was that of catechesis.

Pope Pius X reserved fervent recommendations to the educators, so that they could reach the hearts of children. "The catechists – he said – always remember that the fruit of catechism depends almost totally on their zeal, on their intelligence and mastery in making teaching lighter and more acceptable to students".

Carla was one of the catechists the Pope "dreamt of": she knew how to reach the heart of her children more by living than by teaching. As a "full-time catechist", she could understand the problems of her time and her environment. She carefully prepared the meetings with her group and, as a frank and enlightened animator, managed to convey the message with passion and intelligence.

Drawing strength from prayer, she stood beside her girls like a good sister, and enjoyed being part of her gifts to each of them. She was glad and happy to instruct them in faith and to advise them humbly for life.

She was a true gift of the Spirit for the common good.

As a discreet and strong missionary, spending all of herself for the edification of others, she wanted Christ to be "all in all". This is why she had transformed her life into an unconditional acceptance of the Father.

What is most striking about her is the fervour and momentum of initiatives always organized in a timely manner: the games, the library, the celebration of the membership, the party of the priest, the lottery, the theatre to raise funds for the Univer-



sità Cattolica, visits to poor families in the parish ... Everything had to be used to keep her children together and to get them used to the needs of others. Small signs of love, so that there was no break between faith and life.

Carla knew well that the good seed does not always fall on the good earth and that educating always entails the risk of the other's freedom, but she was not discouraged: *"The real good that you do is not always what you see. It often happens that the children with whom we have believed to waste time remain the most faithful; and if we thought one would leave us, maybe the memory of a good word facilitates his return to God in extremis.*

Being discouraged is denying oneself the little courage we have, under the pretext that we do not have enough.

Difficulties exist to be overcome.

"Trust me, I have won the world!"

Instead of believing that we work in vain, we should be confused by the scope of our actions: we cannot take a step without having an impact on the universe.

God does not ask us for success, but for effort. Well, the effort made for a supernatural end is never lost.

Graziella Goti

YOUNG THOUGHTS ON THE TOMB OF ALBERTO

“Dear Alberto, I beg you to help me make my life something extraordinary”, “Help me be truly happy and full of joy, let me find strength in despair, serenity in the storm, my true path in life”. Spontaneous prayers, coming from the heart and turned with confidence and affection to Alberto Marvelli, a true friend and model, young among the young, conceived and written by the young people in Morciano who, in October 2017, came to Rimini on pilgrimage to the tomb of the Blessed. Father Massimiliano Cucchi, who accompanied the large group of young people, had asked them to write prayer intentions for themselves and for others to entrust to Alberto. Thus, a hundred sheets with touching and joyful messages were deposited on his tomb at Sant’Agostino, real confidences full of hope and trust, to witness the great sensitivity of these young people and their desire for peace, love and happiness.

A surprise in these times when the so-called millennials are accused of not having values and of being focused exclusively on themselves and their needs.

In particular, the intentions dedicated to family members are very moving: parents, siblings, some of them also sick or

in difficulty, grandparents, and relatives. “I ask you to help my parents sort out their matters at home”; “Protect my family and keep it united in love”; “I beg you to help me improve my relationship with my parents, which is not the best one at the moment”; “I wish I could hug my grandfather again, apologize to him”; “I beg you to help my sister: she is going through a difficult time, I would like to be able to lead her to the fairest choice, assuring her that I will always be by her side”, just to name a few.

Then there are some thoughts addressed to friends who have lost their way or have to face problematic situations: “I ask that a friend of mine can always be happy and that he can overcome the moments of sadness he has had recently”; “I ask you to bring my friend back on the road to happiness, with that smile and that charisma that distinguished him and that he unfortunately lost after a disappointment in love”; “I ask you for a miracle for a friend of mine: I need you to protect him from the greatest suffering that awaits him, I know it is difficult. Do not make my wish come true, but rather help him”.

In the wake of Alberto Marvelli, who in a difficult period fed his existence with an intense spiritual life, even these young people have often forgotten themselves



in their prayers to cope with the small and big difficulties of their loved ones, trusting in a bigger help; because, this time quoting the words of the Blessed: *"A life spent only for oneself makes no sense"*.

The dialogue goes on...

A year later, on October 5th, 2018, the high school students in Morciano returned together with Father Massimiliano Cucchi on a pilgrimage to the parish of Sant'Agostino. Also this time they left their memory on the tomb of the Blessed from Rimini: over a hundred prayers, thanks and testimonies even longer and more complex than those of the previous year. In the hearts of young people, the largest space is always occupied by family affections: they ask Alberto to protect their family, to give health and happiness to their mother and father, to support relatives, especially grandparents in times of hardship and disease. Friendships are also vital: many young people ask Alberto to make their friends happy, to help them in moments of personal or school difficulty. There are those who worry about some mates who have taken a wrong path, or others who have problems with their parents, or turn out to be joyless due to death and separation.

Once again, we have the anxieties for a school that is becoming more and more demanding, the upset for the life choices that are taking shape, the concerns about the future and the doubts about which values should be followed, the fear of being left alone, and not being understood by friends.

For some, the purpose in life is to find peace of heart, and to discover trust in love, the only thing that can make life extraordinary. Someone entrusts the Blessed with the parish, the educators and the path in Catholic Action, so that it can be an aid "to grow in faith and to build a

strong and lasting relationship with God". Some food for thought for many is the question: "where is my treasure?". It is nice to see how millennials recognize that the real treasure does not consist in material goods or in personal affirmation, but in feelings, in the loved ones, and in the presence of Jesus in their lives. *"Alberto, I admire you, I see myself in you. Knowing you made me understand that my treasure in life must be doing good, giving others the best of me"; "My treasure is in others"; "What is important to me now is giving"; "Dear Alberto, I would like to be like you, I strive, but I can't...sometimes I find it hard to concentrate on the serious things in life. Make me a better person!"*.

There are those who thank you because, compared to the previous year, things have improved: *"I have matured a lot, I have overcome many obstacles and pains, but here I am"; "Thank you because you have fulfilled my desire to heal and because I have discovered that my friends are important to me, because they also wanted me to heal"; "Thank you because I asked you to bring back the smile on the lips of a dear friend, and it happened"; "Thank you for all I have, I have never been as happy in my life as I am now". Some wishes of the previous year have not been fulfilled, but "Many other positive things have happened, which in part I think have happened thanks to you"*.

The most recurrent desire for young people, in addition to serenity, is feeling loved and learning to forgive others: *"Take care of my love, make it pure and let it be for the other what Jesus was for us". Love is still the only treasure that is worth searching for, because, as someone wrote: "Where your treasure is, there also your heart will be"*.

BOOKS TO READ AND MEDITATE

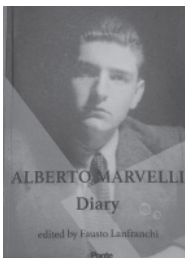


M. TARONI, *Alberto Marvelli - Una vita fatta dono*, Editrice Velar, Gorle (Bg) 2018 - pp. 47, € 4,00

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.

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

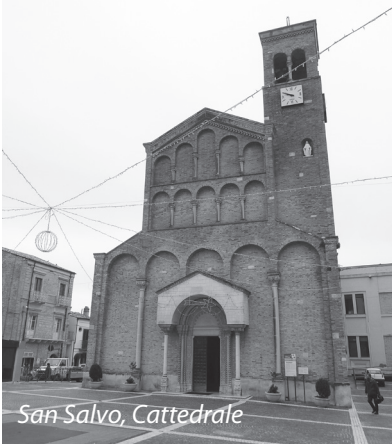
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THEY MET ALBERT

Mario Tilli da San Salvo



A short biography of Alberto by Mario Till, president of Ac in San Nicola, appeared on the platform [www. sansalvo.net](http://www.sansalvo.net). This was the last of the October appointments dedicated to Gospel witnesses, entitled "Alberto Marvelli, a politician who administered so much money, became Blessed".

Group of young people from Reggio Emilia

A large group of young people from Reggio Emilia, accompanied by their priests and educators, came to Rimini to meet Alberto. The Salesians were the starting point, and there they learned the fundamental moments of the life of the Blessed from a video and from the words of Cinzia Montevocchi, head of the Centro Marvelli. In the afternoon, they walked to Sant'Agos-

tino, where they participated in the Mass next to his tomb.

Cresimandi di Senigallia

A group of about twenty young people from Senigallia, accompanied by their priest and catechists, met Alberto.

Filippo Pasquini, introducing them to the Blessed, highlighted the importance of Marvelli for the city of Rimini: a middle school, a square, the role of reconstruction, the people at his funeral.

He also spoke of him as a sportsman: the bike, the sport, the mountain that make him a "modern" saint.

Dr. Louis Carnendran

Dr. Louis Carnendran from Miami returned once again to pray at the tomb of his "friend" Alberto



ALBERTO MARVELLI

Brasile

I write this letter with immense joy, greeting all those responsible for the process of canonization of the Blessed Alberto Marvelli. He is a source of inspiration for today's youth,



who think that it is not possible to be young and holy. But the example of the life of the Blessed makes us open our hearts and understand that it is possible to be young and holy, and to be a lay saint, because many think that holiness is only for priests and religious.

I ask for a relic, which I know will bring many blessings to our community and to our young people, because we will be faced with something sacred, which belonged to the living sanctuary of Jesus.

We will also pray that his canonization will take place soon and that he will intercede for all our needs and be an example of the fact that holiness is possible for young people and laity and that the state of life does not matter, because holiness is for everyone.

I'd like to close my letter with a sentence from Alberto: "Living going up or dying".

Filippine

Hello! I am a professed member of the Salesian community in the Philippines. After the universal Church concluded the Synod on youth and our Bishops' Conference declared 2018 the year of youth, we would like to present the life and works of Alberto Marvelli to the young Filipinos as a model of holiness and love for God.

Therefore, I humbly ask if you can send us materials to disseminate Alberto's life as well as a relic, to be kept in the "chapel of the young saints", where young people can pray and be guided by the love of God,



as Father Bosco dreamed two hundred years ago.

Jogar A.Villanueva SDB, Tondo Manila

Messico

I join your joy, because today, 5th October, we celebrate the liturgical memory of the Blessed Alberto Marvelli who is the patron saint of my youth group.

We stand by you and hug you,

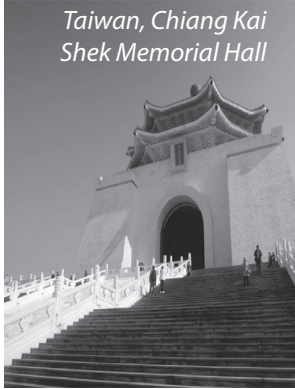
Joaquin Guzman, Città del Messico

CARLA RONCI

Taiwan

I would like to ask for a relic of the Venerable Carla Ronci, because I am so touched and inspired by her wonderful life, completely dedicated to serving our Lord, our God. I am asking that this relic be used for the worship of the faithful here in Taiwan and in the Philippines, so that we can disseminate his devotion, and I can present it to the young and the faithful of our community and everyone can be inspired to serve the Lord without anything in return. I hope our prayers can be answered, and we promise to pray for the cause of his beatification.

Michael John Galindez, Taiwan



cession when we bring communion to the sick, to venerate her within our Franciscan community, and to spread our veneration among the people we are in touch with through our various ministries.

Padre Antonio Dameg, Manila

Filippine

I would like to request a Relics of Blessed Alberto Marvelli and Venerable Carla Ronci. The Holy Relics will be used for Veneration, Organization uses and for Spreading the Devotion. It is my mission to promote the devotion to the Holy Men and Women of the Holy Catholic Church. I promise to take care of the relic that i will get. I hope you grant my request to have a Relics of Blessed Alberto Marvelli and Venerable Carla Ronci.

Kelvin Jacob Pradas, Manila

Brasile

I would like, if possible, a relic of the dear Carla Ronci. She is a great example for me! With her I learned to love the Lord with an open heart and give myself totally to him and to his service.

Thais Pereira De Lima, Nova Iguacù

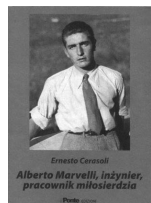
Filippine

I humbly wish to ask for a relic of the venerable Carla Ronci to ask for her inter-

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS IN LANGUAGE

Alberto

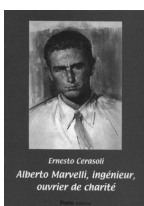
Ernesto Cerasoli



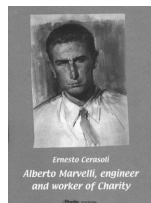
**Alberto Marvelli, inżynier,
pracownik miłosierdzia**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

Ernesto Cerasoli

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



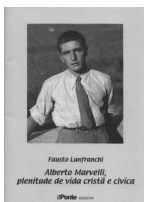
Ernesto Cerasoli



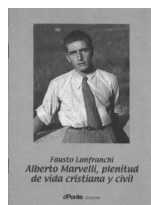
**Alberto Marvelli, engineer and
worker of charity**
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

Fausto Lanfranchi

**Alberto Marvelli, plenitude de vida
crista e cívica**
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



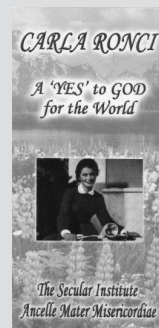
Portoghese



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 presbyteries; 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