

AMICI DI ALBERTO E CARLA

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OF BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI AND OF THE VENERABLE CARLA RONCI



YOUNG PEOPLE, FAITH, VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

The Church, which asks itself how to bring young people together to help them take their place responsibly in society and in the ecclesial community, can rely on the gift of the saints, who can show us the way.

As educators being passionate about the young people entrusted to them, Alberto and Carla, though living in different times and contexts, give us some important teachings:

- The message we intend to convey should not be trivialized, but it must be proclaimed with all its strength and originality. In Lessing's fairy tale the eagle is asked: "Why do you feed your babies in the regions of the air?". And the eagle replies: "How would you want them, once adults, to be able to fly in the sun, if I let them walk in the mud from their birth on?" Let us straighten our hearts upwards, where eagles gaze, towards the blue sky quilted with golden fragments. That's what Alberto writes with a suggestive metaphor.
- Only those who love educate, and you can only educate with a "face-to-face" approach. I believe – Carla writes – that a good way to help our adolescents is to love them a lot, to make sure to inspire their trust, to listen to what they say about ever getting tired and above all not being scandalized by anything, showing inte-

rest even in the most insignificant things. Alberto writes: Synchronize to synchronize; love what young people love, so that young people love what we love; loving means being willing to make all those who love each other happy with themselves and forever: this is eternal bliss and Heaven.

- The educator is still a "useless servant", and the Lord converts. Jesus, I entrust them to you. You know them one by one; you know their needs and you can do everything for our little girls. Carla writes. And Alberto: being a leader means becoming the servant and not the master of others.
- We must rely on intense and profound prayer. Carla – her girls remember – used to do everything with Jesus in her heart, she used to pray a lot and used to teach how to pray. Alberto called prayer Almight-

teness of man and weakness of God, fuel, in order to carry out all the different activities, a bridge built between earth and heaven, and insisted: our prayer cannot consist only in orisons and meditations, because, if it were so, our close union with God would be limited to a few moments of consolation, lost in the grey of our days. But prayer is, and must be, for men, whatever action is carried out in God's grace.

- Only testimony makes "credible". Today, the Lord needs witnesses for him to be present not in sermons, but through their life and their example. Today, the apostolate needs to become a personal witness of lived doctrine... it's only for him that I commit myself, so that my life may be a living witness, wherever I am and whatever I do (Carla). How can we serve by loving our neighbours? Being an example to them at all times. First of all, being a living example of truth is nothing but the splendour of our being Christian, and we cannot but be so: or else we will no longer live Christianly.

We owe to our neighbour the same love we owe to God: just as we give God the homage of our virtuous works, so we must give our neighbour the charity of our Christian living and working. Alberto

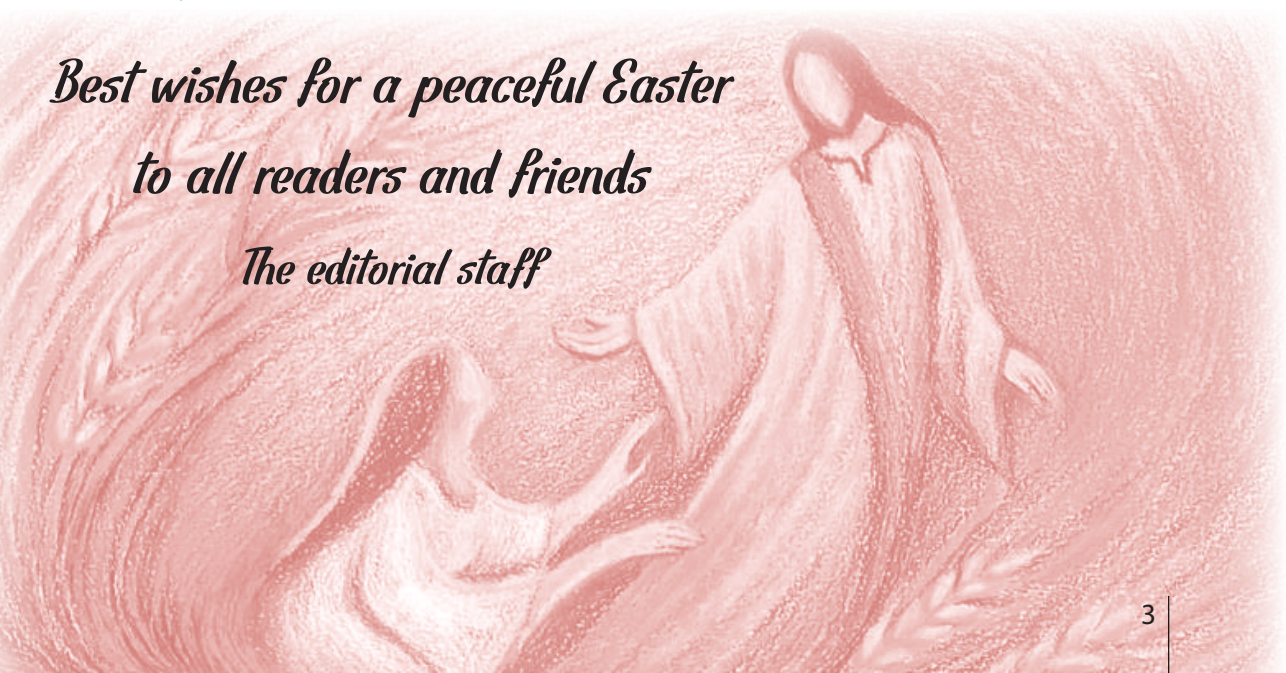
- Living as witnesses commits us to doing well what is required of us in the time and in the place where we are called to live: My soul, do not murmur... the place you have is the one you need, because it is the place that God in his providence has chosen and prepared for you.

In this place, where God wanted you, you have all the graces to sanctify yourself; elsewhere you would not have them. It is not enough, my soul, to live resigned, where God has sown, planted or transplanted you, you have to live happily and make others happy. Carla writes

And Alberto: to be saints it is not necessary to become priests or friars, nor to always pray in church; one must scrupulously and willingly fulfil one's duty, serving God in the usual environment of family, work, school, and leisure.

*Best wishes for a peaceful Easter
to all readers and friends*

The editorial staff



ALBERTO MARVELLI: A REALLY USELESS SERVANT?

Homily during the feast of Blessed Alberto Marvelli
Rimini, Sant' Agostino Church, 5th October 2019

Let's face it. Translating is always a bit cheating. Conveying the last verse of the Gospel passage just proclaimed (Lk 17:10) with "We are useless servants" is really an unfortunate translation. Serving is never useless according to the logic of the Gospel. After all, Jesus qualifies himself as the Lord's servant, but he never qualifies himself as a "useless servant". Therefore, the Greek expression, used by Saint Luke, can be very well conveyed with this one: "We are simply servants". Useless does not mean that it's no use, but that on the one hand it's neither necessary nor indispensable, and on the other hand it's selfless, free. It's not about seeking one's own profit, aiming for rewards and awards, claiming medals and trophies.

If now we try to pass from the Gospel According to Luke to what we can rightly call the Gospel According to Alberto, we must recall an episode that happened to our Blessed from Rimini. In 1994, a serious typhus epidemic spread in Rimini, with an unimaginable number of over 602 hospitalized and roughly 53 dead people. The hospital turned out to be completely inadequate: beds and sheets were missing; drugs and medical equipment were scarce.

After a dramatic meeting, dedicated to first



aid, engineer Marvelli decided to leave for upper Italy and embarked on an adventurous journey, given the precariousness of connections. A few days later, he was seen returning with his partisan brother driving a truck loaded with sheets, drugs and hospital equipment. When, a few days later, people wanted to praise that very generous and courageous gesture, Alberto replied: "We only did our duty". An expression that rhymes with the words that Jesus put in the mouth of the servants of

the Gospel passage: "We did what we had to do".

The result is a message of clear gratuitousness: a Christian engaged in politics cannot serve (to conquer) power, but exercises, so to speak, the power to serve. In other words: he does his duty, but not out of interest, but out of love.

Let's go back to the Gospel passage. Here we see a gloomy sigh of Jesus: "If you had faith!". It would just take a little grain to move not only a few quintals of a mulberry tree, but even billions of tons of mountains (see Mt 17:20).

We can then ask ourselves: what is the added value of faith in political service?

Faith is not neutral with respect to the commitment of Christians in political life. With or without faith everything changes. As if to say: with or without sunlight the landscape changes completely. Certainly, it remains materially the same, both at night and during the day. But one thing is if the landscape is swallowed up by the darkness of the night, one thing is if it is

illuminated by daylight. It's obvious: during the day, you will see fields sown with wheat together with heaps of weeds. You will see stone quarries and mountains of rubbish. But daylight also allows you to see where you need to work to reclaim the environment.

As regards Alberto Marvelli, faith allowed him to see and live the political reality – with its needs and emergencies, its complexities and contradictions – in the light of the Gospel.

Concretely, for our Blessed political commitment was a vocation, a clear witness, a tangible service to the social and civil community.

He wrote in his Diary: "I want my life to be a continuous act of love". For him, politics was the extreme consequence of social charity. This explains why he inspired his commitment to the polar star of the common good, why he chose the poor as the privileged recipients of his activity, why he did not perceive any irreconcilable rifts between his activity in Catholic Action and

his direct commitment to the Christian Democrat Party, why one could call him a 'Christian with democratic principles' rather than a Christian Democrat.

In conclusion, dear sisters, dear brothers, listen to me.

The Risen Lord comes here among us tonight, he uses our Blessed as his mouthpiece, to repeat to us the Council's stern message: "The Christian who neglects his temporal commitments neglects his duties towards his neighbour, indeed towards God himself. And he seriously endangers his own eternal salvation".



THE PLACE YOU HAVE IS THE ONE GOD HAS CHOSEN FOR YOU

At the age of nineteen, in response to the voice and the invitation in her heart, Carla “chose” her own path and left to enter the Ursuline convent. But our paths are not always the Lord’s paths. She was forced to return from Scanzorosciate to Torre Pedrera.

She didn’t stop to sterilely ask herself “why”, but abandoned herself trustingly to God’s will: My soul, do not murmur...the place you have is the one you need, because it is the place that God in his providence has chosen and prepared for you.

In this place, where God wanted you, you have all the graces to sanctify yourself; elsewhere you would not have them. It is not enough, my soul, to live resigned, where God has sown, planted or transplanted you, you have to live happily and make others happy.

To blossom, my soul, is to show you joy in what’s being done for you. It is to know how to give thanks for the smallest service received. Happy also for the help you are called to give to others, without even receiving human reward. To blossom is to say to all those around you, with words and with a simple and casual air and a radiant face: “I am well near you”.

With this disposition of mind, she discovered her “little way” towards holiness and committed herself to fulfilling her vocation at the service of the parish, which she felt as a fraternal communion, a place where one can meet Jesus, in spite of a not at all exciting everyday life. The only lay presence in the parish in the years before the Second Vatican Council was Catholic Action. Lived as a collaboration of the laity in the hierarchical apostolate of the Church, she was involved in the most diverse sectors, from

the initiatives of the oratory, to liturgical service, to the catechesis of children, young people and adults.

In this association, Carla found space for her witness and her “service”, in favour of the youngest children, those who were then called “darlings”.

Her fellow countrymen saw her running tirelessly and always smiling, sometimes to go to church to pray, sometimes to reach the fruit and vegetable shop run by her family, sometimes to the tailor’s workshop, until evening, tired but happy to have loved so much, especially each of her little girls whom she considered her little spiritual daughters. In fact, she spent a lot of time with them, both in the meetings of Ac, but also in the game, in listening, to give fraternal advice or soothe some small disappointment.

Living her commitment in the parish, Carla understood that the Church is only built on the Eucharist. The Eucharist makes the Church. And there can be no Eucharist without a priest. It is the priest, in fact, who, through the uninterrupted continuity of the apostolic succession in which he is included through ordination, is linked to the one supreme and eternal Priest. He is the only one who can act “in persona Christi”. She wrote: It is in him that I find truth, it is in him that I find fortitude, it is in him that I find grace. In him I find Jesus above all. These are words that do not intend to enhance the human figure of the priest, who may sometimes not live his mission in an edifying way, but which recall the objective, sacramental foundations of the priestly ministry. The priest, in fact, administers truth, fortitude and grace because he is linked to Christ, pastor and head of his people.

For this reason, Carla could only accompany her activity with a special care and intense prayer for priests, willing to offer her life for them as well:

The priest, for me, is a man without a face and without a name because he has the face and the name of all: a man without a heart because he has only the sufferings and anguish of his brothers and the heart of Christ beats in his heart: a man without interests and prospects, because his are those of Jesus: without intelligence and without his word, because what he thinks or says, everything in him brings back the thought and the Word of God ... but if he is lost, who will be saved? But if he falls, who will hold on? But if he does not love and sacrifice himself for souls, who will be able to do so?

Lord, I am nothing but a little birch beaten by the wind, a dim glow-worm that wanders in the stellar Augustan nights smaller than a tear: barely a baby's moan ... Lord, I have only this heart of mine full of you, who are the infinite. I offer you this, so that you protect your priests.

When she finally met and became part of the secular institute of the Ancelle Mater Misericordiae of Macerata, Carla found a new impulse and help to deepen her spirituality to continue her apostolate of presence and witness in the world, to continue to be leaven in the small parish community of Torre Pedrera. She will always remain linked to it and will continue to work for it in a thousand initiatives, succeeding, with the passion that she knows how to instil in things, to "transform the ordinary into the extraordinary".

Even when undermined by her illness and hospitalized for some long months at the S. Orsola hospital in Bologna, she didn't close up in her pain, but was constantly attentive and interested in the initiatives that

she left unfinished in the parish and that others are called to carry out. And, once again, willing to give her life for the priests. She wrote to her spiritual father: Help me, Father, to send my cry to the Lord, so that he might appreciate and accept this offering. Here I am, Lord, I have only this heart of mine which is full of You, who are the infinite. I'll offer you this for your priests. Lord for your priests: here is my whole life. If you want a victim of reparation for their falls, for their infidelities, for what they do not do and should do, for what they do and should not do, for them I offer myself as a victim, willing to do everything, to everything, but don't let your sacrament miss, because the priest is a sacrament of Thee, a bearer of Thee, Lord.



BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS IN LANGUAGE

Alberto

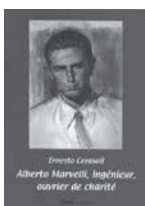
Ernesto Cerasoli



**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



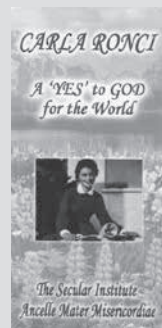
Portoghese



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 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