

# AMICI DI ALBERTO E CARLA

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2017

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



# ALBERTO COOPERATES WITH THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

**N**ext year 2018 is characterized by two very important events.

The XV Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will deal with "Young people, faith, and vocational discernment", and the Blessed Alberto Marvelli's birth centenary.

The Church decided to question today's youth, "in order to accompany them to recognize and welcome the calling to love and life in all its fullness and to find the most effective ways to announce them the Good News."

On 13th January 2017 the Pope addressed the youth directly to ask for their collaboration.

Let's repeat a few sentences of this letter:

"Dear young people, I wanted you to be the centre of attention, since I carry you in my heart".

"In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: can things change? And together you yelled "yes".

That cry comes from your young heart, which does not bear injustice and cannot yield to the culture of waste, the globalization of indifference. Listen to that cry that comes from yourself!".

"The Church wants to listen to your voice, your sensitivity, your faith; even to your



doubts and criticism. Make your cry heard, let it resound in the communities and let it reach the shepherds".

The Blessed Alberto Marvelli's birth centenary (21st March 1918) intends to be part of the spirit of the Synod on the youth.

In his lifetime, Alberto also "screamed" the desire to change an unfair society, which had got out of a war

bringing about ruins and poverty, and rolled up his sleeves.

Today, his voice and his life are highly topical and can be an answer for contributing to the synod, as Pope Francis asks.

The young Alberto was an innovator and a prophetic precursor of future times.

The Diocese of Rimini does not want to leave this centenary unsaid, although we have just concluded the year of the tenth anniversary of Beatification with cultural, social and sports activities, books and films.

On the occasion of the centenary, we have thought about some events that are to be concretized now. They will not be as great as the tenth anniversary of Beatification, but they will be however highly qualified.

# THE YOUNG ALBERTO AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

*Alberto did not have an educational approach focused on books, but based on his love for young people and his personal testimony*

**A**lberto has always been known for his commitment to social issues, especially during and immediately after the war, his charity towards poor people, his life of prayer, while his commitment to young people has stayed somewhat in the dark. Yet, this absorbed a significant part of his time and energies, and was lived by him as one of the many ways in which love of neighbour can become tangible: as a matter of fact, he was youth educator for Azione Cattolica between 1933 and 1944. At the age of just fifteen years, we see him employed as an animator in the oratory of the Salesian parish: he teaches Catechism, leads the meetings of aspirants of Azione Cattolica, organizes the mass of young people, arranges performances, volleyball and soccer matches as well as bike trips... In his diary he writes: Do not believe you are wasting your time when you also spend hours with children, when you try to entertain them and make them better. Jesus himself liked them and wanted them to be closed to him. And the good words you tell them will never be too many. These few lines already show what has always been the style of his positive commitment among young people, which is reflected in the discreet gift, the attentive interest, the humble sharing of someone

who intends to be a travel companion, and above all in his testimony.

Educating and evangelizing were for him synonyms, as you can only educate to the «good life of the Gospel», within a project of “secular” sanctity, holiness in everyday life, capable of harmonizing the spiritual dimension with all the others that are part of the existence: We must serve God to possess the Christian joy. Serve God in our usual environment, in our family, at work, at school, in our leisure. Do not believe that to serve God you need to be priests or friars, and you don’t even need to always pray in the church. We serve God by fulfilling our duty scrupulously and willingly. We also serve him when we have fun, provided that these amusements are legitimate and not contrary to Christian law and ethics... But even in our work, and by this I mean any kind of manual or intellectual work, we need to serve the Lord if we want joy.

Where is happiness then? Not too far away, very close, actually.

The “notes” he used to take in notebooks to prepare his meetings with young people seem to be imbued with an extraordinary force, which comes from the fact that they were not for him “things to say”, but truths to live, to convey through a direct and personal educational relationship,



and they can teach so much to those who are still engaged in the field of education, since they love.

Alberto insists on the need to take into account the age and profession in the educational proposal, as they help us know the language of young people, that is understand their way of seeing things, their relationship with life, their values; and they also help us refine our language, so as to make it simple and effective at the same time. As a matter of fact, the goal is to try to get young people to obey not because it is an obligation, but because they have an intimate understanding of their duty and their state of mind allows them to live it happily. Synchronizing ourselves to synchronize others is the metaphor used by him. It reflects well his way of getting in touch with young people, that is through an active, friendly and reassuring presence, which at the same time stimulates to develop one's talents of nature and grace.

He intends to convey joy with joy, as a

servant and not as a master of others. The educator is at the service of the truth, which is spirit and life, and not of theories produced for the intellectual joy of our rational investigation, therefore the teaching of truth cannot be separated from charity:

Intelligence does not only mean knowing better, it is not only mental acuity, it is also fineness of the heart, mild wisdom of understanding, a clever and loving attitude of the heart that knows how to listen to souls, how to feel the needs of brothers, it is love besides ingenuity.

Besides charity, humility must be one of the educator's skills. Humility that arises from the awareness that, when we have completed an activity to the best of our possibilities, we are still "useless servants": God wanted our cooperation, but he reserved for himself the privilege of giving spiritual and material gifts. Therefore, we always have to keep our eyes fixed on the compass, but without any manias of omnipresence and omnipotence, with a



quiet mind, without becoming slaves of labour.

Humility means broadmindedness, it respects other people's freedom, it feels the need for a friendly contact with others. Humility is patient, since it knows that growing up is difficult. It knows that the educator does a slow "job", where no hurry is required, since the seed we sow needs some time to mature, and man cannot decide how much. Therefore he helps, advises, enhances the efforts of young people, in a comprehensive and reassuring proximity.

Humility means knowing that you can't live the effort of commitment alone: Where I can't get with action, I can get with prayer; with prayer I have God's omnipotence at my disposal..

Above all, those who want to be an apo-

stle of light must «lay down any impurity and malice», since the example is the first, great and effective teaching of truth.

Alberto insists a lot on the value of the example, as patience, charity, humility and service, though important, are likely to be just words unless they are made credible by the example. Indeed, the example is the first great and effective teaching of truth:

How can we serve by loving our companions? Being for them an example at any time ... We owe them the same love we owe to God: as we give God the deference of our virtuous works, so we must give our neighbours the charity of our Christian living and acting.

**Cinzia Montevocchi**

## CARLA RONCI: A MOTORIZED MYSTIC

Father Filippo D’Amando, a Passionist, personally knew Carla Ronci, studied her writings, was her main biographer and led the beatification process. He was deeply convinced that Carla, under the guise of an ordinary life, had intense mystic experiences. In 1978 he wrote the book: “Mystical life and mysticism today: Carla Ronci”. Here is a brief excerpt of this book.

**W**e believe that we cannot say enough what Jesus was in Carla’s mystical life. She wrote: «Jesus must find in me a person who says: Lord, now your cannot suffer in your body, so here is mine, to continue your passion and redemption. My life will change completely if I usually turn to him to ask him to speak for me, to advise me, to be generous and patient for me, if he acts in me... It doesn’t matter, Jesus, do what you want with me, provided that you are always with me... My task is to bring Jesus to the world.» She used to feel, see, touch Jesus through a very vivid vision of faith or, more precisely, through the perception of the mystic. Fr. Marcellino Federici could come to the conclusion: «I had the feeling that she had come to the sensitive experience of God. She used to feel Jesus, she talked to him, as if she saw him, she shared her

doubts and uncertainties with him, as you would do with a brother, a friend, all this with a wonderful supernatural and human approach. She used to perceive his lively presence within herself. The idea of not feeling or losing him terrorized her». This is what we could also find in the diary: «At last Jesus made himself felt again ... on some days I used to go three or four times to church, and I prayed for him insistently, but in vain, I did not feel anything ... Today I went there five times: the first three times I did not feel anything, but the last two times! ... If I had to describe what I felt in those moments, I would not know how to do it, since I would not be able to express myself well. I can say that in those moments my heart was beating fast and I was happy». And these were just ordinary phrases. When she could leave Torre Pedrera to retire in the solitude of the mountains, in

particular in Camaldoli, as the biographer will say, «she found the clear footprints of God, and could burst out in those cries of irrepressible enthusiasm, since she was glad that the echoes of the valleys, in consonance with her mystical lyricism, repeated her «Jesus, I love you», which she expressed scores of times in her daily prayers. If she hadn't done it, she would have felt she was about to burst».

«Today, in the Holy Meditation, dear Jesus, she wrote: you asked me for my heart or, better, for all the love it has, and I told you that I just want to give you all my heart. Yes, I feel this very strong desire in me, which is like a continuous torment. I want to love you, but I can't love you as I should and as you want. Jesus, help me...».

After one of these retirements, in 1963, she wrote to a friend of hers: «Friday was a day of redemption and love! ... I do not know why today, more than any other day, I have felt not only the need, but also the necessity to talk to Jesus about you. What did I tell him? It is impossible to explain everything, and then we cannot say everything: anyway, I'll tell you something. I asked him to fill us with himself and to empty us of ourselves. How to fill us with himself? By emptying us of everything he is not. Let's try to do this work, the most necessary one, a work that will be accomplished when we stop and start thinking a lot, but thinking a lot and seriously, in silence, in solitude, at his feet, doing not a meditation, but a contemplation, while looking at him, Jesus, our Redeemer. Our love, our everything. And how are we supposed to be? Like him, redemptive and full of love. So he's everything for us and we are everything for him. A play on words, you will say, won't you? It must be a full



accomplishment, not a half one, since God throws away half things. If we gradually strive to seed and get to know Jesus, then we will find peace, joy, happiness, true love».

In Jesus, Carla did not have any preferences, but if she had one, this was the Passion of Jesus.

She was not attracted by the Passion out of self-interest, as a revenge of the moment, almost due to the occasional logic that came from her infirmity, as she looked at the Passion as the clearest and most revealing line of God's love.

It is true that in Carla's mystic journey we come across unquestionable revealing factors, which give us absolute certainty. In practical terms, in her last painful and distressing illness we see the whole Passion atmosphere.

# ALBERTO WALKS THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE WORLD

The geographic maps of the following pages show, also visually, the great devotion to Alberto Marvelli worldwide. We wonder how he could raise such an interest in so distant countries and different cultures being rich in local Saints. This is mainly due to his force of attraction, his image: a young Saint in shirtsleeves and tie departs from all patterns of the usual iconography of Saints, and he immediately arouses sympathy and curiosity, especially among young people: this gives rise to the desire to get to know him and make him known.

Every day we receive requests for relics and holy cards, not only for personal devotion, but above all from parish churches, sanctuaries, oratories, university chapels, laic communities: all of them wish to make him known and propose him as a model of life, so they become dissemination centres. In some countries biographies, brochures and prayers are published and disseminated in their local languages: Guatemala, Poland, the Czech Republic, the United States, India, and the Philippines.

Of course, the spread is also due to the new and traditional social media that are



constantly used by the Marvelli Centre.

An extensive website with Alberto's biography is available in six languages: Italian, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish. On the website, you can find the Blessed Alberto's writings: diary and letters, his prayers, his publications, videos of musical oratories and performances, the Marvelli Archive and a large photo gallery. Moreover, you can find updated news of events that

concern him.

On Twitter, every day you can read a short thought, drawn from the Diary and his writings.

On Facebook, extensive themed excerpts, also drawn from his Diary and unpublished writings (4,800 contacts).

On YouTube, you can find films, testimonies, news, and photos.

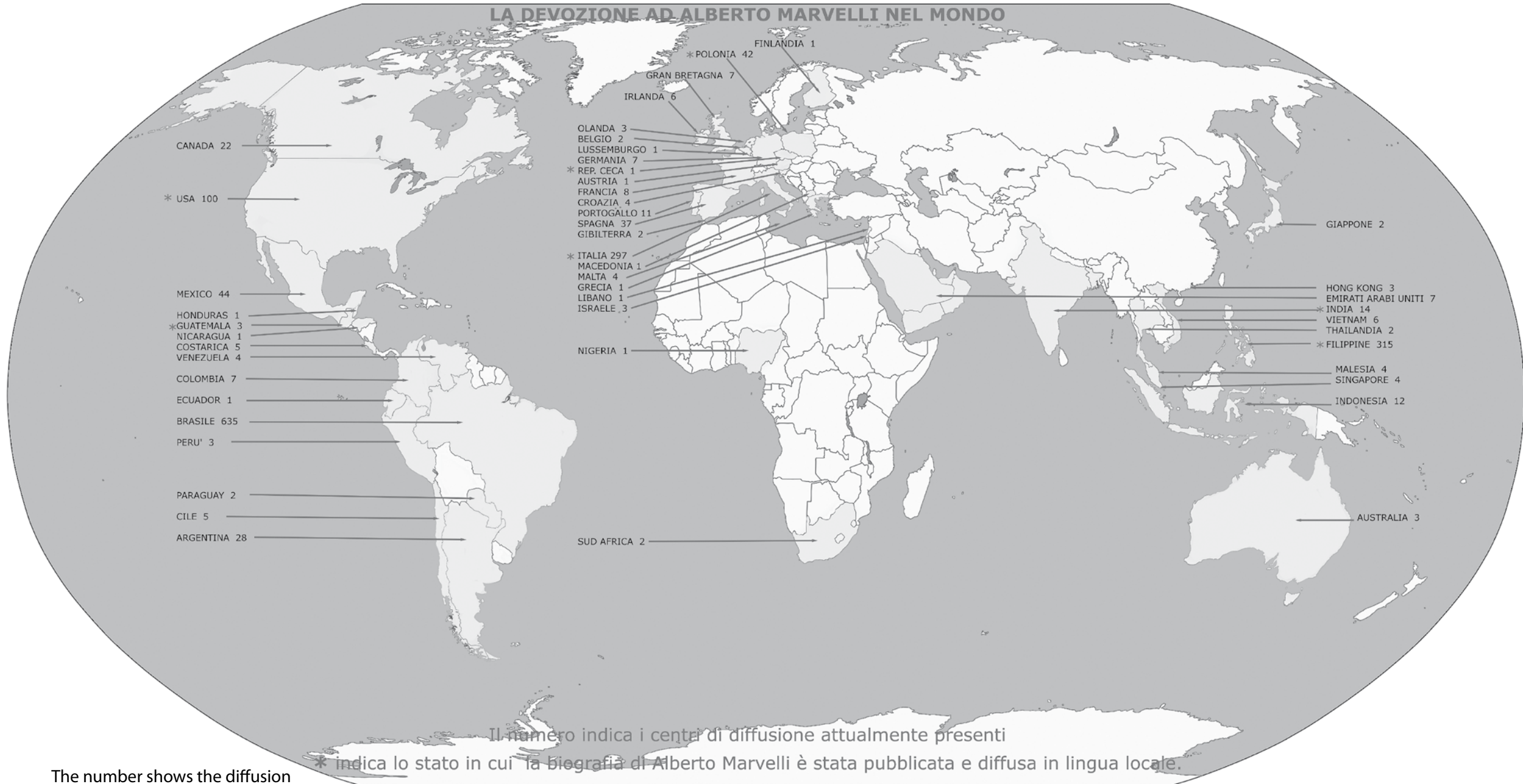
The "Amici di Alberto e Carla" paper magazine is sent by post to 8,375 friends.

The same magazine, available in small format in English, is sent to 1,400 friends by email.

In the following geographic maps, there are still many countries that have not been reached by Alberto's news.

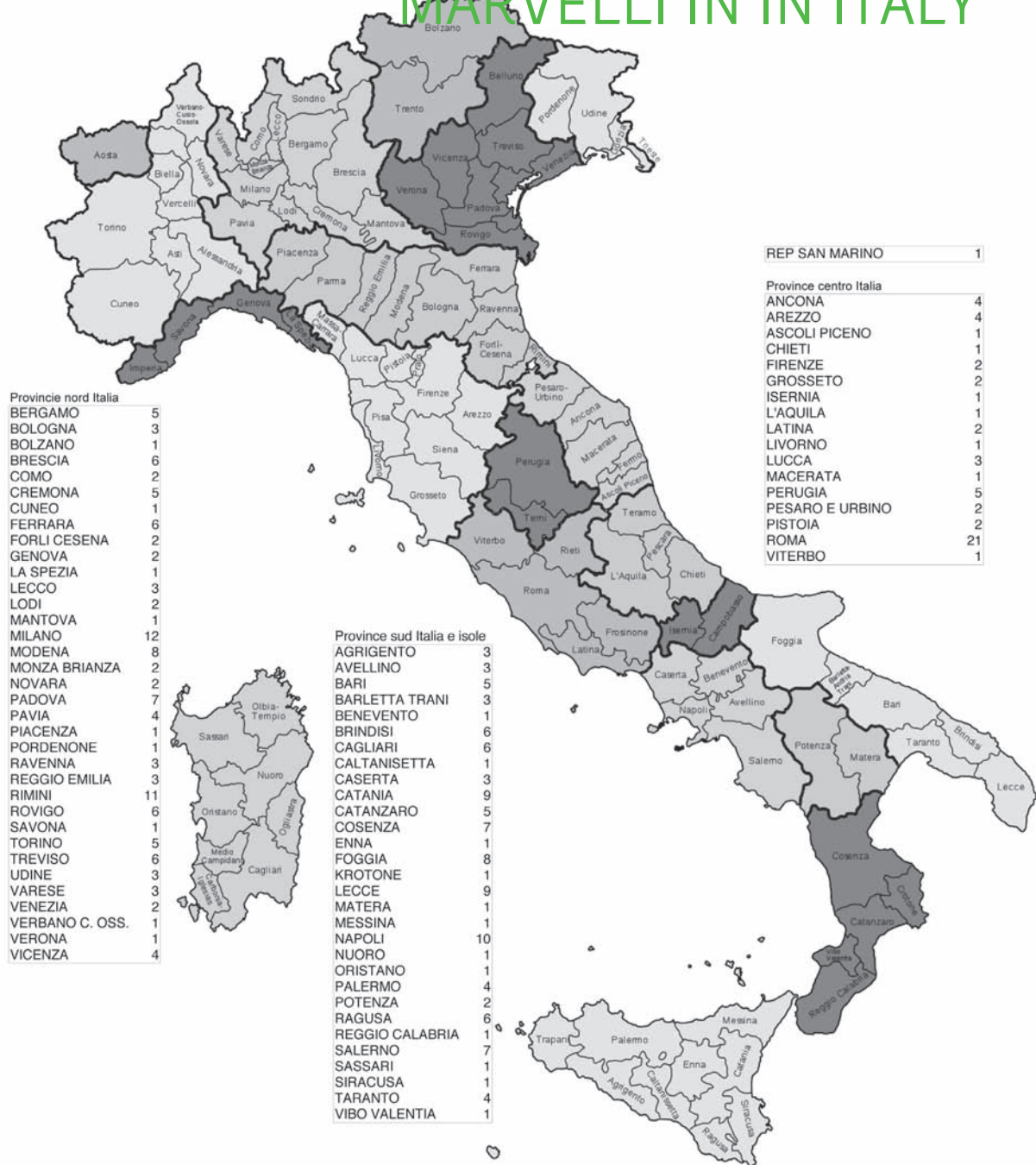
We hope we will be able to reach them soon.

# DEVOTION TO ALBERTO MARVELLI IN THE WORD



The number shows the diffusion centers actually existing

## DEVOTION TO ALBERTO MARVELLI IN ITALY



Il numero indica i centri di diffusione attualmente presenti

## LETTERS AND NEWS OF ALBERTO

### From Seville

Dear friends of Alberto Marvelli, I deal with street education in the schools of my city, Seville, and when I have the opportunity I talk to my pupils about Alberto Marvelli, whom I regard as the patron of street education and cyclists, an example to follow, which I suggest as a model. Would you mind sending me some of his pictures with the prayer, so that I can ask for his intercession in Castilian and, if possible, some medals? Please also send me your current account number, as I would like to contribute to the expenses. Thank you in advance and best regards.

**José María Romero**

### Bellavista - Jalisco México

I am a seminarian, my name is Gustavo Roman Alvarez, I live in Bellavista, Jalisco México. I am part of a group of young people and of the choir of Santa Maria de Guadalupe parish. I would like to receive all possible material on Alberto, including a relic, as I regard him as a great saint, a defender of the faith who, in spite of his pain, firmly followed the will of our Lord Jesus, and I would like to make him known in my parish. His

example struck me and will always stay in my heart.

### From Ireland

I am a priest of St. Nicholas Multyfarnham parish in Ireland and I ask for a relic of the Blessed Alberto as well as photos, books and brochures, in order to promote his veneration in particular among the young people of my parish, as an example of lived faith and intercessor.

**Rev. John Hogan**

### Rijeka - Croatia

I am a priest of St. Anne parish of the diocese of Rijeka in Croatia. I met the Blessed Alberto's life, which strongly shows that we are all called to holiness in every condition of life, as we can see not only by his commitment in Azione cattolica, but also by his commitment for the displaced during



*Rijeka, Cattedrale di San Vito*

the Second World War and by his political commitment at the end of the war. I think his example could help many young men and students follow his example. That's why I would like not only to preach Alberto's life, but also to offer the faithful and myself the opportunity to ask for his intercession.

Therefore, I ask for materials to make him better known and a relic to be exhibited to celebrate the High Mass. Greetings in the name of the Lord.

**P. Goran Zan Lebovic Casalunga**

## In India they start celebrating Alberto's Birth Centenary

Father Vinod Kunnappally writes to us from Idduki, Kerala: We are glad to inform you that we are about to celebrate Alberto's Birth Centenary. We will do this in November this year with a great procession with the Alberto's relics in all parishes.



*La diga di Idduki*

Father Vinod also tells us that, on the occasion of the centenary, he is writing a work on Alberto Marvelli's and Piergiorgio Frassati's lives.

## From Ruda Maleniecka (Poland)

The young Tomasz Jaskolski asks for a relic of the Blessed Alberto Marvelli. "I have great devotion for him. His intercession obtains graces for us as young people. The Blessed Alberto is very close to my family and we have great sympathy and devotion for him. Please send me pictures and other materials to make him known".

## Minas Gerais (Brazil)

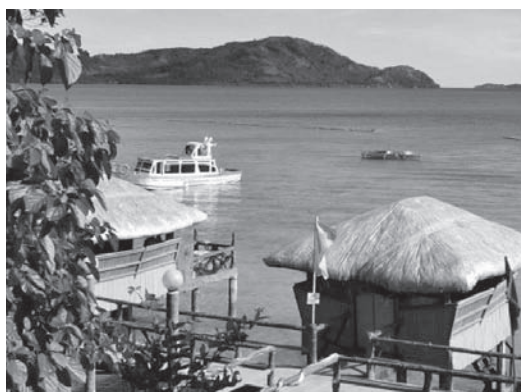
I am a seminarian of the diocese of Leopoldina in the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil. I would like a relic of the Blessed Alberto, since I think he is very important for the Catholic Church: a great example for all Christians. During his lifetime, he did good on Earth and showed us that we can be holy in everyday life, by persevering in the faith despite the trends and ideologies suggested by our society. Alberto announced Christ with his words and the example of his life.

**Paulo Emilio Carneiro Xavier**

## LETTERS AND NEWS OF CARLA

### Joseph Balbuena from the Philippines

The life of holy men and women has always inspired my life. From them I learn how to live an intimate relationship with God: they are my models and teach me how to live a truly Christian life.



I would like to receive news about Venerable Carla Ronci's life, works and holiness, and if possible a relic, which I could also use to arouse other people's devotion to her.  
Many thanks in advance.

### Writing from Florida (Siracusa)

Dear Graziella,  
Every day I read some pages of Carla's biography, I am happy! The hardships that unfortunately I always encounter along my life's journey do not matter. I always tell Jesus: I want to be your shadow living

on the streets of life. Shadow is nothing, but a sign of your presence. It's a beautiful sentence that I've made my own, and I like to repeat it often. Humiliations are my daily bread. So it is... For me, Carla is now part of my life. She's my little sister. I'm sure she will help me. She knows what I need. I promise I'll try to make her known



as much as I can.  
I wish you all the best and a big hug, yours truly

**A. M.**

**The greatest demands for relics, pictures and booklets come from several areas of Brazil. They are accompanied by short letters expressing admiration and devotion, and they aim to make her known to others.**

### Walo Texas (United States)

Renata Poulin, a consecrated laywoman and University lecturer, writes to us. I discovered the Venerable Carla Ronci while I was searching for information on other saints and blessed consecrated laywomen, and I was impressed by her life



la Ronci with a due certification of validity.  
Thanks in advance for your help.

**Bernard d. Thumma**

testimony and her love for Jesus.

The vocation to a consecrated life of laity is not well known in the United States and I am confident that the testimony of the Venerable Carla will inspire so many young women to follow Jesus in that beautiful way of giving oneself to Him in the world. And since we are already consecrated, we are inspired to pursue the way of holiness zealously.

Please send me some holy cards, a relic and some material to better get to know her.

## From Steelton (United States)

I am writing to you to have a relic of the Venerable Carla Ronci in a shrine.

I am responsible for the Sacred Relics of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Middletown (Pennsylvania). My ministry is to strengthen the faith of the faithful through the public worship of saints and to give a catechesis on the church.

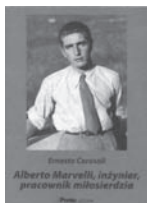
This program is part of the Year of Faith initiative, and will continue in the future.

I'm sure you will approve my apostolate, sending me the relic of the Venerable Car-

# BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS IN LANGUAGE

## Alberto

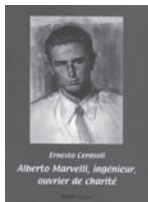
Ernesto Cerasoli



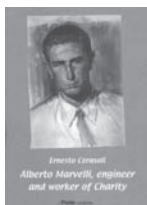
**Alberto Marvelli, inżynier,  
pracownik miłosierdzia**  
Ed. *ilPonte* - pp. 24

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**