

TOGETHER pilgrims on the way towards MADRID 2011

Spiritual journey in the company of CA young saints

Tenth stage (April 2011)

TIME TO MEDITATE

**John 20,19-31 • YOU ARE THE LIFE. MAY OUR THOUGHTS, OUR LOVE
AND OUR DEEDS BE ROOTED IN YOU!**

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe!" Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name".

We know very well that it is easier to be dependable than to depend on others. The disciples, and among them Thomas, had to be dependable, but the time came that they had to trust ... We like to help, but it is more difficult to accept help. We like to understand but it is more difficult to accept somebody else's explanation. We like to be the protagonists and subjects of our life and to govern ourselves, even for our own good. But, as we know from experience, when we love, the difficulty is to let our happiness depend on the person we love.

Actually this becomes rather radical. Rooting ourselves in Christ is not a question of being somewhat poetic, spiritual or generic. It means deciding to be dependable disciples (good, committed, generous); to be dependable disciples (conscious of our limitations, very often sinners, unworthy). As such, we can only say one word "My Lord and my God, which is the same as saying "My love, my life" and we do not need to say anything else. We are in front of Him, in whose hands we have entrusted the key to our happiness, and from Him, from then on, our eternal life depends.

IN THE COMPANY OF SAINTLY YOUNG PEOPLE



BLESSÈD ALBERTO MARVELLI

Short biographical notes

Quando When he died, run over by a military truck, on the 5th October 1946, Alberto Marvelli concluded a short but an exceptionally intense life. He was born in Ferrara in 1918 and was the second of seven brothers in a family, which was Christian in all respects. In 1930 the family moved to Rimini where he started frequenting the Salesian Oratory

and Catholic Action. He soon had a clear vision for himself: he wanted to become a saint and took Pier Giorgio Frassati as his model.

Alberto was an athletic and dynamic young man. He had a strong, steady, decisive and strong-headed character. He had all the qualities of a leader, in fact his influence on other young people was very obvious. Just as obvious was his relation with God which was manifested in his charitable work, in the recollected way he prayed and later on in his decision to participate daily in the Eucharist. Cycling was his passion and at the same time his preferred means for carrying out his apostolate.

During his University years he joined the FUCI. In 1941 he graduated as a mechanical engineer. He was exempted from military service because three of his brothers were already on the front. Alberto spent the first years of the war working for FIAT but after the 1943 events, he dedicated himself to charitable work. He used to go back to Rimini after every bombardment where he ran among the rubble to give moral and material support to those who had been hit. Like Frassati, sometimes he returned home without shoes as he used to give them to someone who needed them. During the German occupation, he saved many young men from deportation. He even sabotaged a train, full of prisoners, in the Santarcangelo Station.

After the 25th April, he became a councillor on the Liberation Committee. He was only 26 years old but his duties were very sensitive. He ended up being the Catholic Action Diocesan vice-president and one of the founders of Acli. He enrolled as a member of the Christian Democratic Party and was the leader of the Catholic Graduates of Rimini. The importance of being of service was very clear to him. "Jesus served" he wrote in his notebook.

On the evening when he died, he was on his way to an electoral meeting. He was greatly missed by all his fellow citizens.

Pilgrimages continually flow to his tomb in the church of Saint Augustine.

Alberto's words

From Alberto's diary

«I am 21 years old. Time passes, or rather, it flies. We should not lag behind in our spiritual life. Just as one day is a repeat of the previous one and this makes up our material life, so our spiritual journey in life should be a continuous and determined climb, the summing up of all the past experiences and of the continuous actual graces which the Lord continually bestows on us. I must progress continually, step by step, day by day, minute by minute; always aspiring for the highest peak, God. I should and I want. "Be perfect as your Father who is in heaven is perfect". This is what Jesus said and this is what we should aim at, at least in that which depends on us and on our will. In this, we are always beginners so let us always try hard to advance higher and higher towards the marvelous and infinite palace which is perfection».

«I would like to become a saint: and so I am ready to renounce any dream and earthly affection so as to belong totally to God. With You, Jesus, until death».

«To live as if this is the last day. To work as if I am never going to die».

A young person like us

«Alberto Marvelli, a young man who was strong and free and a generous son of the Church of Rimini and of Catholic Action, considered his brief life of only 28 years as *a gift of love to Jesus for the good of his brethren*. "Jesus has enfolded me in his grace", he wrote in his diary; "I no longer see anyone but him, I think only of him". Alberto had made the daily *Eucharist* the centre of his life. In *prayer* he also sought the inspiration for political commitment, convinced of the need *to live to the full as children of God in history* in order to make it a history of salvation.

In the difficult time of the Second World War, which sowed death and multiplied violence and atrocious suffering, Bl. Alberto fostered an *intense spiritual life*, from which flowed the love for Jesus that led him constantly to forget himself and *to take on the cross of the poor*».

John Paul II, *Homily at the Beatification of Alberto Marvelli*,
Loreto, Montorso Esplanade, 5th September, 2004