

# RELIGIOUS TITLES - RIGHTS LIST

## FALL 2024

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# PAPA FRANCESCO

## LA SPERANZA NON DELUDE MAI

Pellegrini verso un mondo migliore



A spiritual guide with invaluable insights to fully live the Holy Year beginning on 24 December with the unsealing of the Holy Door.



PIEMME

176 pages  
November 2024

The only book  
by Pope Francis  
for the 2025  
Jubilee.

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edited by  
Hernán  
Reyes Alcaide

## HOPE NEVER LETS YOU DOWN

### Pilgrims towards a better world

#### Pope Francis

In this new book, written especially for the 2025 Jubilee – declared under the watchword «Pilgrims of Hope» – Pope Francis offers vital insights for the Holy Year beginning on 24 December 2024. The Holy Father offers his readers his vision of hope, as well as recounting the role of hope in both his and his predecessors' magisterium, in literature and, more broadly, in the history of humanity. In introducing a Jubilee for a world growing more and more complex, Pope Francis analyses the major issues of our times through an array of «figures» providing a glimmer of hope. An expectant mother introduces the issues of families, natality, and the Church; an indigent man opens a discussion on the social, political, and economic situation at a global level; a refugee offers the opportunity to reflect on migrations and geopolitics, and a civilian in a war zone to speak of the hope for peace; the figures of a senior and a preteen together epitomize the opportunities and shared challenges we must face. In conclusion, the Pope points to concrete actions in order to build, through hope, a better world while confronting the great challenges of the future, such as the development of artificial intelligence and the consequences of climate change.

The Holy Year is the fulfilment of a strong wish of the Pope and will represent a turning point for the Church and beyond.

**Hernán Reyes Alcaide** (Buenos Aires, 1983) is a journalist and communications consultant, and Vatican correspondent for *Religión Digital*. He has traveled with the Pope to more than 20 countries and published in *Télam* (Argentina), *El Observador* (Uruguay), *L'Osservatore Romano* (Vatican City), among other media. In 2017 he co-wrote *Latinoamérica* with Pope Francis. In 2023 he was declared Outstanding Cultural Personality of the City of Buenos Aires. In 2022 he edited Pope Francis' book *I Ask You in the Name of God* (Piemme).



- THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY  
2018
- GOD IS YOUNG  
2019

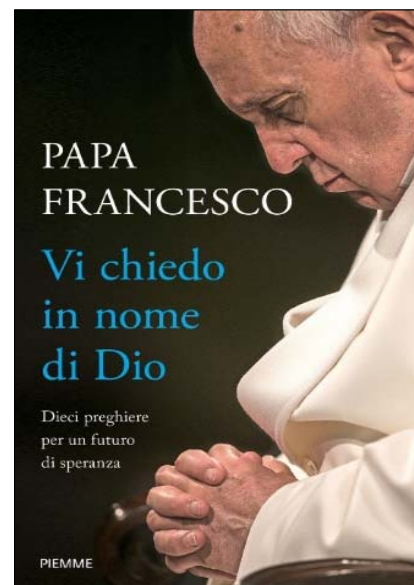


PIEMME 192 pages  
2023

**SEEK YOUR HORIZON**  
Getting up and starting again today

A conversation with Davide Banzato

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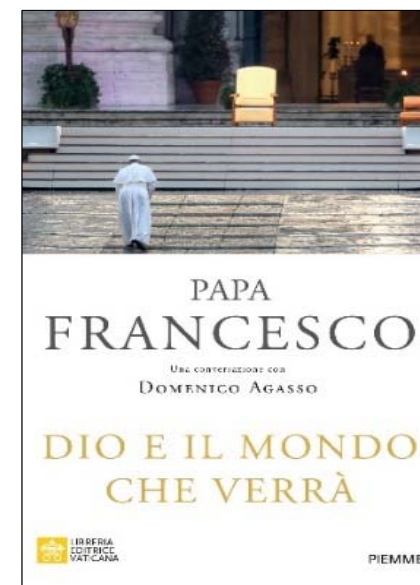


PIEMME 160 pages  
2022

**I AM ASKING IN THE NAME OF GOD**  
Ten prayers for a future of hope

Edited by Hernán Reyes Alcaide

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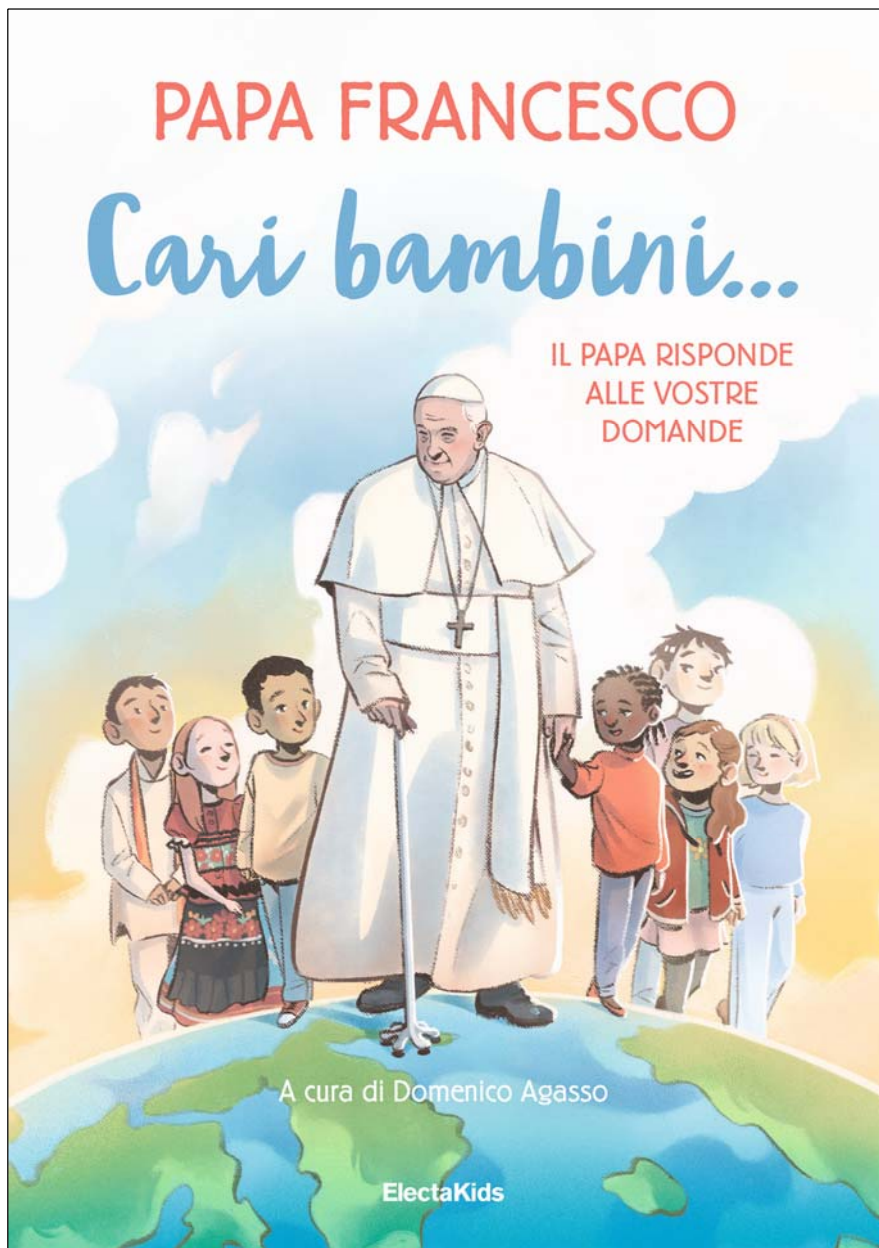
PIEMME 128 pages  
2021

**GOD AND THE WORLD TO COME**

A conversation with Domenico Agasso

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“Humanity is called to make memory of the history received, to have courage to face the present and to nurture hope toward the future”



A book of hope in which the Pope speaks directly to the children of the world, answering their questions on the large and small mysteries of life.

**MONDADORI**  
ELECTA

80 pages  
October 2023

How special is the life of a pontiff? With sincerity and simplicity, Pope Bergoglio answers to the questions of boys and girls around the world, recounting the memories and experiences of his childhood and addressing important issues such as the meaning of life and the meaninglessness of war.

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**SLOVAKIA**  
**SLOVENIA**

edited by  
**Domenico**  
**Agasso**

## DEAR CHILDREN.. The Pope answers your questions Pope Francis

After seeing his own kids conversing with the Pope, Domenico Agasso, a Vaticanist, brought to the attention of Bergoglio a collection of questions posed by children from all parts of the world, and the Pope was delighted to comply, answering them all in an attitude of openness and graciousness. Relating to the children the way a fond grandfather would, he tells them of his own childhood, provides answers to the great universal questions (the meaning of life, the senselessness of wars, the importance of aspirations), shows how special and yet ordinary the everyday life of a Pope is. Always in a language that is simple, universal, accessible to kids. Dear children.. is an illustrated book for the whole family, a book brimming with messages of faith and human understanding.

*..What emotions did you feel when you realized that you were about to become the new pope?*

*..What can't you explain?*

*..Why do you say often that adults should learn from us children?*

*..Why are there wars?*

Born in 1979 in Carmagnola and a graduate in political science, **Domenico Agasso** is a journalist and author. He works for "La Stampa" newspaper as coordinator of the "Vatican Insider", the independent website on Vatican affairs and the initiatives of the Pope. He is the author of several books. He has followed Pope Francis in many of his international visits, and obtained two exclusive interviews for his newspaper, in August 2019 and March 2020. He's been editor of Pope Francis book Dio e il mondo che verrà [God and the world to come]

Saverio Gaeta

# VIVERE IL GIUBILEO

Tutto quello che c'è da sapere  
sull'Anno santo: la storia, i luoghi,  
gli appuntamenti da non perdere



The most complete guide  
to fully experience this unique event. The  
meaning of the Jubilee, the significance of its  
symbols and rites, anecdotes from the past and  
the program of events planned in Rome in 2025



PIEMME

160 pages  
October 2024

*Bergoglio's invitation was to "keep lit the torch of hope" so that the coming Holy Year may "favour the recomposition of a climate of hope and trust, as a sign of a renewed rebirth that we all feel the urgency of"*

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SLOVAKIA

## LIVING THE JUBILEE

**All you need to know about the Holy Year: history, places and events that can't be missed**

**Saverio Gaeta**

From Christmas 2024 to Epiphany 2026, the Jubilee that periodically commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ will take place in Rome. This 30th Holy Year will have the motto 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Pope Francis called it "a special gift of grace, characterised by the forgiveness of sins and, in particular, by indulgence, the full expression of God's mercy", in continuity with the Jubilee of Mercy, which he had celebrated between 2015 and 2016. Saverio Gaeta's book will be the most comprehensive guide to fully experience this unique event. The author will explain the meaning of the Holy Year, focusing on the **historical and spiritual meaning** of the Jubilee and describing its **symbols** for 2025: pilgrimage, penitential acts, special rites and modalities, official prayer, hymn and logo. He will also present **the programme** of the Jubilee events planned in Rome and recount **anecdotes and curiosities** from past Jubilees. Finally, he will take readers on a journey to **the places of the Jubilee**, illustrating the papal basilicas of Rome (St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls) and the three other basilicas (Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, St. Sebastian) that make up **the itinerary** of the 'Seven Churches' of St. Philip Neri. Completing the manual are maps of the most important places and a section of **essential information** for pilgrims and visitors, with useful numbers and addresses and instructions on how to get around the city.

Journalist, essayist and Vaticanist **Saverio Gaeta** is the author of a hundred books and essays. He has published the bestseller *Il Veggente* with Salani in 2016 and, with Piemme, *La profezia dei due papi* in 2018 and *Nient'altro che la verità* with Georg Gänswein in 2023, which has become a real publishing case with more than 30,000 copies sold.

Andrea Tornielli

**BENEDETTO XVI**

IL TEOLOGO, IL PONTEFICE, L'UOMO



The complete and definitive biography of the man and pope who changed the history of the Church, told in the authoritative voice of Andrea Tornielli.



PIEMME

352 pages  
January 2024

*To understand Ratzinger and his papacy one must take as premise this fundamental statement by the Pope: «The ecclesial magisterium protects the faith of the simple: this is the magisterium's democratic task. It must give voice to those who have no voice».*

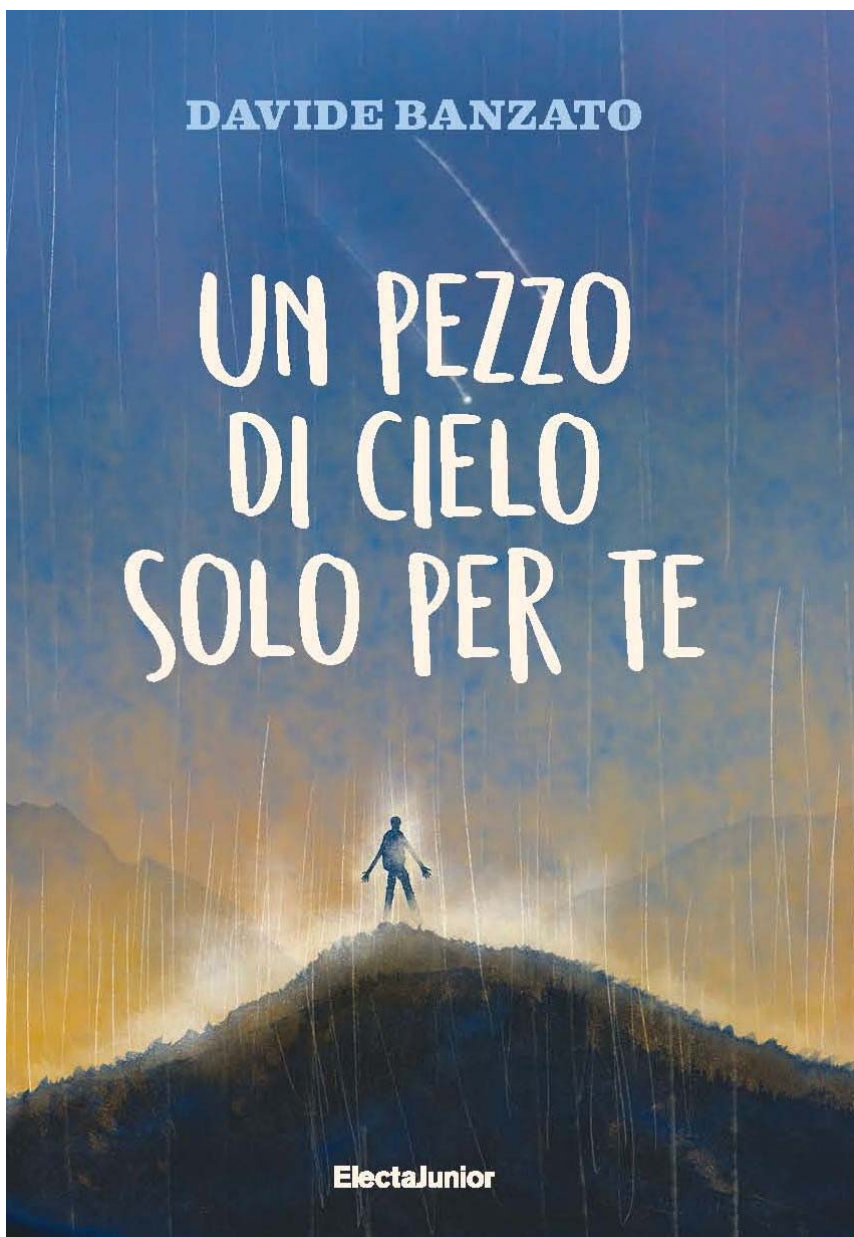
Foreign rights  
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**PORTUGAL**

**BENEDICT XVI****The theologian, the pope, the man****Andrea Tornielli**

The passing of Benedict XVI on December 31, 2022, opened a wound in the Vatican, upending already fragile balances and exacerbating the clash between the supporters of Pope Francis and the more conservative wing of the clergy. Andrea Tornielli retraces the life of the Pope Emeritus, from his childhood in Germany to his studies in theology, from his first steps in the Vatican alongside John Paul II to his election to the papacy and his resignation. The author explores the lights and shadows of a man accused by many of hyper-conservatism, labeled a «strict and inflexible inquisitor», overshadowed by scandals such as the Vatileaks and the sexual abuse cases. And yet, if we make the effort to go beyond clichés and resist the temptation to settle for slogans, we discover a different Ratzinger – a man who was attentive to the protection of the environment, of peace, of the poor and marginalized.

This book is the exhaustive and deeply researched portrait of a man of simple habits, a lover of books and music and a great theologian, and the story of a seven-year papacy the author – a Vatican correspondent – was able to follow closely and first-hand: the encyclicals, the official visits around the world, the major decisions, the encounters. An authoritative document revealing a man who undoubtedly changed forever the history of the Vatican.

**Andrea Tornielli** is manager of the editorial department of the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy Seat. Previously he was a Vaticanist and special correspondent for several newspapers, and coordinator of the web site Vatican Insider. His many books include the biographies of Pope Pius XII (2007) and Pope Paul VI (2009), and the best-sellers *Il nome di Dio è misericordia*. [The name of God is Mercy] (2016), *Dov'è Dio? Una conversazione con Julián Carrón* [Where is God? A conversation with Julián Carrón] (2017) and *Vita di Gesù* [The life of Jesus] (2022), all published by Piemme.



A book about vocation and spirituality in the widest sense of the word, and an author honestly opening his heart.

**MONDADORI**  
ELECTA

160 pages  
November 2024  
ElectaJunior

*The chisel is in our hands, even if the blows struck come from forces beyond our control. We can decide where to place the awl. We must walk aware that trials, difficulties and falls will be there. Let us not be afraid ever. The secret to fulfilling one's vocation is not to give up.*

## A PIECE OF HEAVEN JUST FOR YOU

**Davide Banzato**

A story of love, faith, and luminous encounters. Through the open-hearted account of his life, Davide Banzato, priest of the international community *Nuovi Orizzonti*, wants to share with younger people his journey of loss and vocation, of human wandering and Light, to leave the most precious message of all: each of us deserves to get his piece of Heaven and to make his life a wonderful mosaic, just listen to oneself and learn how to make one's dreams shine. *A Piece of Heaven Just for You* is a useful book for those who are growing up to find their place in the world, thanks to the words of a priest who works with young people and their difficulties and who, before finding his vocation, was young himself.

This book, written for pre-teens who find themselves faced with the first choices and questions about themselves (why was I born and what can I do to give meaning to my presence in the world, to do good and feel good?), is an invitation to a journey to find your way in the world, and finding your place within the mosaic of life.

Born in Padoa in 1981, **Don Banzato** is a priest committed to social work for troubled youths at the international community Nuovi Orizzonti founded by Chiara Amirante. Don Banzato writes for several newspapers and magazines, He is the author of the best-seller *Tutto ma prete mai. Una storia di ribellione e d'amore* [Anything but never a priest. Story of love and rebellion] (Piemme, 2021) and, with Pope Francis, of *Cerca il tuo orizzonte. Rialzarsi e ripartire oggi* [Find your horizon. Picking yourself up and starting anew] (Piemme, 2023).



What could someone like Saint Francis, who lived in 1200, teach us about the challenges we face in our times, in a world as constantly changing as ours?



PIEMME

160 pages  
October 2024

*In the landscape of human history, few figures shine as brightly as that of Saint Francis of Assisi. He is not somebody to be consigned to the past but a vibrant presence, still speaking directly to present-day people and to the aspirations of our times.*

edited by  
**Domenico  
Agasso**

**Roberto Repole will be appointed cardinal by Pope Francis in December 2025.**

## HOPE IS STILL POSSIBLE

**The message of Saint Francis, a beacon lighting the way out of the darkness of our times**

**Roberto Repole**

What makes unique the saint who took «Lady Poverty» as his bride, and why is he still one of the most venerated figures not just in the Church but in the history of humanity? These and many more are the questions explored by Roberto Repole, archbishop of Turin, in this new book – not the umpteenth biography or collection of anecdotes on the life of the saint from Assisi, but a truly innovative and enlightening portrait. Saint Francis' vow of poverty, his love for all living creatures, his poetry, are already well known. The aim of the author is to shed light on a less known side of Francis, and the real reason why, after eight centuries, his name and memory are still alive in our collective imagination, fascinating, inspiring and guiding us in our times of deep changes – or in the words of Pope Francis, who took his name from the saint, in a radical shift in time. We then discover that **Saint Francis uniquely adapted to the changes in his own time, embodying a surprising template of adaptation and resilience.** His message, passed on for generations, shows the way to overcome our own trials, teaching us to walk the thin line between traditional wisdom and new ideas, between the importance of preserving the past and the need to face the future in faith and hope.

Former lecturer in Ecclesiology, of Ordained Ministry and Systematic Theology and later rector of the Theological University of Northern Italy, Turin Campus, **Roberto Repole** was president of ATI (Italian Theological Association) from 2011 to 2019. Since 19 February 2022 he has been the archbishop of Turin and bishop of Susa. **Domenico Agasso** works as coordinator of the "Vatican Insider", is the author of several books and the editor of Pope Francis book Dio e il mondo che verrà [God and the world to come]





When sudden, inexplicable tragedies befall us, how can we still believe there is a God, that he is beautiful and even loves us?



PIEMME

208 pages  
November 2024

*It is in seeking the beauty of God that we discover we are loved. And find that God is not out to punish us.*

*So, let's try reading the Gospel together and see the ways God loves us. In the end it will be up to you to decide whether this is yet another, pious, mindboggling and useless illusion, or whether it's worth taking the risk.*

*If it's worth the risk of becoming Christians, remaining disciples, giving ourselves over to trust. And to (still) believe.*

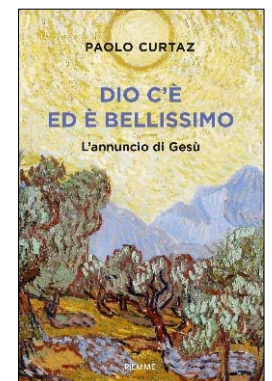
## YOU ARE LOVED

### God is not mad at you

#### Paolo Curtaz

To this day, the vast majority of people, including believers, see religion as a sort of protocol on how to “behave”; a set of moral rules, a (tedious, limiting) track we must follow, and that, somehow, God is out to punish us. Otherwise, why would bad things happen and why are prayers never answered? Curtaz knows full well what this feels like, having had to cope with major health issues and now living with a pain that has become a constant in his life. In his new book, Curtaz shows us that **it is precisely in our darkest moments, when we struggle to keep the faith, that we discover that God is not out to punish us but loves us**, and that the Christian faith is not just a question of righteousness but of falling in love. There is a God, and he is in love. With his uniquely engaging and unsanctimonious style, Curtaz guides us to a rediscovery of the Gospel, encouraging us once again to ponder the truth of the Christian message, stripping it of false beliefs and biases that obscure its purest meaning.

Born in Aosta in 1965, **Paolo Curtaz** is a theologian and writer. He shares his studies and his meditations on the Holy Word with the thousands of people, both believers and non-believers, he meets every day at lectures, on pilgrimages, on the Internet, on social networks and webinars. He has published over fifty books, translated in six different languages. He is acknowledged as one of the few religious teachers that can satisfy the yearning for meaning of contemporary times



**GOD EXISTS AND HE IS BEAUTIFUL**  
(2022)



A conversation between a mother and a monk,  
an interlacing of grief and hope in the  
knowledge that love can shine a beacon of light  
even in the darkest depths of night



PIEMME

144 pages  
September 2024

*Openly dealing with this horrifying experience – an experience we tend, for several reasons, to live in isolation, sometimes even in shame – can generate threads that, weaved together, create a receptacle for other stories, other forms of grief, other losses.*

## **STRONGER THAN DEATH IS LOVE**

### **Starting again after the loss of a child**

#### **Bernardo Gianni, Loredana Blasi**

Most languages don't have a word to define a parent who has lost a child. The loss of a child is so frightening and unnatural we cannot even conceive as possible, let alone giving it a name. It is a hurt like no other, a wound that never heals. Yet, amazingly, human beings find a way to survive it. And to start living again. Yet we cannot save ourselves on our own, especially from an abyss as unfathomable as this.. This was what Loredana Blasi learned when she lost her Tommaso. She realized the only people who could lead her out of the darkness were those who had been through the very same hell. And she decided, along with Bernardo Gianni, a monk and the abbot of San Miniato al Monte, Florence, the abbey where Loredana's son was buried, to create a meeting place and support group for parents "orphaned" of their children. In this book the voices of **Bernardo and Loredana weave an enlightening dialogue between a mother and her spiritual counselor**, aiming to reach all people who are experiencing the same loss. So they don't feel alone, and discover it is still possible to keep living and be saved by love, which is stronger than death.

**Bernardo Gianni** was born in Florence in 1968. An Olivetan monk of the Benedictine order and a major figure in the Florentine spiritual and cultural scene, he is the abbot of San Miniato al Monte where he has been living since 1996. In 2019 he was chosen by Pope Francis as preacher for the spiritual exercises of Lent.

**Loredana Blasi**, (1957) lives in Florence. In 2008, four years after the loss of her child, she founded the association La Stanza Accanto [The next room], welcoming and supporting parents who have lost a child and helping them to live again, as opposed to just surviving.



A book to meet the growing need  
for spiritual guidance

For a future in which AI, if ethically applied, will  
contribute to the attainment of universal peace



208 pages  
September 2024

*The development of new technologies has multiplied questions on critical issues. What ethical approach can we adopt to have real impact on technology? How do we prevent humankind from becoming technologized instead of technology being humanized? How do we avoid becoming enslaved by "algocracy", i.e., the power of algorithms? How do we respond to the overwhelming power of those who own big data?*

## THE ALGORITHM OF LIFE

### Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

#### Vincenzo Paglia

The ever-accelerating development of Artificial Intelligence and its benefits and risks are crucial concerns of many and naturally of the Church as well, called to meet the growing need for spiritual guidance in navigating the flood of new data and information. In 2020, in signing the document "Rome Call for A.I. Ethics", the Pontifical Academy for Life led by Msgr. Paglia, along with FAO, IBM, Microsoft, and the Italian Ministry for Innovation, took on **the mission of promoting an ethical approach to the use of Artificial Intelligence**. A commitment to put AI in the service of humankind and not vice versa. AI must not become an aid to the already overwhelming power of tools of oppression – from weapons to the innumerable technologies of control and surveillance. Rather, in more useful and profitable fashion, AI should widen the access to still untapped areas of development and progress. Following the lead of Pope Francis, who for years has been speaking of the importance of AI for the future of the Church and humankind, Vincenzo Paglia guides the reader to the discovery of the advancements made and of those still to be addressed to bring about a future in which Artificial Intelligence, ethically applied, will truly have a positive impact on people's lives, even contributing to the attainment of universal peace.

The former bishop and then archbishop of Terni, **Vincenzo Paglia** is now president of the Pontifical Academy for Life and spiritual counselor for the Community of Sant'Egidio, where he is active for the organization of ecumenical and inter-religious meetings. He is the author of several essays on believers and lay people relations, as well as books on religious themes, the religious ministry and social commitment



The thought provoking imagined conversation between writer Michela Murgia and the theologian Marinella Perroni who for ten years has been her friend and confidante.



PIEMME

192 pages  
May 2024

Michela Murgia, Italian writer recipient of several literary Awards and brilliant mind, has had a Catholic background and has become a point of reference in the Italian cultural scene, and a friendly voice of confrontation with prominent figures such as Cardinal Zuppi, Roberto Saviano, Chiara Valerio, and Lella Costa, also tackling issues such as family and motherhood in an unconventional way.

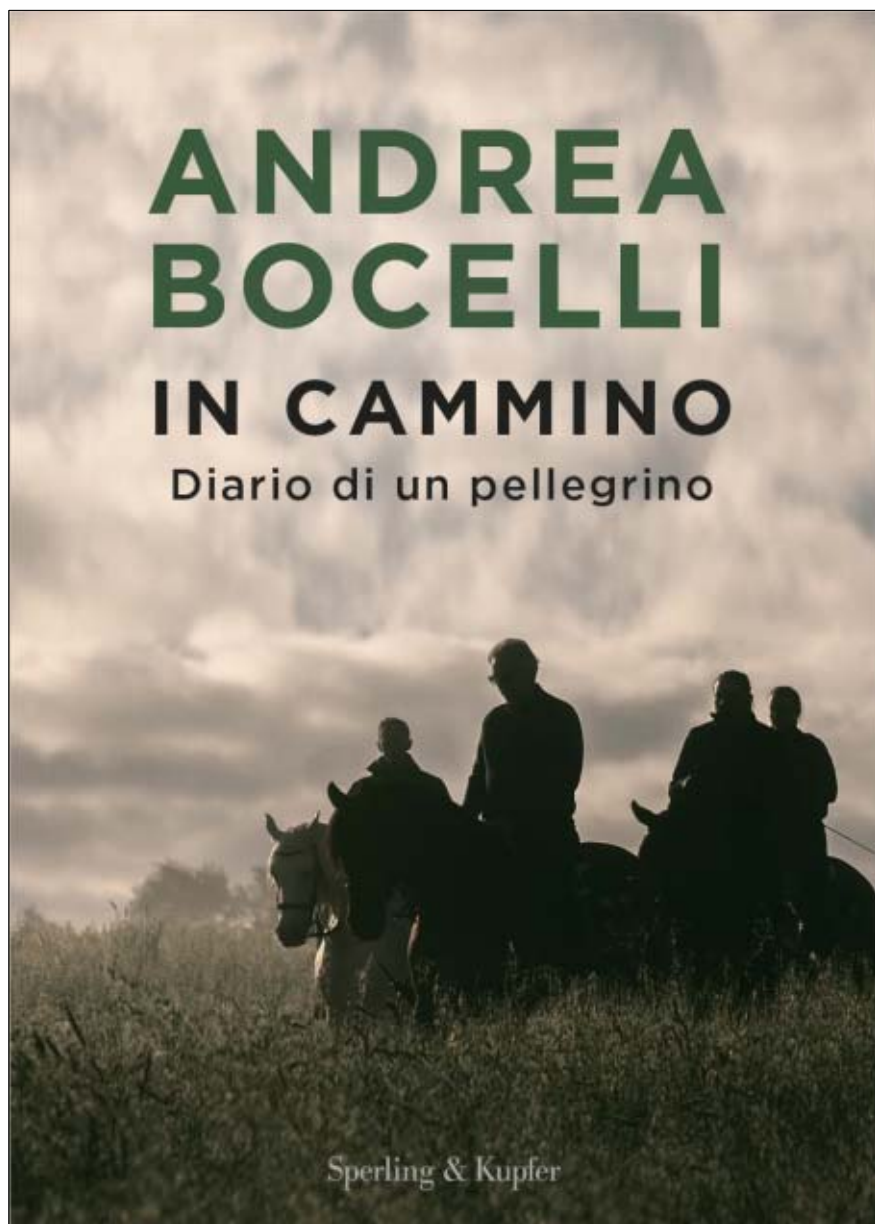
## CONVERSATIONS NO LONGER POSSIBLE

with Michela Murgia  
Marinella Perroni

The passing of Michela Murgia has been a terrible loss not only for the sociocultural and political landscape but also for those who had met her in person. Marinella Perroni, a theologian and close friend of Murgia's, gingerly walks the thin line between reality and imagination to converse with Michela as they so often did in the past, picking up the thread of discussions left unfinished and that now, through the voices of both women, Marinella and Michela, illuminate the present.

*«Conversations (...) with Michela (...) were among my greatest joys in the years of our friendship. Ten years in all - too short a time for all we had to say to each other. Which is why so much was left unsaid, so many topics just briefly mentioned and set aside. Because with Michela you could speak for hours on end, in an interplay of constant references, retrievals and reversals, in bounds and leaps and respites. Sometimes you thought the main thread was a specific topic, others the feeling was that the words themselves were creating the tapestry of thoughts. The loss of her voice has drastically impoverished public discourse. But I can still hear it, though I know all too well the conversations we used to have are no longer possible».*

**Marinella Perroni** was born in Rome on 9 December 1948. After a Doctorate in Philosophy and one in Theology, she became adjunct professor in New Testament at the Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm in Rome and served as president of the CTI (Coordination committee of Italian women theologians). She is the author of several scholarly publications on the New Testament.



  
Sperling & Kupfer

208 pages  
November 2022

*Faith presents  
itself as a bet  
singularly  
profitable: if you  
win, you win  
everything,  
if you lose, you  
lose nothing*

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## IN CAMMINO

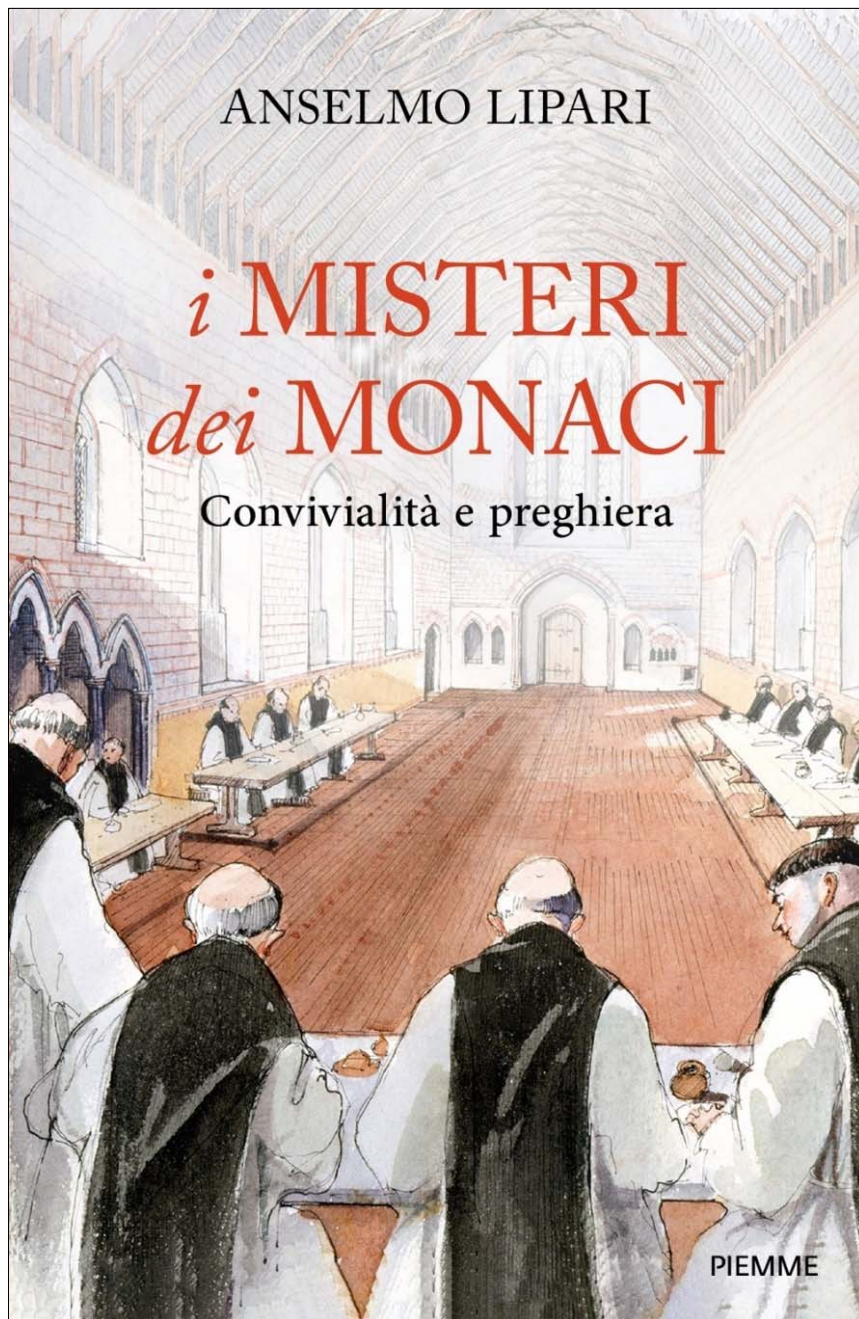
### Journal of a pilgrim

#### Andrea Bocelli

The story of a pilgrimage as metaphor of a unique life. An intense biographical parable to the discovery of true life-values. The personal narrative of an extraordinary experience lived by Andrea Bocelli: the journey of the ancient pilgrimage route of the Via Francigena, from Rome to Lajatico, on horseback. The intimate journal of the three weeks Andrea spent in a deep communion with the silence and wonders of nature and his inner self. A travel log that, following the rhythm of the pilgrimage, becomes a reflection on his entire life, through the anecdotes and memories of an exceptional personal arc to both inspire a wide range of readers and convey the life lessons of a major representative of Italian culture in the world – the significance that music had and still has in his life, the challenges he has had to face, the value of the choices he made and his many accomplishments.

Elected everywhere in the world as a testament to Italy's highest vocal tradition, **Andrea Bocelli** has sold more than 90 million records. A record-breaking artist, among countless accolades is that star shining on the Hollywood Walk of Fame since 2010 in his honor. He has received six Grammy Award nominations and as many Latin Grammy Awards. He has performed for four U.S. presidents, three popes, the British royal family, many prime ministers, globally for the ceremonies of the Olympic Games, Expo Shanghai 2010, Expo Milano 2015 (with the Teatro alla Scala Orchestra), and the opening of Expo Dubai 2021. In 2011, he started the Andrea Bocelli Foundation in order to enhance the wealth of relationships and the bond of trust that he has created and continues to create in every area of the globe he visits and where, fatefully, he is considered a reference point of musical but also ethical order.

“Every journey can be a pilgrimage.  
Each of our authentic thoughts dedicated to life  
can remind us that we are more  
than what we are”



A book to nourish the heart and soul with reflections and secrets from the monastic tradition



176 pages  
November 2024

*The monk reads the signs of the times and develops messages of life*

## THE MYSTERIES OF THE MONKS

### Conviviality and prayer

#### Don Anselmo Lipari

Father Anselmo Lipari, a Benedictine monk in the abbey of San Martino delle Scale in Monreale, Sicily, illustrates for readers of today the beauty of monastic life, explaining the charisma and the daily routines of monks, alternating prayer and work. For though the monastic tradition has always been a locus of great of fascination – just think of all the films, books, tv shows revolving around monks – very little is known of what it really means to become a monk and choose to live in an abbey. Father Anselmo, not just one of the elder and wisest monks in his abbey but also an acknowledged theologian, focuses his attention on the care monks take with meals as nourishment for the body and soul, but also as opportunities for inclusion and sharing. A simple meal shared with the monks is in fact an initiation into the mystery of monasticism, a moment of peace and fraternity in the deafening noise of our daily lives. **In guiding readers to the discovery of life within the abbey, this book offers reflections and food for thought, «life-giving words»** on the meaning of sharing, of conviviality, of participation. Spiritual recipes to rediscover joy, peace, harmony, and closeness to our brethren.

A native of Alcamo, **Don Anselmo Lipari** is a lecturer in Moral and Spiritual Theology and a monk at the abbey of San Martino delle Scale, Monreale, Sicily. In 2019 he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his vows.

MAURIZIO BOTTA

# IL RITMO DELLA LUMACA

*Sul viver lenti e felici*



PIEMME

In a world in which man has placed himself above every creature, we should instead learn from the little snail and respect a natural rhythm in order to live joyfully.



160 pages  
March 2023

*The first step, then, is to recognize that everything that exists is not a mere worthless episode. On the contrary, everything we experience, every single moment, has intrinsic value, and silence, far from erasing it, represents the salvation of this full everydayness.*

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SLOVENIA,  
SPAIN

## THE RYTHM OF THE SNAIL

### On living slowly and happily

**Maurizio Botta**

How often do we find ourselves so "overwhelmed" by duties and deadlines, by the need to be "on the piece," in society, to "be there", that we forget to stop, to take a breath, to give time to ourselves? How often do we neglect the importance of finding the right balance between speed and slowness, of allowing space for silence and boredom, two dimensions of existence so feared and yet so mysteriously necessary and inevitable? In the frenzy of contemporary times, these essential realities, as well as those relating to purity and chastity, now seem to have lost all social value. Yet, in God's plan, everything, even the smallest snail, works according to its own rhythm: a rhythm we must rediscover, listen to and respect in order to live a life of full joy. Father Maurizio Botta, taking his cue from the success of the "Five Steps" catechetical cycle that the young priest has been holding for several years in Rome, reflects with honesty and simplicity, and with his gaze fixed on Sacred Scripture, on the most problematic aspects of existence, inviting everyone to meditate on dimensions of daily life that are often taken for granted, but are fundamental for finding a space of serenity in the difficulties of the present.

Born in Biella in 1975, **Maurizio Botta** has been a priest since 2006 and exercises his ministry in Rome, after graduating from Bocconi University in Milan. Prefect of the Secular Oratory, for many years he has been a collaborator with the Catechetical Office of the Capitoline Diocese. He has published several books, in which he faces the most problematic issues of faith - and not only - in a clear and direct way, provocative and in dialogue with culture.



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## GOD IS MY COACH

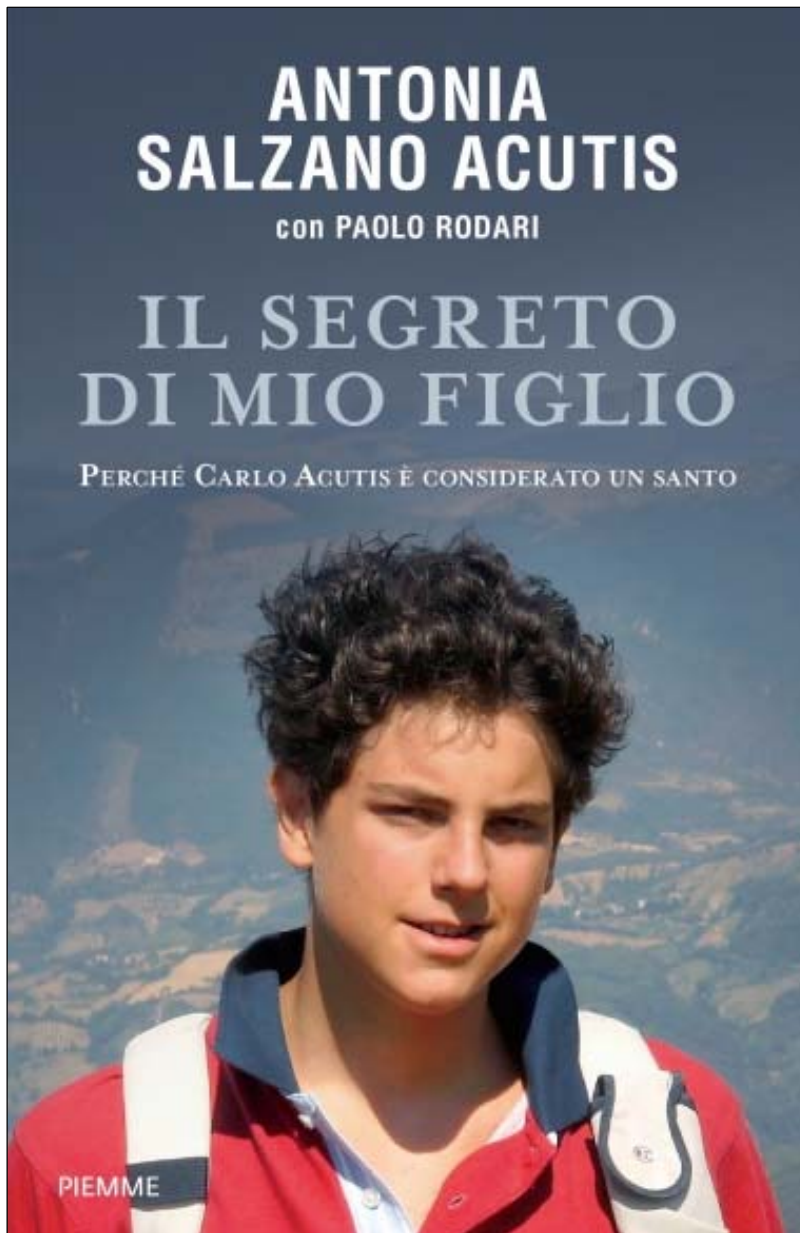
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**Cosimo Schena**

To interpret life and all its happenings, whether joyful or tragic, in the light of the Bible, to find the positive side and the beauty of existence: this, according to Cosimo Schena, is the way for all of us to reclaim inner peace. This is not a self-help book but a pocket Missal to always keep by our side and to turn to for solace, support, and evangelical guidance to overcome challenges, but also to learn to really appreciate achievements and those times of happiness we so often take for granted. Schena became popular on social networks for his poems and his love of animals. And by interacting with his ever-growing number of followers he realized how many were seeking for God, especially those who seemed the most detached from faith. So he decided use his online channels to bridge the distance with people, to lend a hand to those in trouble and show them they are not alone, and that the faith is the key to a place where everyone can feel at home.

Born in 1970, **Cosimo Schena** is a priest in the dioceses of Brindisi-Ostuni, Puglia. He holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Verona and is a post-graduate student in Philosophy at the Pontifical Lateran University, with a focus on the works of Simone Weil on totalitarianism and mysticism. He carries out his pastoral ministry in the town of Mesagne. He has published several collections of poems. This is his first essay.





Carlo is worshipped all around the world.

In this book it is his mother Antonia telling her son's story in her very own words. Delving into the secrets of his parallel life which she herself has struggled to comprehend.



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## MY SON'S SECRET

### Why Carlo Acutis is considered a Saint

**Antonia Salzano Acutis**

with Paolo Rodari

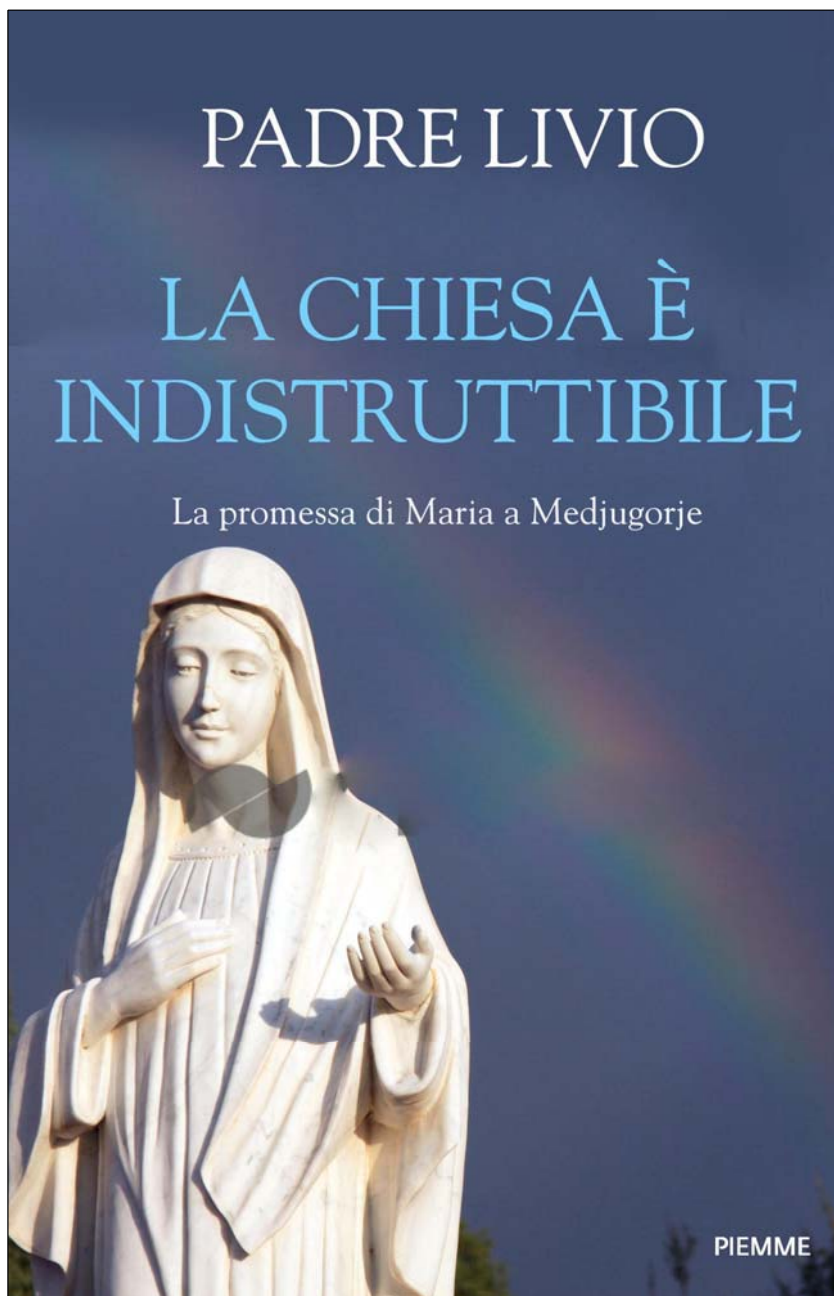
Carlo Acutis died at 15 of acute myeloid leukemia. The church in downtown Milan where his funeral was celebrated was packed. The crowd included many of the homeless people that Carlo helped every day. The grandson of the founder of a leading insurance company, Carlo had been born to wealth and had never wanted for anything. But like Saint Francis he did not care for comforts and riches and dedicated his life to others. In the wake of his beatification - soon to be followed by the canonization - media outlets from all around the world, including the «New York Times» and the BBC, have depicted Carlo as the greatest saint of our times. «The patron saint of the Internet,» said the Church. In this book, and for the first time ever, it is his mother Antonia telling her son's story in her very own words. Delving into the secrets of his parallel life which she herself has struggled to comprehend.

*"Carlo Acutis saw that many young people, wanting to be different, really end up being like everyone else, running after whatever the powerful set before them with the mechanisms of consumerism and distraction" Pope Francis*

Carlo Acutis will be canonized by Pope Francis in 2025

**Antonia Salzano Acutis** is the mother of Carlo Acutis, the Italian high-school student beatified and soon to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She is often invited to talk about her son and her experience as a mother.

**Paolo Rodari** is the specialist of Vatican affairs for «Repubblica». He has published several books and co-authored with Father Amorth the international best-seller L'ultimo esorcista [The last exorcist] (Piemme).



A book to understand the epochal spiritual battle the Church has entered, and that will determine its future



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## THE CHURCH IS INDESTRUCTIBLE

### Mary's promise at Madjugorje

**Padre Livio Fanzaga**

To say the Church is indestructible would appear obvious to any Catholic who remembers the words of Jesus to Peter: «You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it» (Matthew, 16, 13-20). Still, in Medjugorje Mary chose to repeat the promise of the Son and did so at the time of Adversary's most threatening challenge to the Church. The continued presence of the Mother of God in Medjugorje should first and foremost be seen in ecclesial terms: her daily appearances, her prayers and messages are all meant to strengthen faith in the Church and to guide it through the storm. This is why Mary has chosen to take under her own wing the local parish, so as to offer it as an example of spiritual rebirth at a time of unprecedented spiritual crisis. This is how the Sovereign of Peace is preparing the Church to the challenges to come. This book is for those who wish to understand the great spiritual battle the world has entered and that will decide of its future. The outcome of the battle is already written in the Secret of Fatima that Mary fulfilled in Medjugorje: in the end her Immaculate Heart will triumph, along with the Catholic Church, and peace will finally reign over the world.

Father **Livio Fanzaga** (1940) was ordained priest in the order of the Scolopi fathers in 1966, earned a degree in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a degree in Philosophy at the Catholic University in Milan. After a brief experience as missionary in Senegal, he devoted himself to the pastoral guidance of youth in Milan until, he took over the direction of Radio Maria. A successful author, he has published several books with Piemme. Among others, *Il segreto di Medjugorje* (2016), *La grandezza dell'umiltà* (2016), *Da Fatima a Medjugorje* (2017), *L'eroismo delle origini* (2018), *La pace del cuore* (2018), *La croce rinnegata* (2019), *Il tempo dei segreti* (2021), *Se siete miei, vincerete* (2022), *Tempo di Fortezza* (2023), most of them written together with Diego Manetti.



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**Masha Vincenti**

Foreign and Movie Rights  
masha.vincenti@mondadori.it  
Tel +39 340.411.4679

**Francesca Villa**

Foreign and Movie Rights  
francesca.villa@mondadori.it  
Tel +39 345.058.4349