

Attilio Danese • Giulia Paola Di Nicola

UN'AUREOLA PER DUE



Maria Corsini e Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi



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Index Forward Giulia Paola Di Nicola— Attilio Danese, *Un'aureola per due Maria Corsini e Luigi Beltrame Ouattrocchi*, Effatà, Torino 2003

On Oct. 21, Rome has been witness of an unprecedented event: three siblings will be present at the beatification of their parents, the first husband and wife to be raised together to the glory of the altars. blessed are Luigi Beltrame Ouattrocchi (1880-1951), and Maria Corsini (1884-1965), a Roman couple who made their ordinary married life extraordinary through love. A decree promulgated July 7 acknowledged the miracle which opened the way to their beatification, which fulfilled John Paul II's long-standing wish to offer the world an example of sanctity in marriage. Luigi Beltrame was a brilliant lawyer with career that culminated in appointment as assistant attorney general of the Italian State. He was a friend of many politicians of the post-war period, such as Alcide de Gasperi and Luigi Gedda, who worked for the rebirth of Italy Mussolini's after Fascism. Maria Corsini, who loved music and arts, was a writer on spirituality and education, and a member of several associations, including Women's Catholic Action. The couple had four children: Filippo (Father Tarcisio), born in 1906; Stefania (Sister Maria Cecilia), who was born in 1908 and died in 1993; Cesare (today, Father Paolino), born in 1909; and Enrichetta, the youngest, born in 1914 and living still in Rome. The Beltrames were a middle-class family open to the needs of all. During World War II their Roman apartment was a shelter for refugees. Their children recall that their parents led a simple life, like that of many married couples, but always characterized by a sense of supernatural.

"The aspect that characterized our family life was the atmosphere of normality that our parents created in the constant seeking of transcendental values," Father Tarcisio,

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Love Is

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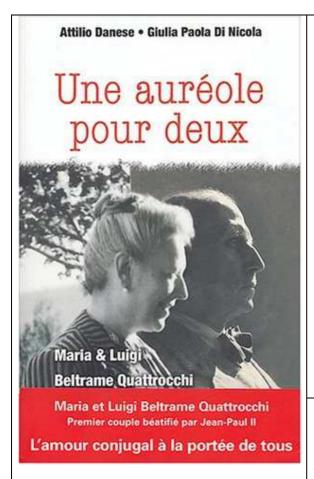
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recalled.

Enrichetta, 87, the youngest daughter, emphasized the love that existed at home. "It is obvious to think that at times they had differences of opinion, but we, their children, were never exposed to these," she said. "They solved their problems between themselves, through conversation, so that once they came to an agreement, the atmosphere continued to be serene."

Enrichetta herself is the "involuntary protagonist" of one of the most moving episodes in Luigi's and Maria's life. The pregnancy that ended in her birth had such worrying symptoms that a famous Roman gynaecologist urged abortion to save mother's life. Without a second thought, Luigi and Maria rejected the proposal. "At that time, the possibilities for survival with ... the problem my mother had was around 5%". Enrichetta explained. Before her death, Sister Maria Cecilia recalled in her diary those days when she was 5 years old: "I remember one morning when, in the Roman Church of the Name of Mary, father with the three of us [her, Filippo and Cesare] was outside the confessional. He stayed and spoke with the priest a long time. Perhaps he told him about our mother's condition. At one point, he raised his hand to his forehead ... weeping. We were quiet, sad, scared. We prayed as children ..."

This books presents, in a very simple and incisive way, the story of the Beltrame family, stressing the mutual love of that couple. Authors could in fact read letters and different writings of Luigi and Maria thanks to the kindness of their daughter and sons. Di Nicola and Danese help readers to enter in the atmosphere of mutual spousal love, as a mix of passion and spirituality, showing that human love contains seeds of divine Trinity life.



Une auréole pour deux : Maria et Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi

de <u>Renzo Bonetti</u> (Postface), <u>Attilio</u> <u>Danese</u>, <u>Giulia-Paola Di Nicola</u>, <u>Sylvie</u> <u>Garoche</u> (Traduction), <u>Nicole Payan</u> (Traduction)

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A. Danese i G. P. Di Nicola Aureola dla dwojga.Maria Corsini i Luigi Beltrame Ouattrocchi

Maria Corsini i Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi: oto bohaterowie historii, która bierze swój początek w wielkiej miłości i w decyzji o małżeństwie, rozwija się w codziennym życiu rodzinnym i zawodowym, a dopełnia się w oficjalnym potwierdzeniu przez Kościół świętości ich postaw.

"Niedawna refleksja Kościoła dokonała rewizji powszechnego przekonania o niższości powołania do małżeństwa wobec powołania do dziewictwa, interpretując je jako dwa uzupełniające się rodzaje jednego chrześcijańskiego powołania. Luigi i Maria ukazali możliwość połączenia ich w małżeństwie - najpierw przeżywanym w dążeniu obojga do tego, aby stać się jednym ciałem, a w końcu w akcie "porwania obojga ku Panu".

Luigi Accattoli