

The Servant of God  
**Toni Zweifel**

Born 1938 (Verona, Italy) – died 1989 (Zürich, Switzerland)

Graduate Engineer, first managing director of the Limmat Foundation in Zürich  
tonizweifel.org



## Cheerful detachment from material possessions

Toni Zweifel grew up in a family that was quite well off. His friends and acquaintances realized this, for he drove an expensive two-seater sports car that his father had given him for his eighteenth birthday. He also had an expensive camera that not everyone could afford. And he brewed his own coffee with his own coffee-maker; it was designed to make two cups at the same time but, very much an engineer and an individualist, he had altered it to make just one cup.

During his studies at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Toni met some people who were setting up the Fluntern Student Residence. The Catholic orientation of the residence had been entrusted to Opus Dei. Somewhat surprisingly, although he was on the point of finishing his studies, Toni at the end of 1961 decided to move in. He left behind his nice apartment for a room shared with two fellow students.

In March 1962, he requested admission to join Opus Dei. He was quick to grasp the spirit of poverty and detachment from excessive possessions that is part of every serious Christian life.

First of all he separated himself from his coffee-maker, which he later referred to as a symbol of his self-centeredness. He made his camera available to the student residence. And he traded in his small sports car for a seven-passenger sedan, which could be used by the

students for excursions. Although he was an expert driver and loved to be behind the wheel, he willingly let the car be driven by other less experienced drivers.

All of this, however, was simply the more visible sign of Toni's detachment, for from then on, his everyday life was marked by temperance in his use of material goods, which often remained hidden by his outward elegance and naturalness. Like his colleagues and friends, he continued to use the material means that were necessary, for only in this way could he sanctify his professional work. But he strove not to become attached to these goods, placing them at the service of God and neighbor. For himself personal-



Toni with a friend on a hike.

ly, he used only the most necessary items, and lived for many years in a small and Spartan attic room.

He took great care of all the in-

struments he used in his work so that they would last longer. For the excursions to the mountains, which he really enjoyed, he used a pair of hiking trousers and an "anorak" he had inherited from his grandfather, which lasted right to the end of his life.

While working at the Limmat Foundation, Toni kept careful track of all the contributions. He restricted his business trips to those that were absolutely necessary. And he gave away his large inheritance to charities.

Besides material possessions, Toni showed great detachment in other areas as well. He was very willing to set aside his personal opinion or plans whenever the good of others required it. And with surprising quickness and serenity, he even accepted the loss of his health.

At the age of twenty-four Toni had everything that most people seek in life: money, intelligence, success, and very good prospects for his career. But that did not make him truly happy. This only came with his decision to follow Christ's call and free himself interiorly from everything. The first result was a joy he had never experienced before. While the rich young man in the Gospel (Mt 19:16-22) chose to keep his material goods and went away sad, Toni was living proof that those who are "poor in spirit" (Mt 5:3) will be "blessed" and find happiness.

## ▶ ANSWERS TO PRAYERS

### DISMISSED AND HIRED AGAIN

I am the father of a family with five children. We have lived in the Zürich Canton for 32 years. I work as an external employee at a large telecommunications company in Zürich.

In October 2014, the company officially announced that it had already exhausted its annual budget for new projects. As a result, I had to leave my work at the end of October and enroll at the unemployment office.

On December 15, a friend gave me a picture of the Servant of God Toni Zweifel, with a prayer for private use. I began to turn to his intercession every day. On the fourth day after beginning to pray for Toni's help, the company that I had been working for until October called me. My former boss told me that I was urgently needed. I began to work again the next day, on December 19. My employer said that I was the first person for whom he had completed all the administrative formalities for hiring in a single day. I thank God for his goodness, mercy and love.

**T. K., Zürich (Switzerland)**

### COMPANY ON THE BRINK

About ten years ago, I received a card with a photo of Toni Zweifel and a brief biography, with a prayer to seek his intercession for favors. At just this time, I learned from a young businessman that he would have to close his business which had some 30 employees. The situation seemed hopeless, and I could see that the owner of the business was becoming depressed.

I prayed to Toni Zweifel and asked him for his help, since he knew quite a bit about business in his life. Perhaps he could send some of his "special knowledge" from heaven to the business manager, so that the business could continue. I asked him every day for his help with the prayer card in my hand. And in fact the company gradually recovered. For several years, it has been going ahead and has now completely stabilized. I am very thankful to Toni Zweifel.

Since I had never heard of Toni before and had no interest in the prayer card and was even about to throw it away, it is an amazing coincidence to me that I received the card just at the moment I really wanted to help this young man. Please send me two more prayer cards of Toni Zweifel and two of Don Alvaro del Portillo. Many thanks!

**G. F., Ullstadt (Germany)**

## ▶ PRAYER

God our Father, you have entrusted the earth to mankind to build it up and so give you glory. Through your grace, your servant Toni imbued his work with professional quality and a Christian spirit.

Help me also to carry out my work in a way that gives you glory; and grant that my example will lead many people to discover the dignity and divine meaning of their daily activity.

Deign to glorify your servant Toni and through his intercession grant me the favor I ask of you . . . Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.*

.....  
*In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.*

*Those who receive favors through the intercession of Toni Zweifel are requested to contact the address below or [info.ch@opusdei.org](mailto:info.ch@opusdei.org).*

**Toni's grave** in the Fluntern Cemetery in Zürich can be reached by taking streetcar no. 6 to its last stop ("Zoo"); and then taking the main path from the cemetery entrance to Grave no. 80610, just before the upper end of the path, on the right.

## ▶ PUBLICATIONS

1. Informative Bulletins, nos. 1 to 5.
2. *Dipl.-Ing. ETH Toni Zweifel: Ein Berufsleben im Dienst an Gott und den Menschen*, Vice-postulation of Opus Dei in Switzerland, Zurich 1996, 2nd ed.
3. *Toni Zweifel: Une vie professionnelle au service de Dieu et les autres*, Le Laurier, Paris 2009, ISBN-978-28-6495-308-1.
4. *Toni Zweifel: Una vita professionale al servizio di Dio e degli uomini*, Edizioni Ares, Milan 2009, ISBN 978-88-8155-479-9.

## ▶ HOW CAN I HELP?

If you would like to help defray the costs of this canonization process, please send your contribution to the following address, marking it as "process of Toni Zweifel":

**The Prelature of Opus Dei in Switzerland  
Office for Beatification and Canonization Causes  
Restelbergstrasse 10, 8044 Zürich / [www.opusdei.ch](http://www.opusdei.ch)  
IBAN CH50 0900 0000 8510 0342 9  
BIC POFICHBEXXX  
PostFinance AG, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern,  
Switzerland. Many thanks!**