

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



Sensitivity in dealing with others

After a professional meeting at the headquarters of the Limmat Foundation in Zurich, Toni Zweifel was driving a Frenchman, Michel Baroni, to the central station. On the way they got into a minor traffic jam, but it became more and more doubtful whether they would still reach the train to Paris on time. Toni let his guest get off at a certain point and sent him on foot to take a shortcut. But in vain, Baroni arrived two minutes late. To his surprise he found not only the train waiting at the platform, but also Toni. He had arrived in time with the car and had persuaded the conductor to wait until Baroni arrived. "You see," he said to him with a smile, "here in Switzerland we will do anything for a Frenchman, even let a train leave late!"

This anecdote illustrates the typical way Toni cared for the needs of others: courteously and at times inventively. From St. Josemaría he had learned that charity – *caritas* – does not exhaust itself in organizational and financial commitment to humanitarian goals, but must first and foremost shape your life with those close around you.

Toni's presence made you feel good. He was always available for conversation, chores or solving specific problems. That was not to be taken for granted because he was involved in many difficult tasks. Therefore, he often divided his time to the minute, and thus might have to change his plans unexpectedly.

But he always did this in the most pleasant way.

He lovingly took care of his mother's needs. She suffered from depression as she grew older, and always sought moral support in him. Toni devoted many long phone calls to her and wrestled free days from his work to visit her and to accompany and encourage her.

Like everyone who has family and professional contacts with people, Toni also encountered the mistakes and limitations of others. He met these with great understanding and patience. To avoid falling into a negative attitude, he deliberately focused on each person's positive sides, which he then sincerely admired. Sometimes he went so far

encouraging way. Conversely, he let himself be corrected. In the beginning, he tended to be over-exacting in his use of time. For example, after coffee in the early afternoon, he left the house for the office at lightning speed. One day somebody pointed out to him that this caused some unease and tension among the others. Toni immediately changed his habit: From then on, he stayed at home for a few more minutes and did a few things before returning to work.

If Toni was treated unfairly, he reacted calmly and charitably. This was particularly impressive when he was about to carry out his project of building an international conference center. At this point, a massive, many-month-long media campaign was unleashed with humiliations and false claims, causing the project on which he had worked with the best of intentions for years to be canceled. Yet, during that entire time, not a single bitter or derogatory comment escaped him, not even in the most private circles.

In short: his Christian faith had made Toni a very affable person: cheerful, sensitive, helpful, radiating confidence. In him, the often-cited ideal of love of neighbor had become a concrete reality.



Toni with some friends on a mountain top (1980).

as to write down these merits and to consider them in prayer. But that did not stop him from alerting someone to his mistakes, if it was objective and appropriate; but he also always did this in a kind and

▶ ANSWERS TO PRAYERS

ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS IN CULTURAL EVENTS

In the years when I lived in Germany, I met Toni once. I was introduced to him and we exchanged a few words. Since his death, I have often turned to him and asked for his intercession, dozens of times now, always in an area that I thought was particularly close to his heart.

I work as a university teacher, but for some time now I have also been involved in the organization of academic activities: congresses, lecture series, etc. Often, this is connected with all kinds of small problems – and with the big question: Will enough people show up? Toni is my colleague in this area. Only two examples. In 2009, I was elected chairman of an international society, which was in a somewhat sleepy state. To reactivate it, I convened an international conference in Barcelona for 2012. It was the first time in years, and it was not at all clear if it would succeed. It did! From the viewpoint of participation – and even from the financial point of view!

And then in 2013, I moved to Peru to work at a university. As soon as I arrived, the rector asked me to initiate the university's cultural center with a variety of activities for "the general public." It was a huge challenge: I hardly knew the country, and scarcely any funds or facilities were available ... But it has been running, now for three years, to our complete satisfaction. It's good to work with an intercessor who knows the university world well and was responsible in his lifetime for setting up many such projects himself. **E. B., Peru**

MY BROTHER CHANGED HIS LIFE

My brother K. has been living in Delhi and working in a factory for several years. He didn't take care of himself, he had the habit of not saving money, and was easily cheated by other village boys who would stay in his room with him for one or more months and leave without paying for the rent and the food.

I asked Toni Bhaya ['brother' in Hindi] every day for about one year to help my brother become a good boy. I read the prayer for private devotion, asking him to make my brother like him, to have a good life.

Since the end of 2015, my brother has improved. He has opened a bank account and started saving money. I give thanks to Toni Bhaya, and I keep on asking him for more help for my brother.

L. X., New Delhi

▶ 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.

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.
5. Augustin L. Kindler, *Toni Zweifel. Geheiligtter Alltag*, Adamas Verlag, Cologne 2017, 208 pages, ISBN: 978 3 937626 36 9.
6. Agustín López Kindler, *Toni Zweifel – Huellas de una historia de amor*, Ediciones Rialp, Madrid 2016, 192 pages, ISBN 978-84-321-4694-7.

▶ 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
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