

do anything because the cable to which the meter was attached was also burning, and life-threatening electrical bolts were shooting out from it. Meanwhile the flames from the meter had almost reached the roof of the barn. Luckily, it was installed on the outside wall and not on the inside. After three quarters of an hour there were ten fire-fighters there trying to help. But the electric company had not yet succeeded in turning off the electricity for the village, and the firemen couldn't do anything.

Up to this point I had been praying especially to the guardian angels that no one would be injured. Seeing the flames running along the cable, the idea came to me to call on Toni. I told him that as an engineer he had to find a solution, and quickly!

That calmed me down, and it seemed to me that the flames became weaker. In any case, finally someone came from the electric company, an hour after notifying them, and turned off the current. The fire died down immediately. I'm convinced that Toni helped us in this dramatic moment.

A. M. G., France

AT HIS GRAVE

From time to time we receive news from people who have gone to Toni's grave, to entrust their needs to him. Last winter, after a fresh snowfall, the prints of children's shoes could be seen leading there. On another occasion, someone had placed a candle next to it. In 2006 a group of 35 people came from Verona to visit Toni's grave. They were led by Fr. Ferdinand Rancan, who had known Toni as a boy, since he was then the pastor at San Giovanni Lupatoto. Usually, however, it is a personal visit, as the following account from October 2011 relates.

A woman who is a friend of mine told me recently: "Do you know who I often go to for help these days? Toni. Yes, really: Toni Zweifel!" –"And what made you think of Toni? Do you have a prayer card or an information bulletin about him?" –"No, but when we were working together, you told me about him and among other things that he always tried to work very well and that he was very attentive to punctuality. And since on my new commute to work I depend on my train connection being punctual (which doesn't always

happen), I looked for a solution. Whom can I go to for help? I'll entrust it to Toni! The trains are still late once in a while, of course, but Toni makes sure I get to work on time."

"Have you visited his grave?" was my next question. –"How could I, when I don't even know where he's buried?" Without wasting time, we made our way there.

When we arrived, my friend said: "I would never have thought that it was so easy to reach his grave." After a few moments of silence, she addressed him with a lot of trust: "Toni, thank you so much!! How often you've gotten me out of a fix! I am so thankful. But Toni, if possible, help me to solve the problems I'm having with my work! If it's not possible to solve everything, then at least part of it. Thank you Toni, we'll come again." A few days later I received a message: "You can depend on Toni. Everything's now going well!".

R. G., Switzerland

Toni's grave in Fluntern Cemetery in Zürich. It can be reached by the No. 6 tram stopping at the "Zoo" station. His grave is No. 80610. Follow the roadway that ascends gradually from the main entrance. His grave is located just before the road ends, in the last section, on the right.



► **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.

► **TONI'S LIFE**

Toni Zweifel was born on February 15, 1938 in Verona, Italy, the son of an Italian woman, Antonia, nee di Benedetto, and the Swiss textile manufacturer Giusto Zweifel. He was baptized on February 26.

He spent part of the years of World War II in Switzerland with his mother and younger sister Anna Rosa. In 1944 he started school at San Giovanni Lupatoto near Verona. In 1948 he received First Holy Communion and Confirmation a few weeks apart. Between 1949 and 1957 he attended middle school and secondary school in Verona. Following this he went to Zürich to study mechanical engineering at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology).

Towards the end of his studies, through some fellow students, he came into contact with the newly opened Fluntern student residence, whose spiritual direction was entrusted to Opus Dei. He moved into the residence at the beginning of 1962. On March 19 of that year, he requested admission to Opus Dei. In June he finished his studies and began his first job in private industry in Zürich.

In 1964 Toni became a member of the scientific team at the ETH Institute for Thermodynamics. Two years later he was also made a director of the student

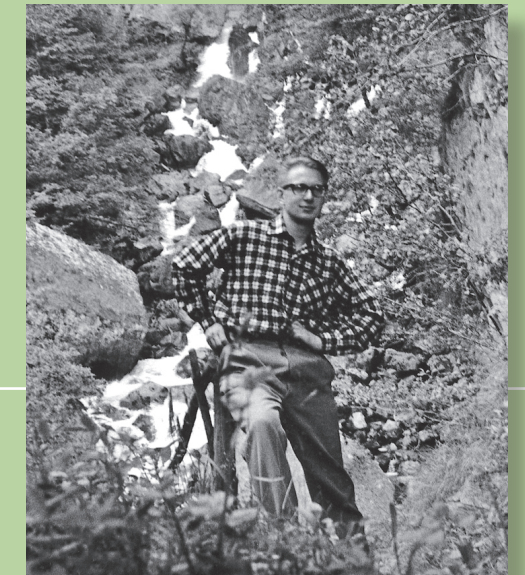
residence. As part of his work there he organized annual introductory courses in the two Zürich colleges for graduates of the public high schools. During a Workshop in Rome in 1969 he personally met Saint Josemaría, the founder of Opus Dei.

In 1972 his professional career took a major change. He became the head of the newly organized *Limmat Stiftung* (Limmat Foundation) in Zürich. In the following 17 years, until his death, this Foundation helped in the development of hundreds of educational and social service initiatives in more than 30 countries on five continents.

In 1985 both of his parents died within three months of each other. In the following year, on February 19, Toni learned that he was suffering from leukemia. He immediately underwent chemotherapy treatment for several weeks. After a temporary return to health, he suffered a first relapse in February 1988 and a second in the following November. In June 1989 he had to enter the hospital once more and underwent chemotherapy for another month and a half. Its effectiveness ended after three months. Toni died on November 24, 1989, and was interred in the Fluntern Cemetery in Zürich.



On a mountain trip in 1962.

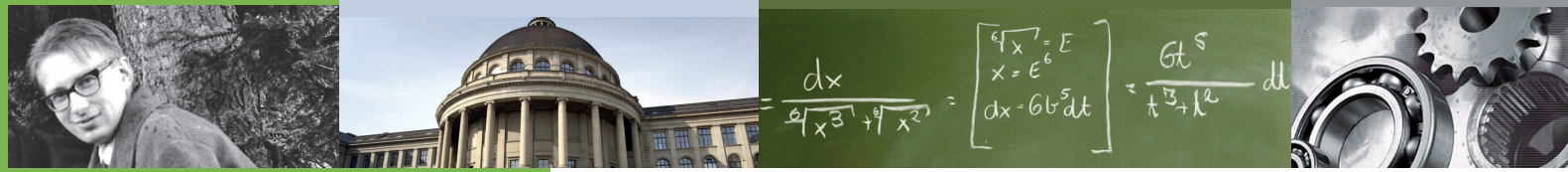


**THE SERVANT OF GOD
TONI ZWEIFEL**

The Prelature of Opus Dei in Switzerland
Office for the Causes of the Saints, 2012

Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of the Saints 2012

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► TONI'S ENCOUNTER WITH OPUS DEI

Toni first came into contact with Opus Dei in early 1961. His engineering studies at the Swiss Federal Technical Institute were coming to an end. At the same time, the Christian faith that he had practiced zealously in his youth was becoming more and more tenuous in his life. For years he had been living in a world governed by an exclusively technical outlook that refused to make room for the "God-hypothesis." Moreover, faith didn't seem to have any real place in his self-sufficient and successful life. Toni had become a non-practicing Catholic with a baptismal certificate.

But deep in his heart he was still searching for "an ideal worth living for, one worthy of his love." That is what he told St. Josemaría Escrivá, the Founder of Opus Dei, in a letter written in 1962¹. Up till then he had been pursuing goals that were certainly good, but also purely worldly: professional success and the love of a woman. "I didn't dare to look beyond these goals; I had a great fear of having to make a decision, whatever it might be, that would bind me for my whole life."

Toni already had his goals almost within grasp. He did brilliantly in his studies and had unlimited professional prospects. He was also going out regularly with the daughter of a professor, and as the son of a very successful businessman, he had no financial worries. Humanly speaking, things could hardly be going better.

But despite everything, he began to sense that, in the long run, it wouldn't fulfill him completely. "When I had attained practically everything I had set out to accomplish, and was thinking that now for the rest of my life everything would continue that way, governed by the same desires and ambitions,

I felt that something was missing, that I had to go beyond this. I had to love truly and overcome my self-centeredness, and make a decision to commit myself."

Amid this inner unrest, several of his fellow students spoke to him about the importance of living his faith and about an institution in the Catholic Church, Opus Dei. This led Toni, little by little, back to the faith. Although as yet he knew very little about what interior life meant, a new horizon was opening up before him.

During the 1961/62 Christmas holidays, Toni went on a ski trip with some friends. Soon after arriving, a Veronese priest he had known in his boyhood, Fr. Ferdinand Rancan, sent word to him that a retreat was about to begin in a conference center on Lake Como, and that it could be of great help to him in growing in his spiritual life. Without giving it too much thought, Toni broke off his vacation and headed for the retreat.

While there, it became clear to him that, among other things, living as a Christian required taking a true interest in others, especially in their human and spiritual welfare. He had to admit to himself that this concern had up till then been completely missing in his life, which he now deeply regretted.

He returned to Zurich with a firm resolve to change his life completely, and soon began to practice his faith once again.

"I once again drew close to the faith, and also to Opus Dei, which seemed to me almost as its living embodiment. On returning from Italy to Zurich, I moved into the Fluntern student residence, to prepare for my final examinations at

the Institute in mechanical engineering. A month later, someone there asked me whether I would like to join Opus Dei. I made the decision almost immediately, and no one was more surprised by this than myself!"

Toni requested admission on March 19, 1962, the solemnity of St. Joseph, as a numerary member². In doing so, he gave his heart to God undivided. He told his girl friend about his decision and she accepted it.

He found himself filled with a completely new joy that transcended external circumstances. He realized that he had said yes to Love, and was filled with the firm conviction that he was following God's will.

Toni maintained this joy and love right to the end, undisturbed by the small and great obstacles that crossed his path. Even the leukemia that he fought to overcome for three years in a losing battle did not distance him from God; on the contrary, it led him to a much deeper union with the Crucified One.

It was almost as though Toni were making up in Jesus' eyes for the failure of the rich young man in the Gospel. Unlike him, Toni answered God's call with an unconditional and irrevocable yes.

² "Numerary" members of Opus Dei choose a vocation of celibacy in order to be available to help direct the apostolates of Opus Dei.



The Swiss Federal Technical Institute in Zurich, where Toni studied engineering from 1957 to 1962.

Toni Zweifel (second from the left) with colleagues on the terrace of Fluntern University Residence.



► FAVORS

TENSIONS AT WORK

When I began my current work as a librarian (which I enjoy a lot), many of my colleagues had been working there for a number of years. Soon I was given responsibility for the library and its personnel. I tried to organize the work and the distribution of tasks in such a way that my co-workers would be respected and could make good use of their experience. At the same time I had to use the authority given me to ensure that the library functioned efficiently.

The work went forward on the whole without great problems. There was only one woman in whom I noted a certain resistance. I frequently offered to sit down and talk with her about it, in order to better understand the cause of her problem. But she refused to speak about it and didn't want anyone to know there even was a problem. Her co-workers could sense a certain tension and dissatisfaction in her, but didn't understand the reason for it. She became more and more closed up in herself, and gave very brusque answers both when speaking and in writing. Finally, she started to avoid me altogether in the office.

I tried to make it clear to her that I had nothing against her and wanted to do everything necessary to improve the situation. I said I was ready to change my way of working if need be, and tried to be as pleasant as possible with her. But despite all my efforts and prayers, the tension continued to grow.

Since I couldn't find any solution for the situation, I decided to turn to an intercessor close to God. I chose Toni Zweifel, because the private prayer for his intercession seemed very suitable for my needs. I could pray for his help to be exemplary in my work, and also ask for the graces needed to resolve this problem. Shortly after beginning to do so, the person in question informed me that she had handed in her resignation, since she had found another position that was better suited for her. I have received word from others that she is now very happy with her new position.

I am very thankful to Toni for bringing about this good resolution to the problem. I should also add that

we found a replacement for her, so that our work did not suffer any interruption.

S. M., Switzerland

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT: A LOST KEY

I work in a forensic institute in the headquarters of the police department. Part of my job includes evaluating and equipping new work vehicles. At the end of March 2010, during the inspection of new vehicles, a key was lost that gave access to the entire police department. Despite a careful search, the key failed to turn up. I was on the point of announcing the loss of the key, which would require replacing or reprogramming several hundred other keys, with the consequent loss of time and money. In my distress, I went to Toni Zweifel for help, making use of the prayer card. A few days later a colleague from another city called and told me that the missing key had been found. I was greatly relieved, and of course very thankful to Toni for his quick help. I am convinced that it was thanks to Toni Zweifel that this matter had a happy ending.

D. M., Switzerland

FIRE IN OUR ELECTRICAL METER

I have often in the past gone to Toni's intercession to help solve problems connected with the Internet. But now I would like to describe a great favor that came through his intercession. On Thursday, February 17, at about 9:45 pm, we closed the door to our interior farmyard. Everything seemed to be in order. But about 10:15 the lights in the house started to flicker noticeably. My husband looked out the window to see whether there might be a problem with the electrical current in the other houses in the village. Then he realized that the electricity meter for the farmyard was burning.

We called the fire department at once and tried to fight the flames with several fire-extinguishers. But this didn't help since an electrical fire won't stop burning as long as the electricity lines are continuously feeding it. Two fire engines appeared, but their crews couldn't

¹ Letter of September 16, 1962.