

## Correspondence

“The favour which the Lord has granted me, thanks to the intercession of D. Antoni Gaudí, is that my son has rented a room in a flat near the Sagrada Família and although he is not a believer, the extraordinary figure of the Basilica and its architect will permeate him slowly”.- **María Jesús – Granada 5.2.2015**

“By intercession of Antoni Gaudí, the Lord’s servant, I prayed for Cesare so that his talents as painter-architect become God’s glory and that of the Church”. - **6.12.2014.**

“I am a social worker and my husband is an architect. We have 3 children, a girl of 11 years old and 3 year old twins. In January they told my husband he would be made redundant. With lots of faith, I began reciting Gaudí’s prayer together with my mother and my husband. 3 days later, the same person who had told him there was no work, offered him a very good job. This allowed us to return to Barcelona and to become closer to the work of Gaudí and Riudoms... I continue praying with faith”.- **María Poretti – Argentina 26.01.2015.**



### PRAYER OF PRIVATE DEVOTION

God our Father, you instilled in your servant Antoni Gaudí, architect, a great love for your Creation and a burning desire to imitate the childhood and passion mysteries of your Son. Grant, by the power of the Holy Spirit that I also may learn to dedicate myself to a well-done work and glorify your servant Antoni, granting me, through his intercession the favor I request (*here make your petition*). Through Christ our Lord, Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, grant us peace and preserve the family (*three times*).

### IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS BULLETIN

contact:

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### ACCOUNTS (June 2014 – April 2015)

INCOME: (Collection boxes, sepulchre, Holy chapel, donations to La Caixa c.a.) ..... 46.620,36 €

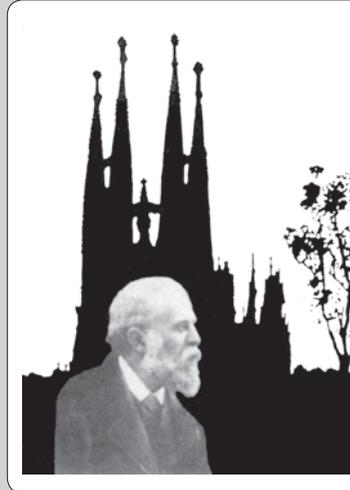
PAYMENTS: (Bulletins, cards, leaflets, letters, books, Ass. Pro Beat, A. Gaudí and Rome: Vatican) ..... 45.241,36 €

POSITIVE BALANCE (deposited in La Caixa c.a.) ..... 1.379,00 €

Donations to the cause can be sent to: **La Caixa,**  
Account # IBAN: ES62 2100 0810 29 0200674014  
BIC/SWIFT CODE: CAIXESBBXXX. Thank you.

# GOD'S ARCHITECT

May 2015, Issue # 26



**Newsletter on the  
person and reputation  
of saintliness of  
Antoni Gaudí**

Associació pro  
Beatificació  
d’Antoni Gaudí

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The publication of this bulletin coincides with the edition in Spanish of the architect Isidre Puig Boada’s book “Gaudí’s Thinking”. This book, written in Catalan, still not translated into English, is indispensable for getting to know the Architect. There are French and Italian versions available. There have been three editions in Catalan: in 1976, under the title “Gaudí Speaks To Us” (“Gaudí nos habla”) edited by Barcelona City Council; in 1981, “Gaudí’s Thinking” (“El pensamiento de Gaudí”), edited by the Catalonia’s Architects’ College; and in 2004, by DUX Editorial commissioned by the Puig Boada family. This Spanish edition is courtesy of DUX Editorial made possible by funding from our pro-Beatification Association as well as the Puig Boada family.

The architect Isidre Puig Boada (Barcelona 1891-1997) has built various civil and religious buildings in Barcelona and Blanes; Iglesias de Mollerussa, Palau de Plegamans; and the restoration of the Solsona cathedral. He knew and met with Gaudí. He wrote “The Temple of the Sagrada Família” (“El Temple de la Sagrada Família”) in 1929 which he expanded in later editions. Together with Lluís Bonet i Garí, he was the director of the Temple works and erected the facade of The Passion.

Under the section “Testimony”, you may read about the last part of the Portal from Puig Boada’s “The Thought of Gaudí” (“El Pensament de Gaudí”).

## Testimony

**Conversations with Gaudí.** It was in 1914, while the Temple was suffering serious economic difficulties that a group of architecture students visited him and offered to work in order to keep the Church, now Basilica, works going. These students were Joan Bergós Massó, Lluís Bonet Garí, Francesc Folguera Grassi, César Martinelli Brunet, Isidre Puig Boada and Josep F. Ràfols Fontanals, who were later joined by the young lecturer Joan Martí Matlleu from the Commerce's School. They would listen to Gaudí and write down the words of the Master, intuiting his future sense. Many of these conversations have been published since then, some of them more in recent years.

The most important conversations among this compilation are those of Joan Bergós, where he provides recollections of his frequent Sunday walks with the Master with whom he would accompany from the Cathedral up to the port's breakwater, where Gaudí filled his eyes with the blueness of the sky and the sea. These conversations have been published for the first time recently in the Madrid magazine "Architecture and Home" ("Hogar y Arquitectura") by the architect Joan Bassegoda Nonell. Another excellent compilation by César Martinell who published his recollections under the title of "Gaudí and the Sagrada Familia explained in his own words" ("Gaudí y la Sagrada Familia explicada por él mismo"). Others have been published by the various afore-mentioned architects. All compilations of Gaudí's word clearly reflect his awesome personality, different testimonies of a same Master's view, leaving no space for myths; it's the dimension of a personage that converts him into a Legend to those who didn't deal with him personally.

Gaudí's work, exalted by the sufferings and visions of a genius, it's a continuous and experimental search carried out with the tenacity of a superior man, shown in an easy worked appearance but with repeated corrections which contains "fragments that satiate generations", as a Leonardo da Vinci or a Michelangelo of his era, the long and difficult process of an extensive and successful artistic creation contrasted with the solitude of a man who had loved a lot but reaches old age experiencing loneliness with no immediate family members alive.

Gaudí reiterates that Leonardo de Vinci cried after painting the face of Jesus from the Last Supper because it had not turned out as he had dreamed or desired. We are not aware of how many times Gaudí cried in the Temple studio, but these are his words "Lord punish us, but console us." The reason being, the finished study of the interior of the Temple, his most important work before he died, which made him happy and cry out: "What beautiful things I could do if I had the economic means to achieve them".

A quiet reading of an extensive, disperse and varied collection of verbal thoughts of the Master, shows the coherence and illation, which led me to group them by subjects and make them available to a wider public, entitled "Gaudí speaks to us" ("Gaudí nos habla") commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of his death. On this occasion, I collect his writings under the general title "Gaudí's Thinking" ("El pensamiento de Gaudí").

1980's Assumption Vigil

Isidre Puig Boada

## Newsletter

Our Association has met monthly to discuss the various events and verification of contributions and expenses. It has noticed that visits to the Temple are on the increase. It has published the book "God's Architect" ("El Arquitecto de Dios") in Russian and Tagalog-Filipino. It has also made available new editions of the volumes of Gaudí's collection by the editorial Claret: "Gaudí", by J.F.Rafols; "My Itinerary with the Architect" ("Mi itinerario con el Arquitecto"), by J. Matamala; "Gaudí's death in newspapers and magazines of the era" ("La mort de Gaudí en els diaris i revistes de l'època"); and "Gaudí's death and his echo in El Propagador magazine" ("La mort de Gaudí i el seu ressò en la revista El Propagador"). They are available in the Sagrada Familia's parochial Office.

The "First International Gaudí Congress" was held in the Central University in Barcelona and the Güell Colony in Barcelona. Our members José Manuel Almuzara, Etsuro Sotoo y Josep M. Tarragona participated among the 41 speakers. The contributions of Austrian and Russian architects about the Church of the Sacred Heart of the Güell colony were very interesting. We congratulate and give a special mention to our friends Pere Jordi Figuerola, Manuel Mesdarde and Marià Marin.

When we contemplate the work of the Sagrada Familia Temple, the building we call the Sacristy, stands out in particular and which Gaudí had studied intrinsically leaving behind models and detailed drawings.

In his article "The best tribute" ("El millor homenatge") ("El Matí" newspaper 21.06.1936) Puig Boada writes: "The construction of this sacristy is the best tribute to the memory of Gaudí. The Temple Construction Board agreed its construction a few months ago. Bold, solid and fine in its entirety, surrounded by figures and allegories related to the Priest's Ministry, decorated with palms on the borders, vibrant with glorious innovations (praise, wisdom, honour, power) concluding at the top, the Vintager in red blood, blazing at the end of the dome like a flag".

We would like to recall the Italian architect Alessandro Rondena, a great Gaudí devotee, whom he begged for a cure for his cancer and mobilized his wife, children and friends on a pilgrimage to accompany him in his illness and pray in front of the tomb of God's Architect. Recently he wrote the book "The Sagrada Familia" together with Silvio Prato.

In Gaudí's words, "in heaven we will see better things". Sandro passed away at the end of January 2015. Our president, together with Sotoo visited him in Abbiategrosso two days before his death.

José M. Almuzara gave conferences about Gaudí in Andalusia and Italy.

We have been informed from Rome that the "positio", documentary evidence of virtues, will be ready towards the end of 2015.



The tomb of Antoni Gaudí at the Crypt of the Sagrada Familia. Photo by M.J. Rasero. Paris Match