

Correspondence

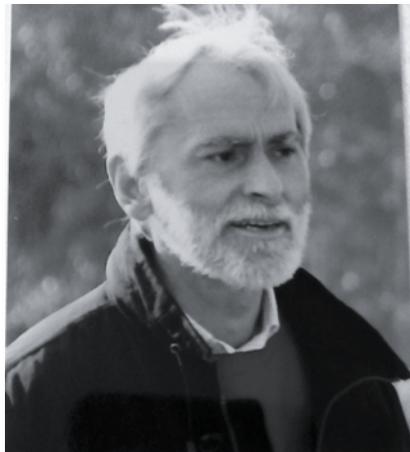
Before the letters or emails requesting relics of the Servant of God, we inform you that, at the moment, we do NOT have relics.

MY TESTIMONY: 5 YEARS WITHOUT SANDRO RONDENA

Author: Gabriela González-Cremona Nogales

I would like to give a testimony of my feelings about the death of Sandro, when five years ago she left us.

I met him through José Manuel, on the occasion of one of his visits to Barcelona, to pray for his healing in the crypt of the Sagrada Família. I was moved by his story, but for some time I lived it from a distance.



<<La bellezza è la corrispondenza ultima con l'attesa del cuore: lo splendore della verità. Cammino dello sguardo alla scoperta del vero di cui ogni cosa è manifestazione e segno.>>

Alessandro Rondena

30 Gennaio 2015

Soon the idea arose of praying to Gaudi to intercede for Sandro and achieve his definitive cure. We all put effort into the work. I have to admit that, selfishly, for all of us who have been collaborating for years in Gaudi's Beatification Cause; it was a good opportunity to achieve a miracle and the beatification of the great architect.

The Vatican established a five-year waiting period as a condition, to verify that, indeed, the definitive cure of Sandro had taken place.

Unfortunately, at three and a half years there was a relapse in his disease. I remember I rebelled and started asking God WHY. By then, Sandro was already a friend, someone close, and I had become fond of him, his family, and all the friends around him.

Why God allowed cancer to reproduce.

The answer to my question has come in the meeting that we have lived these days, to commemorate the five years of Sandro's absence.

Now I realize that I was totally wrong. The miracle that God had in store for us was not Sandro's physical healing - he was already prepared to meet God in heaven - the true miracle was the Love and Friendship that Sandro knew how to transmit to us. He amassed a great fortune on earth: authentic friends, who did not abandon him in life and who will never forget him. His ability to connect with people, his extraordinary generosity, his knowing how to face with joy and strength the destiny that God had marked for him are examples for all of us who remember him today.

I am proud to have been a part of this beautiful story of Love and Friendship. Humanly, we miss him, but we have to be happy because he is with the Father and has left us an extraordinary legacy, that of discovering what is truly important, the essential, and knowing how to transmit it to all of us who knew him.

Correspondence

Goodbye, dear friend Sandro. See you in heaven.
SURSUM CORDA.

Sandro Rondena, architect, 1953-2015.

Thought of April 13, 2020 (thirty-first day of quarantine) - ABC column.

Author: Federico Federico Fernández de Bujan, professor at UNED, Academic-elect of the Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain.

"To do things well it is necessary: first, love, second, technique." (Antonio Gaudi).

He is one of the most exceptional Spanish architects of all time. Seven of his works have been declared "World Heritage" by UNESCO. In 1984: Güell Park, Güell Palace and House Milá in Barcelona. And in 2005 they added: the Nativity façade, the crypt and the apse of the Sagrada Família, the House Vicens and the House Batlló in Barcelona and the Crypt of the Colonia Güell in Santa Coloma de Cervelló.

I don't think there is any artist in the world with such a record. UNESCO declares its artistic ensemble: "It testifies to the exceptional creative contribution of Gaudi to the development of architecture and construction technology of the late 19th and early 20th centuries"

Glossing the thought of Gaudi could perhaps be said:

"To do things well, three moments and three attitudes and / or skills are needed. First to be conceived, they must be loved with the heart and loved with the will. Second, to start them, you must have the ability to know how to do them, which must have been acquired, with a lot of study, either previously or at the time itself. And third, to be carried out, full dedication and enormous effort must be present."



PRAYER FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

God, Our Father, who inspired in your servant the architect Antoni Gaudí, a great love for your Creation and an ardent desire to imitate the mysteries of your Son's infancy and passion; make me, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, know to dedicate myself also to a work well done, and deign to glorify your servant Antoni, conceding me, through his intercession, the favor that I ask (*favor*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bring us peace and protect the family! (*three times*).

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER

contact:
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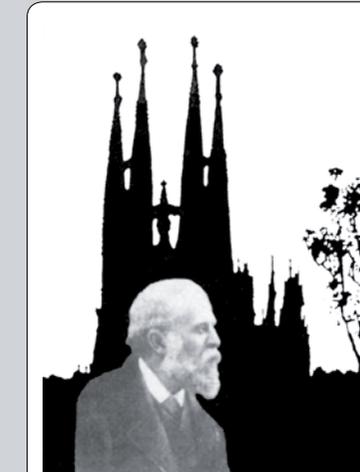
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT (01.01.2020 to 09.21.2020)

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Balance at 01.01.2020 | 32.714,24 € |
| Income in the indicated period | 5.294,32 € |
| Payments in the indicated period | 6.228,86 € |
| CURRENT BALANCE | 31.779,70 € |

You may send your donations for the cause to the Caixa account
IBAN: ES62 2100 0810 2902 0067 4014
BIC/SWIFT CODE: CAIXESBBXXX. Thank you.

GOD'S ARCHITECT

September 2020, Issue # 31



Newsletter about the

person and reputation

of saintliness of

Antoni Gaudí

Antoni Gaudí's
pro beatification
Association

P.O Box 24094
08080 Barcelona (Spain)

This Bulletin is number 31 and is issued in difficult, worrying moments that we have to live because of a "mysterious" virus that has invaded our lives. Given these circumstances, these words of Gaudi are useful: *"Everything I have done depends on the circumstances; if they come well, to accommodate me, and, if bad, to fight; they always serve; they are the manifestations of Providence"*.

TESTIMONY

In the Testimony section we publish a chapter of the article *"Architecture and religion in Gaudi"*, by Professor Josefa BLANCA ARMENTEROS, from the Complutense University of Madrid.

THE WAY TO RELIGION

Gaudi's architectural work is defined, based on his own life experience that will be marked by a childhood lived intensely in the bosom of a humble family where a cordial and happy atmosphere was breathed, starring the figure of a kind and caring mother who transmits to little Gaudi the love for nature and above all "faith in the Creator of such wonders." The architect's religious spirituality begins in this area, a great and utopian personality of the turn of the century.

In addition to religious sentiment, Gaudi will always keep in mind the social context from which he starts; therefore, his mind responds to two concepts that seemed irreconcilable in that society; religion and progress are at the starting point of all his works, since he started in the profession of architect; since although it is true that in his youth trying to engage with the problems of the most disadvantaged workers, he participated in the new social theories contrary to any ecclesiastical imposition, his protests were oriented towards the traditional attitude and in his obsolete opinion on the part of the clergy rather than toward religious principles that were still rooted in their morals. In fact, Bassegoda himself confirmed that he never spoke out against religion and that his attending mass to encourage his faith was constant.

It is therefore evident that Gaudi cannot be studied starting from the patterns established in society; in him and in his work the principles of religiosity and modernization coexist, because authentic religion desires social equality and for this it is necessary to resort to the new ideals of freedom and progress that constitute the common welfare, however, in the same way, it is necessary

Testimony

to set limits to the new modern State that proposes a type of life oriented towards competitiveness and where the humanitarian spirit is relegated.

Gaudi's critique is then opposed to that modern materialism, where secularization is evident and from which man can escape by attending to his soul and fostering the religious feeling through which he will feel part of creation.

"Life is a battle; to fight you need strength and strength is a virtue and this is only sustained and increased with spiritual cultivation, that is, with religious practices". Gaudi.

Passionate about architecture, Gaudi wanted to experiment and develop in this, his artistic field, a new vision where the architectural experience, to which he dedicated his entire life, would be revealed. Behind a monotonous life, outside of all political-social activity, an absolutely effervescent genius was hiding; feverishly and obsessively dedicated to work that subjected his projects to deep meditation. Meditation that as he reaches his maturity will unify technique, aesthetics and religion; culminating in the Sagrada Família, a synthesis of his architectural project.

Possibly the loneliness to which he was subjected was not only an aesthetic option that, apart from common society, enhanced his creative faculties; but also a religious option to which he seemed destined and which he discovered definitively when the third couple with whom he could have shared his life, decides to separate from him to dedicate to her religious vocation.

Very soon, the imagination and talent of our architect were put at the service of the Catholic faith, understanding by it and a way of life where prudence, goodness and optimism led Gaudi's genius.

If his most intimate experiences led him down the path of faith, those developed in his social relationships were no less; through whom was his main client and friend Eusebio Güell, who maintained a position very different from that of the conventional bourgeoisie of the moment, concerned for the good of all his countrymen. He used his wealth to configure a modern Catalonia that was at the same level as any European country and that at the same time maintained its roots. For him, as for Gaudi, it was necessary to maintain the spirit of the current religious faith to find hope within a new increasingly chaotic society. This is how Gaudi, invested with E. Güell, replaced his clientele of workers ideologues with rich industrialists with whom, thanks to his economic possibilities, he could carry out all his architectural concerns. From here on, the contacts were successive, connecting with different more or less progressive ecclesiastical circles, which served to further strengthen his religious convictions.

His character, more and more self-absorbed, progressed towards a monastic and austere life, which ended in his complete dedication to the temple of the Holy Family, where his stylistic and psychic process is concentrated. A cathedral that combines the artistic and religious vision of the architect in a social sentiment of protest against the loss of moral values, only recoverable from within a family that encourages the return to traditional morality. The Holy Family is thus invoked through an artistic monument placed at the service of religion.

Gaudi was clear that his socio-religious demands would only be considered by the new society, using the artistic grandeur of a monument that would attract the attention of the entire population:

"Religious affairs require the use of all means to the highest degree.

The temple has to inspire the feeling of Divinity with its infinite qualities and its infinite attributes.

The temple must meet greatness with need.

In order to preserve the temple as the first building of a modern population, perhaps we can still achieve it using procedures and forms that cannot be resplendent today for various reasons". Gaudi.

News

The Gaudi Centre in Madrid organized a meeting on December 20, 2019, attended by the Priest Lluís Bonet and by JM Almuzara. After a meal, two very interesting acts were performed:

In the first act, Jaime Argüello Lombardero, master potter from Jiménez de Jamuz, León province, explained the execution of the bricks designed by Gaudi for the Episcopal Palace of Astorga, and some of them could be bought.

The master potter Jaime Argüello has been commissioned to produce a limited edition with the same Arabic oven, sand and all the traditional elements that make this collection unique. In August 2018, the master proceeded to open the oven, sealed with adobe and clay to show the world the authentic bricks of the Gaudi Palace. With the ingredients, the bricks have been made with the minimum of the time and leaving the materials to dry in the shade and in the sun. After 10 hours of cooking and four hours of tempering, the pieces of art can be removed already finished.

The second act consisted of a Conference by **M^o Jesús Sánchez Beltrán**, Doctor in Art History, Museum Curator and Specialist in Decorative Arts.

"The baldachin and three handwritten letters by Gaudi kept in the Cathedral of Palma de Mallorca".

At the end, Leonardo Jiménez Sánchez, a great promoter of Gaudi's life and work, was honoured. It was very emotional and endearing, Leonardo giving us a reminder of the act with the prayer for private devotion to Gaudi.

Acts on the occasion of the 94th anniversary of Gaudi's death, which occurred on June 10, 1926:

At 8:00 p.m. Mass began in the Crypt of the Sagrada Família and at the end the wreath was made in front of Gaudi's tomb (cyfsigloxxi@gmail.com has shared the following video):

[Eucharist 94 Aniv Gaudi June 10, 2020.avi](#)



VIDEOCONFERENCES given by José Manuel Almuzara:

"The Sagrada Família, Magna Work of Gaudi" Thursday April 9, Spanish Association of Friends of Castles.

"Astonishment and Gaudi" Monday, May 11, Abad Oliba University, Barcelona

"Every time I fall in love with Gaudi's work. As the simplest, he knew how to make real works of art. His life of faith, his ability to work, his love and passion for what he did. How he was able to think in big things". Professor at the Abat Oliba University, Ms. Montserrat Fontanals Rialp.

"Works of Catalonia, Declared World Heritage. Works of Gaudi" Tuesday, May 12. Free access through the YouTube channel of the ADIPROPE Association. Brief exhibition on the World Heritage Site, declared by UNESCO for Catalonia, highlighting the works of Gaudi,

a World Heritage Site. ADIPROPE, Association for the Diffusion and Promotion of the World Heritage of Spain.

"My Encounter with Gaudi". Wednesday, May 13 at 4:00 pm

"Gaudi, the Architect of God" August 29, AJM Mountain Youth Association, Bariloche, Argentina

"La Sagrada Família, Gaudi's great work" September 4, University of Mendoza, Argentina

"Gaudi, the architect servant of God" September 26. Movement of Christian Life South America, MVC live on Facebook: Art-Architecture-Culture-Spirituality

CONFERENCES by JM Almuzara

BARCELONA: January 22

"Beauty and transcendence in Gaudi" IESE Business School, Professor Tati Fontana, Research Fellow | Accounting Department

ITALY:

January 31 **"Testimony about Gaudi"** organized by Simone Paulucci, with San Girolamo Emiliani, Corbetta. Encounter with elementary school children for telling them about Gaudi's relationship with reality and nature. Visit to the exhibition made by the students: *"l'abbero and il mio maestro"*.

"Gaudi, l'architetto di Dio" organized by the architect and Professor Walter Cortellari, Marie Curie Lyceum, Tradate.

MADRID: February 2

"Gaudi, Architect of God. An encounter that transforms". Mater Salvatoris College. *"We want to bring you closer to the life, work and Christian spirit of the Catalan architect. The engine of his life was his passion for architecture, together with his immense Faith. The footprint of Christ is clearly reflected in the Sagrada Família and also in other architectural works designed by Gaudi"*.

SAN SEBASTIÁN: February 4 and 5

"Gaudi and his great work, the Sagrada Família" February 4: Tecnun, School of Engineers of the University of Navarra in San Sebastián.

"La Sagrada Família, Gaudi's great work" February 5: Diocesan Museum, invited by the Bishop of San Sebastián D. José Ignacio Munilla.

"Gaudi and nature" February 5: Colegio Mayor Jaizkibel.

Media: interviews, documentaries

"The staircase of the Sagrada Família" Published in Catalunya Cristiana on July 12, 2020, both in Spanish and Catalan. Article by José Manuel Almuzara

"Will the Catalan architect A. Gaudi be beatified by the Pope in a short period of time?" Article by José Melero Campos COPE August 31

RADIO CHANEL BARCELONA 106.9 fm

Mrs. Olivia Cabezas, publicist, producer and host of radio programs and social networks invited JM Almuzara to collaborate in several radio sessions to spread the life and work of Gaudi.