

Comitato 8 Ottobre 2001 per non dimenticare

19° Anniversario at Bosco dei Faggi



Dear friends, despite the difficult months that we have endured fraught with so much pain and despite the trepidation that still accompanies us, we have gathered together here to commemorate our loved ones. Nineteen years have passed since that tragic day. The calendar has marked the passing time, but within our hearts that time is indefinable.

For this year's Holy Mass, we have a special cathedral: the endless sky for a roof, the beech trees for its columns, and the rustle of the leaves as our most intimate prayer. *“Only from the heart can you touch the sky”* said Rumi, an ancient Persian mystic.

I believe that we have touched it.

I sincerely thank His Excellency Monsignor Giuseppe Vegezzi and all the priests who officiated this vibrant Holy Mass.

I thank Mayor Giuseppe Sala, whose participation represents the sentiments and support of the city that was greatly affected by our tragedy.

I thank all the civil, religious and military authorities who are always present.

Finally, I thank the La Verdi youth choir whose music accompanied our prayer to heaven, because "*Music is the language of the spirit.*" (Gibran)

We greet our friend Pasquale Padovano.

Our deepest thoughts go to our dear Paolo.

Our heart goes out to Serafino Cagnetti, a special person who passed away this year. It seems impossible to me that he is no longer with us, intent on organizing everything with his unique and irreplaceable seriousness and professionalism. But if we listen carefully, we feel that he is here to help us coordinate our event. I can almost see and hear him. Goodbye, Serafino. May you rest in peace and continue to follow us as you have done for these past 19 years.

...For those who love with heart and soul, there is no separation... And so, we have gathered here but without the usual hugs and mutual reassuring warmth of every encounter. It is difficult to restrain ourselves and not be able to run up and give everyone a hug.

We know that physical distancing is necessary to fight this virus that has greatly affected our lives, because it is our duty to do our part to return to a normal life 'in touch' as soon as possible, with

the fervent hope of being able to meet and hug each other next year at our next important anniversary.

Today, we look at one another. We wear masks to protect our nose and mouth, so we search out everyone's gaze. Our eyes have now become our point of contact and connection. As the saying goes, "*The eyes are the door to the soul.*"

The eyes know how to convey feelings, emotions, and love. These days, they are the true protagonists.

With our eyes we communicated, spoke, listened, and prayed! Our eyes have let us keep in touch, even if distant. Thanks to technology, we have continued to see one another, feeling less distant and alone.

The eyes remember ... the eyes continue to see. They manage to keep our loved ones alive, even if we miss them terribly. We miss their words and their support in these days affected by the pandemic, by deaths and by suffering, even psychological.

I believe I can interpret the feelings of many of you. This year we are fragile and shaken, also because many of us are from cities and communities that were greatly affected by the current pandemic. During these long months of isolation, I have been in contact with many of you. I sensed different feelings, but all shared a note of sadness that accompanied the days with thoughts of our loved ones.

Prayers and memories help in moments when it is difficult to find comfort.

This year, due to the obligatory lockdown, our thoughts turned to the past, the nostalgia was stronger, the regret and tears were more vivid, and our hearts were more vulnerable.

But we continue to remember with strength, tenacity and love. And for our loved ones, we forge ahead with the objectives that we set for ourselves back in 2001.

Despite the forced quarantine, we were still able to collaborate, at a distance, with ENAC for the project stipulated with the Memorandum of Understanding signed last November that consists in bringing our testimony to those who deal with safety and psychological assistance immediately following an accident.

Many of you eagerly joined the proposal, well aware that it would dig up painful memories, but our words are essential for providing valid and reliable information to those who need to know what one experiences and feels, what is asked of them, and what is needed.

In the coming months, we will continue our vibrant and effective collaboration, even if remotely.

Last November, we awarded scholarships to the participants of the competition launched by the City of Milan in memory of the victims of Linate.

The project presenting the concept of safety to schools is ready and has only been postponed.

The docufilm experienced a slowdown again due to the virus ... but it should be completed soon.

Another great project in the works is a book, which should be published for the twentieth anniversari.

At the end of October we will present the Pettinaroli Award to our TFT director Commander Radini and a certificate commemorating Commander Zipoli, who passed away last year.

We hope to return to normal life as soon as possible, because all our other projects have unfortunately been shelved for the time being, such as the conference that we were going to organize this year. But we are confident, knowing that it is just postponed and waiting to be realized with the enthusiasm, tenacity and perseverance that distinguishes us.

Even the celebration of this Holy Mass in a difficult situation is a success and proof of our enthusiasm, tenacity and perseverance. We are already here in our woods and soon, at the end of the Holy Mass, as every year, there will be another commemorative moment with the lighting of the candle and the laying of flowers. I thank all of you for having participated in this profound and touching celebration.

I am not sending you the usual hug but once again I let the eyes, the great protagonists of these times, express all my love for you.