



FILIPPO GAGLIARDI

Have you ever known a person whose life, words and actions have left a deep mark on yours?

Our existence is inextricably linked to that of the brothers we meet on our path. Filippo Gagliardi is certainly a young Christian who, with his mere thirty years of life, was a 'fourth Gospel' - as Monsignor Franco Giulio Brambilla wrote - for his family, his friends, the boys of his oratory and all the people who knew his story.

Filippo's story could have been one of pain. Faith turned it into a love story.



ENGLISH

FILIPPO AND HIS SMILE



He attends university and this is an opportunity to make new friends. His classmates appreciate him a lot and with some of them he establishes a bond that lasts even after his studies. They said they knew he was a Christian, and it was evident from his behaviour. It seemed that his faith helped him to be more cheerful and welcoming. This attracted people! Over the years, he always combined his studies with his commitment to others through his oratory activities, continuing to cultivate his faith even when family difficulties arose due to his parents' separation. A trial that forces him to take new steps in life. This situation is a challenge that helps him to expand his heart.

"FAITH MADE HIM MORE CHEERFUL AND WELCOMING"

PAOLO FRIEND OF FILIPPO

Filippo was born in Verbania, on Lake Maggiore. He first attended catechism and then grew up to become an educator of younger boys, practised karate and graduated in engineering. He is a boy like many others, but from childhood he shows himself to be both passionate about what he does and very attentive to others. A girl from the oratory remembers his unflinching smile when he arrived at the group, a retreat or a meeting. "They were smiles of welcome, of someone who welcomes you by saying: there you are. So I was very impressed by his smiles when I was late for Mass".

WITNESS IN THE WORLD



"WITH WHAT WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER AND WITH THE LORD'S HELP, WE WILL SUCCEED."

FILIPPO

Listen the song inspired by Filippo



PIPPPO C'E'

ACCEPTING AND WELCOMING



"FAITH HAS BECOME, WITHIN YOU, REAL RELIANCE ON GOD. YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO A HEROIC FAITH"

GARD. RENATO CORTI

He met Anna with whom they developed a feeling of love that accompanied them for eleven years until the day of the 'YES' pronounced before the Lord in the Basilica of San Vittore in Intra, the centre of the parish that saw them share their journey with friends and the community.

After a few months, Anna and Filippo questioned their desire to become parents. Filippo does not feel ready, but decides to entrust everything to Jesus. During a moment of Eucharistic adoration he brings all his doubts and thoughts. To his confessor he says: "I had come to reflect on my way of living marriage: certain things can only be understood in front of Him!"

Filippo entrusts himself to the Lord and that is what he and Anna will be called to do again a few months later. On 26 August 2013, Filippo was admitted to hospital due to the sudden onset of a rare tumour in his abdomen.

Anna is in her eighth month of pregnancy, they are expecting a baby boy and together have already decided on a name: Luca.

They cry a lot and are angry with the Lord. A million questions explode within them: why us and why now, at the happiest time of our lives?

Together they decide to accept this trial and entrust themselves to Jesus. Filippo puts himself in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament that the oratory don brought him at the hospital. At the end, he writes a text message to his priest friend: "At first I wanted to give him a piece of my mind... then I realised that He loads the cross on those who can bear it!"

Filippo's health deteriorates and he realises it. He confides to his friends that 'the door is getting narrower and narrower' and offers up his illness for Anna, Luke, and 'his' boys. He surrenders himself to God, comforted by one particular song: 'The Lord is my salvation and I hope in Him; the Lord is the Saviour, in Him I trust, I have no fear'.

"CERTAIN THINGS CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD IN FRONT OF HIM!"

FILIPPO



PIPPO C'E'

The Gospel and the Psalms accompany him day after day through the diocesan breviary and prayer booklet, and often seem to address surprising way to him.

Together with Don Fabrizio, a friend and priest of the oratory, he decided to write to Pope Francis. In the short letter, he does not ask the pope to pray for his recovery, but so that 'whatever may happen to me, my family may always find in Jesus the rock on which to anchor themselves so as not to be swept away by the adversities of life, and so that Luca may find in Jesus a faithful friend who never abandons him'.

On 11 September 2013 in the early hours of the morning, a few days before the birth of his son Luke, Philip was 'born into heaven'.

Hundreds of people came over the next three days to the funeral chamber prepared in the oratory, a place that was a true home for him and where he spent himself for others.



Anna tells Filippo



At the funeral,' remembers Carlo, a friend from university, 'I was speechless: seeing that community huddled around him gave me goosebumps'. Leaving the church, the bells ring out. Close friends realise that they have experienced something special: "We entered the church destroyed and came out serene, to experience those days was a grace".

Filippo's story could be one of pain, but Faith turned it into a story of love. All the testimonies received in the following months and years from people who have met him, or have 'encountered' his story, are a confirmation of how powerful the Lord's love is, able to mould us and transform us into a true sign of light for others. Philip showed us this with his simplicity and care for others.

"LOVE GIVEN IS NOT FORGOTTEN"

FILIPPO

PIPPO C'È



INFO LIBRI



MEET FILIPPO

Volevo dirgliene quattro. Storia di Filippo Gagliardi

I. Nava, San Paolo Edizioni, 2014

Filippo Gagliardi Prima la morte, poi la resurrezione e poi la vita

R. Leone, F. Occhetta, Velar, 2015

Novena del giovane cristiano

Ass, "Pippo c'è", Velar, 2020

Ne vale la pena! Diario di un incontro speciale

(children's picture book)

Ass, "Pippo c'è", Velar, 2022

Contact us to organise a testimony meeting in your parish



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