



«I have come to bring fire upon the earth,
and how I wish it were already kindled
(Lc 12, 49)

**DON FELICE
CANELLI
SERVANT OF GOD**
(1880- 1977)



«Don Bosco» of San Severo

Cognome.....Canelli.....

Nome.....Don Felice.....

nato il.....14 ottobre 1880.....

(atto n..... P..... S.....)

a..... (.....)

Cittadinanza.....Italiana.....

Residenza.....San Severo.....

Via.....

Stato civile.....sacerdote.....

Professione.....

CONNOTATI E CONTRASSEGNI SALIENTI

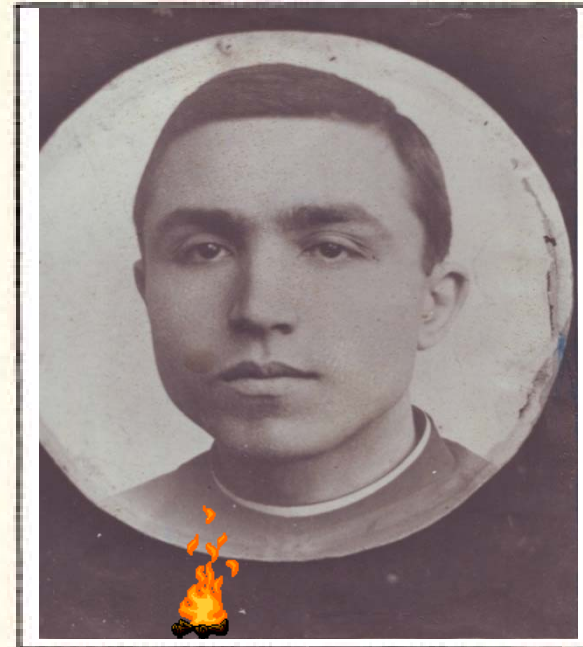
Modesto di carattere, ottimo di cuore, caritatevole per eccellenza, organizzatore di gric
Statura..... oratore di polso,umile e paziente, dotto e intelligente, ricco di spirito e povero

Capelli.....

Occhi.....

Segni particolari.....

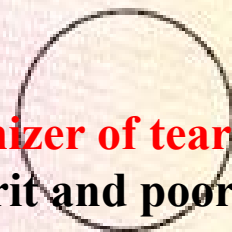
Modest character, excellent in heart, charitable par excellence, **organizer of tears, speake**
of the wrist, humble and patient, cultured and intelligent, rich in spirit and poor in
portfolio. Exemplary and zealous priest



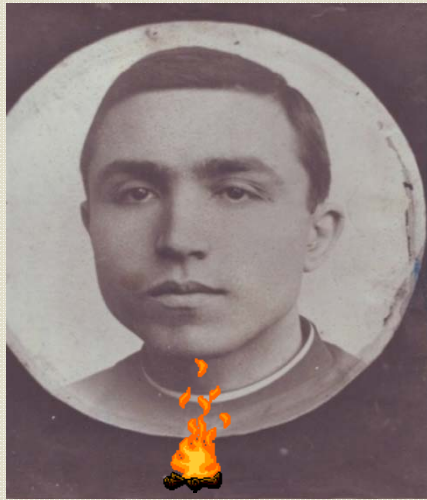
Firma di.....
Don Felice Canelli.....

Impronta del dito
indice sinistro

IL SINDACO



LE UMILI E POVERE ORIGINI DI DON FELICE HUMBLE ORIGIN OF DON FELICE



Don Felice



Mother Teresa
Marchitto



Sister Maria

The childhood of Don Felice resembles that of Don Bosco. He becomes an Orphan at the age of 6. His father Gabriel was a hardworking farmer and municipal Garbage collector dies of bronchitis. His mother like Mamma Margharita with her work, prayer and sacrifices sustains and brings up the family.



In 1892 he entered the diocesan seminary as a semi-convict seminarian. He experienced the divine Providence which does not abandon anyone. From all the He benefited later turns to be a Benefactor.



Since 1897 he has been a primary school teacher and was interested in the education of poor and needy children. He found a school for young workers.



Il suo vescovo Mons. Gargiulo, cappuccino, iscrisse il seminarista Canelli nel Terz'Ordine Francescano perché acquisisse una più ampia ed aggiornata responsabilità del sacerdozio.

From 2 to 6 September 1901, thanks to the Capuchin Bishop Monsignor Gargiulo linked to Pope Leo XIII and his seminary teacher Don Luigi Cardillo, an expert of Catholic socialism, he participated in the 1st National Congress in Taranto on *Graves de communitate*. Don Felice has a profound knowledge of *Rerum Novarum*, a cornerstone of the Church's social doctrine.

**... because,
although the word democracy,
look at the etymology and use of
philosophers,
serves to indicate a form of popular
government, however in our case,
stopped all political sense,
it doesn't have to mean
if not a beneficial action
Christian in favor of the people***(Graves de
communi re, Leone XIII 1901)*



**Poverty and love of
St. Francis of Assisi**



Love for the poor of Vincenz

**...His
"Three thefts" ...**



**Passion for the young
like His Father Don
Bosco**



From 1906 to 1927 he was at the side of Don Bosco's children following them on their daily educational mission. Until the end of his life He shared with them the commitment to education aimed at training "Good Christians and Honest citizens".



Since 1911 with the Salesian alumni, he has founded "Don Bosco Club", and animated. It was like the leaven comprising of social, ecclesial, political, welfare, and educational nature. Their mothers together found the first germ of women of Catholic Action from which the Ladies and Damines of charity (the Vincentians) were born.



The leaders of the local "Partito Popolare" (People's Party), of the Catholic Action, of the "Esploratori Don Bosco" (Explorers Don Bosco), of the future Conference of San Vincenzo, as well as the collaborators with the "Opera Nazionale della Maternità e dell'Infanzia" in the Municipality, were all formed in the "Don Bosco Circle" and forged by it..



From 1927 till his last
breath he remained as a
Parish priest of San Severo:
Santa croce a poor Parish.
He went there with the
impetus of Da mihi animas!





He preferred training the children and the poor for socio-political actions in the fascist period.

After the war He formed associations in the diocese with fortitude and audacity to welcome the many lukewarm Christians into the Church, inflame them and make them multipliers of light in their living environment. He accompanied them until 1977.



This fire that gives light to words to illuminate intelligence, warmth to lighten the heart, strength to drag the will, make alive the tepidity of Christians, will slowly ignite and multiply the fires of light and fervour. Such Christians will exercise a true Apostolate in their living environment and increase the chances of good works by a hundredfold. But to do this we need the formation and the Eucharist

The value of a people and the merit of a government will be to form areas of human and Christian solidarity where the warmth of a morality deriving from Christian charity will be better felt

The Servant of God Don L. Sturzo



Collaborated with politicians, and ecclesial authorities, with the wealthy forces of the territory for the physical and moral salvation of poor and abandoned youth





He took care of all the needy youth in the war and post-war period, the unemployed, families, refugees. Like Vincent de Paul, He reached out to collect money and take as many boys and girls out of the street as possible



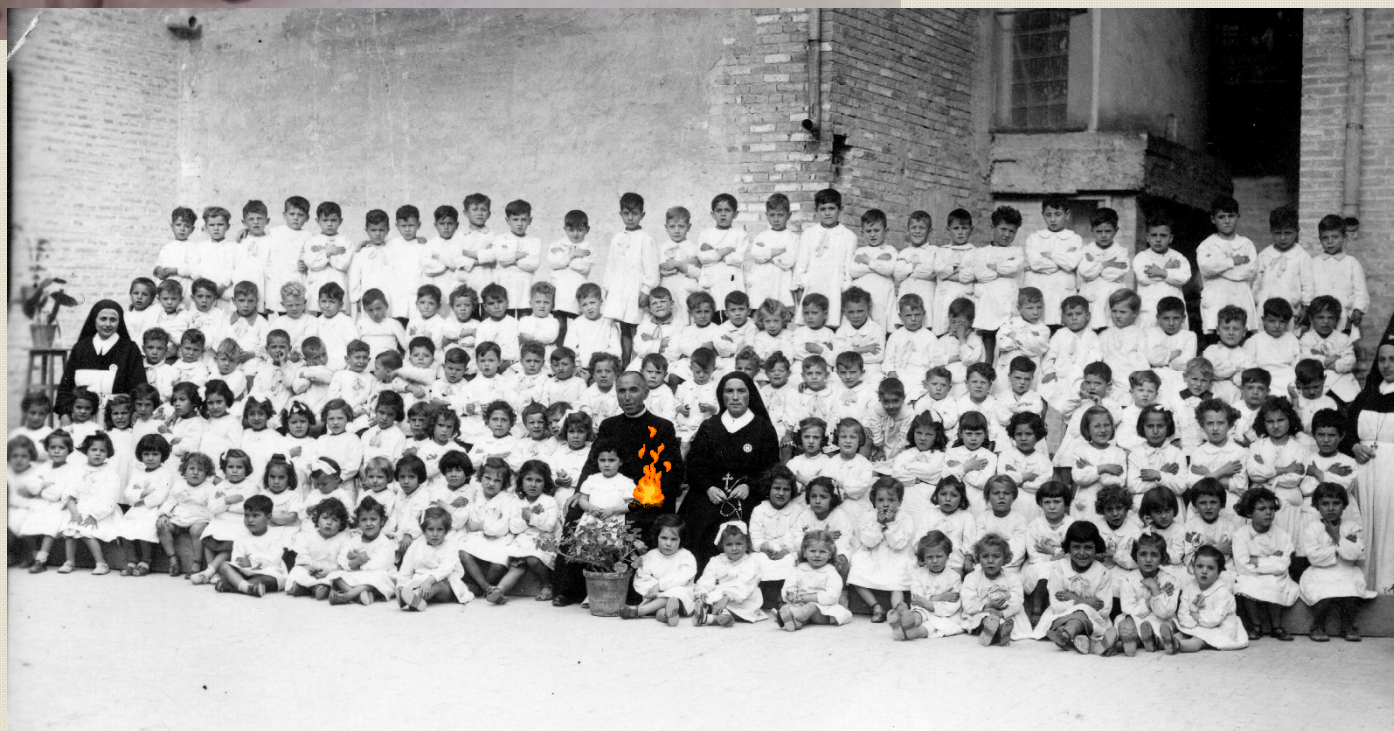


He became the defender of the rights of the poor, of the needy with the farmers with ACLI, Become the defender of the rights of the poor, the needy, the reference point of the Christian Democrats in favor of a policy tailored to the poor and their Children.





In its parochial, diocesan works and in collaboration with the municipal bodies, He welcomed many children who were in need of bread, fatherhood and God.





He used the Salesian charism as a lever to raise His people to dignity, a pivot on which to build the good Christians and honest citizens of his diocese operating in the area.



With passion for needy youth, He involved and shared with political and ecclesial forces

He sowed the Salesian charism everywhere!



La sua parrocchia è una piccola «Valdocco» dove i salesiani e le Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice sono di casa. Lui è di casa nelle loro opere, è il «padre sollecito» per loro e porta con loro, fuori delle mura istituzionali, il genuino Spirito Salesiano.



He died on November 23, 1977 at the age of 97 with 75 years of priesthood. His long life is a continuous reflection of the life of Jesus, who genuflected before the needy and the little ones and who passed by healing and lived for the benefit of everyone.

"I declare with sentiments of deep gratitude that the Salesian Oratory" B. Virgin of the Rescue "Priest remade me [...] I was ordained a Priest on June 6, 1903. No Catholic Action; no works of apostolate in any sector in the city and diocese. The Lord had given me the passion of the little ones, the ardent longing to break the heaviness of the priesthood ministry and live the agility, the momentum of the apostolate priesthood. And here two years later, the unforgettable Don Caramaschi, the dearest first Director of the Salesian Oratory, put in a peripheral area of the City, (perhaps not very suitable for the Salesian apostolate that wants contact with the dynamic centers of the cities) germ of life that will mark a new era for our city. [...] And the Divine Heart sent me to the Oratory; I asked Don Caramaschi to be his coadjutor, to collaborate with him in the multifaceted Salesian apostolate I was received with brotherly affection and Deo Gratias - Deo Gratias - heart to heart with the Sons of Don Bosco - I tried to live their passion for the salvation of youth - their spirit of initiative - their momentum in the job. [...] ».

San Severo, (uncertain date 1955-1959), Letter from the Servant of God Fr Felice Caneli to the Director of the Salesians Fr. Francesco Stanco about his personal memories and the most relevant notes in the Salesian Work of San Severo.

