“AS YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY”

Artemides Zatti, exemplary figure

who calls us to live our daily lives in holiness

* **In his family of origin**. **Artemides grew up in an excellent Christian, village and family environment which had a very positive impact on his human and Christian formation**. The Zatti family, like so many at the time, was a poor family who did their best to lead their daily life with dignity, openly trusting in the blessings of God. Even in poverty, the family continued to be formed and to preserve the special humanity of its bonds, considering affections, generational and family ties to be indispensable values and a true school of humanity.
* **The family did not have great material resources, but it led an intense Christian life**. Attendance at Sunday Mass, morning and evening prayers, and grace before and after meals were simple and common practices, but done with such deep faith they would form the habit of prayer in young Artemides.
* **The Zatti family was very religious, as we have seen when they emigrated to Argentina**. Involvement in the life of the Christian community, warm relationships with priests, prayer together at home, regular reception of the sacraments had to come from a traditional custom of Christian life, which also resisted the far from edifying influence of other Italian migrants.

**The family was very close,** and there were no difficulties among the siblings; in particular, Artemides was charitable towards them and respectful towards his parents, setting an example of righteousness, seriousness and religious fervour. Everyone recognised and admired the moral uprightness and religious spirit of the Zatti family and its perseverance in religious practice.

* **In the Salesian Congregation**. Through his encounters with the Salesian community in Bahia Blanca and the father figure of Fr Carlo Cavalli, young Artemides was drawn to Salesian life,fascinated by Don Bosco and his educational system.
* **Later in Viedma, he discovered a fine pastor in Fr Evasio Garrone,** who accompanied him in his hour of trial and vocational choice, helping him to accept and face his illness in his search for God's will. This matured to become a gift of himself in service to the sick and in solidarity with the poor.
* **In the Salesian community at Viedma**: Zatti was the support of community life. **His presence at community events was a wonderful and inexplicable thing. He was an example for everyone; a man of communicative warmth**. **At** **table he was bubbly and cheerful and fostered unity**. At the end of the Retreat, at lunchtime he would offer his famous and long-awaited Alleluias highlighting the fervour of family spirit and life. His love of duty meant that he liked to ring the bell for the different occasions of the day, almost as if it were a way of making God's voice heard, and creating a keen sense of community.
* **In the San José Hospital**: **the humble and loving courage with which, even with limited resources, a hospital-home-family was built**, where love and faith in God, confidential bonds with Zatti, mutual trust, fraternity and joy, were fertile ground for a community made up of doctors, nurses, religious, and the ever increasing number of patients.
* **Zatti's life as leaven in the community was inspired by Don Bosco**: doing things with and out of love, in a kindly and joyful style, with great trust in God and his providence and a childlike entrustment to Mary Help of Christians.
* **From the beginning of his mission in Viedma, Zatti involved many lay people, friends, benefactors and colleagues** so that they became part of his mission among the poor and the sick. Zatti's broad and courageous vision, his tireless diligence, his resistance to obstacles can only be explained by his outlook of social transformation and evangelisation of the poor and sick to whom he felt called.
* **Zatti was "leaven in the bread of humanity"** **living with the sick and with various colleagues,** allowing himself to be enriched by the evangelical lay dimension of these brothers and sisters and bringing the specific value of his own lay dimension **as a Salesian Brother**. Simply put, it is as a Family that we complete each other. In the San José Hospital first then later at the Quinta Sant'Isidro Zatti was "living yeast" capable of influencing and transforming the lives of the people he dealt with and whom he met.
* **As a Good Samaritan, Artemides worked among very ordinary people**, among the sick who needed physical, moral and spiritual healing. In sickness and trial there is no difference of social class or origin, but all are united by poverty and the need for help.
* **He experienced this closeness both personally and in community:** in fact, he generated a community capable of care, which left no one behind. It included and welcomed the most fragile in a special way. Artemides’ testimony as a Good Samaritan, being merciful like the Father, was a mission and a style that involved all those who in some way dedicated themselves to the hospital**.**
* **At Zatti's school, service to the sick, carried out with love and competence, became a mission**. Zatti knew and instilled the awareness that the hands of all who were with him touched the suffering flesh of Christ and should be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father.
* **Almost without knowing it or wanting it, he was a wonderful formator “**Most of the staff worked for free, especially the internal female staff [...]. These people became a kind of secular Institute which Zatti provided an exquisite spiritual formation for, as they worked according to the spirit that animated him.” “A kind of community of lay volunteers who practised the evangelical counsels without formal profession of vows.”
* **In the communion of Salesian holiness**: **Don Bosco, Ceferino Namuncurá, Laura Vicuña, Sister Antonietta Böhm.** They look joyfully ahead and precede us, spur us on and remind us that each of us is not only a spectator but a part of this beautiful project, part of the dough that has grown through the leaven of Salesian spirituality and the Preventive System. We are all summoned to the Eucharistic table to be the bread of love: like Zacchaeus, Magdalene, the Samaritan woman, the widow, the young people and especially Mary, full of grace.
* **Women and men, young people and adults, consecrated individuals and lay people, bishops and missionaries who have shone a singular light on the Salesian charism**, representing a patrimony that plays an effective role in the life and community of believers and for people of good will and who have filled their lives with the leaven of love, a love that is given to the end, faithful to Jesus Christ and his Gospel.
* **Artemides Zatti was certainly a consecrated religious, but let us not forget the lay dimension of his holiness, that is,** the exercise of charity in the simplicity of a small hospital and a small city. He is an example and a model of consecration to his people in daily work, having God as source, motivation in faith and the purpose of life.
* **Artemides Zatti is proposed to young people today.** For them to be, like him, builders of communion and creators of good works of mercy at the service of the little ones, the poor, the needy. Like Saint Artemides Zatti, we take our bicycles and go out to others who need our help, bringing them the Word of God, Our Lady through the Rosary. Each young person can be a true protagonist and have an authentic mission beside Jesus.
* **Yeast that builds a paradise of happiness**: inside and beyond the hospital, Zatti gave life to a Church that is always visited by pain and death. This demands fullness of faith and witness,and requires that we proclaim the name of God's only desire for us human beings: Paradise. When he witnessed to Paradise, Zatti showed the certainty of eternal life and how we gain it through grace and good works.
* And it was the truth of the gospel in its entirety that lit up Zatti's hospital, as it had lit up the Oratory at the time of Don Bosco.
* “**In that little pocket handkerchief of Patagonian soil, where the life of our Blessed flowed, a page of the Gospel was rewritten: the Good Samaritan found in him a heart, hands and passion, first of all for the little ones, the poor, sinners, the least. Thus a hospital became the ‘Father's Inn’, a sign of a Church that seeks to be rich in gifts of humanity and grace, a home of the commandment of love of God and neighbour, a place of health as a pledge of salvation. It is also true that this is part of the Salesian vocation: the Salesians are the great educators of the heart, of love, affection, social life; great educators of the heart.” (Pope Francis)**

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