

Managing Director Riccardo Cascioli

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#### **ITALY**

# 'Gay blessings' and 'Fiducia Supplicans' lead priests into free fall

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Andrea Zambrano



Father Roberto Falconi, last 13 September, blessed a gay couple with all the pomp and ceremony of the Waldensian Church, complete with surplice and stole. Then he united them in a civil ceremony, acting as proxy, and, not content with that, he admitted that

this was contrary to morality. However, he said, patience is a virtue. Love is love. Fiducia Supplicans (the DDF's shocking document on gay blessings) is setting the standard and creating monsters (see HERE for the extensive dossier from La Bussola), causing priests to spiral out of control.

**As the case in Caprino Bergamasco**, where Gabriele and Mario (their real names have been used) were married in a civil union, points out. Becausde waiting for them at the Cascina Ombria in Caprino, before their well-deserved reception, was Catholic priest Father Roberto Falconi. He belongs to the Diocese of Bergamo and is in charge of the Madonna del Perello sanctuary in the municipality of Algua.

The news was supposed to remain confidential, but evidently something slipped out, as the cloying story of the two newlyweds with the priest appeared on the Cascina's Instagram profile with the caption: "History is made here! Gabriele and Mario. On Saturday, our newlyweds chose to get married in a civil ceremony, appointing Don Roberto as their celebrant. He is a wonderful person who had the courage to think outside the box. The first part of the ceremony was actually a religious blessing. The love that Gabriele and Mario felt broke down barriers — God was with them. It was a magnificent experience, and we are honoured to have been part of it. Long live the bride and groom, and long live Don Roberto!" In short, an account so full of banalities and errors it would make a repeater blush.

In this interview with the *Daily Compass*, Father Roberto is perfectly aware that he has done something that goes well beyond Prefect Fernandez's contested document, however he does not seem to make much of a fuss about the enthusiasm and homoeresis that are now rampant in the Church. This is proof that documents such as Fiducia Supplicans are destined to be overtaken by liturgical and theological bestiality. His only request is that Bishop Francesco Beschi of Bergamo not be involved in this story for which he takes full responsibility. Incredible.

#### Don Roberto, was the bishop informed?

No, let me put it this way: since the *Daily Compass* is concerned, I will tell you straight away that these things do not conform to morality. It was not a strict blessing according to Fiducia Supplicans. I received a blessing from the Waldensian Church and organised this liturgy, for which I take full responsibility. Are you satisfied?

It's not for us. It's just that, if you were aware that this was immoral, don't you think there's something wrong?

I tried to do it as discreetly as possible, without going against doctrine.

So it's against morality but not doctrine? But what doctrine are you referring to

Well, Fiducia Supplicans, which allows for a blessing of no more than ten seconds.

### The problem is, Fiducia Supplicans goes against doctrine.

You say that...

## No, not me, the Magisterium of the Church says that. The fact that it has not yet been rejected does not make it a magisterial document.

Be that as it may. These are just opinions.

### In truth, you seem to be mistaken. You even admit it. But are the two men Catholic?

I met them at another wedding, and that's how it all began. Are they Catholic? Let's just say they attend church as much as they can.

### What do you mean?

One of them can't attend Mass on Sundays very often because of his job.

### Why is that? What does he do?

He's a flight attendant. If you travel on intercontinental flights, it becomes difficult to organise...

### I understand; the same applies to football referees and pastry chefs. But the bishop?

I repeat: slaughter me if you want, but leave the bishop out of it. I take full responsibility. It should have remained a private matter.

### Private? But there are lots of enthusiastic posts and photos; there's nothing private about it.

My intention was to avoid doing it in a church. When we had to choose a location, we chose that place so that it would remain fairly intimate. I didn't know the Cascina would have gone public. It wasn't my intention.

### Why are you so worried about involving the bishop?

I fear it might cause him problems.

### Why did you agree to it even though you know it goes against morality?

My reasoning is simple: these are gay believers who aren't asking for marriage; they're only asking for their relationship to be blessed by God. My role is to support and protect the distinction between marriage and blessing.

### But which path? Do you realise that the union of two homosexuals is a sin?

### What are you blessing?

We are well aware that there are various positions on the subject and different visions. But they are all legitimate. Paul was in favour of slavery, but we have evolved since then.

### In fact, Paul was the first to treat slaves as brothers.

In short, we are attempting to read the Gospel while taking this reality into account. However, at the Sanctuary my work is fully in accordance with Catholic doctrine.

### I congratulate you on that. But what has that got to do with it?

I celebrate Mass, hear confessions, carry out pastoral care for pilgrims and provide spiritual accompaniment. In short, I perform the duties of a Catholic priest. And let's not forget the promotion of the Marian cult — you won't find fault with that either.

Rest assured I am certainly not a fiscal inspector; I pleased to hear about your pastoral activities. But what is that blessing? Is it a diversion you allow yourself to be more open?

Well, let's just say that I also indulge in these diversions in my spare time.