

Christian Albini has died

Christian Albini, lay theologian, has died at age 43: “a true Christian”

Father Enzo Bianchi [although Bianchi is not a priest], the prior of the Bose monastic community gave the news on Twitter. Albini promoted a theology of daily life “beyond the bastions of the Church.”

He passed away in the night at age 43, due to an incurable illness. **Christian Albini**, theologian, teacher, husband and father, collaborator in various publications and promoter of a theology of daily life “beyond the bastions of the Church.”

Father Enzo Bianchi, the prior of the Bose monastic community, delivered the news on Twitter: “Christian Albini has now left us: he was a true Christian, meek, good, patient! For me, always a friend with whom I agreed!”

Married to Silvia and father of three children aged 4 to 12, Albini taught religion in high schools and headed the center for spirituality of the diocese of Crema [in Lombardy, north Italy], was the author of theology books and had a blog “*Hoping for everyone*” (subtitle: meeting without condemning) and collaborated in the monthly *Jesus* under the heading *A people called the Church*.

“Theological reflexion in Italy cannot continue to be something which interests only priests, even, I would say, a rather elite sector of priests,” he explained in a recent interview in “*Creder*.” “It should on the contrary enter again fully and legitimately in public debate and communication. To speak of theology doesn’t mean to just be concerned with God and the Church, but also with what’s human. To see how faith in God and in the life of the Church have to do with human existence in its most personal aspects but also with public and social ones. I think that the absence of theology from Italian culture makes each the poorer.” The name of his blog, “*Sperare per tutti*” (“Hoping for everyone”), is taken from the last book written by theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar, in which the great theologian advanced the proposition that hell exists, but we can hope that it is empty thanks to God’s mercy. “But it is not just a question of the beyond, Albini explained: “What ‘everyone’ means is that one keeps one’s gaze beyond the bulwarks of the Church: truly there is an openness and a universal being involved in salvation. This is what Vatican Council II taught and now also Pope Francis.”

In his last post, on January 4, Christian Albini took his leave with a verse from Psalm 4: **“In peace I lay down and I soon fall asleep alone in hope you have me rest, Lord”**; “Peace—he wrote- is often not there. To live is also to struggle to maintain hope. Alone with hope, when it is all one has. The battle of faith is also to persevere in hope, even when hope is a thin thread or is altogether lacking.”