

COMBONI IN HIS HUMANITY

It is false the conviction that the saints don't have defects or sins. They also have to make their journey of growth with difficulties in the process of integrating their on the way to holiness. For that reason already Socrates considered as the primordial task of human being is to be "known to oneself". Also the task of "accepting to ones-self" in those things that inside the person cannot be directly changed.

There are personal limitations rooted in our own constitution or induced by our education or by the influence of the environment where we had lived and grown.

Besides the limitations, there are also fragilities that depend on acquired customs accidental circumstances and that which personally we have to overcome through a path made of sacrifices, challenges, work, effort... The saints like all human beings have inclinations, but they managed to arrive to a holiness by paying a price, they know how to respond to the call that God has made to them, and that being able to respond. By facing their inclinations which demanded continuous fights to overcome the wrong or limitations that existed in themselves.

A boy born a saint is a myth and that he has never committed any sin in all his life is an evident falsehood. Although the biographies and studies about saints don't consider their defects, or sins which are part of human being's reality. It is important to recognize the humanity and the human being's existential reality because it is there that the mystery takes its form.

1. The personality of Comboni

There are a clear consistent personal characteristic signs, such as:

- Capacity of adaptation
- Capacity of order
- Capacity of clarity
- Capacity of respect
- Capacity of reverence that it is not lack of sincerity
- Spontaneity
- Attitude of self-control that is in contrasted with his impetuous and authoritarian character.

A. The intuition Prevails:

Comboni's clear and speedy intelligence that can reflect in depth without distraction by rising of enthusiasm that comes out from his great generosity and from his moderate tendency to be presumptuous.

Comboni absorbs like an look at situations and problems by studying. He also know how to present what he has learned in a personal form to the extent that can make it look as if it is his own original idea, plan...

Daniel's intuitive and creative capacity sometimes brilliant and abundant. He is original in judging facts, in outlining and in detecting new realities and situations.

Comboni is flexible and dynamic in making the connection between ideas and projects with the affective reality. Also he has the tendency to bend the reality according to his own impetuous and untameable will.

Comboni is autonomous in judging, sometimes he is taken more by his intuitive capacities than his reasoning capacity. He too is gifted with a criticizing faculty and also of self-criticism.

In different occasions Comboni's decisions in evaluating things, events, circumstances, and people, can oscillate between wisdom and superficiality.

Generally Comboni is an optimistic person particularly when he begins a project or work in which he believes in strongly. Never the less he tends to become depressed near to the end of the project, probably because of the amount of energies he used up to keep it alive with enthusiasm.

B. Action and Courageous

Comboni is an independent person with a tendency to command. His enthusiasm moves and sustains Comboni in being courageous and sometimes made appear him presumptuous and arrogant. Other times he shows signs of depression when winds of fortune don't seem to push his won boat.

He generally has a graceful, cheerful approach, spontaneous warm, kind-hearted, impetuous in the manner of behaving and in the way he expressed himself.

Comboni has a disposition for those activities that demand immediate conception, fast in execution, speed of reflection, operative continuity, accelerated in conclusions. Sometimes he produces much without high precision. Through his personal initiative, his extravagancy, his originality, his enthusiasm can drive him to superficiality.

He is not stop by misadventures and failures and he knows how to move with easiness and continuity in order to achieve the goals that he has intended to get to.

Sometimes he is taken by eagerness, zeal and grandiose aspirations. From time to time he is daring, careless and rushes in coping difficulties and risks.

Comboni reveals a sense of intellectual and moral security, of superiority in relating to other people. He rarely has the readiness to accept or even to share ideas and proposals with others, but he is more moved by mistrust than by wisdom.

He is also taken by the resentment and the susceptibility, to defend himself, and to react to the attacks with aggressiveness and with irritability. Sometimes not very diplomatic.

Comboni has a tenacious will which can reach to being stubborn and he may impede to others who try to invade his own space. However he has enough capacity of self-control to subdue these primitive impulses.

He has the capacity to take initiatives with the ability to be a good organizer, as well as an approachable attitude to everybody.

His creativity and inventiveness pushes Comboni to an almost frantic activism of thought and action, but with an emphases on action. Having formulated the problem Comboni quickly passes into action, paying attention to what is essential, but on the same time exploiting the circumstances surround him. Furthermore and he does not tolerate or bear anything or anybody who would stand in his way trying to be stop him in his projects.

C. Will and Control

Comboni is ready in sacrificing himself in order to be faithful to the commitments he has taken.

Comboni diffuses sympathy around him through his spontaneity, initiative, audacity, joviality and he knows how to benefit from it.

Comboni is capable of guiding, directing, commanding and making his will prevail nearly to become overpowering. He is partially flexible and he has difficulty in bending to the orders and indications of others which he does not fully share because these orders are not according to his sensibility. His tendency to become extremist in his ideas and projects is counter balance and corrected by his substantial sense of equality, balance, willingness, understanding, compassion and great generosity.

Affectively Comboni is very prone to the sentimental abandonment. He wants to be considered, precious and loved. He also may tend to become the victim of the incomprehension and of the hostility of the others.

He seems to have a strong passionate and erotic energy that if it is appropriately guided through self-education, it can be channelled in a positive way.

Comboni has a certain tendency to impress. Sometimes he complains because he is hit and offended, then he looks for to knock his opponents making pressure on their feelings. He sometimes reacts with hardness.

Comboni has a disposition and attitude of irony, if not excessive, toward himself as to others.

Comboni has some attitude not very right or twisted, but in occasions as something spontaneous not as a habit.

Comboni is generally clear and frank. He has a certain pleasure for smartness, elegance and also of external appearance. He has a sense of justice.

Comboni is generous and detached of the material things, sometimes, prodigal, but certainly he is not for making business.

D. Fundamental Optimism

Making a summary:

- being extroverted,
- impulsiveness,
- being passionate,
- warm affectivity,
- ambition,
- independence,
- great interior force that makes him to conceive an idea and quickly fulfils it,
- capacity to communicate with other people his own enthusiasm,
- fast thinking,
- operative continuity,
- readiness,
- strong will,
- fighting attitude,
- fervour,
- exuberance,
- fantasy,
- necessity to give and to receive,
- a certain lack in measuring the consequences,
- a certain arrogance, imprudence,
- nimbleness without denying a certain naivety,
- loving the risk,
- capacity to harmonize the dreams with the reality of life
- overcomes the disappointments with a basic optimism,
- the speed of reacting to happiness as well as the pains,
- the fineness of his feelings and from time to time also the violence of the same feelings.

These are the most characteristic features of the complete and potent personality of Saint Daniel Comboni in his natural tendencies.

The enunciation of these tendencies or capacities or possibilities does not constitute at all a moral trial. The graphology puts to light the properties, the psychic components, intellectuals and temperamental innate and current, but not the volitional determinations that are the fruit of the human freedom.

2. the defects

The character

- Ambushes of a happy character
- Tendency to exaggerate (strong emotivity)
- Strong emotive reaction (bad words, hard attitudes...)
- Very talkative (speed word, cheerful conversation...)

It is urgent a trilocation

Comboni has made many people suffer in Verona, Cairo and Sudan (Rome). Comboni did not have the gift of the trilocation but while the trips were long, difficult and expensive, the mail was slow and sometimes it got lost, mainly between Cairo and Sudan. There was a solution for it to suspend the mission for ten years and to be devoted to organize the institute.

The controversy with the Camilians

There was a process to Rome that lasted 16 months and it was finished with the appointment of Comboni as a Bishop. He was accused by the Camilians. These were serious accusations:

- Administrative total inability
- He abandoned his prayer life for a lot of time
- Violent and rude language against the sisters
- He used to smoke
- A pasional sympathy toward sister Ana
- Ups and downs in his character
- He did a lot of promises
- He usually opened the letters of other people
- The failure and closing of the mission of Delen

There was a certain resentment and envy toward Comboni on behalf of some French sisters because he preferred three Syrians sisters because they knew Arabic.

But Comboni doesn't accuse nobody and he speaks always well about all the missionaries in his official reports.

Gossips - distance and fevers

The isolation of the communities, the fevers, in certain moment he was not able even to sleep for the heat or for the illnesses he had.

The great temptation: to abandon the mission

Comboni felt abandoned from God, from the Pope, the superiors and all the people.

The contrast with Ludovico of Casoria

The possibility to divide the vicariousness between the Franciscans and the institute of Don Mazza. Comboni felt very bad, confused and defrauded, almost indignant for so many expenses and efforts that were not productive.

Other aspects of the personality of Comboni

- Ambition of being named bishop
- Liar (the question of the slaves)
- Impatient
- The delayed in preparing the rules for the institute
- Disobedient
- Daring, without fear of the dangers
- Not chance for the illegitimate children
- Preference for the Arab sisters

Comboni has been an alive person, able to make a mistake, but not paralyzed by the fear of making mistakes.

3. The temptations of Comboni

- The family the temptation when leaving for the mission 1857
- Missionary disaster (1858), personal and of group
- In front of an impossible mission
- A beautiful diplomatic career
- The loneliness, alone against every body
- The slander
- The desolation
- His presence as useless for the good of the mission
- Abandoned by all