

Don Repole new archbishop of Turin, friends: "The last few nights he didn't sleep, then the family party in Givoletto"

The story of childhood companions
Domenico Agasso

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VATICAN CITY. «In these last nights Don Roberto has not been able to sleep. He was in fibrillation. He feels the weight of the responsibility that will fall on him, but at the same time he is full of enthusiasm that comes from his firm and joyful faith in him ». This was revealed by the friends of the priest-theologian-professor-essayist Repole, 55, who will be announced today by Monsignor Cesare Nosiglia - and by the Holy See - his successor, thirty-fifth archbishop of Turin. Don Repole in recent days was in Assisi to hold training courses for the clergy. So at work as always. And then last night he retired to his parents' house in Givoletto, "where he celebrated with a family barbecue, with his brother, sister-in-law and two grandchildren," tell his childhood and youth companions. He did not even remotely expect to be chosen by Pope Francis as pastor of Turin, assure all his acquaintances: «It was an immense surprise. For his future he had no specific plans other than to continue to be at the service of the Church in the places and times in which he would be called, without accumulating too many tasks and at the same time without settling down. And a huge call has arrived ».

Although he is aware that the task and the challenge will not be simple, Don Roberto - he will become a "monsignor" when he is ordained, at a date yet to be set and which will coincide with the inauguration - is "full of positive energies, strengthened and animated by trust. in God, without neglecting the sincere humility that has always distinguished him ". And then, he has the «right character: he is sunny and cheerful, with great listening skills, and at the same time he is determined in all the areas in which he works. With him empathy arises easily, he will be a bishop who will know how to be close to people ".

Being archbishop also necessarily implies governmental skills, "which he has already experienced with great recognition in the eight years of presidency of the Italian Theologians Association, confirmed in the direction of the Theological Faculty".

Also from the pastoral point of view he has already lived various experiences "which will be precious to him". He was parish collaborator in Druento until 2010, and then assistant pastor at Jesus the Redeemer and parish collaborator at the

Most Holy Name of Mary in Turin, before going to study in Rome with the Jesuits at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

"Fan of Turin, he loves playing the guitar", reveal his friends.

With Repole, a Turinese returns to the chair of San Massimo: the last was Agostino Richelmy, from 1897 to 1923.