

OLIVIERO ARZUFFI

DEAR POPE FRANCIS

Letter from a divorced man

The book, written in the form of an open-letter, sets out as a pamphlet addressed directly to the present Pope Francis, so that the Catholic Church could face, with evangelical coherence, the problem of separated and divorced Christians, who are at the moment ghettoized by the ecclesial community, deprived of the holy communion and excluded from both teaching and the liturgical activities.

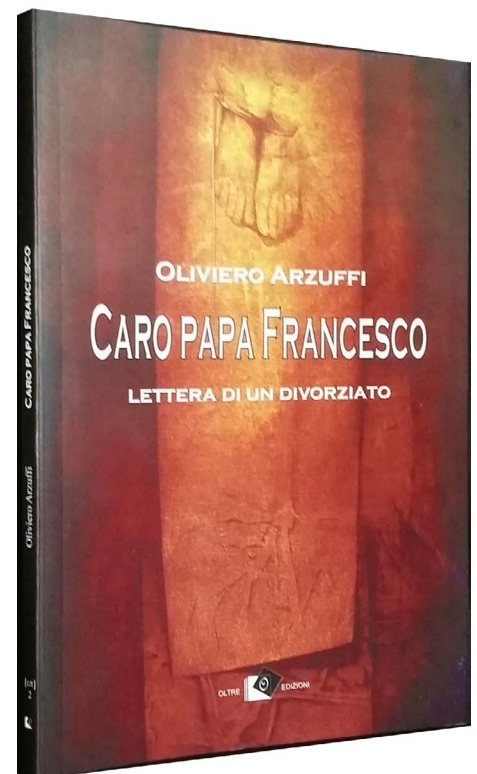
The booklet, written using a simple and immediate style, starts from the author's personal experience and extends its considerations to the exegetic and theological field about the problem of the divorce among worshippers and their possible new marriages. The patent intent of the letter is to give to the responsables of the Catholic Church clear indications about pains and inconveniences of the divorced and re-married people who want to remain in communion with the religion they belong to, and at the same time to suggest, according to the sacred texts, means of escape from the current unfair discrimination which comes from the applicable clerical discipline, that causes problems for the clergy itself in very close contact with observants.

The book ends with some remarks that, starting from a possible solution

of the problem of the religious belonging of the divorced, reshape a new way for the Church to think of itself in positive relationship with contemporary world and the experiences of the people. Considering the urgency and the vastness of the problem affecting millions of couples in Italy alone, a book that deal at the same time with the problem from both the existential, the exegetic-doctrinal and the pastoral point of view, may represent a significant support for a reflection and for a desired and long awaited changing.

THE AUTHOR

OLIVIERO ARZUFFI was born and lives in the Bergamo province. He is an Italian literature lecturer, he is engaged in volunteering associations and a peer reviewer in important institutional realities as well as an author of several texts about social issues. Among the best known works are *Alla ricerca dell'utopia* (Juvenilia, 1985); *Oltre le sbarre* (1986); *Il bambino condiviso* (1988); *Emarginazione A-Z* (Piemme, 1991); *Don Carlo Gnocchi: Dio è tutto qui* (Mondadori, 2005); *Poesia della vita* (San Paolo, 2006); *Il vento ci ha raccolti* (San Paolo, 2008) Besides the social and spiritual guide-



line issues essays he is author of *Armageddon* (a dramatic trilogy, NuoveScritture editions, 1992); *Escaton* (special Jury Award in Stresa in 1998, Ancora editions) and of the historical novel *Aninu* (Oltre edition, 2012)