CERN Auditorium - April 4, 2025

Thank you, dear **Luciano, a lifelong frie**nd, thank you **Manuela Marco and Domenico** for organising this and thank you to all **those who spoke**. **They exaggera**ted, but in these circumstances that is allowed, and we **can forgive them**....

Let me start by saying that I am extremely grateful to **Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi** and **Consul General Nicoletta Piccirillo** for being here today and for the very kind words.

I was also very touched by he opening addresses by Director General **Fabiola Gianotti**, Professor **Herwig Schopper** and President **Giuliano Amato.**

To what the speakers have said I want to **add an important aspect of my life** as a boy, one that influenced me **greatly** and continues to do so **today.**

I was ten years old in **August 1944** and the American troops had **liberated Rome** a few weeks earlier. My **Mother** took me, and my **dearest friend Franco, by the** hand and led us to a School near our home, where a group of young people were **reorganising the Scout group**, which, like all other Italian Scout groups, had been **banned by the Fascist regime**. So, I joined **ASCI, *the Italian Catholic Scout Association*,** and immediately began my training as **a "Cub Scout"**. I dedicated **eleven years** to Scouting, until the study of physics at the University prevented me from continuing as a "**Cub Scout leader**".

During these years I **absorbed the Scout spirit** and, in particular, **three tenets** of the Scout Law:

- **A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help oth**ers.
- **A Scout is courteous**.
- **A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties**.

These **guiding principles** were very helpful to me **along the roads I travelled** and still are today.

I may add that those of you who know my motto "**Physics is beautiful and useful**" now also know from where the adjective "**useful**" comes.

The **second topic** I want to talk about is that **I worked a lot** over the years, I was **often absent** from home and **Clelia reproached** me for this. But I felt that **I had to work very hard** to give back, in some way, all that I have received. Because I have always been **very fortunate, too fortunate.**

Starting with my **Grand Father Ugo, a mathematician** born 150 years ago, whose name I **carry with me**. His personality as a **teache**r and his **deeply thought Christian view** of the world have left an **indelible imprint** on me.

And then there are **my two parents**, strong and very different **personalities**, who worked with **determination and enthusiasm** all their life showing their children and grandchildren what it means to **love each-other deeply and stay united** in the **difficult times of the War** and of the **long illness** of my Mother.

Clelia has been the pillar of my life; I sincerely **thank Tord who showed us the pho**to taken at the honorary doctorate in **Uppsala**. It was a magical moment. She was 55 and I was 60 ...

During **the 64 years of our common li**fe I was working a lot, perhaps too much, but I was also **telling myself** that her active, and always generous dedication to others, **compensated** for the time I was spending on **fundamental physics**, **a passion** which she **did not understand**.

In 1959 we had met by chance, in a place where **we should not have been**, she was **20** years old, and I was **24**. When we got engaged, **three months late**r, I realized that she would have liked to marry a **Medical Doctor**. I **made up for it** when, **at 57**, I decided to leave the DELPHI spokesmanship to devote myself to **Hadron Ther**apy, I thus became a **Medical Physicist**, not too far from a Medical Doctor, and Clelia said '**You have returned to your first love'**, that is, to the love of radiation physics, to which I had devoted the **dozen years** I initially spent at the **Physics Laboratory of ISS.**

I **have been very fortunate** for my **brother Francesco,** who recently left us, and my **sister Dan**iela, who is here today, and for **my eight grandchildren**, many of whom are also here. Others have been following us from **Brussell, New York and Dubai**. **Three great-grandchildren** are home probably already sleeping.

I was fortunate because in the 1980s I started to take **care of the physics** books for high schools, initiated by my parents 30 years before, which I worked on intensively. The **Amaldis** have been linked with the **Enriques family**, owner of the **Zanichelli publisher**, for **four generat**ions: at the end of the **19th century** Federigo Enriques was the **Maestro** of my Grandfather Ugo: I am truly **grateful for their presence**. And the books would not have had the success they still have without the **continuous care of Zanichelli's collaborators**, many of them are also here. I only **mention Giuseppe Ferrari**, who was **very young** when he was called upon to take care **of the AMALDIs** at the end of the 1980s.

I was **fortunate** to **have had Gaudenzio Vanolo and Maria di Rosa close to me at TERA**; without them we would not have reached **the year 2000**, a lucky moment, when Umberto **Veronesi**, a great **scientist and surgeon**, became Minister of Health and allocated the first 20 million for the construction of the **National Centre for Oncological Hadrontherapy**. The TERA team was ready and **in 2003** it was passed on to the **new CNAO Foundation**- under the calm, firm and competent leadership of **Sandro Rossi**.

I have used the **adjective "fortunate" too many times,** but I should have said **'blessed'** because that is what I feel **deep in my heart. And you are all part of this blessing.**

GRAZIE A TUTTI