



Padova, June 7th 2016

Dear Luis,
dear Monica,

I am extremely sorry for not being able to participate in the event dedicated to the memory of Guido and I would like to testify my deep attachment to him, aware that few lines cannot do justice to this great person. I first met Guido in 1989, on the eve of LEP start, and this marked the beginning of an intense collaboration lasted 25 years. In 1989 I was a graduate student at the University of Geneva, very attracted by the activities of CERN and by the imminent opening of the LEP collider, but at the same time a bit intimidated by the size of the laboratory and by the reputation of its scientists. You can hardly imagine my excitement and astonishment in realizing that Guido, at that time fully committed as a protagonist to the LEP program and to its demanding activity, found time to discuss with a young student. Indeed Guido has been an invaluable guide during my first steps in research. I remember his attention, his active participation even in not particularly ambitious projects, adapted to the limited knowledge of an early researcher. I understood that Guido was supported by a real passion for his work. I felt at ease with him because Guido never imposed his point of view but he was ready to discuss, to argue and, if necessary, to change his mind: a great lesson for a young student.

Over the years our collaboration became more and more tight and I could get friendly with him. He was a very special person. He had a truly deep culture covering a variety of interests. He was able to transmit his personal and deep perspective on many subjects with few stunning jokes revealing an extraordinary ability to synthesize, combined with refined humor and irony. I think irony reflects that particular state of mind typical of those few people who manage, even in the most intricate instances, to take a step back. Guido was a master in focusing on the important things and on the global perspective, without being distracted by what happens on the surface. It was amazing how he could convey influential messages with extraordinary puns (Who does not remember "The train of supersymmetry is late"?). Irony and humor were conjugated with affection and sympathy. While I'm writing these lines I remember a nice evening spent together in Rome walking through the theater Marcello and the Ottavia's Portico, where his words made manifest his great affection for Rome.

I remember the passion, enthusiasm and energy with which he dragged me into the world of neutrinos. I remember work periods of great synergy in which I even began to believe in telepathy, for the coincidence with which, separated by a long distance, we were alerting each other while thinking about the same point. I remember Guido as a careful person, caring and affectionated also during the inevitable difficult circumstances of life, as in the case of an illness of my son or when my mother passed away. I owe a big debt of gratitude to Guido. I consider myself very lucky to have met him. Without knowing him, my life would have been much more poor, both on the professional and on the human sides. I remember him with great affection and, on this day dedicated to him, I feel particularly close to those who knew, esteemed and loved him.

Ferruccio