

True ordinariness is tangible holiness. *I Believe in You* by Luca Badetti is an invitation to embrace this beautiful reality by experiencing within ourselves the liberating power of love, simplicity, surrender and trust, inspired by the book's messages and the stories from the community of L'Arche present in its pages. Time spent with this book welcomes us to relax with our authentic selves in an age marked by narcissism and doubt. As you travel with Badetti to uncover life's meaning "in unexpected places" outside of ourselves, each chapter will encourage you to find essential value in yourself in surprising places as well. This gentle, prophetic, heartfelt work is worthy of reflection...and prayer. He has given us a psychological and spiritual gift at a time in society when we most need it.

Robert J. Wicks

Psychologist and author of *Night Call*

I found this book to be a true eye-opener. Through narratives with a community of persons with and without disabilities, it encourages us to encounter ourselves and others in a way that can deepen our spirituality.

David Richo, PhD

author of *How to be an Adult*

"The stance of tenderness—that loving respect made manifest in gentleness—can free us to be who we are," reads one of the many quotes in Luca Badetti's book, *I Believe in You*.

Living in relationship in community with the so-called intellectually disabled, Luca tenderly unveils his own growth and evolving inner transformation inspired by stories from those very housemates! Luca, with depth and conviction, further invites you and me to tenderly search the stumbling complexities of our own inner lives, mostly in relationship to ourselves, but also to others, so as to free who we truly are. *I Believe in You*

engenders serious introspection but also validates the exquisite gifts of those so often marginalized by those of us who fear the challenges of becoming more truly human.

Sue Mosteller, CSJ

Executrix of Henri Nouwen's literary estate

Luca Badetti's thoughtful book is a gentle and valuable reminder to those of us who struggle with feeling "good enough" to be loved—just as we are with our strengths and weaknesses, abilities and limitations—that each of us is lovable as people uniquely fashioned by divine Love. He shares the "life wisdom" he has gained through living in community with people with disability—valuable lessons of living without pretense, trusting in our innate goodness, and sharing life in interdependent relationships.

Wilkie Au, PhD

Author of *God's Unconditional Love*

Are you finally ready to believe in you? Are you ready to claim your own beauty and goodness? In *I Believe in You* Dr. Luca Badetti invites you to discover you are worth being known and celebrated. Written in a warm, calm, personal style, Dr. Badetti shares significant narratives that, stemming from a unique community that has much to teach us about finding and offering ourselves, embody what it means to be(come) fully human, fully alive, and fully being. You must read this book.

David Arute

Professional Counselor, Co-President of The Mansio Center

Badetti has written a wonderful book which explores the question of belief – how we believe in ourselves, in others and in God. The L'Arche community members with whom he lived

were his inspiration and teachers, helping him to learn who we all are: God's beloved. This book is a very profound human story of acceptance. Through stories, it shows us how to truly be present, listen and understand ourselves and the other. It challenges our view of those outside of our "comfort zone" and invites us to let down our barriers to celebrate what it is to be truly human.

Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

President, Oblate School of Theology

Author of *The Holy Longing*

A precious and much-needed book. A lot of our personal and social issues stem from not trusting our innate value and, consequently, that of our fellow human beings. The relevant insights and inclusive stories in these pages can help us believe and grow in our humanity, healing our relationship with ourselves and our relationships with others.

Helen Prejean, CSJ

Author of *Dead Man Walking*

In the spirit of the Gospels Luca Badetti's book, *I Believe in You*, takes us on a spiritual journey that opens our hearts to trust in ourselves, which as he says, "is not about achieving something, but about receiving the gift of our being." He has cut through to the heart of the spiritual life. "Receiving the gift of our being" is both the challenge and the gift of spiritual living. And he does this with gentle sincerity by inviting us to encounter, in these pages, members of his L'Arche community and, in our lives, those that are often marginalized. This leaves us with a profound experience of Divine Presence at the heart of our being.

Ken Sedlak, CSsR

Author of *Why God Loves Us...No Matter What*

In this poignant book, Luca Badetti is sharing lessons and insights learned about life from his friends with disabilities in the community of L'Arche. By Luca's willingness to be open to them, they have become true teachers, teaching him not so much about people with disabilities but about the essence of what it means to be human, to accept ourselves, and to be open to the grace and wonder that can come from relationships with others, especially those on the margins. Simply, in understanding them, we understand ourselves. With elegance and simplicity, Luca Badetti invites us into that journey.

Bill Gaventa, MDiv

Director of the *Summer Institute on Theology and Disability*

People from different walks of life and backgrounds can find, in this book, fresh and novel insights into their individual and social development, as Luca Badetti shares experiences and reflections from living in a diverse community of people with and without intellectual disabilities. Insightful, yet easy to read, informative yet accessible, this is a book for the journey.

Tamar Heller, PhD

Distinguished Professor and head of the
Department of Disability and Human Development
(University of Illinois at Chicago)

An inspiring and thought-provoking work that reveals hope in humanity.

Brian Schmisek, PhD

Dean of the Institute of Pastoral Studies,
(Loyola University Chicago)