



COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS REWARDED IN 2011 WITH  
THE MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

**Municipality of Olgiate Olona - Press release of June 26, 2020**

## **61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the plane crash of June 26, 1959: message of Olgiate Olona Mayor**

In respect for the safety of people and in compliance with the law, for the first time in many years we have decided not to meet physically to commemorate the plane crash of June 26, 1959. Anyway, this does not mean that our civil commitment will fail.

My affectionate thought and greeting go first of all to the families of the victims and to those who in these recent years - by physically attending the commemoration - have given a strong signal to ensure that the memory of this mournful event is not lost.

In the day of the 61st anniversary we remember all the people who were aboard the TWA airplane whose earthly life ended in the sky of Olgiate Olona. We affectionately renamed them the seventy immortal lives: thanks to our commitment to remembering them, and above all thanks to the dedication of our young students and their teachers involved in the educational project in memory of the plane crash, the community of Olgiate Olona that I represent always reserve these unfortunate brothers and sisters a special place in our collective memory.

We are recovering from one of the most difficult periods of these past decades: the coronavirus pandemic that hit us, has radically changed our social life habits, has put many of our certainties into crisis and has made us feel vulnerable all of a sudden. In the same way it has forced us to reconsider the scale of values of our existence and to prioritize the "things" that really matter. It is precisely in the most difficult moments like the one we are going through that we can understand the value of life and the love of people close to us.

Today we remember who is no longer there. Each of the seventy immortal lives has left a great void in their loved ones and in people who loved them. They have left a great teaching to all of us: it is the love for life.

In Olgiate Olona, the painful memory of June 26, 1959, continues to generate love for life: in the eyewitnesses of the crash, in the young protagonists of the educational project, in the relatives of the seventy immortal lives that unfortunately we will not be able to embrace again this year, and in all those who honour this page of history.

My sincere thanks go to all of them with the hope to meet again soon.

**Dr. Giovanni Montano**  
Olgiate Olona Mayor