The contribution takes the edition of the Venetian diaries of A.G. Roncalli (Pace e Vangelo. Agende del Patriarca, edited by E. GALAVOTTI, Bologna, 2008, 2 volumes) as starting point to briefly reconstruct the Venetian episcopate of the future pope John XXIII. It especially examines the attitude of Roncalli towards the main political events of the years from 1953 to 1958. Two key moments particularly are analyzed: the crisis of the GIAC, in 1954, because of the reluctance of the national presidency Rossi to maintain the considerable politicization of Catholic Action promoted by Gedda; and the behaviour of Roncalli confronted with the tormented political debate on beginning the collaboration between DC and Socialist Party, that had a meaningful anticipation in Venice during 1956. From both the episodes comes out the prudent attempt of Roncalli to emphasize the differences between Church and Christian Democratic Party, between pastoral activity and political engagement.