

Compassion and Professor Jérôme Lejeune

Intro : Why Jérôme Lejeune ?

Because heroic witness of compassion in science: as a doctor, geneticist, scientist and researcher.

(He discovered Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome)/

Founder of modern genetics/ First president of the Pontifical Academy for Life... /

Pope JP II is kneeling at his grave during the World Youth Days.

With him, **we see that academic excellence and the heroic exercise of Christian virtues**, among which is Charity, the root of compassion, **grow mutually in a dynamic that enables active compassion in the service of patients.**

With Lejeune: **a dynamic that goes from the heart to the intelligence and back to the heart.**

And a very beautiful model of **the sanctity of intelligence.**

1/ Compassion of the heart: suffering with

When he meets the mongoloids, it is love at first sight: he decides to do everything to find out why they are the way they are and how to cure them. He dedicates his life to them, to "*give them freedom of spirit*".

2/ The compassion of intelligence

- He puts his genius intelligence at the service of these disabled children with wounded intelligence. He discovers the extra chromosome by doing the karyotype on a child with Down syndrome. He then gives the name Trisomy 21 to this disease (and no longer Down syndrome).
- **Genetic revolution, Founder of modern genetics, incredible career:** at the highest academic level (awards, scientific academia worldwide).
- **A choice of love because his intelligence could do everything:** he chooses day after day to serve these children.
- **(Faith/science: no contradiction)**

3/ Compassion incarnate: when charity and truth meet

Dynamics from heart to intelligence: the union of the two in the dynamics of love.

Become a servant of life and truth

- He received 9,000 patients in the Necker hospital in Paris : effect/miracle **on his parents : a force came out of him. His unforgettable gaze. His humility.**
- **Against eugenic laws** : he says no. He can do no more : "**Non possumus**".
- **Arguments of human reasoning : Hippocratic Oath.** To kill a child because it is sick is the opposite of medicine. "**Medicine for death, is the death of medicine**".
- **Charity of the word : works of mercy : spiritual**
(chromosomal racism is horrible, like all forms of racism)
"Compassion towards parents is a feeling that every doctor must feel. If a doctor does not feel it, he is just a kind of computer. The man who could announce to parents that their child is seriously ill without feeling his heart tighten at the thought of the pain that will befall them would not be worthy of our profession ; but one does not protect oneself from misfortune by committing a crime. One does not relieve the pain of a human being by killing another human being. "*
- **Courage to tell the truth, obvious to him, the only way to help intelligence.**
(When he puts his flag in his pocket, it becomes a handkerchief.)
- **Heroic courage because he knows he will lose a lot: Nobel Prize for example...**
- **Charity incarnate because he is unified, because he loves. And ready to lose everything to save children. It is not just words. Word incarnate. Physical, paternal suffering of him.**
- **Conversions on doctors** as in San Francisco when receiving the Allen Memorial Award, NIH.

The word of Jesus guides his whole life: "What you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. "

- **Jérôme Lejeune : founder of the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV)**

To John Paul II's question. To create the Pontifical Academy for Life, he **wrote the Attestation of the Servants of Human Life**, which every new PAV member had to sign in order to enter the Academy. This very precise text is a guarantee of the doctor's fidelity to the service of human life. Perhaps it could be used for other fraternities?

Attestation: text in annex.

Conclusion :

Wizard King of modern times.

Servant of the Incarnate Word