

## TRIBUTE TO EDMOND MALINVAUD

MARY ANN GLENDON

For ten years, this Academy has flourished under the leadership of Edmond Malinvaud. And, as is often the case when an institution is running smoothly, we took that happy state of affairs for granted. In recent months, however, as I have prepared to take over the presidency, I have been made vividly aware of the sheer amount, as well as the magnificent quality, of the work that he has done to give our infant academy the best possible start in its life. And I have begun to glimpse the personal sacrifice that was involved.

So it is indeed fitting and just that we honor him today, even though that may embarrass him a bit, due to the courtly reserve and modesty that are among the qualities we treasure in him.

In my country, the First President has always held a special position in the collective memory of the citizens. The chilly winds of revisionist history have blown about all of his successors, but George Washington remains immune: we remember him as first in our struggle for our independence, first in building a new nation, and, as we still say, first in the hearts of his countrymen. As first president of our Academy, Edmond Malinvaud too has been *primus inter pares*.

Dear President Malinvaud, you have nurtured us through our infancy. You have led us in our struggle (so much more difficult than that of any national academy) to achieve effective collaboration across linguistic, cultural and disciplinary boundaries. You have been patient with our difficulties and shortcomings, while never once relaxing the standards of excellence you impose on yourself and others. We look forward to being the continued beneficiaries of your gifts, and to next year's plenary session which you have generously agreed to coordinate.

Of the qualities of Edmond Malinvaud that we celebrate today, I would like to mention just three that have been particularly inspiring to me. The first I have already noted: his unflinching commitment to the highest stan-

dards of academic excellence. Secondly, he has shown us what it means for a renowned specialist in his own field to be truly dedicated to interdisciplinary cooperation. His deep interest in, and understanding of, the other social sciences, and his lively appreciation of how they must work together, have provided a model for us all. Finally, how can one fail to be moved by the way that Edmond Malinvaud, as a Catholic layman, has taken to heart the clarion call of Vatican II to laypeople to be in the forefront of evangelizing the secular sphere? That call is often lifted up by Pope John Paul II who tells us that what is expected of lay women and men is a 'great creative effort' in transforming the various sectors of family, social, professional, cultural, and political life (*Ecclesia in America*, 44). Our esteemed first President has shown in an exemplary way what it is to answer that call.

So, thank you, *Monsieur le Premier Président*, for setting an example that, like George Washington's, is impossible to replicate, but that inspires every one of your colleagues to reach a little higher.

HANS F. ZACHER

Dear Professor Malinvaud! Our new President has asked me – along with Professor Arrow – to address a few words of gratitude to you for the decade in which you held the responsibility of being our President. So I will attempt to do so, at the same time begging your indulgence for the presumption of accepting this task.

When, more than ten years ago, the founding members of this Academy were invited to join in the endeavour of establishing a Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, not one of us could truly imagine the reality of such an institution. The ideas we had differed widely. Our backgrounds varied in manifold ways. None of the experiences we brought with us fully fitted the special conditions of the project. So we had to learn to live with those conditions – and we did under your successful leadership. Now, ten years after that start, the knowledge about our role and the way we should play it has grown considerably, as has our confidence that we are heading in the right direction.

What has been the secret of your success? I believe the first rule by which you abided in governing the Academy was to avoid all too many abstract discussions about the critical questions of our *raison d'être*. Instead, you created a climate in which the concrete work was a matter of course. You led us on the experimental path of trial and error, thus also

helping us to gain orientation on principal issues. The second rule you followed, I think, was to select the right topics for the concrete work. And I feel – especially in this point – that the Academy was extremely fortunate to have listened to your advice. The third rule of your leadership was to be pragmatic in drafting the procedures of the concrete work. It was especially this maxim that enhanced the supply of our expertise. Finally, a fourth and very personal rule accompanied your governing function: your own active participation in the concrete work. Again and again, you elaborated your own contributions to our research – mainly in your capacity as an economist, although your share was not restricted to that. Let me just mention your report on the state of the Church's Social Teaching on intergenerational solidarity. Your academic reflections were not only an important contribution to the scientific work of the Academy, but also a vital source for the strength of your presidency.

Thus I am approaching the innermost reason for your success: your personality. On the one hand, your unique competence – your outstanding experience in institutional leadership, your famed and productive literary achievement as a scholar, your national as well as international rank, but also your manifold merits and your great reputation within the Church. On the other hand, your style, the discipline of your gestures, the measure of your appearance. Whenever, during the papal audiences, you addressed the Holy Father I was impressed by the respectful and at the same time upright attitude you assumed in doing so – quite the way I wanted to be represented. To be sure, if there were to be a balance between distance and proximity, your risk would not be too much proximity. But what is more important is the credibility of your equal distance to all members of the Academy. That, I believe, was a good foundation for building confidence among all of us.

Thank you for the long and risky journey you shared with us. Thank you for the example you set by your convincing authority, through which you contributed essentially to the impressive development of this extraordinary Academy in its first decade.

Dear Edmond, my great respect and warm thanks. We look forward to many years of meeting, cooperation and friendship.