



A Scientist and Servant-Leader to Heal COVID-19

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Anthony Stephen Fauci (1940-) is an American immunologist who has made substantial contributions to HIV/AIDS research and other immunodeficiencies. This the veteran HIV/AIDS researcher, who has been involved with every epidemic over the past 40 years, has even treated Ebola patients. He is very familiar to scientists, health officials, and politicians, having led National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), since 1984. He has advised US presidents all the way back from Ronald Reagan to Donald Trump. Articulate, candid, and true to his core, he has become a rational voice of science and a public figure

Frank and Polite

He has been very direct and truthful with the public about the reality of the coronavirus in USA and many of his comments have indirectly contradicted Trump's comments.

For instance, while Trump said that the USA would have a shot for coronavirus quite quickly, Fauci said his estimate was that a vaccine wouldn't be available for a year and a half. While Trump also said that the coronavirus will soon disappear, Fauci shared that he thought the world was on the verge of a pandemic.

57

58

In an interview with Politico, Fauci shared his difficulties of advising the President of the US. He said: “You should never destroy your own credibility. And you don’t want to go to war with a president,” he continued. “But you got to walk the fine balance of making sure you continue to tell the truth.”

Because of his scientific mind and love for truth, Fauci has become a public target for some right-wing commentators and bloggers, who exercise influence over parts of the President’s base. As they urge the President to ease restrictions to reinvigorate economic activity, some of these figures have assailed Fauci and questioned his expertise.

This 79-year-old doctor, a key member of President Donald Trump’s coronavirus task force, has been the most outspoken advocate of social distancing rules. Fauci was among the health advisers on Trump’s team encouraging a continuation of the current guidelines after the President heard from business leaders and some of his conservative allies that the restrictions were more damaging than the virus itself.

Honest, Brave and Innovative

From the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, or for that matter since the 1980’s and the HIV/AIDS crisis, we find a good old-fashioned American hero. Like a Gary Cooper riding into save a town in the Old West, Tony Fauci is quiet, under-stated in style. Maureen Dowd’s *The New York Times* op-ed on March 21, 2020, described President Trump as “trigger happy”; by contrast, she said Dr. Fauci is “honest, brave and innovative”. “I don’t want to embarrass him,” the immunologist says. “I don’t want to act like a tough guy, like I stood up to the president.”

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59

Men for Others

Fauci, an acclaimed scientist, is also a committed Catholic. He is also an alumnus of Jesuit School. Writing in the prestigious *Forbes Magazine*, William F. Meehan III adds: “This common bond of a Jesuit high school education is amongst the strongest of any in American education, unknown to most who do not share it. And what Jesuit high schools offer is exactly what we need most and are sadly lacking in our country—education that offers strong academics, yes, and in a more disciplined environment that supports teaching and learning” (Meehan III 2020).

They try to educate people and foster leadership that is humane with spiritual values. “*Men and Women for Others*, is their mission.” Meehan III quotes Rev. Christopher Devron, SJ, a Jesuit, President of Fordham Prep, and board member of Regis, where Fauci studied:

“The phrase *Men and Women for Others* was originally coined in 1973 by Pedro Arrupe, the 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus to describe the outcome and goal of Jesuit secondary education. The phrase caught on, and has since been adopted as the unofficial motto of Jesuit schools across the globe. But the idea is not new as it reaches back to the 16th Century when Ignatius Loyola, a Spaniard and founder of the Jesuits, decided that his fledgling religious order would sponsor schools.” (Meehan III) Ignatius became convinced that Jesuit schools would “educate a vanguard within society: a

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60

group of dedicated citizens with the skills to articulate clearly a well-reasoned argument, committed to serve humanity, and advance the common good. Meant to be elite (as opposed to elitist), Jesuit schools were founded to educate the rich, the poor, and everyone in between” (Meehan III).



Meehan III adds on: “For Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order, faith is active: the true believer is someone who recognizes the needs of the world around him, and acts, like Christ, in the service of those in need. Regis aims to produce graduates who are “men for others” - men who have dedicated their lives, in some fashion, to helping other people... All of the school’s goals for the personal development of its students - intellectual, moral, spiritual, and emotional - must be understood with this end in mind: Regis students are asked to develop all their abilities so that they may be used in the service of others.”

Servant Leader

Dr. Fauci, a product of such education, has imbued these values. He has become “that real, rare person—a servant leader.” According to Meehan III this is largely, “because of the education and values he received from a high school build on a foundation of Ignatian values: serving others. It’s a foundation of humane values largely absent from America’s educational institutions.”

Servant leadership is a wholly secular idea and in the words of the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership. In an essay first published in 1970 Greenleaf writes: “The servant-leader is servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That

61

person is sharply different from one who is leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions... The leader-first and the servant-first are two extreme types. Between them, there are shadings and blends that are part of the infinite variety of human nature” (Meehan III).

The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that other people’s highest priority needs are being served. Do the others, while being served by the leader, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived? This is in keeping with Mahatma Gandhi’s talisman: “I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away.”

62

A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the “top of the pyramid,” servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.” Meehan III unambiguously holds that Anthony Stephen Fauci is such a

leader who is primarily at the service of others and the community, with his scientific knowledge and quest for truth.



So, *The Washington Post* has said that Fauci “fights outbreaks with the sledgehammer of truth” (Tumulty 2020). It adds: “While Trump tries to play down the severity of a public health crisis that might affect his reelection prospects, Fauci has laid out the best assessment of the true danger in stark terms” (Tumulty 2020). He has the knowledge, the wisdom and the humility! A genuine seeker, an effective healer and a practical scientist.

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