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Editorial: "What Kind of a Doctor are You, Jeemie?"

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EDITORIAL:

"What Kind of a Doctor are You, Jeemie?"

Pope John XXIII was interviewing a doctor from Philadelphia. The great man stepped down from his dais, extended his hand and said in not-too-good English "How are you, Jeemie — He has been telling me about you."

"He," an Archbishop, presently Papal Nuncio to England, formerly Bishop of Philadelphia, a poor boy sprung from the coal regions of Pennsylvania, was introducing his mother's doctor to his supreme Pontiff, the son of an Italian hill farmer. What did these three men, surrounded by pomp and treasure talk about on that 1961 afternoon?

"Tell me, Jeemie, what kind of a doctor are you?"

"I am a cardiologist, your holiness."

"No, no. I mean what kind of a doctor? Are you a rich man's doctor or a poor man's doctor like St. Damian?"

"I am afraid I am a poor man's doctor. I am a poor man and most of my patients are poor people."

"Oh, that is very good! The world needs many, many poor man's doctors."

Then, switching to more comfortable Latin, with the Archbishop translating, the Pope inquired about the training of doctors and nurses, the state of the hospitals and the medical care of poor people in Philadelphia.

He then sent his blessing and best wishes to the doctors, nurses, sisters, patients, and hospitals of Philadelphia. The audience was over.

* * * *

"What kind of a doctor are you, Jeemie?"

This should have happened to all the new Doctor Jeemies who received diplomas (many still written in Latin), this June. Truly the world needs many, many poor man's doctors.

H.R.

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