

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON TWIN STUDIES**

Rome: 28-31 August 1989

Opening Events

Papal Audience, Sixth International Congress on Twin Studies

Pontifical Palace, Castel Gandolfo, Monday 28 August, 11:00



Professor Gedda's Address to H.H. Pope John Paul II on behalf of the Congress

Holy Father,

We are pleased and honored at being in your presence prior to beginning the work of our Sixth International Congress dealing with the study of human twins.

Fifteen years ago we founded in Rome the International Society for Twin Studies so as to develop Gemellology as a branch of Genetics. This science was initiated by Gregor Mendel, the Augustian monk of Brno whom Your Holiness commended in an address on the centenary of his death.

Mendel also concerned himself with twins. But they were vegetable twins produced by the pisum sativum on which Mendel established those laws which regulate the reproduction of every living being and therefore even the procreation of human life.

Human twins that are identical, or monozygotic, offer us, among other things, the possibility of demonstrating that, despite their psychophysical identicalness, resulting from their identical hereditary patrimony, they possess an anemos, that is a soul, an immaterial principle that differentiates the single individual and personalizes him.

Keeping in mind that unitas duplex of monozygotic twins and the duplicitas of dizygotic twins, we study them from the scientific viewpoint and seek to formulate how they should be treated by family, society, medicine and science.

We thank you, Holy Father, for your benevolence and your exceptional work on behalf of all humankind, and ask you to bless our work and our commitment.