

Jean Vanier. A word from Marie-Hélène Mathieu

Very dear brothers, sisters, friends from Faith and Light and other walks of life...

What a shock, what sadness, when I found out about the behaviour of Jean Vanier between 1990 et 2005. I have been overcome by compassion for those who have told of their awful suffering.

It is true, I do not understand. The man who behaved in such a way does not correspond in any way to the one that I have known for so many years when we worked together as very close friends. There are so many of us, especially in Faith and Light, who have been nourished by the gospel and human message conveyed by Jean. He has done so much good, revealing to us the beauty of the weakest, devoting his life to them. What a mystery that your graces, Jesus, can go through us who are poor sinners! I realise more than ever how these graces go infinitely beyond us.

It is not up to me to pass judgement on Jean. Only God knows his heart. And Jesus himself said to the adulterous woman: "I do not condemn you". However, I want to give thanks for all that we have received from God through him. Let us strengthen within ourselves this desire to carry on working with all our strength on this mission that Jesus has entrusted to us, in particular through the extraordinary birth and growth of Faith and Light in the world.

You know Lord how we have trust in your infinite mercy. Yes, we are poor sinners but we have such trust in you! May this trust restore us in your peace. You gave it to your apostles just before entering in agony: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." I resolutely ask this of you, particularly for those people who have been injured in their relationships with Jean and who, for so long, have suffered all alone.

I embrace you all

Marie-Hélène