PROVINCIAL 省會長

SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

PROVINCIAL OFFICE



鮑思高慈幼會

慈幼會辦事處

JMJ +

DB200 會長家書四(十二月)

家庭精神及教會感

親愛的青年、使命同工及慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹:

這天主家庭的初果見於基督的家庭,即教會。受洗的我們經驗教會像我們的母親,她飼養我們在基督內的新生命。在教會內,我們這些鮑思高神父的追隨者也是他慈幼家庭的成員,他遺贈給我們在此內活出「家庭精神」。感謝這家庭精神,我們活出像親的兄弟姊妹。

在鮑思高神父從羅馬發出著名的信(130年前,1884年3月10日)中,他告訴我們他認爲什麼是家庭精神:「你看,親切能導致愛情、愛情則引發信賴,信賴使青年開心見誠,毫無畏懼地向教師、指導員及長上披露一切...。不但要愛青年們,也要他們知道被我們所愛...。要適應青年的傾向,愛他們所喜愛的。這樣,他們就會學習愛他們所不大喜愛的,例如:紀律、讀書、克己。跟青年來往要親切,尤其在遊戲時;沒有親切感不能表示愛情、沒有愛情不會產生信賴。誰想受人愛戴,必須顯示出他先去愛人。耶穌基督可說是親切的導師,祂和幼小者在一起,就成爲幼小的,並承受了我們的軟弱。凡知道受人愛護的,他必愛護那人,而受人愛護的人,必能獲得一切,尤其是在青年身上...。爲什麼有人願意以冷漠的規條代替愛嗎?」

在教會感方面,讓我們聽聽慈幼會會憲怎樣告訴我們:「慈幼的聖召,使我們深深地置身於教會內,也徹底參與教會的使命」(會應 6)「我們既愛基督,當然也愛祂的教會。教會就是天主的子民,所有爲天國服務的人都以她爲團結的中心,在她內融合爲一。在教會內,我們自覺是活躍的份子,在個人和團體的生活中,我們培養及不斷加深這教會感。基於這教會感,我們以赤子之心效忠伯多祿的繼承者,遵從他的教誨。我們也決意和主教、司鐸、修會人士及在俗信友保持精神上的共融及行動上的合作。在教育已奉教的青少年時,我們培育他們純正的教會感並使之增長。鮑思高神父常說:『爲了維護教會和宗座,任何勞苦都微不足道』。」(會應 13)

祝你們有一個快樂的十二月,在耶穌、瑪利亞、若瑟和鮑思高神父內,

摯愛你們的

省會長 斐林豐神父

PROVINCIAL 省會長

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DB200 Provincial Letter 4 (December)

Family Spirit and Sense of Church

Dear Youth, Dear Mission Partners, Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Our DB200 December "double word" is "Family Spirit and Sense of the Church". Last month we reflected on "Word and Eucharist". The Word of God and the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Jesus give birth to a new creation, a new mankind, the Family of God.

The first fruits of this Family of God are seen in the Family of Christ, the Church. Those of us who are baptized experience the Church as a loving Mother. She nurtures our new life in Christ. Within the Church, we, disciples of Don Bosco, are also members of the Salesian Family of Don Bosco. In it we live the "family spirit", bequeathed to us by St. John Bosco. Thanks to this family spirit, we all live as dear brothers and sisters.

In his famous Letter from Rome (10 Mary 1884, 130 years ago!), Don Bosco tells us what he means by Family Spirit: "You see, closeness leads to affection, and affection brings confidence. It is this that opens hearts and the young people express everything without fear to the teachers, to the assistants and to the superiors... The youngsters should not only be loved, but they themselves should know that they are loved... By being loved in the things they like, through taking part in their youthful interests, they are led to see love in those things too which they find less attractive, such as discipline, study and self-denial, and so learn to do these things too with love.... You cannot have affection without this familiarity (this friendly informal relationship with the boys, especially in recreation). Where affection is not evident there can be no confidence. If you want to be loved, you must make it clear that you love. Jesus made himself little with the little ones and bore our weaknesses. He is our master in the matter of the friendly approach... One who knows he is loved loves in return, and one who loves can obtain anything, especially from the young... Why do people want to replace love with cold rules?"

As for the Sense of Church, let us hear what the Constitutions of the Salesian Society tell us: "The Salesian vocation places us at the heart of the Church and puts us entirely at the service of her mission" (Const. 6) "Our love for Christ necessarily gives rise to our love for his Church, the People of God, the centre of unity and communion of all the forces working for the Kingdom of God. We feel ourselves a living part of her, and we cultivate in ourselves and in our communities a renewed ecclesial awareness. This we express in an attitude of filial loyalty to Peter's Successor and to his teaching, and in our efforts to live in communion and collaboration with the bishops, clergy, religious and laity. We educate young Christians to an authentic understanding of the Church and we work assiduously for its growth. Don Bosco tells us: 'No effort should be spared when the Church and the Papacy are at stake'." (Const. 13)

Wishing you a Happy December, in Jesus Mary Joseph DonBosco, I am, Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti SDB