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DB200 省會長家書五（2015 年一月）

榮主救靈

親愛的青年、使命同工及慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹：

願主的平安常與你們同在！鮑思高神父誕生 200 年新年快樂！獻身生活年新年快樂（我們在天主前全是獻身的）！羊年新年快樂！

一月最後一天是聖若望鮑思高的死亡（126 年前 1888 年 1 月 31 日），慈母聖教會，因為她充滿著信德，寧願慶祝我們在天堂上出生（即我們死亡那天！），多於我們在世界上出生。所以為什麼 1 月 31 日也是我們為聖鮑思高瞻禮保留著的那天，是他在天堂上的“dies natalis”（生日）！這也是為何在每月最後一天，我們紀念鮑思高神父。

事是這樣的，我們 2015 年 1 月 DB200「神恩雙詞」，非用鮑思高神父時常用的格言不可，就是「榮主救靈」。這可以說是鮑思高神父的個人座右銘，不同於他為慈幼會所揀選的格言「予其靈、捨其餘」。然而，這兩句格言，表達出同一個基本生命理念：「捨其餘」與「榮主」一致，而「予我靈」與「救靈」一致。

鮑思高神父使「榮主救靈」成為他個人的格言，他是聖依納爵的一個好跟隨者，那位在他的著作裡以不同的形式，重複寫至少 1000 次：“Ad maiorem Dei gloriam”（「愈顯主榮」）。當年輕學生若望鮑思高第一次遇上年輕的若瑟賈發東修生，賈發東告訴他：「誰若立志棄俗修道，應把自己奉獻於上主，不再關心世間所有的事物，却只顧那些能愈顯主榮，造福人靈的事。」（「聖鮑思高傳」第一冊，88 頁）。這依納爵-鮑思高格言邀請我們的心志專注在天主上。天主存在我們生活中是最奇妙的，祂是我們生活的源頭和終向。在中文裡，我們很美麗地說：「飲水思源」。以存在、以生活，我們飲的是天主的活水。為何我們這麼容易忘記去思念這給我們存在及生命的奇妙活水的泉源？鮑思高神父籍著聖母的一句贖言，告訴華道角慶禮院的一位青少年說：「你所做的一切事，看看有否愈顯主榮」

但「榮主」是什麼意思？什麼是天主的光榮？聖依勒內有一句出名的諺語回答說：「活著的人是天主的光榮」。即是，榮主就是救靈。慈母聖教會及鮑思高神父意指人類的「靈魂」是天主的無限及永恆的愛的對像。這是鮑思高神父告訴他的青少年的意思：「你只有一個靈魂，若你拯救它，所有一切也可獲救；若你失去了它，所有一切也失去了」。無怪乎若望鮑思高晉鐸前在日記上寫：「我定要竭盡所能，遵守以下的善志：為了拯救人靈，不怕在各事業上受苦、受勞，及自謙自卑。」（「聖鮑思高傳」第一冊，221 頁）祝你們有一個愉快的 2015 年一月！

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



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DB200 Provincial Letter 5 (January 2015)

Glory of God and Salvation of Souls

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Happy New Year of Don Bosco's 200th Birthday! Happy New Year of Consecrated Life (we are all consecrated to God)! Happy New Year of the Lamb!

January is the month on the last day of which St. John Bosco died (31 January 1888, 126 years ago). Holy Mother Church, full of faith as she is, prefers to celebrate our birth into Heaven (i.e. the day of our death!) rather than our birth on earth. That is why 31 January is also the day in which we hold the liturgical feast of St. John Bosco. 31 January is the day of his "dies natalis" (Birthday!) in Heaven. This is also the reason why, on the last day of every month, we commemorate Don Bosco.

Things being so, our DB200 January 2015 "double word" cannot be but the motto Don Bosco used most frequently, namely: "Ad gloriam Dei et salus animarum", i.e. Let us do everything for the "Glory of God and Salvation of Souls". This can be said to be the personal motto of Don Bosco, as distinct from the motto he chose for the Salesian Society as a whole: "Da mihi animas coetera tolle". The two mottos, however, express the same fundamental life ideal: "Coetera tolle" corresponds to "Glory of God" and "Give me souls" corresponds to "Salvation of souls".

In making "Glory of God and Salvation of Souls" his personal motto, Don Bosco was a good disciple of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who in his writings repeats, in different forms, a least 1,000 times: "Ad maiorem Dei gloriam" ("For the greater glory of God"). The first time young student John Bosco met young seminarian Joseph Cafasso, Cafasso told him: "One who becomes a priest gives himself to the Lord. Of all the things in this world, nothing should he take more to heart than what may serve the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls" (BM I 140). This Ignatian-Bosconian motto invites us to focus our mind and heart on God. God is the most wonderful reality in our lives. God is the source and the goal of our lives. In Chinese we say so beautifully: "When you drink some water, think of the source from which this water comes". By simply existing, by simply living, we are drinking God's living water. Why do we so easily forget to think of the wonderful Source of the living water that gives us existence and life? A stenna given by Our Lady through Don Bosco to a boy of the Valdocco Oratory says: "In all you do, see if you are acting for God's glory"

But what does "Glory of God" mean? What is God's glory? A famous saying of St. Irenaeus of Lyons answers: "The glory of God is a man fully alive". That is, the glory of God IS the salvation of souls. By "soul" Holy Mother Church and Don Bosco mean the human being as the object of God's infinite and eternal love. This is what Don Bosco means when he tells his boys: "You have only one soul: if you save it, everything is saved; if you lose it, everything is lost." No wonder before his priestly ordination, John Bosco wrote in his diary: "I pledge myself to keep the following resolution: To suffer, work, humble myself in all things whenever it is a question of saving souls." (BM I 385) Wishing you a Happy January 2015, in Jesus Mary Joseph DonBosco, I am, Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti SDB