



JMJ

+

DB200 省會長家書八（2015 年四月）

理智與宗教

親愛的青年、使命夥伴及慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹：

願主的平安常與你們同在！聖週快樂！主受難及復活的神聖逾越節三日慶典快樂！復活節快樂！

DB200 四月份的「神恩雙詞」是取自著名的鮑思高神父預防教育法的三部曲，名為「理智、宗教、仁愛」中的頭兩個名詞。在四月中讓我們集中反省這兩個名詞：「理智與宗教」，餘下三部曲中的第三個名詞則留至下個月。

當鮑思高神父說「宗教」，他當然意味著基督徒的信仰及其所有的涵意。當其他宗教是人類渴望與天主契合的產品時，基督徒的信仰是天主渴望與人類契合的結果。當其他宗教是自然時，基督徒的信仰便是超自然。基督徒知道主動的是天主，並非人類。天主揭示了祂超性的神秘面紗給人類，而人類的回應是接受這超性的禮物——信德。所以，照以上所說，我們可以這麼表達我們的 DB200 雙詞：「理智及信德」。

表達至此，我們醒起了聖若望保祿二世怎樣開始他的「信德與理性」通諭：

「我向可敬的各位主教弟兄，致候與宗座祝福！信仰與理性像兩隻翅膀，使人精神飛揚，瞻仰真理。是天主把這認識真理的渴望安置在人心中，使人終能認識祂，因認識而愛慕祂，並達到對人自己的圓滿真理。〔…〕」

理智及信德是天主給我們的兩份禮物。理智是自然的，信德是超自然的。我們真的要好好地利用這兩件禮物去認識天主及自己。為在我們生命中這麼重要的禮物，讓我們繼續閱讀這「信德與理性」通諭的第一段：「略一回顧古代歷史，足可證明，在世界各地、文化儘管不同，但同時都發出一個基本問題，表達出人類存在過程的特徵：**我是誰？我從何而來又將何往？為何有惡？人死之後還有什麼？**這些問題存在於以色列的聖書中，也出現在婆羅門教的吠陀經及祆教的火經中；我們在孔子、老子的著作中也有所發現，而在蒂爾丹嘉拉（Tirthankara）及佛陀的講道中也同樣存在；在荷馬的詩歌，及希臘尤里披蒂（Euripides）和沙孚克里斯（Sophocles）的悲劇中還是會碰到它們，而柏拉圖及亞里斯多德的哲學著作中也是一樣。同樣的問題來自同一根源，即永遠存在人心中的，對生命意義的追尋：事實上，對這些問題的答覆，將決定你生活的方針。」

要回答這些基本的問題，起初是靠理智，最後是靠信德。

所以我們應同時依賴理智及信德來自我教育及教育別人，這是多麼的重要！祝大家透過理智與信德，對天主的羔羊耶穌的神聖逾越奧蹟有一個深刻的體驗。

摯愛你們的

省會長 斐林豐神父



JMJ

+

DB200 Provincial Letter 8 (April 2015)

Reason and Religion

Dear Young People, Dear Mission Partners, Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Happy Holy Week! Happy Sacred Paschal Triduum of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection! Happy Easter!

For April, the DB200's "double word" is drawn from the first two terms of the famous trilogy of Don Bosco's Preventive System, namely, "Reason, Religion, Loving-kindness". Leaving the third item of the trilogy for next month, during the month of April let us concentrate our reflection on the first two terms: "Reason and Religion".

When Don Bosco speaks of "Religion" he means, of course, the Christian faith and all it entails. While other religions are the product of humanity's yearning for union with God, the Christian faith is the result of God's yearning for union with humanity. While other religions are natural, the Christian faith is supernatural. Christians know that the initiative is God's, not man's. God reveals supernaturally his unfathomable mystery to humanity and humanity responds accepting the supernatural gift of faith. We could express, therefore, our DB200 binomial also thus: "Reason and Faith".

Expressed like this, we are reminded of how St. John Paul II began his Encyclical "Faith and Reason":

"My Venerable Brother Bishops, Health and the Apostolic Blessing! Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves. [...]"

Both reason and faith are gifts of God to us. Reason is a natural gift, Faith is a supernatural gift. It is by using well these two gifts that we truly come to know God and ourselves. To appreciate the importance of these gifts for our life, we may continue to read the first paragraph of the Encyclical "Faith and Reason": "A cursory glance at ancient history shows clearly how in different parts of the world, with their different cultures, there arise at the same time the fundamental questions which pervade human life: *Who am I? Where have I come from and where am I going? Why is there evil? What is there after this life?* These are the questions which we find in the sacred writings of Israel, as also in the Veda and the Avesta; we find them in the writings of Confucius and Lao-Tze, and in the preaching of Tirthankara and Buddha; they appear in the poetry of Homer and in the tragedies of Euripides and Sophocles, as they do in the philosophical writings of Plato and Aristotle. They are questions which have their common source in the quest for meaning which has always compelled the human heart. In fact, the answer given to these questions decides the direction which people seek to give to their lives."

The answer to those fundamental questions is given, incipiently, by Reason and, finally, by Faith.

How important it is, then, to rely on both reason and faith in our work of self-education and education of others! Wishing you a deep experience, though reason and faith, of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus the Lamb of God, I am, Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial