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FS400 省會長家書一（2015年九月）

慈幼（Salesian，撒肋爵的，沙雷氏的）

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！DB200欣然閉幕及愉快的FS400（Francis de Sales 400）開始！在本人最後一封為DB200寫的信函中曾宣佈，從這封信開始我會與大家分享關於方濟各沙雷氏（Francis de Sales, FS!）出版他的著作“The Treatise on the Love of God”（論天主之愛，愛主真諦）（1616-2016，400!）400週年的反省。請不要害怕...FS400將會與DB200截然不同。DB200是由總會長公開向全球宣佈的週年紀念，而這FS400只是本人的私人倡議，只限於鼓勵我們個人的反省，為了我們繼續一起欣賞我們慈幼的寶藏。不像DB200反省的模式有一神恩雙詞，這年每月我只會反省一個神恩單詞。

首先，為九月我們反省一個詞語「慈幼」(Salesian)。「慈幼」(Salesian)是一個形容詞，來自法文Sales這個名詞，是我們主保聖人方濟各沙雷氏的出生地名。所以，每次我們提及這形容詞「慈幼」(Salesian)，我們應該聯想起聖方濟各沙雷氏這人及他的工作。這聯想是在1854年1月26日聖若望鮑思高及他的首批使命夥伴們決定稱自己為「慈幼人」(Salesian)的目的。盧華神父在令人難忘的會議紀錄這樣寫：「隨著上主及聖方濟各沙雷氏的幫助，鮑思高神父認為，我們應該首先透過向我們的近人進行愛德工作來考驗自己，然後通過一個承諾約束自己；最後，如果可能和理想的話，向天主做一個正式的誓言。由當晚開始那些同意或以後會同意這樣生活的人稱為『慈幼人』。」（MB V, 9; BM V, 8）。

今天我們將“Salesian”一詞譯成「慈幼」，不會使我們聯想起聖方濟各沙雷氏。最早“Salesian”的中文翻譯是「撒肋爵的」，一個較接近於“Salesian”及「聖方濟各撒肋爵」的翻譯（「撒肋爵」是當時“Sales”的翻譯；今天“Sales”也譯作「沙雷氏」或「沙雷」）。然而，「慈幼」的中文翻譯（源自孟子「告子篇下」七章三節，孟子引用「春秋五霸章」第三）完美地代表了聖方濟各沙雷氏的精神，像耶穌的精神：對孩童慈愛。這精神也完全顯露在**與我靈！取其餘！**的格言上。其中，順便說一句，這鮑思高神父的格言，之前也是聖方濟各沙雷氏的格言！在未來兩個月，我們會再次反省這個聖方濟各沙雷氏——聖若望鮑思高的格言，並把它分成兩部份：**與我靈！**（十月）及**取其餘！**（十一月）。

是什麼時候聖若望鮑思高開始被聖方濟各沙雷氏吸引？也許是他在神學院的日子（MB 1,406; BM 1,302；「聖鮑思高傳」第一冊，第169頁），肯定是在1841年，當時只有廿六歲，他晉鐸及舉行首祭前，在都靈聖雲先修道院做退省時。這修道院的聖堂有聖方濟各沙雷氏及聖雲先的雕像並列在祭壇的左右兩旁。退省結束時，鮑思高神父在日記簿上寫道：「在舉行首祭前，作為神修退省的紀念〔...〕我承諾自己，遵守以下的決定（全部共有9項，前4項是）：1. 除非為了重大的需要，如探病人等，總不出外旅行。2. 嚴格善用時間。3. 為了拯救人靈，不怕在各事上受苦、受勞，及自謙自卑。4. 聖方濟各沙雷氏的愛德和溫良，應在各事上引導我。」（MB 1,518; BM 1,385；「聖鮑思高傳」第一冊，第221頁）聖方濟各沙雷氏的愛德及溫良：這是聖方濟各一言以蔽之的精神，這應該也是所有「慈幼人」(Salesian)的精神！

衷心希望你們有一個喜悅的新學年！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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FS400 Provincial Letter 1 (September 2015)

Salesian (慈幼)

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Happy conclusion of DB200 and happy beginning of FS400! As announced at the end of my last letter for DB200, with this letter I begin to share with you my reflections regarding the 400th Anniversary of the publication by Francis de Sales (FS!) of his masterpiece “The Treatise on the Love of God” (1616-2016, 400!). Please, do not be scared... FS400 will not be the same as DB200. While DB200 was a public world-wide anniversary declared by the Rector Major, this FS400 is a private initiative of mine, limited to encouraging our personal reflection and to continue our common appreciation of our Salesian heritage. Unlike the reflection format of DB200 that had a “charismatic double word”, this year each month I will reflect on just one “charismatic single word”.

To begin with, for September we shall reflect on the word “Salesian” (慈幼). “Salesian” is an adjective derived from the French noun “Sales”, the name of the birth place of our Patron Saint. So, every time we mention the adjective “Salesian” we are making a direct reference to the person and work of St. Francis de Sales. This direct reference was the purpose intended by St. John Bosco and his first mission partners when, in the meeting of 26 January 1854, they decided to call themselves “Salesians”. Don Rua writes in the minutes of that memorable meeting: “Don Bosco suggested that, with the help of the Lord and St. Francis de Sales, we should first test ourselves by performing deeds of charity toward our neighbor, then bind ourselves by a promise, and later, if possible and desirable, make a formal vow to God. From that evening on, those who agreed – or would later agree – to this were called ‘Salesians’.” (MB V,9; BM V,8).

This direct reference of “Salesian” to St. Francis de Sales is obscured today in the current Chinese translation of “Salesian” as “慈幼”. The first Chinese translation of “Sales” was “Sha La Jue de”, a closer rendering of the sound of the word “Salesian” and a clearer reference to “Shing Fang Ji Ge Sha La Jue” (as “Sales” was then translated; today “Sales” is also translated as “Sha Lei Shi”). However, the Chinese translation “慈幼” (derived from *Chunqiu* Chapter *Wuba* Paragraph. 3, quoted in *Works of Mencius*, Book VI *Kaou Tsze*, Part II, Chapter 7, Paragraph 3) perfectly represents the spirit of St. Francis de Sales, which, like the spirit of Jesus, is a spirit of pure love for the little ones. This spirit is also perfectly represented in the motto **Give me souls! Take the rest!** which, by the way, before being Don Bosco’s motto, was the motto of St. Francis de Sales! In the next two months we shall reflect again on this Salesian-Bosconian motto, dividing it into its two parts: **Give me souls!** (October) and **Take the rest!** (November).

When did St. John Bosco first approach St. Francis de Sales? Perhaps already in his seminary days (MB I,406; BM I,302), certainly during the 1841 Spiritual Exercises he made in the Church of the Vincentian Mission in Turin before his priestly ordination and his first Mass. In this Church, on the left and on the right of the main altar, the statue of St. Francis de Sales stands in pendant with that of St. Vincent de Paul. At the end of these Spiritual Exercises, Don Bosco wrote in his notebook: “Souvenir of the spiritual retreat prior to the celebration of my first Mass. [...] I pledge myself to keep the following resolutions (9 in all, the first 4 are): 1. Never to go for a stroll unless for grave reasons like visiting the sick, etc. 2. To be very rigorous in the use of my time. 3. To suffer, work, humble myself in all things whenever it is a question of saving souls. 4. The charity and gentleness of St. Francis de Sales are to be my guide.” The charity and gentleness of St. Francis de Sales: this is the spirit of St. Francis in a nutshell! This is the spirit every “Salesian” should have! Wishing you a joyful beginning of the new school year, in Jesus Mary Joseph StFrancis DonBosco, I am,

Yours affectionately, Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial