



JMJ

+

FS400 省會長家書二 (2015 年十月)

**與我靈！(取其餘！)**

親愛的青年、使命夥伴及慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹：

上個月，我們對「慈幼」(Salesian)一詞做了反省。目前對 Salesian 一詞的中文翻譯，「慈幼」，完美地體現了聖方濟各沙雷氏的精神，它像耶穌的精神，是一種純潔的愛情精神。這種精神也完全代表了「與我靈，取其餘」這句格言。本月以及下個月，我們將分兩次：與我靈！(10 月)取其餘！(11 月)，再次反省鮑思高神父的這句格言。但是，我們現在討論聖方濟各沙雷氏，為什麼要再次反省鮑思高神父這句格言？因為，正如我們上月所提到的，其實鮑思高神父所選的，與我靈！取其餘！是一句「沙雷氏 (Salesian)」格言。也就是說，在成為鮑思高神父的格言之前，它已是聖方濟各沙雷氏的格言了！

**與我靈！取其餘！**雖然這句格言短誦，從來沒有出現在聖方濟各沙雷氏浩繁 (他的 *Opera omnia* 超過 20 冊) 的著作中，他的神子 Camus 主教卻可以作證，這兩句短誦，從來沒有離開過他的師傅兼導師的口。

聖方濟各沙雷氏這種虔誠的習慣有著非常有趣的歷史背景。聖方濟各沙雷氏曾任日內瓦的主教。但是，當時日內瓦是在加爾文 (Calvin) 和他的繼承人貝達 (Beda) 手中。加爾文和他的追隨者，加爾文教徒，決心要讓羅馬天主教的主教遠離他們的教區。他們這樣決定也是出於當時的情況，日內瓦教區的教產密集，加爾文教徒不願與人分羹。面對這樣的情況，聖方濟各與教區制定了這樣的對策：爭取照顧教區子民的權利 (與我靈！)，而放棄對教區財產的任何要求 (取其餘！)。對於聖方濟各沙雷氏，其格言「與我靈！取其餘！」就是這樣的具體和實際。這不僅是一個虔誠的抱負，更是一種活出福音神貧、只為人靈的決心。這是何等的胸襟！何等的超然！

聖方濟各沙雷氏是從那裡得到這個格言？答案也是一個有趣的故事，它也顯示了我們主保聖人不尋常的幽默感。在聖經的第一部書，創世紀第 14 章中，神聖的作者講述了亞巴郎如何勝利地從東方的四個國王手中，拯救出了五個迦南的國王及其人民。在 11-21 節，神聖的作家說：「那四個王子劫走了索多瑪和哈摩辣所有的財物和一切食糧，連亞巴郎兄弟的兒子羅特和他的財物也帶走了。」亞巴郎反擊取得了勝利，「奪回了所有的財物，連他的親屬羅特和他的財物，以及婦女和人民都奪回來了。」索多瑪王對亞巴郎說：「請你將人交給我 (與我靈！)，財物你都拿去罷 (取其餘！)」。這裡，我們有一個負面的原型，索多瑪王，說出了一句以人民為重的說話。當然，信仰之父亞巴郎，寬仁為懷，回絕了索多瑪王的財物。帶著對人類生存狀況一絲幽默的同情，聖方濟各沙雷氏從一個流氓口中取得了他的格言。

**與我靈！**這句歡呼多麼貼切地表達了聖方濟各沙雷氏及鮑思高神父的牧民熱忱！聖方濟各日復一日不停重複它。鮑思高神父，將它寫在一張紙板上，掛在他房間的牆上。聖道明沙維豪第一次進入鮑思高神父的房間，便注意到了它。十月是傳教月。**與我靈！**正是傳教士熱情的最好表達。讓我們祈求我們的慈父和會祖聖若望鮑思高，主保聖方濟各沙雷氏，為我們代禱，使我們也擁有同樣的救靈熱忱。願大家度一個充滿救靈熱忱的傳教月。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



JMJ  
+

FS400 Provincial Letter 2 (October 2015)

**Give me souls! (Take the rest!)**

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

Last month we reflected on the word “Salesian” and we saw that the current Chinese translation of “Salesian”, namely, “Ci You” perfectly represents the spirit of St. Francis de Sales, which, like the spirit of Jesus, is a spirit of pure love. This spirit is also perfectly represented in the motto **Give me souls! Take the rest!** In this and the next month we shall reflect again on this motto of Don Bosco, dividing it into its two parts: **Give me souls!** (October) and **Take the rest!** (November). But why should we reflect again on this motto of Don Bosco if we are dealing now with St. Francis de Sales? We do so because, as we mentioned last month, **Give me souls! Take the rest!**, the motto chosen by Don Bosco is in fact a “Salesian” motto. That is, before being the motto of Don Bosco it was the motto of St. Francis de Sales!

**Da mihi animas! Cetera tolle!** Even if this prayer-motto never appears in the voluminous writings of St. Francis de Sales (his *Opera omnia* run for more than 20 volumes!), Bishop Camus, the spiritual son of St. Francis de Sales, bears witness that this double phrase was daily on the lips of his master and mentor.

The historical background of this prayerful habit of St. Francis de Sales is very interesting. St. Francis de Sales was the Bishop of Geneva. Geneva, however, was then in the hands of Calvin and his successor Beda. Calvin and his followers, the Calvinists, were determined to keep the Catholic Bishop out of his diocese. This determination of theirs was also due to the fact that the property of the Geneva Diocese was extensive and the Calvinists did not intend to part with it. Faced by such a situation, St. Francis made it his diocesan policy to continue demanding the right to care for the people of the diocese (*Da mihi animas!*) while renouncing any demand on diocesan property (*Cetera tolle!*). For St. Francis de Sales, his motto “*Da mihi animas! Cetera tolle!*” had just such concrete and practical meaning. It was not merely a pious aspiration. It was a decision to live in evangelical poverty and look really only for souls. What a magnanimity! What a detachment!

Where did St. Francis de Sales get this motto? The answer to this question is also an interesting story and it shows the wry sense of humor of our patron saint. In the Bible’s first book, called Genesis, in chapter 14, the sacred author narrates how Abram victoriously rescued the 5 kings of Canaan and their people who had been defeated by the 4 kings from the East. In verses 11-21, the sacred writer says: “So the enemy took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way; they also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.” Abram counter-attacked victoriously, so that “he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his goods, and the women and the people. [...] And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” (RSV Translation). So we have here a prototype of bad behavior, the king of Sodom, uttering a noble word of greater concern for people than for things. Of course, our father in the faith Abraham responded in kind, refusing to accept the goods of the king of Sodom. With a sense of humorous compassion for the human condition, St. Francis de Sales took as his motto this noble word uttered by a model rascal.

**Give me souls!** How well this exclamation expresses the apostolic zeal of St. Francis de Sales and of Don Bosco! St. Francis repeated it every day. Don Bosco attached it, written on a piece of card-board, on the wall of his room. It was noticed by St. Dominic Savio himself the first time he entered Don Bosco’s room. October is the Month of Missions. **Give me souls!** is a very fine expression of missionary zeal. Let us ask our Father and Founder St. John Bosco, our Patron Saint Francis de Sales to intercede for us the grace of a zeal for souls (*animas quaerere!*) equal to theirs. Wishing you a missionary month full of zeal for souls, in Jesus Mary Joseph StFrancis DonBosco, I am,

Yours affectionately, Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial