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FS400 省會長家書三 (2015 年十一月)

(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：**

願主的平安常與你們同在！上個月，我們反省了鮑思高一沙雷氏格言『與我靈！取其餘！』的上半句（與我靈！），本月（11 月），我們反省這句格言的下半句：**取其餘！**

與我靈！取其餘！上個月，我們了解到在聖方濟各沙雷氏的生命中，這下半句格言的歷史背景。『取其餘』對於聖方濟各，首先是天主教教區在日內瓦及其周邊地區的大量教產。如此地捨棄，也從根本上刻畫了他的人生。畢竟，這樣徹底地捨棄正是耶穌在福音中所要求的：『狐狸有穴，天上的飛鳥有巢，但是人子卻沒有枕頭的地方。』（瑪 8：20）『同樣，你們中不論是誰，如不捨棄他的一切所有，不能做我的門徒。』（路 14：33）

方濟各出生於貴族家庭城堡內，但不幸卻是早產，所以，他一生與強健無緣。在他出生的房間裡，掛着一幅畫像，畫上是那位熱愛『貧窮妹妹』的聖人——聖方濟各亞西西。出生後第二天，他領受了洗禮，起名方濟各文德（Francis Bonaventure），取自兩位方濟會聖人之名。10 歲時，方濟各沙雷被邀請接受神職剪髮禮（clerical tonsure）。這是 Savoy 貴族家庭家族的習俗，接受這項儀式旨在加強一個家族在社會上的地位。小方濟各接受了邀請。但他的父親並不知道，為 10 歲方濟各來說，此剪髮禮意味著放棄世俗生活，矢志跟隨神貧與貞潔的耶穌。三、四年後，還是一名十幾歲的巴黎大學學生，他已向天主承諾放棄婚姻，擁抱童貞的生活。在大學，為滿足父親想讓他在社會上成就一番事業的願望，方濟各選讀了騎馬，舞蹈，擊劍等課程，但他的心卻不在此。大約十年後，他的父親試圖強迫他與一位美麗又富有的年輕女子結婚，但他持守童貞的承諾從未動搖。更讓父親惱怒的是，連讓他出任 Savoy 參議院最年輕議員的提議也遭到了拒絕。

26 歲晉鐸後，方濟各在他的神職生活中體現著同樣的超脫。當時，Chablais 的天主教會和子民，被加爾文異端破壞地滿目瘡痍。主教需要傳教士去重建。方濟各主動請纓。他的父親跪在主教前懇求不要派他的兒子『去送死』，他依然堅持了自己的選擇。在 Chablais，方濟各夜以繼日地工作。他不止一次地面臨生命的威脅，白天來自頑固的敵人，夜晚來自飢餓的豺狼。方濟各的『取其餘』確保了沒有什麼能夠阻擋他的『與我靈』！

當要他出任教區主教時，一年多的時間，他試圖避免，但最終無法推辭。35 歲，他被祝聖為主教。人生的後 30 年，方濟各繼續過著刻苦的生活，完全地將自己奉獻給自己的羊群：講道、聽告解、視察教區、寫作。『工作！工作！工作！』在成為鮑思高神父的口號前，已時常掛在聖方濟各的嘴邊了。作為司鐸和主教，聖方濟各的講道超過 4000 次，他的文集多達 26 卷。為視察教區最偏遠的山村，他要手腳並用地攀行阿爾卑斯山的陡坡。當有機會讓他留在巴黎，作國王亨利四世的私人司鐸時，方濟各拒絕道：『我必須忠實於我貧窮的新娘，我的山中教區』。最後，他筋疲力盡，腦部中風出血，卒年 56 歲。

十一月是慈幼家庭的傳教月。我們都是『青少年的傳教士』。每位傳教士都應效法聖方濟各的超脫（取其餘！）。願你們度一個充滿聖方濟各熱情和捨棄精神的慈幼傳教月。

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



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FS400 Provincial Letter 3 (November 2015)

(Give me souls!) Take the rest!

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Last month we reflected on the first half (**Give me souls!**) of the Salesian-Bosconian motto **Give me souls! Take the rest!** In the month of November we reflect on the second part: **Take the rest!**

Cetera tolle! Take the rest! Last month, we saw the stirring historical background, in the life of St. Francis de Sales, of this second part of his motto. The “cetera” meant by St. Francis de Sales were, first of all, the extensive properties of the Catholic Diocese in the city and environs of Geneva. Such detachment, however, radically characterizes all his life. After all, such radical detachment is demanded by Jesus in the Gospel: “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.” (Matt 8:21); “So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33)

Francis was born in a noble family’s castle, but his birth was premature, and so he never enjoyed a strong health. The room in which he was born had on the wall a painting of St. Francis of Assisi, the Saint wedded to Sorella Povertà. The day after his birth, he was baptized with two Franciscan names: Francis Bonaventure. Francis de Sales, at 10 years of age, was invited to receive the clerical tonsure. This was a custom of Savoy’s noble families, a traditional ritual meant to enhance the standing of the family in society. Little Francis accepted the invitation. Unknown to his father, for 10-year old Francis this tonsure meant renunciation to life in the world and commitment to follow Jesus poor and chaste. Three or four years later, as a teenager student at Paris University, he promised God to renounce marriage and embrace a life of virginity. At the university, to satisfy his father who wanted him to follow a career in the world, Francis took lessons of riding, dancing, and fencing, but his heart remained detached from such things. The promise of virginity was not withdrawn when, about ten years later, his father tried to pressure him into marriage with a rich and charming young lady. To his father’s chagrin, he also declined his offer to make him the youngest member of the Senate of Savoy.

Ordained a priest at 26, Francis showed the same detachment in his clerical life. Missionaries were needed by the Bishop to regain for the Catholic Church the people of Chablais devastated by the Calvinist heresy. Francis volunteered. He stood by his choice even when his father knelt before the Bishop imploring him not to send his son “to his death”. In Chablais Francis worked tirelessly. Not a few times his life was at risk, in the day light from hardened opponents and in the night from hungry wolves. Francis’ **cetera tolle** made sure that nothing could stop his **da mihi animas!**

When asked to become Coadiutor Bishop of his diocese, for more than one year he tried to avoid this, but to no avail. Consecrated Bishop at 35, he lived the remaining 30 years continuing his austere life-style and spending himself totally for his flock: preaching, confessing, visiting the poor and the sick, answering letters, writing. “Work! Work! Work!” was often on the lips of St. Francis de Sales before becoming the well-known exclamation of St. John Bosco. As a priest and bishop St. Francis preached more than 4,000 sermons. His collected works run into 26 volumes. To visit the remotest mountain villages in his diocese, he would climb the steep slopes of the Alps clutching the ground with his hands and feet. Offered the opportunity to remain in Paris as a chaplain to King Henry IV, Francis declined: “I must be faithful to my poor bride, my mountain diocese”. In the end he died at 56 years of age, exhausted, of a stroke or haemorrhage in the brain.

November is for the Salesian Family as missionary month. We are all “missionaries of the young”. Missionaries are called to imitate the detachment (**cetera tolle!**) of St. Francis. Wishing you a Salesian missionary month full of St. Francis’ zeal and detachment, in Jesus Mary Joseph StFrancis DonBosco, I am, Yours affectionately, Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial