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FS400 省會長家書四 (2015 年十二月)

(天主之) 愛，愛德

親愛的青年、使命合作夥伴及慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹：

願主的平安常與你們同在！讓我們繼續與我們主保聖方濟各沙雷氏，走向他多個四百週年的紀念。12 月份，我們將反省聖方濟各教導的本質和核心，即愛 (Love) 或愛德 (Charity)。『愛 (love)』與『愛德 (Charity)』這兩個詞之間有什麼區別？『愛 (Love)』的意思大家都知道。『愛德 (Charity)』，是一個比較傳統的英文單詞，它明確表示，當我們講『愛德 (Charity)』時，是指至高無上的天主之愛以及祂在我們之內的愛。這是聖經給『愛』的標準含義。以聖保祿為例，他寫道：『天主的愛，藉著所賜與我們的聖神，已傾注在我們心中了。』（羅 5: 5）

聖方濟各沙雷氏是教會聖師 (Doctor of the Church)。『聖師』即『聖德之教師』。歷史中，只有非常偉大的人物，才被慈母教會賜與了此稱號。聖方濟各沙雷氏『聖師』的稱號最初由教宗真福比約九世於 1877 年授予。那方面的聖師？1967 年，教宗保祿六世，首先描述聖方濟各為『教會和歷史上最偉大的人物之一』，之後稱他為『神聖之愛的聖師和福音溫和的聖師』。1986 年，此言由教宗若望保祿二世重述為『愛的聖師』，之後，2002 年，為『神聖之愛的聖師』。這意味著我們也可以稱聖方濟各為『愛德的聖師』。

聖方濟各被稱為愛德的聖師，主要由於他的文學及神修傑作——《論天主的愛》(俗稱 *Theotimus*)。2016 年，我們將慶祝它的出版 400 週年。我們有聖方濟各《論天主的愛》中文譯本嗎？受慈幼會中華會省之邀，《論天主的愛》由上海教區姚景星神父翻譯成中文，天主教上海教區光啟社於 2009 年以《愛主真諦》為書名在上海出版。我們應感謝天主，以及感恩於這位年逾九旬的翻譯者（於今年 8 月 6 日去世，享年 97 歲），為他的愛心勞作。

為淺嚐聖方濟各沙雷氏愛的神修倫理之美，讓我從《論天主的愛》結尾部分拈取幾句。最後一章 (XII, 13) 的標題是：『加爾瓦略山——真愛的學校』。通過這標題，以及接下來的最後幾句，我們可以看到『愛的聖師』神修倫理的集結：『啊，真愛永恆，我靈渴慕你，嚮往你，直到永遠！啊，聖神請來，用你的愛，點燃我們的心靈！或愛或死！為愛而死！所有愛的死亡，換取在耶穌愛內的生活，而不至永恆的死亡。我們靈魂之救主，為在你永恆愛內生活，我們歌唱直到永遠：『永生！耶穌！耶穌，我的愛！永生，耶穌我的愛人！耶穌我所愛，耶穌永生永王，世世代代。阿們！』。

2016 年年底之前，我們希望《論天主的愛》繁體字版，通過我們的良友之聲出版社出版。祈求天主，藉著這本書的出版，使讀者更直接地接觸愛（天主十字架的愛）的聖師的教導。

眼下是十二月，轉眼就是聖誕節。願聖誕節的慶祝活動使我們體驗到天主對我們每個人的愛，那美妙和親切的愛。

聖誕快樂！

在耶穌、瑪利亞、若瑟、聖方濟各和鮑思高神父內，

摯愛你們的省會長 斐林豐神父



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FS400 Provincial Letter 4 (December 2015)

(God's) Love, Charity

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! As we continue our journey with our Patron St. Francis de Sales on the occasion of his approaching multiple 400 years centenaries, in the month of December we shall reflect on the essence and core of St. Francis de Sales teaching, namely, Love or Charity. What is the difference between the two English words “Love” and “Charity”? What “love” means we all know. As for “charity”, this is a more traditional English word that expresses clearly that when we talk of “love” we mean above all God’s love in itself and God’s love in us. This is the standard meaning given to “love” in Sacred Scripture. Let us take, for example, St. Paul, who writes: “God’s love [charity] has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5)

St. Francis de Sales is a Doctor of the Church. “Doctor” here means “Teacher”. Only very great figures in history have received such a title from Holy Mother Church. The title of “Doctor of the Church” was bestowed on St. Francis de Sales by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1877. Doctor of what? Pope Paul VI in 1967 first described St. Francis as “one of the greatest figures of Church and history”, then called him the “Doctor of Divine Love and Evangelical Gentleness”. This was repeated by Pope John Paul II first in 1986 as “Doctor of Love” and then again in 2002 as “Doctor of Divine Love”. This means that we can also call St. Francis the “Doctor of Charity”.

St. Francis is the Doctor of Charity especially because of his literary and spiritual masterpiece: *The Treatise on the Love of God* (popularly known as *Theotimus*), the 400th anniversary of whose publication we commemorate in 2016. Do we have a Chinese translation of St. Francis’s *Treatise on the Love of God*? Acting on the initiative of the China Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Chinese translation of *Theotimus* was made by Fr. Francis Xavier Yao Jing Xing of the Shanghai Diocese and published in Shanghai in 2009 by Tianzhujiao Shanghai Jiaqu Guangqishe, under the title *Ai Zhu Zhen Di*. We must thank God and the nonagenarian translator (who died this year on 6 August, aged 97) for this labor of love.

To have just a sip at St. Francis de Sales’ wonderful spiritual doctrine of love, let me quote from the ending of the *Theotimus*. The last chapter (XII, 13) is entitled: “That Mount Calvary Is the True School of Love”. In this title and in the last words that follow we have in a nutshell the spiritual doctrine of the “Doctor of Love”: “O love eternal, my soul needs and chooses you eternally! Ah, come Holy Spirit, and inflame our hearts with your love! To love – or to die! To die – and to love! To die to all other love in order to live in Jesus’ love, so that we may not die eternally. But that we may live in your eternal love, O Saviour of our souls, we eternally sing, ‘Live, Jesus! Jesus, I love! Live, Jesus whom I love! Jesus I love, Jesus who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.’” (English translation by J. K. Ryan).

Before the end of 2016 we hope that a traditional characters edition of the *Theotimus* will be published by our Vox Amica Press. I pray God that, once this edition sees the light, this book may allow its readers to approach directly the teaching of the Doctor of God’s Crucified Love.

It is December. Soon it will be Christmas. May the celebration of Christmas make us experience the tenderness of God’s wonderful love for each one of us.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas, in Jesus Mary Joseph StFrancis DonBosco, I am,

Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial