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FS400 省會長家書六（2016 年 2 月）

### 虔誠，熾熱心胸之愛

親愛的青年們，親愛的使命伙伴，親愛的慈幼家庭的兄弟姐妹：

願主的平安常與你們同在！在介紹二我們的主保聖方濟各沙雷氏對愛（愛德）教導的本質（正如他在他的傑作《論天主的愛》中所描述的）之後，讓我們來探討一下聖方濟各沙雷氏的另一部著作。

除了《論天主的愛》（俗稱 Theotimus），聖方濟各的第二部文學及神修傑作，毫無疑問的當屬《入德之門》（俗稱 Philothea）。兩個月前，我們談論了一點他的第一部傑作。我們剛剛開始慶祝它的出版 400 週年（1616-2016）。從這個月開始，我們將開始欣賞我們主保聖人的第二部傑作。我們將從其主題，即『虔誠』著手。《論天主的愛》是一部關於天主愛（愛德）的傑作，《入德之門》則是部關於『虔誠』（天主熾熱之愛）的傑作。《入德之門》出版於 1608-1609 年，所以，它的 400 週年已經過了！它的中文譯本有兩個，除了《入德之門》，我們還有另外一個譯本《成聖捷徑》（翻譯是一樣的，但書名是不一樣的！）

聖方濟各沙雷氏筆下的『虔誠』有什麼涵義呢？他自己給的答案是：『愛德之於虔誠，好比火與火焰，彼此之間，並無多大差別；若說：愛德是精神的火，當它冒出了熊熊的火焰，便名之為虔誠。』（《入德之門》第一章，1；李紹崑譯）。因此，虔誠的意思是『熱切之愛』、『熱誠之愛』、『熾熱之愛』、『熾熱心胸之愛』。聖方濟各所謂的『虔誠』正是我們現在所講的『聖德』或『成聖』。

這個月，通過回顧一系列受聖方濟各沙雷氏有關『虔誠』教導影響的聖人，讓我們嘗試以一種具體的方式來理解『虔誠』。藉著他的教導，聖方濟各沙雷氏生了許多偉大的子女。我們各選三位兒女和三位神子進行回顧。願這樣的回顧，也準備我們慶祝 2 月 2 日獻身生活年的閉幕慶典和 2 月 10 日四旬期的開始。

三位聖方濟各的兒女是：1）聖婦若翰納·方濟加·尚達爾（1572-1641），她和聖方濟各沙雷氏，於 1610 年，創立了聖母往見女修會；2）聖母往見修女聖女瑪加利大·亞拉岡（1647-1690），熱敬耶穌聖心的使徒；3）『小道』聖師，加爾默羅會聖女小德蘭（1873-1897），在母親去世後，她由『我的小母親』賽琳所教導。她這位大姐曾在勒芒（Le Mans）聖母往見女修會學校就讀多年。

聖方濟各沙雷氏的神子之一是教宗聖若望廿三世（1881-1963）。在他的自傳《靈心日記》中，教宗若望提到聖方濟各沙雷氏 24 次之多。此前，聖方濟各沙雷氏的一位偉大神子，自然是我們的聖若望鮑思高（1815-1888）。一位研究聖方濟各的歷史學家曾說，『鮑思高神父，一個本姓暴躁的人，欽佩聖方濟各沙雷氏的慈善溫柔及他為窮人和被遺棄者一如既往的良善，立志效法 [...] 他因此成為聖多明我沙維豪— 青少年聖人及『他教育法的傑作』— 的父親（Lajeunie, II, 560- 561）。聖多明我沙維豪是聖方濟各『虔誠』教導的另一神子。

看到這些果實，我們都很好奇，想瞭解更多聖方濟各沙雷氏關於愛德和虔誠的教導。這正是接下來幾個月，我們要做的。2 月 13 日，我們將慶祝第一位到香港和澳門的慈幼會會士（聖雷鳴道主教，那時的雷鳴道神父）110 週年來華紀念。作為鮑思高神父的弟子，他接受了依循聖方濟各沙雷氏教導的培育（又一位聖方濟各『虔誠』的神子！）願我們，聖方濟各弟子的弟子，也遵循同樣虔誠的道路，即熱誠的愛！

祝猴年吉祥！四旬期聖善！

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 6 (February 2016)

### **Devotion, Love of a Heart on Fire**

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! After presenting the essence of our Patron St. Francis de Sales' teaching on Charity (Love) as expressed in his masterpiece *The Treatise on the Love of God*, let us proceed to investigate this teaching taking into account another master work of St. Francis de Sales.

Besides the *Treatise on the Love of God* (popularly known as the *Theotimus*), a second literary and spiritual masterpiece of St. Francis de Sales, is, undoubtedly, *The Introduction to the Devout Life* (popularly known as the *Philothea*). Two months ago we said something about the first masterpiece, of which we have just begun the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of publication (1616-2016). This month we begin to appreciate our Patron Saint's second masterpiece. We shall do so by dealing with its main theme, the theme of "Devotion". If the *Theotimus* is the masterpiece of God's love (Charity), the *Philothea* is the masterpiece of Devotion (God's love on fire). The *Philothea* was published in 1608-1609, so its 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is already passed! Of the *Philothea*, we have two Chinese editions, one entitled *Ru De Zhi Men*, the other entitled *Cheng Sheng Jie Jing* (only the title is different, the Chinese translation is the same!)

What does St. Francis de Sales mean by using the word "devotion"? Let him answer this question: "Charity and devotion differ no more from each other than does the flame from the fire, for charity is a spiritual fire, which, when inflamed, is called devotion" (*Philothea* I, 1; Translation by John K. Ryan). So, devotion means "fervent love", "ardent love", "burning love", "love of a heart on fire". What St. Francis means by "devotion" is what today we would call "holiness" or "sanctity".

This month we may try to understand "devotion" in a concrete way by reviewing the long series of Saints who were formed by St. Francis de Sales' teaching on devotion. Many great spiritual daughters and sons of Saint Francis de Sales were produced by this teaching. Let us choose three daughters and three sons for review. May this review also prepare us to celebrate the imminent conclusion of the Year of Consecrated Life on February 2 and the imminent beginning of the sacred season of Lent on February 10.

Three spiritual daughters of St. Francis are: 1) the widow St. Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641) who, together with St. Francis de Sales, in 1610 founded the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary (the Visitation Sisters); 2) the Visitation Sister St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), the apostle of Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; 3) the Doctor of the "Little Way", the Carmelite Sister St. Teresa of Lisieux (1873-1897), who was educated, after the death of her mother, by 'my little Mother' Pauline, her elder sister who had been for several years a pupil of the Visitation Sisters at Le Mans.

A spiritual son of St. Francis de Sales is Pope St. John XXIII (1881-1963). In his autobiography, the *Journal of the Soul*, good Pope John mentions St. Francis de Sales 24 times. Earlier, a great spiritual son of St. Francis de Sales was, of course, our Saint John Bosco (1815-1888). In the words of an historian of St. Francis, "Don Bosco, a violent man by nature, admired the charity and gentleness of Saint Francis de Sales, his unfailing kindness for the poor and derelict: He resolved to imitate him [...]. He thus became the Father of the young Saint Dominique Savio, 'his pedagogical masterpiece'." (Lajeunie, II, 560-561). St. Dominic Savio is a third child of St. Francis teaching on "devotion".

With such fruits, we are curious to know more about the teaching of St. Francis de Sales on Charity and on Devotion. This we shall do in the following months. On 13 February we commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in Hong Kong and Macau of the first Salesian of Don Bosco (Fr. Luigi Versiglia, now St. Luigi Versiglia). A pupil of Don Bosco, he was formed according to the teachings of St. Francis de Sales (so another child of St. Francis' "devotion"! ). May we, the pupils of his pupils, follow the same blessed path of devotion, that is, of ardent love! Happy Year of the Monkey! Holy Lent! In Jesus Mary Joseph St. Francis Don Bosco, I am, Yours affectionately, Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial