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DB200 省會長家書九 (2015 年五月)

「牧民愛德」與「親切的愛」

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！五月快樂！聖母月快樂！復活期繼續快樂！為 DB200 五月份的「神恩雙詞」是取自著名的鮑思高神父預防教育法的三部曲，名為「理智、宗教、仁愛」中的第三個名詞。對！「親切的愛」即「仁愛」就是今個 DB200 五月份的主題，與它相連的雙胞胎詞是「牧民愛德」。

「牧民愛德」此詞是由梵蒂岡第二次大公會議（以下簡稱為「梵二」）論及主教及神父們的職務時所締造的。「愛德」即是愛，天主的愛，聖保祿宗徒在（羅 5：5）說這神聖的愛是超自然的禮物：「因為天主的愛，藉著所賜與我們的聖神，已傾注在我們心中了。」「牧民」即「牧羊人的」。所以「牧愛」是「牧羊人的愛」，好善牧耶穌的愛、關愛祂的羊，特別是祂迷失了的羊。

論及主教們，梵二說：「主教們享有聖事的聖寵，志在以祈禱、以祭獻、以宣道〔…〕，履行 牧民愛德 的完善職務，不惜為群羊捨命」。《教會憲章，第 41 號》

論及神父們，梵二說：「司鐸們作為基督善牧的替身，就會在這 牧民愛德 的執行中，找到司鐸成全的關鍵，獲致生活及行動的協調。此處所謂牧民愛德，特別導源於聖體聖祭；因此，這也就是司鐸整個生活的中心與根源。《司鐸職務與生活法令，第 14-15 號》

鮑思高慈幼會很高興在梵二中發現「牧民愛德」這一詞，因為它一言以蔽之，表達了鮑思高神父的慈幼精神。在慈幼會會憲（以下簡稱為「會憲」）第 10 號說：「慈幼會精神的核心和總綱就是牧者的愛德（牧民愛德），它的特徵就是在會祖及初期會士身上強烈地表現出那種青春活力，就是一股使徒的衝勁，催促我們搶救人靈、專心事主。」

那麼，有關「親切的愛」怎樣呢？同樣，答案來自會憲的第 14 號，標題為「特愛青少年」所說：「天主給我們聖召時，也給了我們一個特恩，即一顆熱愛青少年的心：『只要你們是青少年，我便萬分愛你們』（鮑思高神父）。這愛心出於牧者的愛德，它使我們整個生命富有意義。為了青少年，我們慷慨地奉獻出我們的時間、才能和精力：『為你們我求學，為你們我工作，為你們我活著，也樂意為你們捨掉生命』（鮑思高神父）」。

會憲第 15 號，標題為「親切的愛」說：「『天主就是愛』，祂派遣慈幼會會士為青少年服務，會士該是開朗和誠懇的，樂意主動親近青少年，並常以溫良、尊重和忍耐的態度接待他們。他具備一顆慈父、長兄和朋友的心，他會引起青少年的回應而建立友誼：這就是會祖敦囑會士培養的『親切的愛』。貞潔的德行和性格的平衡，使會士能懷有慈父的心腸，天主『先行的愛』也就能在他身上表露出來。」

祝你們在這復活期裡有一個深刻的「牧民愛德」與「親切的愛」的經驗。最後，讓我偕同聖母進教之佑，這樣為你們祈禱：「賜平安的天主曾由死者中領出了那位因永遠盟約的血，作群羊偉大司牧的我們的主耶穌，願祂成全你們行各種善工，好承行祂的旨意；願天主在我們身上，藉著耶穌基督行祂眼中所喜悅的事！願光榮歸於祂，至於無窮之世！阿們。」（希 13：20-21） 在主耶穌內，摯愛你們的，

省會長 斐林豐神父



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DB200 Provincial Letter 9 (May 2015)

Pastoral Charity and Loving Kindness

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Happy Month of May! Happy Month of Mary! Happy continuation of the Paschal Season! For May, the DB200's "double word" is drawn from the third term of the famous trilogy of Don Bosco's Preventive System, namely, "Reason, Religion, Loving Kindness". Yes, "Loving Kindness" is the theme of this DB200 Month of May, coupled with its twin phrase "Pastoral Charity".

The phrase "**Pastoral Charity**" was coined by Vatican II when speaking of the mission of Bishops and Priests. "Charity" means love, God's own love, that supernatural gift of divine love of which St. Paul speaks in Rom 5:5: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." "Pastoral" means "of the shepherd". So "pastoral love" is "the love of the shepherd", the love of Jesus the Good Shepherd who takes loving care of his sheep, in particular, of his lost sheep.

Speaking of Bishops, Vatican II says: "Bishops are gifted with sacramental grace enabling them to exercise a perfect role of *pastoral charity* through prayer, sacrifice, and preaching [...]. They are enabled to lay down their life for their sheep fearlessly." (Lumen gentium, 41)

Speaking of Priests, Vatican II says: "Priests, by assuming the role of the Good Shepherd, they will find in the very exercise of *pastoral charity* the bond of priestly perfection which will unify their lives and activities. This pastoral love flows mainly from the Eucharistic Sacrifice, which is therefore the centre and root of the whole priestly life." (Presbyterorum ordinis, 14-15)

The Salesians of Don Bosco were very happy to discover in Vatican II this phrase "pastoral charity", because it expresses in a nutshell Don Bosco's Salesian spirit. Art 10 of the Salesian Constitutions says: "The Salesian spirit is summed up and centred in pastoral charity, characterized by that youthful dynamism which was revealed so strongly in our Founder and at the beginning of our Society. It is an apostolic impetus that makes us seek souls and serve God alone."

What, then, about "**Loving Kindness**"? Let the answer, again, come from the Salesian Constitutions. Art. 14, entitled "Predilection for the young", says: "Our vocation is graced by a special gift of God: predilection for the young. 'That you are young is enough to make me love you very much' (Don Bosco). This love is an expression of pastoral charity and gives meaning to our whole life. For their welfare we give generously of our time, talents and health: 'For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life' (Don Bosco)."

Art. 15, entitled "Salesian loving-kindness", says: "Sent to young people by the God who is 'all charity', the Salesian is open and cordial, ready to make the first approach and to welcome others with unfailing kindness, respect and patience. His love is that of a father, a brother and friend, able to draw out friendship in return; this is the loving-kindness so much recommended by Don Bosco. His chastity and well-balanced attitude open his heart to spiritual fatherhood and give transparent witness to God's anticipating love."

Wishing you a deep experience of pastoral charity and loving-kindness in this Paschal Season, let me, with Mary Help of Christians, pray for you like this: "May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb 13:20-21) In the Lord Jesus, I am, Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial