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方叔華神父 Fr. Giosnè Bonzi

我相信9月1日出席「夢想成真共融演唱會」的每一位觀眾，均會對由來自三藩市的三位自閉症年輕朋友和家人教師組成的「圓夢先鋒」樂隊擊節讚賞，完全認同「具不同能力人士」就是我們對這群社會成員的最佳稱謂。的確，他們各有所長及對社會有寶貴的貢獻！

我很高興在以下文章中，與大家分享一個父母替其有嚴重殘疾的孩子發掘出其「使命」過程中，深刻而美麗的反思。

I am sure that all those who were present at the "Dream Achievers" concert, excellently conducted by the three friends with autism and their family members and teachers from San Francisco on Sunday, 1 September 2013, were strongly impressed and fully agree that "persons with different abilities" is the best way to call all these members of our human community. They, indeed, have a role to play and precious contributions to offer!

I am glad to share the following profound and beautiful reflection of a parent who discovered the "vocation" of his child with severe disability.

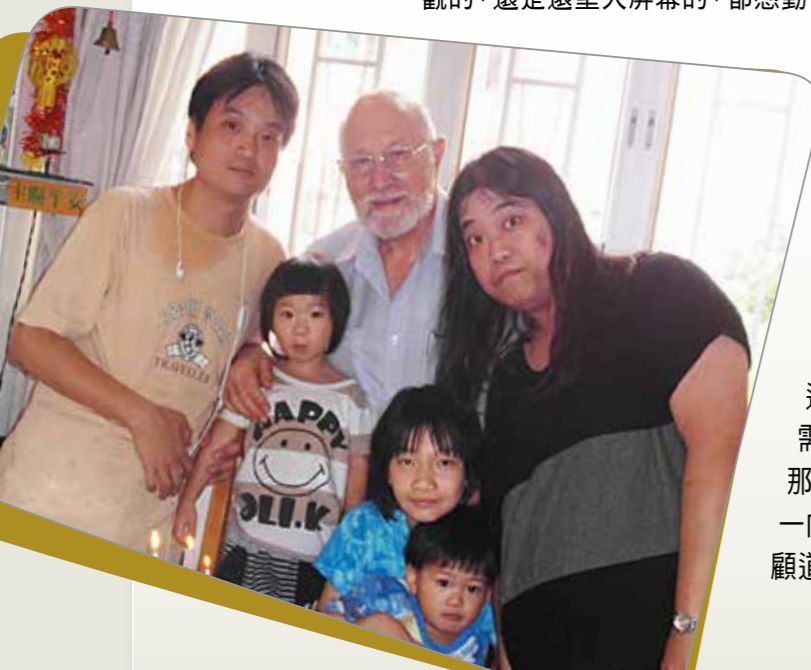
一個特殊的使命：向人們展示如何去愛

下面的文章是由普羅維登斯學院神學教授保祿Gondreau撰寫的。保祿是羅馬PC / CEA中心神學和宗教研究系這學期的常駐總監，他偕同妻子姬斯娜和五個孩子現暫居於梵蒂岡。教宗方濟各在聖伯多祿廣場舉行復活節彌撒後，擁抱他們的兒子道明。我們非常感謝Gondreau博士同意分享他對該事件的感受。

德蘭修女總喜歡把「小行為顯示大愛」這句話掛在嘴邊。教宗方濟各在主持復活節感恩祭後，乘專車在聖伯多祿廣場上緩緩而行時，有人把我那患有大腦性麻痺的兒子道明抱至他跟前，教宗立即擁抱他，並給予祝福。那一刻，教宗正滿全了德蘭修女那句話；這溫馨的一幕，讓人聯想到歷史上著名的聖方濟與聖道明的相遇，不單止我們一家受感動，廣場上二十五萬的朝聖者，不論是近觀的，還是遠望大屏幕的，都感動得熱淚盈眶。教宗擁抱道明的影像迅速而

廣泛地流傳開來，世界各地的人也因這份大愛而流淚。圖片隨著教宗「致全球信眾的訊息」(Urbi et Orbi message)出現在美國新聞網站Drudge Report上，標題是「將恨化為愛」。直至我寫這篇文章時，圖片仍被載於網站上。眾多新聞媒體，包括CNN，紐約時報等等，亦登載相關短片及圖片。

通常，人們覺得日復日照顧特殊問題孩子所需而付出的犧牲是難以言傳的，因為他們是那麼脆弱、無助，一切均要依賴周邊的人。我一向慣於片面地看待我與道明的關係。從照顧道明中，我相信他受的苦，背負的十字架比



我重千倍。是的，他承受的苦難多於我，然而卻是「我」無間斷地不得不幫助「他」。

教宗擁抱道明的影像感動了整個世界，也許廣場上的一位女士給我們提供了答案。她對我的妻子說：「你的兒子正向世人展示如何去愛。」這句話深得我妻子的心，令她的疑惑豁然開朗：兒子道明來世上是肩負了向世人展示如何去愛的使命。人類生而為愛，教宗的一個擁抱就彰顯了天主十字架的智慧。

殘疾人士不懂如何講出他們愛人的方式。基督透過受盡苦楚，被釘十字架，死而復活，彰顯了美善而崇高的大愛，現在輪到我們「以愛還愛」了。十字架融化了我們的鐵石心腸，把仇恨化為仁愛。這方面，殘疾人士做得比我們好，因而成為我們靈性上的典範。真的，我養育和照顧道明，但他給我回報更多。我扶他行走，他教曉我如何去愛；我餵他，他教曉我如何去愛；我帶他去做物理治療，他教曉我如何去愛；我幫他伸展肌肉和開玩笑時，他教曉我如何去愛；我用輪椅推他各處去時，他教曉我如何去愛；我為他花了很多很多時間，他教曉我如何去愛。

我重申，這個事實給智慧的世人展示了相反的一面；而我作為道明的父親，如今才察覺到我的殘疾兒子正好證明：每個生命都是有尊嚴及無價的。那些被世人認為最弱，最無用的殘疾者，其實是最有力量、最能產生作用的強者。

還有一事，教宗方濟各擁抱我兒道明，正正顯示他那貧困者無私奉獻的精神。教宗在 Urbi et Orbi 給全城及全球的文告中提及：「我希望『基督復活的信息』能夠走向每家每戶，特別是那些受苦最深的……」這簡單而打動人心的話語，給殘疾兒童的家長在其中找到慰藉和鼓勵。

A Special Vocation: To Show People How To Love

The following is a guest post from Paul Gondreau, Professor of Theology at Providence College. Paul is serving as the Faculty Resident Director at PC/CEA's Center for Theology and Religious Studies in Rome this semester, joined by his wife Christiana and their 5 kids. After Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square yesterday, Pope Francis hugged their son Dominic. You can see video of the encounter at this link and can read a brief news piece here, and you can see CNN's interview of Christiana Gondreau and Dominic here. We are grateful that Dr. Gondreau agreed to share his reflections on that event with us.

"Small acts with great love," Mother Teresa was fond of saying. Yesterday, Pope Francis bestowed an extraordinary Easter blessing upon my family when he performed such an act in embracing my son, Dominic, who has cerebral palsy. The embrace occurred when the Pope spied my son while touring the Square, packed with a quarter million pilgrims, in the "pope mobile" after Mass. This tender moment, an encounter of a modern Francis with a modern Dominic (as most know, tradition holds that St. Francis and St. Dominic enjoyed an historic encounter), moved not only my family (we were all moved to tears), not only those in the immediate vicinity (many of whom were also brought to tears by it), not only by thousands who were watching on the big screens in the Square, but by the entire world. Images of this embrace quickly went viral, and by Easter Sunday afternoon it was the lead picture on the Drudge Report, with the caption, "Change Hatred into Love" (a paraphrase of Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi message that followed shortly thereafter), where it remains even as I write this. Fox News, NBC Nightly News, ABC Nightly News, and CNN all showed clips of it. Lead pictures of it were found in Le Figaro, the New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, the Philadelphia Inquirer, inter alia.

It is often difficult to try to express to people who do not have special needs children what kind of untold sacrifices are demanded of us each and every day. And as for Dominic, he has already



shared in Christ's Cross more than I have throughout my entire life multiplied a thousand times over. What is the purpose in all this, I ask? Furthermore, I often tend to see my relationship with Dominic in a one-sided manner. Yes, he suffers more than me, but it's constantly ME who must help HIM. Which is how our culture often looks upon the disabled: as weak, needy individuals who depend so much upon others, and who contribute little, if anything, to those around them.

Pope Francis' embrace of my son yesterday turns this logic completely on its head and, in its own small yet powerful way, shows once again how the wisdom of the Cross confounds human wisdom. Why is the whole world so moved by images of this embrace? A woman in the Square, moved to tears by the embrace, perhaps answered it best when she said to my wife afterward, "You know, your son is here to show people how to love." To show people how to love. This remark hit my wife as a gentle heaven-sent confirmation of what she has long suspected: that Dominic's special vocation in the world is to move people to love, to show people how to love. We human beings are made to love, and we depend upon examples to show us how to do this.

But how can a disabled person show us how to love in a way that only a disabled person can? Because the Cross of Christ is sweet and is of a higher order. Christ's resurrection from the Cross proclaims that the love he offers us, the love that we, in our turn, are to show others, is the REAL reason he endured the Cross in the first place. Our stony hearts are transformed into this Christ-like love, and thereby empowered to change hatred into love, only through the Cross. And no one shares in the Cross more intimately than the disabled. And so the disabled become our models and our inspiration. Yes, I give much to my son, Dominic. But he gives me more, WAY more. I help him stand and walk, but he shows me how to love. I feed him, but he shows me how to love. I bring him to physical therapy, but he shows me how to love. I stretch his muscles and joke around with him, but he shows me how to love. I lift him in and out of his chair, I wheel him all over the place, but he shows me how to love. I give up my time, so much time, for him, but he shows me how to love.

This lesson, to repeat, confounds the wisdom of the world. Heck, it confounds me when I, as his parent, so often fail to see my son's condition for what it is. The lesson my disabled son gives stands as a powerful testament to the dignity and infinite value of every human person, especially of those the world deems the weakest and most "useless." Through their sharing in the "folly" of the Cross, the disabled are, in truth, the most powerful and the most productive among us.

One more thing. Pope Francis' embrace of my son, Dominic, indicates that we should not interpret the new Pontiff's expressed devotion to the poor, already a cornerstone of his pontificate, in facile, purely material (let alone political) categories. His Easter embrace of my son stands out as a compelling witness to the kind of "poverty" that he urges us to adopt, the poverty that he pointed to in the opening line of his Urbi et Orbi message yesterday: "I would like [the message of Christ's resurrection] to go out to every house and every family, especially where the suffering is greatest..." Parents of disabled children, stand up and find solace and encouragement in these simple yet profound words.



