I am grateful to Fr. Giussani for a variety of reasons. The first, a more personal one, is the good that this man did for me and my priestly life through the reading of his books and articles. The other reason is that his thought is profoundly human and reaches all the way to the innermost depths of the human heart’s yearning. You know how important the experience of the encounter was for Fr. Giussani: the encounter not with an idea, but with a Person, with Jesus Christ. Thus he educated to freedom, guiding to the encounter with Christ, because Christ gives us true freedom.

Pope Francis
Rome, St. Peter’s Square, 7 March, 2015