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Hong Kong, Lunar New Year 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

The Lunar New Year of the Snake is at our doors! Happy New Year of the Snake!

May this New Year be a year in which we all receive from the Lord Jesus the gift of wisdom. Did Jesus ever speak of snakes? Yes, he did, both with a negative and a positive meaning. Speaking positively, he said: "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matt 10:16). Jesus supposes that snakes are wise. What is the wisdom of snakes?

A Father of the Church answers this question for us, thus: "The wisdom of a snake lies in the fact that, in order to save its head, it is ready to give up the rest of its body. Our head is our faith and our conscience. So, we are as wise as serpents, if we are ready to give up everything else in order to preserve our faith and our conscience."

So best wishes of daily growth in faith and conscience! God bless!

In Jesus Mary Joseph DonBosco, I am,

Yours affectionately,

Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti
Provincial