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DB200 省會長家書十一（2015 年七月）

樂觀和喜悅

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！夏天快樂！

隨著 DB200 接近尾聲，DB200 及 MaryHelp200（聖母進教之佑瞻禮欽定 200 週年）倒數第二的「神恩雙詞」是「樂觀和喜悅」，這二詞像是說同樣的事。但是，那麼，為什麼要用兩個詞？藉著我們慈幼會傳統的幫助，這可能值得做一個小小的探究。

在我們慈幼會的會憲裡，若你到標題分類找「樂觀」一詞，你會找到：「樂觀，請參閱喜悅」；那麼，若你去找「喜悅」一詞，你會驚訝地看到，在會憲裡有多少次出現「樂觀」及「喜悅」這二詞（第 17，34，37，40，51，65，75，83，86，89，90，92，110 條）。靠著這些豐富的資料，讓我們開始我們的探究。我們第一個發現是這樣的，第 17 條（在以上括弧內的第一個）完全是專用的，信不信由你，以「樂觀和喜悅」。

會憲第 17 條是這樣的：

「慈幼會會士在困難中不灰心，因為他全心信賴天父，正如鮑思高神父所說：『什麼也不該使你煩惱』」。

因著聖方濟沙雷氏的樂觀人文主義的啟發，慈幼會會士相信人類的自然及超自然的資源，不會忽略自己的弱點。

他能夠讓自己知道這世界什麼是好的，不會哀嘆自己的時間；他接受一切好的（參閱 得前 5：21），尤其是如果它吸引年輕人。

因為他是福音的先驅者，他永遠是快樂的（參閱 斐 3：1）。他散發這喜悅，並能培育出基督徒及歡樂的生活方式：「讓我們在神聖的喜悅中侍奉上主」（鮑思高神父）

樂觀及喜悅之間有什麼區別？要回答這問題，讓我們轉向一本好的字典，像 *現代高級英漢雙解辭典*：找「樂觀」一詞，我們找到：「相信到最後，善將勝過邪惡；傾向看事物光明的一面；成功的信心。」找「喜悅」一詞，我們找到：「深深的喜歡；極之高興」。

作為聖經的參考，第 17 條引述上面提及的這「信念」、「傾向」、「信心」、「深深的喜歡」、「極之高興」，在耶穌的逾越奧跡裡有了良好的基礎，即：耶穌戰勝死亡正是因為祂穿越了死亡！其他條文証實這點：在第 37 條說：「團體的見證給予它喜悅」；第 89 條說：「主日是慶祝巴斯卦喜悅的日子」；第 90 條說：「修和聖事使我們得到天父的寬恕而喜悅」；第 92 條指出：「我們瞻仰並效法瑪利亞因天父的妙工而喜悅」。

衷心希望你們有一個喜悅的夏天！主佑！在耶穌、瑪利亞、若瑟和鮑思高神父內，

摯愛你們的
省會長 斐林豐神父



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DB200 Provincial Letter 11 (July 2015)

Optimism & Joy

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always! Happy summer!

As the DB200 year is drawing to a close, the DB200 and MaryHelp200 last-but-one “double word” is “Optimism & Joy”. These two words seem to say the same thing. But, then, why use two words? It may be worthwhile to do a little investigation, with the help of our Salesian tradition.

In our Salesian Constitutions, if you go to the Analytical Index and look for the word “Optimism”, you find: “Optimism, see Joy”. If, then, you go to the word “Joy”, you are surprised to see in how many articles of the Constitutions “Optimism” and “Joy” show up (Art. 17, 34, 37, 40, 51, 65, 75, 83, 86, 89, 90, 92, 110). Relying on this rich material, let us begin our investigation. Our first discovery is this. Art. 17 (the first in the parenthesis above) is completely dedicated, believe it or not, to “Optimism and Joy”.

Constitutions Article 17 reads like this:

“The Salesian does not give way to discouragement in face of difficulties, because he has complete trust in the Father. “Let nothing upset you”, Don Bosco used to say.

Inspired by the optimistic humanism of St. Francis de Sales, the Salesian believes in man’s natural and supernatural resources without losing sight of his weakness.

He is able to make his own what is good in the world and does not bewail his own times; he accepts all that is good (cf. 1 Thess 5:21), especially if it appeals to the young.

Because he is a herald of the Good News he is always cheerful (cf. Phil 3:1). He radiates this joy and is able to educate to a Christian and festive way of life: “Let us serve the Lord in holy joy.” (Don Bosco).”

Is there any difference between Optimism and Joy? To answer this question we may turn to a good Dictionary, like *The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English with Chinese Translation*: Under “Optimism” we read: “belief that in the end good will triumph over evil; tendency to look upon the bright side of things; confidence in success.” Under “Joy”, we read: “deep pleasure; great gladness”.

As the Scriptural references in Art. 17 quoted above show, this “belief”, this “tendency”, this “confidence”, this “deep pleasure”, this “great gladness” have a good foundation in Jesus’ Paschal Mystery, i.e. in Jesus victory over death precisely through his death! Other Articles confirm this. Art. 37 speaks of “the witness of a community which gives of itself with joy”; Art. 89 says: “Sunday is the day of Easter joy”; Art. 90 states: “The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us the joy of the Father’s pardon; and Art. 92 points us to Mary: “We contemplate and imitate Mary’s joy at the wonder wrought by the Father”.

From the heart, wish you all a summer of joy! God bless! In Jesus Mary Joseph DonBosco, I am,

Yours affectionately, Fr. Lanfranco M. Fedrigotti, Provincial