



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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APRIL 2010 in Bosco

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Man has conquered almost every dangerous thing in nature except human nature.

From the Rector's keyboard:

2nd May 2010 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Dear Friend of Bosco,

What a month this has been !!...Eugene Terreblanche ...Julius Malema ...Volcanic Ash...I find it difficult to keep up with what is going on here at Bosco, never mind the rest of the country and the world!! But it did bring home to me, once again, how fickle and helpless we at times find ourselves in our earthly domain. The power of nature no wonder peoples of old worshiped the sun! All our puffed up pride at the achievements of science and technology, pales into insignificance with the reminders we get from time to time from Mother Nature. Human Nature too shows its cracks and spews out hate, injustice, and corruption polluting the environment where so many are seeking to heal, bring peace, justice and comfort.

During this Easter season we re-lived the dark days of Holy Week, especially Good Friday where evil seemingly triumphed over good. Then a bright new dawn on Easter Sunday heralded the light of the Risen Christ to penetrate and banish the darkness. In spite of the weaknesses in the crust of our earthly existence, Jesus has shown us that the eternal worth of our life is captured by his life, death and resurrection.

We all want to work for a better world...what makes the real difference in achieving this goal is between those who only think of themselves (a better world for ME!) and those who bring others into the equation (a better world for ALL of US!). To make this equation really work then, according to our Christian faith, it is not only ALL of US but also JesUS!

This Easter Season is precious (yes...we are in the fifth week of Easter now!) as it reaffirms and confirms our need to recognise our reliance on a loving power much greater than ourselves to keep us on track and spiritually in touch with the nature of things.

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Nature often makes up for a nugget-size brain with a bucket-size mouth.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

1. Calvary Hill Stations – Good Friday

The weather seemed to be threatening to rain, and rain was forecast. But the people were adamant that they had not travelled from the Free State and Pretoria, as well as the Northern Suburbs of Johannesburg and Soweto to have the Stations of the Cross in the Church. They were aware of the rain forecast and still came, takkies and coats! As it worked out, the weather was overcast, calm with no rain. The ground was a bit damp and muddy in places from the overnight rain.

The way of the Cross started at 10.15 from the Savio Church. About 200 people were present, among them past pupils of Bosco, as well as ex-volunteers. The Michael Rua School bus brought parishioners from Klipriver. People were making their way back by about 11.30, with the experience once more of doing that something extra for a Good Friday witness. Confessions in Savio Chapel followed the walk.

I spoke to some families who arrived at 9.00 and went up to complete their own family way of the cross before the big crowd started on their pilgrimage. It was explained to me that in this way the younger members of the family could join in with the readings and prayers, saying their parts.

A couple of families arrived after 11.00 and did something similar. Some elderly family members remained in Savio Church and made their meditation on Good Friday and the Stations from the pew. It was very moving for me to notice the devotion of all those who spent this time meditating on the mysteries of the death of Jesus.

2. **Sunday Mass of the Resurrection:**

It was wonderful to see a few of past pupils with their families at the Easter Mass on Sunday morning....the Cirones, the James, the Guerinis, and Peters. We also had other visitors who joined us here in the Bosco country for their Easter Eucharist.

3. **Volunteers on Easter Experience at Waterford, Swaziland.**

Bro Clarence and Volunteers clambered aboard the Condor plus trailer and set out for Waterford, Swaziland Holy Thursday (1st April). Their objective....to celebrate the Easter Experience with a large group of Salesian Youth and others who were gathering at Waterford College for an intense three day triduum, led by Fr Jonathan Daniels SDB.

4. **Deacon Temesgen Hardido** left for his home in Ethiopia where he will be ordained a priest in July. He writes:

Hi Friends, Greetings from Ethiopia!

I am in Shire (north part of Ethiopia) at present. I will be here till 29th June. On 1st

July I will go to Addis Ababa (Capital city of Ethiopia). for my preparations for the ordination.

Thanks for your prayers please do continue to pray..Alleluia ...Temesgen.

5. Bro Clarence celebrated his 39th birthday on the 26th April. Congrats.

Some of the Groups through during April 2010:

LoveMatters: St Matthews Primary (89); Assumption Convent (Gr 9 - 58); St Matthews (Gr 10 – 55).

Own Run Programmes: Church of Jesus Christ (300);

Weekend Retreats/Events: Trinity House (20); St Therese, Alberton (32); Africa House (35); Son Rise Apostolic Ministries (30). Blessed Sacrament (30).

Day Retreats/Picnics: Holy Assemblies of Christ (70); Vaal Westly guild (20); Holy Family College (Grs 5 & 6 - 25).

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. The good news is that we have not been troubled by anymore incidents of theft and damage to our property during the month of April. The Glorious Cross that lights up at night and is such a landmark and icon for the Centre was repaired at a cost of more than R6000.00. Some of our groups were deprived of the night walk up to the cross during its maintenance and repair.

2. Most of the trees are planted. We did not receive any more sponsorship at R100 per tree since the last edition of



Bosco Link. They have got to be looked after and cared for! Let's help nature nurture the earth.

3. The new en-suite rooms continue to go up at a rapid pace. We hope to have them ready for the June rush of tourists coming for the soccer. It is quite a costly venture building these...and if



you feel a tree is on the cheap side to sponsor, what about sponsoring a chalet? Just add three zeros to the R100...!!!

LIFE ISSUES

Ecuadorian youth pledge to defend life.

Ten thousand young people in Ecuador have promised to remain chaste and to defend life from conception until natural death. The

young people made the promise at an event organised by Pro-life Action, Ecuador. Amparo Medina, the event organiser, said "[w]e will hold these events again in support of the lives of our children and our families for an Ecuador free of the empire of death, contraception and abortion".

[Catholic News Agency, 5 April] <http://is.gd/bgPRI>

Time Spent At Bosco Youth Centre Roxanne Champion

It's the crack of dawn, and my body is still in sleep mode and I have to start another day at Bosco Youth Centre. I am contemplating whether or not I should get up for Mass and pray with the Salesians. I can also "hear" my grandmother's voice in the background telling me to get up for church, no matter how I feel, or what I have done the night before. I finally decided to get up as usual and start my day with Mass as always.



I feel really good, as I now am ready for the groups arriving for Love Matters as we are usually busy every week. I attended a Love Matters camp when I was thirteen years old and am glad that I had the opportunity to do so, because I understood the importance, of abstaining from sex until marriage.

I think this is the reason, why I decided I wanted to work at Bosco Centre seven years later. Jesus gave me this chance to work with the youth, and I feel really Blessed that I can help inspire the youth one way or another. We live in a crazy society, that says we do whatever we like, and we forget that someone high and mighty asked us to serve Him and live our lives only for Him always.

I had a very difficult childhood and teenage life and I grew up really lonely with no people around me to trust. I could have been a rebel or gone the wrong way in life but I had Jesus by my side who never let me down. When I was around sixteen years old I told Jesus that I love Him and I want to serve him forever. I told Him, that He is in control of my life, and I want to do all that I can to help people in the world and around me. From that moment on in my life, He never stopped performing wonders and He never let me go.

I think Bosco Centre is the major start for me. I get to work with the youth and get to know their stories and I grow closer to God and want to do more. Our main focus at Bosco is a programme called *Love Matters*, and this is a program where we motivate good informed choices. We focus on things like:

- The importance of keeping your virginity until marriage.
- The consequences of pre-marital sex.
- How God is related to this.

It's a programme, I think all young people should experience, if they have the opportunity to do so.

It's an amazing experience I have had so far, and I have dedicated myself for a year. I also think that knowing the Salesians has opened the door to my vocation. I am still on an amazing journey and I thank God that I have the opportunity to start at Bosco Centre...Thank You Jesus... □

To try is to risk failure. But risk must be taken because the greatest hazard of life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, live and love

Try Being

Try Being --- braver and bolder

Try Being --- wiser the older you get

Try Being --- more gracious in defeat

Try Being --- a smiler instead of a whiner

Try Being --- quicker to stretch out your hand in helping others

Try Being --- more of a doer

Try Being --- an encourager

Try Being --- a good neighbour

Try Being --- gentle

Try Being --- content with what you have.

It's not hard --- If you try

SUCCESS

S ee your goal

U nderstand the obstacles

C lear your mind of doubt

C reate a positive mental picture

E mbrace the challenge

S tay on track

S how the world you can do it!

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

Whether or not you are a senior you will understand this one, if you deal with seniors this should help you understand them a little better, and if you are not a senior yet God willing, someday you will be.....

The £2.99 Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'seniors' special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for £2.99.

'Sounds good,' my wife said. 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you £3.49 because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'YES!!' stated the waitress. 'I'll take the special then,' my wife said.

'How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS!!!

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night?'

That's very commendable. What does she say?'

The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting His sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach A good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked. ▲