



THE BOSCO-Link

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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May 2010 in Bosco

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Nobody's conscience ever kept him awake at night for having exaggerated the good qualities of his friends.

From the Rector's keyboard:

31st May 2010

Hello again from Bosco,

It is now upon us...the World is coming to South Africa! Can we talk about anything else? With this international focus I have been receiving emails and information about a number of past pupils...graduates of Std 10 in the 1970's. That is now 36 years ago or so for those who are still a little rusty with their mathematics. It has been entertaining reading some of the e-mails noting the ongoing friendships among PPs over the years.



The builders are putting the final touches to the new chalets to have them ready for groups coming to experience the Bosco Hospitality during the World Cup. The next few weeks are going to be pretty hectic.

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Soccer: There are only two types of manager. Those who've just been sacked and those who are going to be sacked.

Ben Philip.

Volunteer Mandla Mavuso has a word of two



Coming to work at Bosco Youth Centre as a volunteer has been an invaluable opportunity in my life. I have had so many opportunities of working with people before, but working at Bosco has been a different exposure and unique experience. One may ask what's so special about Bosco? I have worked only 5 months here at Bosco but it has made a difference in my life.

I wouldn't have known anything about volunteering at Bosco in South Africa if I had never met Br Clarence and Br Victor in Swaziland, where I come from. They suggested that I could come and see what LoveMatters is all about. Surely it was not only a "come and see" experience, it was a life-changing experience and I was fascinated by the great the work done at Bosco. LoveMatters is the main programme we facilitate at Bosco, which basically educates young people about gender issues human sexuality, the danger of premarital sexual encounters or the harsh

consequences of early/ teenage sexual intercourse and empowers young people to make right and informed decisions about their sexual life. Moreover, Bosco Youth Centre offers weekend retreats

like First Holy Communion and Confirmation retreats, and workshops on leadership. As a volunteer I am definitely involved in all these life- challenging and life-changing issues.

Being a volunteer at Bosco has exposed me to the religious environment and working with other young people from different backgrounds and nationalities. We have South Africans, Americans and I am a Swazi. This makes life at Bosco dynamic and unique. Wherever there is cultural difference among people working together there are challenges and yet at the same time it is a wonderful opportunity of growth and learning. As much as I grow or develop intellectually and emotionally, I also have a great opportunity of being enriched spiritually. The Salesian community has its doors always wide open for me to pray with them everyday. Prayer is the most essential part in my life. This has enabled me to have enough time to be with God and reflect in depth about my future. I have come to realise that without God I can do nothing and without His guidance I can go nowhere.

I always look up to our Mother Mary who is our good example of being a servant, I also feel I am called to serve. Who? St John Bosco has inspired me with his words when he says, "I have promised God that I would give of myself to my last breath for my poor boys." These words seal the promise I made with God when I was a teenager that I will help and serve all the needy people in our society because I know what it means to be poor or in need.

Concerning the work I carry out at Bosco as a volunteer fulfils my heart because every time or every week through God's help and our dedication we help transform the lives of young people. For me these young people are the very people who need the information we pass on, they are the people we expect to live a healthy and responsible life now and in the future. Seeing their tears of joy every week makes me happy because I know that even if it is one teenager who has completely changed, she or he will help her or his friends and his or her children in the future. "Give me souls and take away the rest", that is what St John Bosco wants. Therefore, I am also very privileged and grateful to be working with young people. It fills me with hope and constant longing of doing more for them.

In a nutshell, my life at Bosco youth centre as volunteer is filled with joy and happiness. I am having an exciting and blessed year. ■

COMMUNITY NEWS:

1. Our Salesian students have been returning in dribs and drabs from their studies in Nairobi, and spending a little time in the community before moving off to their placements around Southern Africa. Bro Christopher Sharpe will be staying here at Bosco to help out during his break. Of course he will be visiting his folks in Port Elizabeth before returning to his studies.
2. Fr John Coleman was in Nairobi to witness our five brothers being ordained deacons by Cardinal Zen. Congratulations to Deacons Bongsi, Mbongiseni, Moeketsi, Victor, and Tumelo.
3. Parents of volunteers Dianne and Christina have visited all the way from America and Israel.
4. On the 24th May we celebrated the feast of Mary Help of Christians. St John Bosco had a great devotion to Our Lady under this title.
5. Fr Eugene Hennessy visited...he is also back from his stint helping at our Salesian studentate in Nairobi.

A SELECTION OF COMMENTS FROM ~~LoveMatters~~ PARTICIPANTS

1. This experience has changed my life and will make me pass on the message to others
2. To abstain from sex and I learnt about STI's/ STD's and HIV
3. This won't just teach me to make decisions but I'm going to share my experience to others
4. I will keep my virginity till I get married and have sex on my wedding night
5. It made me to be aware about the risks of sex and abortion

6. It will help me to practise a holy life
7. This program has changed my way of thinking about sex
8. I will not abuse alcohol or anything because it leads me to do wrong things
9. When I came to Bosco I was dirty water now I am the clean water
10. That I must choose a good path but not in darkness
11. Change my attitude and not to do mistakes I used to do before coming to Bosco
13. Now I understand how important it is to remain a virgin
14. It will change my life and will help me for my future
15. The most striking thing I learnt this week is how STDs are easily transmitted
16. No matter what difficulties you face praying is the best solution
17. I've learnt that love is not equal to sex and that if you control your way of thinking then you'll be able to control your behaviour
18. It will teach me to be positive in life and to know what's right
19. I will now wait until Marriage

Some of the Groups through during May 2010:

LoveMatters: St Matthews Boys (55); St Matthews Girls (79); Brandcliff house (71);

Own Run Programmes: Ferrero (30);

Weekend Retreats/Events: St John Bosco Parish (31); Assumption Convent (30); URCSA Sunday School (20); Ciendhoven Football Women (20); St Francis Xavier (20); St Therese (20); Dynamic Youth Group; Communion and Liberation (10).

Day Retreats/Picnics: CFC Push (50); Holy Family College (25 Gr 5/6);

LIFE ISSUES

Study suggests babies develop moral code by six months after birth

The Daily Mail has reported on a new study, which suggests that babies develop the knowledge of the difference between right and wrong by six months after birth. The newspaper claims that the study is challenging the idea that human beings are born as blank slates and that our morality is shaped by our parents and experiences. The study has involved monitoring babies' responses to puppet shows with some good characters and some naughty characters. Professor Paul Bloom of Yale University, who is leading the research, said that a growing body of evidence suggests humans do have a rudimentary moral sense from the very start of life. [[Daily Mail, 10 May](#)]



Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

New British government poses fresh dangers for both born and unborn children

12 May 2010 – The change of government means a renewed threat of pro-abortion sex education being imposed on schools, warns SPUC. After 13 years of anti-life laws and policies being enacted by the Labour government, we face a renewal of such laws and policies under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition. David Cameron has made clear that faith schools should not be free to teach that abortion is wrong. Nick Clegg has confirmed his support for an anti-life approach to sex education. Society for the Protection of Unborn Children Email: information@spuc.org.uk

Daft comments from soccer commentators!

If that had gone in it would have been a goal! David Coleman.

I think the action replay showed it to be worse than it actually was. Ron Atkinson

If you think any team could put up a good wall, it would be China Terry Venables

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC

A man never gets so rich that he can afford to lose a friend.

Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job.

Flattery looks like friendship, just like a wolf looks like a dog.

It is no wonder that all our foreign friends visiting at this time find English so confusing!!

An Ode of English Plurals

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hicie.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England.
We take English for granted, but if we explore its
paradoxes,
we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing
rings are square,
and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a
pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't
fing,
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends
but not one amend.
If you have a bunch of odds and ends and
get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a
humanitarian eat?
Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up
speaking English
should be committed to an asylum for the verbally
insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play
and play at a recital?
We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.
We have noses that run and feet that smell.
We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the
same,
while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a
language
in which your house can burn up as it burns down,
in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and
in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And in closing, if Father is Pop, how come Mother's
not Mop?

Proofreading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

This one I caught in the SGV Tribune the other day and called the Editorial Room and asked who wrote this.. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!! They put in a correction the next day.

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Now that's taking things a bit far!

Excerpt of an article written by Sam Miller - a prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman:

"Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?

Do you know - the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to that Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. The graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%.

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrolment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people - not just Catholics - in the United States today



But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of paedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.”

