



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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Put first things first. Things which matter most should not be at the mercy of things which matter least.

S.R Covey "The Leader in Me"

From the Rector's keyboard:

29th July 2010

Dear Bosco-Link Reader

I am in Cape Town as I write this. Outside it is a beautiful day, clear skies and a warm 21C. I ask myself: "what am I doing indoors typing when I could be at the sea, walking along the beach, breathing in the salt air?"

Let's just say that I know how important it is to keep in touch with you - to keep you up to date with all the goings on at Bosco Youth Centre. Not only that, but also to heighten interest in the work that is accomplished this last month. I only wish I had a greater flair for capturing in words the enthusiasm, joy and creativity of the team, but also of the many participants who keep coming back each year.

There is a challenge though....and that is to spread the word. We have not really engaged in any marketing strategy but the time may be coming. The school year cycle creates for us busy but also quiet times. To service the investment being made now in new accommodation, especially for adult groups, or groups of parents and youth, we need to let more people know. Our mission is still to provide reasonable facilities at the service of youth in parishes, schools and clubs in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg and further afield. However, in a very short time we will be able to accommodate a group of 58 adults,(two to an en-suite room – 29 adults one to a room) in our new wing.

This is going to be an exciting approach to family ministry, parents and children, adults and youth, youth groups and adult groups given the space and time to do their thing in the beautiful countryside of Nooitgedacht.

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Chaos often breeds life, when order breeds habit! HB Adams 1918

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS.

1. The building operations were suspended during the World Cup. Now that is behind us, the builders are back on site working on the double storey building...plastering, plumbing etc. Costing a stack on mullah! Hopefully it will attract many adults who are requesting such facilities for courses etc, away from the noise of the city - without missing too many of the home comforts.
2. Private Property signs have gone up at entrances to alert the growing numbers of freeloaders that this land is not for grabs by groups who have not registered with reception in the normal civilised manner.

3. Running a business such as this...when the church is involved...sometimes gives a few groups the idea that they should be able to spend a week here at our expense. Sure our prices are very reasonable, and we are open to some negotiation, but we can only offer the service that we do because people are willing to support us with their down-payments, payments and donations.

COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Two of our volunteers, Dianne and Christina, have returned to USA after a year's service...a BIG thanks to them. We are expecting two more mid-year volunteers for your Youth Ministry Team shortly...but news about them when they arrive.
2. On the 18th July Bro Mojela Fihlo made his final vows in Maputsoe, Lesotho. Bro Clarence and Fr John left early on Sunday morning to be there in time for the celebration of Holy Mass during which Bro Mojela made his vows, witnessed by his family and a large congregation.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. There has been a flurry of e-mails and contacts being made...through cyberspace and across continents and seas. Some of the names that have appeared in email correspondence...from or about or with news of ...: John Khayser; Leo de Oliveira, Ricardo Carriera, Gilles Rabaud, Eric Pretorius; Steve Cheetham; Rui de Oliveira; Roy Esterhuizen; Peter Quan; Daffy DeFreitas; Billy Adams; Eric Caverhill; Jaak Reinhard; Eric Caverhill; Wayne Reynolds.....
2. Anthony Hide (60 – 61) visited on the 4th July 10 with wife and two kids. Fr Ivo Pisacane was his dorm master those years...he recalls his friend Fogerty and a couple of others being something of a handful.
3. Not a past pupil by any means, but well known to many past pupils ...and someone who knows plenty of past pupils...yes, I speak of Mrs Anne Atkinson who celebrated her birthday 25th July. Many happy returns!

Some of the Groups through during May 2010:

LoveMatters: Charles Lwanga (26); Orange Farm (58); Vuwani Youth (20)

Week Enders: YDF Training (50);

Leadership Course: Assumption Convent (50); Yithuba Lami (14);

Weekend Retreats: St Patrick's and Holy Trinity (40); Real Youth Ministry (20);

Transfiguration Anglican Church (70).

Day retreats: Brescia House (76); Holy Family College Gr 11 (60).

Sunday Sports: Bosco Soccer Tournament; Germiston Wheelers; Eds & Tails ramble.

Money is like an arm and a leg: use it or lose it!

H. Ford 1931

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Kutloano_Sechaba_Mokoena.



-It is not an obligation but a privilege to be here-

It is not a must for me to be here do the things we are doing , rather I am privileged to be here this year. Being a volunteer has taught me even more about servanthood. Humbling myself, caring for others, loving them and being legitimate in doing so.

It has been a pleasant and challenging experience. There is definitely growth taking place.

Our peers, the youth, people of the older generation who are young at heart, all those we have met during the programmes, not only do we leave them with messages to learn from, but they too leave a mark on us. I believe I am the person I am today because of the people I encounter everyday. And I can certainly say that I have learnt a great deal from each of my fellow volunteer members of whom some are leaving within the first three weeks of July.

One beautiful thing that has stood out for me in the past 6 months is love. If I do not include love in anything I do and say, it has no good effect whatsoever. Love is true and unconditional.

And the teenagers we meet everyday, they need it. God has given us love and no one can say they do not have love. I read this in the front cover of someone's bible; "Faith makes all things possible, hope makes all things bright, love makes all things easy."

Going to Swaziland for Easter (and acting out the part of Jesus) was a very fruitful and touching experience for me in terms of my faith. And running LoveMatters there in Swaziland was interesting. I now have a broader knowledge of the attitudes and mindsets of youth from other parts of the world towards teenage human sexuality. And faith!

Love Matters; confirmation retreats; Holy communion retreats; leadership retreats; oratory, keeps us busy everyday, managing our time is an essential key for all of us volunteers.

Bosco centre is truly a peaceful centre. I always find a quiet spot to reflect and pray. Being away from everything. It is really moving. I came to Bosco 3 or 4 times previously, for Love Matters and a confirmation retreat as well as summer camps in December. Fr. Francois' words still stick to me even today, 'enjoy your youth responsibly and always stand for what you believe in.' I decided to come to Bosco to be a volunteer because here I can also serve the Lord who has done wonders for me. I really enjoy youth work. And also I encourage my peers who are interested, have strong faith and a passion for youth to give it a try and come add their flavour to the youth ministry team!

I matriculated in the year 2007 at Sir John Adamson High School in Johannesburg. The following year I joined a youth ministry project. This project is called Ithemba (Zulu for Hope) which is part of an organisation: Youth For Christ. We did workshops at camps and schools, as well as dancing, acting, singing. One important part of the programmes was sharing life experiences with the friends I made both in South Africa and Germany. Thereafter, in 2009, I went to study Film & Television Production at the School of Motion Picture and Live Performance.

I am from Johannesburg South in Suideroord. My mother is Xhosa and my father is Sotho. I have an older sister. I am from St. John Bosco Parish in Robertsham. I love pasta dishes, braaing, and reading. For the future, I plan to complete my studies in filmmaking.

I would like to conclude with scripture that has stood out for me the past three weeks: Matthew 5: 13-16 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" and "You are the light of the world. In the same way, let your light shine... that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

LIFE ISSUES

RCOG targets killing of babies with Down syndrome

Alison Davis, head of No Less Human, has responded to a story in the Telegraph last week about a blood test which will allow doctors to check unborn children for Down's syndrome. Alison said that she was dismayed to read the story "Blood test for Down's syndrome", which expressed the "hope" that a new non-invasive pre-natal test for Down's syndrome will soon be widely available. She said that this "hope" seems to be based on the fact that the test may reduce the numbers of miscarriages of so-called "healthy" babies who currently die as a result of invasive tests to detect Down's syndrome." Alison said that this perpetuates the common myth that while killing a "healthy" baby is a tragedy, killing a disabled baby is to be lauded. A spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology dubbed the new test as the "holy grail" of Down's syndrome testing. Alison questioned whether a greater offence could be given to another human being than telling them that killing him/her is a "holy grail". [John Smeaton, 4 July] <http://bit.ly/9ykqgO>

Feminists must be prepared to kill.

Antonia Senior, a pro-abortion journalist, has said that despite coming to believe that all human life begins at conception that feminists must be prepared to kill for their reproductive rights. R. Albert Mohler has described Senior's essay "Yes, Abortion is Killing. But It's the Lesser Evil," as a moral earthquake. [The Christian Post, 4 July] <http://bit.ly/cxLqtD>

Report on Polish March for Life

Patrick Buckley reports that the March for Life and Family that took place in Warsaw at the beginning of June, attracted an attendance of at least 6000 people. The first such March for Life was in 2006 and, since then, the numbers involved have increased by 300 percent. A reporter said of the event that the crowd consisted mostly of young people and families with children. They said that these people represent a new generation of pro-life and pro-family Poles. [Patrick Buckley, 1 July] <http://bit.ly/adrr1P>

New study published on abortion and mental health.

Dr Pravin Thevathasan, a psychiatrist with over twenty years' experience, has written a booklet on 'Abortion and Mental Health' in which he examines the psychological consequences of induced abortion. Dr Thevathasan has said that perhaps the most important statement in this study is that, while over ninety per cent of abortions are done on the ground that continuation of the pregnancy would lead to serious damage to the women's mental health, there is no evidence that abortion reduces the mental health risks of unwanted pregnancy. [Fr Timothy Finigan, 7 July] <http://bit.ly/cFI2Ou>

GENDER IMBALANCE

Hannah Beech, a Time magazine journalist, has reported that China is now experiencing severe gender imbalance due to its one-child policy. She reports that many Chinese families selectively abort female unborn children, meaning there will possibly be as many as 24 million single men by 2020. Beech says this is likely to cause a major rise in criminal gangs and trafficking of women. [Time, 12 July] <http://bit.ly/bKZEz9>

Abortion clinic owner uses chainsaw to drown out pro-life witness.

[Mulier Fortis, 12 July] <http://bit.ly/aAEsTv>

There is this abortion clinic in Rockford, Illinois. Pro-lifers have been standing outside, offering options and counselling to the women who enter the clinic. After ridicule and harassment of the pro-lifers didn't stop them, the clinic decided to prevent any of the women from hearing what the pro-lifers were saying.

But they weren't content with having people escort the women past the protesters. So they set up huge boom box radios, and started blaring out a local radio station at full volume to put the kybosh on any rational discussion. That seems pretty weird to me - but it gets weirder.

One of the pro-lifers rang the radio station and explained what was happening. The DJ took the side of the pro-lifers, and started chanting "God bless pro-lifers!" This upset the people at the abortion clinic.

So, what do you suppose they did? Turn off the radio...? (no, the women would hear those pesky pro-lifers saying reasonable stuff that might persuade them not to kill their babies!) Change the station...? (no, it might happen again, and that would be another pro-life radio station out there!)

Well, what the landlord of the clinic did was to stand outside, and whenever he thought the DJ might just say something pro-life, he started up his chainsaw.

Yes, you read that correctly. A chainsaw.

Nothing like confronting your customers with the truth of what you're doing, I suppose, but I doubt that it makes for good PR...

You don't stop laughing because you grow old.

You grow old because you stop laughing!

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC

CASE 1

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper.

What do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her.

With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five 'blank' copies.

Brunette, by the way!!

CASE 2

A mother calls 911 very worried asking the dispatcher if she needs to take her kid to the emergency room, the kid had eaten ants. The dispatcher tells her to give the kid some Benadryl and he should be fine, the mother says, 'I just gave him some ant killer.....'

Dispatcher: 'Rush him in to emergency!'

Life is tough. It's even tougher if you're stupid!!!!

Wedding Bliss

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

Brother don't kill

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

Which are you?

The guillotine was discontinued from active use in France only about 30 years ago. The story goes that if the falling blade malfunctioned, the prisoner went free. The story further goes that one day the device malfunctioned 4 times when an optimist, a pessimist, a sceptic and a cynic were on death row. Here is how they reacted:

- The optimist: "Great! What a break. So much to do in life, a great future awaits!"
- The pessimist: "I've sold everything, cancelled everything and now this! Life sucks!"
- The sceptic: "They'll probably just find another reason to get my head on the block tomorrow."
- The cynic: "How predictable. Standards are really dropping in France, and anyway what do you expect, the executioner is an Algerian."

How LOGICAL are you?

Two mathematician friends meet on the street. The first says "How old are your three sons? Remind me, I've forgotten their ages." The second says "Well the product of their ages is 36 and the sum of their ages is equal to the number of windows in the house over there." The first thinks for a moment and says "I can't figure it out". The second replies "Oh, I forgot to tell you that my eldest son has blonde hair". The first replies "In that case, I know the ages of your sons." Can you work out the ages?

Proof-reading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

See if that works any better than a fair trial!

