



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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September 2010 in Bosco

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Trying to make life easy is what makes it so hard.

From the Rector's keyboard:

30th September 2010

Greetings from Bosco,

Some of our readers had problems opening the Bosco Link's last edition (105). Since then I have spoken to the computer gurus and taken some advice about not leaving spaces in file names. I hope that this problem is a thing of the past.

More of a problem for me this past month was a report of a parent taking exception to a teenager being shown a video clip on abortion. I am not aware of the background reasons, but in general I reflect on the horror, bloody, murderous, vampire, violent films on DVDs, the telly and in the cinema that our youth are exposed to - that seeing a short video on abortion would hardly make an impact. But as you see from responses from the LoveMatter participants, it is powerful experience. Why? Because it is real not pretend with actors and stunt directors; because the media and our legislation white wash it with pleasantries, as if it were a natural part of life! How bizarre! This "brain washing" together with many other, sometimes illegal, messages such as an example of a lamppost doctor's poster....the sort seen by our kids day after day... telephone number omitted!

Quick Same Day Abortion
Safe & Pain Free
100% Guaranteed
Call Dr Deon & Monic

And mostly because life is sacred, that very sacredness felt and shared intensely by youth is polluted, made ugly. No wonder it comes as a wake-up call to make choices that enhance and protect the sacredness and beauty of life.

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Happiness is a healthy mental attitude, a grateful spirit, a clear conscience and a heart full of love.

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS.

1. Heritage weekend marked a lively interaction among many of our youth, citizens, parents, families, educators and academics in relation to our bodies, sexuality, fertility and healthy, happy love filled lives. The Bosco Team was all present at the *Life & Love @ Schools Conference* held at Bishop Bavin, where keynote speakers were John Buswell (Rape Wise), Pam Stenzel (USA) among others. At the same time a Youth Jamboree was taking place at Wits with three inputs on the danger of cyber exposure, sexual assault and pornography, the meaning of life, love and sex, and sex has a price tag.

On Saturday Damon Owens (USA) presented "Introduction to the Theology of the Body" at St Benedict's College, Then on Sunday the Natural Family Planning Conference was held.

Featuring: Dr Martin van Nierop, Bishop Hugh Slattery, Pam Stenzel (USA), Fertility and the Family, Dr Heinz Wirz, Damon Owens (USA), Fr Francois Dufour SDB, Dr Manual Bareira Duarte, Sr Priscilla Dlamini, Fr Rodney George, Sr Anne Wood (Australia) and others.

2. We bade a fond farewell to Khanyi after many years of service here at Bosco. She has taken up a post with an educational institution. A special celebratory lunch was held with her as the surprised guest of honour to mark our esteem for her, and to wish her well with her new adventures.

3. All the chalets are being used this week. The double storey building is getting its finishing touches...we are told that in three weeks time all will be finished. Here's hoping.



COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Fr Pisacane's younger brother, Tony (75) visited for a few days. A scientist working with Pretoria University on finding eco-friendly solutions to the malaria / mosquito problem. Fr Pisacane himself went off to Scotland for a short break, and to see the Pope.

2. Fr John Coleman celebrated the 50th anniversary of his landing on South African on the 29th September. He stepped ashore at Cape Town to begin

his Salesian apostolate in Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

Visiting us during September at Bosco was Linda Ngqumeya, Felice Sforza and Oskar Klinghardt. Amazing how contact is still maintained among class mates. Of course the queries about teachers, dead or alive, and classmates who seem to have vanished.

There was a time that some of our Bosco pupils graduated to the Salesian Hostel in Booyens. From there it was easy enough to get into Jo'burg for work or study. Leo de Oliveira reminisces all the way from Australia: "My brother Rui and I stayed at the Hostel for 4 years or so while we were at Wits. It wasn't just appies - it was about half-half. Fr Gerald Libera ran the place at the time. I believe the rooms were converted stables. The floor tiles kept coming loose because of dampness or, as some said, the horse pee. Terribly cold, but cheap - couldn't complain. I went to live there in Jan 1974 and finally left in December 1977."

Some of the Groups through during August 2010:

LoveMatters: McAuley House (63) ; Veritas College (54); Maryvale College (36); Nardini Convent (50)

Day Retreats/Picnics: St Therese (15); La Salle College (22); St Teresa School (64); Meyerton High (100).

Weekend own Programmes: Archdiocese of Johannesburg (120); Girls Brigade SA (80); AFM NewLife (60);

Conferences / Retreats: Salesians of Don Bosco (15); Ubuntu Mission (50); Food and Trees (300).

Weekend - Confirmation / 1st HC: St John's Parish Florida (132);

What was the most striking thing you learnt this week?

This is one of the evaluation questions we put to the LoveMatters groups before they return back home at the conclusion of their Bosco LoveMatters Experience. Below follows a few of the many answers, all of which express similar impressions.

The fact that 26 of the 30 STD's affect girls and only 4 affect boys.

The statistics about AIDS, the abortion video, the different STI well basically everything we did this week

That life is not about sex, drugs, abortion etc. It's about living life to the fullest and make a better future for yourself.

The most striking thing I learnt this week was about substance abuse and *Marriage is Lekker*
 The abortion video as well as the reconciliation service
 This week I learnt to appreciate everything much much more, from the fact that my mother gave birth to me to
 Abortion video and images of people infected with STD's and STI's.
 That there are consequences for all choices made and no matter what, I am worth waiting for.
 I loved *Marriage is Lekker* and Pam Stenzel's video and Substance Abuse taught me the most I learnt more
 I learnt a lot about STI's and how they can affect people who have made careless decisions.
 Sex before marriage with multiple partners really sucks and abortion are really bad
 I learnt that sex is a great gift from God that we must honour and respect and also that babies must not be aborted but loved.
 There more to sexuality than meets the eye
 Learning about STD's & abstinence. Life is full of choices and to be able to look back and be proud of the choices we've made.
 That sex must wait it's a precious gift from God that should be respected there's so many infections out there
 I learnt that there are other people with more difficult issues.
 The truth about sex the abortion video and pictures of STD's taught me a lot, and provided me with a lot of information
 I've learnt a lot this week , I learnt about self -control , abstaining but not only for sex and be happy, be healthy , be holy
 Nothing much, I learn most of it in grade 6
 Fertility & STD's ,Tommy Jarvis etc.
 The best prevention is abstinence
 Sex is worth waiting for. The youth do things to impress each other and it's not right.

The most important thing a father can do for his children is love his wife

SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!!!

The man slowly looked up. This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life. His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before. "No," he answered sarcastically. "I've just come from dining with the president.. Now go away."

The woman's smile became even broader.

"Leave me alone," he growled... To his amazement, the woman continued standing. She was smiling -- her even white teeth displayed in dazzling rows. "Are you hungry?" she asked.

Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm. "What are you doing, lady?" the man asked angrily. "I said to leave me alone." Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked....

"No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?"

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The officer scratched his head. "That's old Jack. He's been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that cafeteria over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for awhile."

"Are you crazy, lady?" the homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!" Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything.."

"This is a good deal for you, Jack," the officer answered. "Don't blow it."

Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived.

The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by his table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this, is this man in trouble?"

"This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered.

"Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business."

Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want to come here in the first place."

The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?"

"Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms."

"And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?"

"What business is that of yours?"

"I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, president and CEO of the company." "Oh..." The woman smiled again. "I thought that might make a difference."

She glanced at the cop who was busy stifling a laugh. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?"

"No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty."

"Then, perhaps, a cup of coffee to go?"

"Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice." The cafeteria manager turned on his heel. "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer."

The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said. "That was not my intent... Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this."

She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently. "Jack, do you remember me?"

Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes. "I think so -- I mean you do look familiar."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry."

"Ma'am?" the officer said questioningly. He couldn't believe that such a magnificently turned out woman could ever have been hungry. "I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy."

"I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble. Then, when I looked over and saw you put the price of my food in the cash register. I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So you started your own business?" Old Jack said.

"I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business that, with the help of God, prospered.."

She opened her purse and pulled out a business card. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr.... Lyons. He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. If you ever need anything, my door is always open to you."

There were tears in the old man's eyes. "How can I ever thank you?" he asked..

"Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To God goes the glory. He led me to you."

Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways..

"Thank you for all your help, officer," she said.

"On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And.....And thank you for the coffee."

WHY GOD MADE MUMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the sticky tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of ?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from mens' bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other Mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's Mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your Mum?

1. My Mum has always been my Mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did Mum need to know about Dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your Mum marry your Dad?

1. My Dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My Grandma says that Mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because Dad's such an idiot.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mum is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

What's the difference between Mums & Dads?

1. Mums work at work and work at home and Dads just go to work at work.
2. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but Mums have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
4. Mums have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your Mum do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't have spare time.
2. To hear her talk, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your Mum perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. You know, her hair. I'd die it, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my Mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

After the accident, I told the police officer I thought the driver of the other vehicle was drunk. He told me the other vehicle was a cow.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, He suffered from bad breath.

This made him A super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis. ■