



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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## JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011 in Bosco

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**POLITICIAN: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence later**

**From the Rector's keyboard:**

19th February 2011

Dear Readers

We are well into the New Year! The general weariness of routine is once again settling in after the festivities of family gatherings around Christmas tide. Bus and truck strikes, rising costs, service delivery protests, preparations once more for elections all just emphasise that the New Year has already lost its lustre. President Zuma's State of the Nation speech scratched the surface of what the real state is as he opened his box of expensive band-aid fix-it promises. Whether in fact any of his "plasters" will actually reach the places of poverty, pain and misery is a moot point!

I found the following piece circulated by TGIF something to reflect on:

*"Can't we all just get along" is our common response to reports of strife, violence and conflict. "Can't we give peace a chance?" Well, no, we can't - not if that's all we give a chance. We also have to do the things that make peace possible and actual. Many people who talk about peace are unwilling to deal with the conditions of society and soul that make strife inevitable. They want to keep them and still have peace, but it is peace on their terms, which is impossible.*

*We can't all "just" get along. Rather, we have to become the kind of persons who can get along. For example, we need to be intentional about changing our near-automatic "fire & fight" responses so that the strife doesn't start almost immediately when we feel rubbed up the wrong way. [Paraphrased from Dallas Willard, "The Divine Conspiracy", ch.9]*

At Bosco we have had a slow start to the year. The Youth Ministry Team with new volunteers have been acquainting themselves with their duties and the requirements of their apostolate. Training sessions this week have covered First Aid and Presentation Skills.

Next week (last week of Feb!) we start the work in earnest!

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Thanks to all those who sent in greetings on the Feast of St John Bosco. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are greatly appreciated. *Bosco Community.*

PS. Try as I might to get this contact out to you in a timely fashion...yes, you guessed...other urgent requests keep cropping up, people keep dropping in, scheduled meetings ...and the rest, just gobble up the time and energy.

### BOSCO CENTRE NEWS.

1. We received the donation of a modern PABX, one of those phone gadgets that allows a receptionist to answer all the calls and direct them to the right person.



2. Grass cutting is the order of the day! Cut it today...two days later its needs to be cut again. In trying to keep the grounds looking neat and tidy, our maintenance crew is really pushing it, as there is also so many other maintenance jobs to do! Well done, guys!

3. Our permaculture garden at Bosco, laid out by Food and Trees for Africa last year, does not look pretty, but it produces a whole lot of wholesome veggies which are shared out to the community as well as staff members, and there is plenty for all.



4. The new "adult" accommodation...the Rinaldi and Becchi rooms are looking good. We had a delay on the stoep paving blocks which arrived and have been laid...except, and there is always an exception...not enough bull-nose (for the steps) tiles were supplied. This accommodation is already in use, although we haven't advertised it widely. But it is surprising how many are hearing about it and making enquiries. Ts&Cs apply as has been the case all

along at the BYC, with a few extras for these en-suite double rooms. Basically, we are a Christian / Catholic Centre and book in groups no less than 20 in number. More details may be obtained from the office.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

1. The big news for us is that our Salesian community at Bosco has increased by two members since the beginning of the year. Frs Roy and Joy...easy to remember. Fr Roy Isaac hails from India and was working in Bosco Parish, Robertsham last year. He has joined the Youth Ministry Team, strengthening the team with his experience as a Salesian educator and pastor. Fr Joy Sebastian is also a missionary from India, who has been working for a number of years in our parishes at Maputsoe and Maseru in Lesotho. He comes to us as the Bursar of the community and Michael Rua School Chaplain. With Fr Dino Miotto's retirement as principal at Michael Rua, our contact with the school will be maintained by Fr Joy's presence and ministry on campus.

### **Oratory**

2. Started with 50 young people on the 13<sup>th</sup> February...otherwise no news report received.

**SMILE: A curve that can set a lot of things straight!**

### **Volunteers**



Now to introduce you to some members of the 2011 YMT, who were on an intensive First Aid Course for three days: In the first picture (L), Simon Mokete (black shirt) is "slinging" Craig Plaatjies arm. On the right, Lerato Ramokoatsi does the same for Paula Martins. In the third (R), Mancoba Gumede bandages Nsovo Chabalala's hand.



Other introductory courses have been run for the Volunteers to prepare them for their year in the Youth Ministry Team. The volunteers beginning

this year are also supported by volunteers who started in August and will be finishing this year in July.

If anyone between the ages of 20 and 25 with a matric, and possibly some work experience / tertiary education, who is involved in their local Catholic Church wishes to apply, please make contact with Bosco. Contact details at the top of the first page.



"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

## PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. Helen Lang and her two daughters are visiting for three weeks. Her parents stay here at Bosco in their own cottage and assist greatly with the smooth running of maintenance at the BYC. This is the first time that Helen has visited for a good number of years.
2. Face Book contacts are increasing by the day. Stories, jokes, and some discussions fly backwards and forwards on the WWW reaching quite a number of PPs who are scattered all over the globe. Some of these strange, funny and thought provoking material is captured below!

### **Some of the Groups through during January / February (to date) 2011 :**

**Day Retreats/Picnics:** Assumption Convent Gr 12, Gr 8; Marian College Gr 8, Gr 12, Gr 11, Gr 10, Gr 9, Gr 5, Gr 8, Gr 6, Gr 4; Gr 7. Holy Family college; Mofolu URC;

**Weekend Programmes:** Waterstone Gr 8 (100); Rand Park High (54); Morekolodi Primary (140).

**Conferences / Retreats:** Meeting German Volunteers in Africa;

## **LIFE ISSUES**

### **Abortionist charged with infanticide and multiple other crimes**

The worldwide pro-life movement is reflecting and commenting on the reports regarding Dr Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia abortionist accused of running the most bloody and sordid abortion business perhaps ever recorded. Dr Gosnell and his staff are accused, among many other things, of numerous infanticides; deaths of, and injury to, women patients and keeping a collection of severed baby feet in jars. Anthony Ozimic, SPUC's communications manager, commented: "Dr Gosnell's alleged crimes constitute but one case among many - though perhaps the worst recorded one - of gross moral degradation among abortionists. The details of Dr Gosnell's alleged degradation are indications that abortion is wrong, as those details mirror very closely the details of other cases of mass killing." [[John Smeaton, 24 January](#)] <http://bit.ly/qJeOG3>

### **Chinese president denies existence of forced abortion policy**

During a recent state visit to the United States, Hu Jintao, the Chinese president, denied the existence of a forced abortion policy. Steven Mosher, an expert on the one-child policy and president of the Population Research Institute (PRI), described Mr Hu's denial as a "bald-faced lie". SPUC is calling upon UK pro-lifers to protest to the Chinese embassy in London. [[John Smeaton, 5 February](#)] <http://bit.ly/dlckSC>

### **Snippets**

- Study shows free morning-after pills has not reduced teenage pregnancies and has increased sexually transmitted diseases [[Telegraph, 30 January](#)] <http://bit.ly/eEGwI0>
- Parents delighted they kept disabled baby doctors said had no chance [[Wales Online, 6 February](#)] <http://bit.ly/dTFN1Y>
- Pro-life demonstration against Irish Labour party threat to introduce abortion [[Pat Buckley, 7 February](#)] <http://bit.ly/gyxSGe>
- Ex-abortion centre director, now pro-life, appeals to former colleagues [[Love Undefined, 6 February](#)]

**People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention.**

## **SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED**

.....  
A minister waited in line to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendants worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, a attendant motioned him towards a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

*I think we have had this one before...but for us oldies who forget...always another chuckle....*

### **HAVING MOM OVER FOR DINNER**

Ben invited his mother over for dinner. During the course of the meal, Ben's mother couldn't help but notice how beautiful Ben's roommate, Jennifer, was. Ben's Mom had long been suspicious of the platonic relationship between Ben and Jennifer, and this had only made her more curious.

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Ben and Jennifer than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, Ben volunteered, ' I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you Jennifer and I are just roommates. '

About a week later, Jennifer came to Ben saying, ' Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you? ' Ben said, ' Well, I doubt it, but I'll send her an e-mail just to be sure. So he sat down and wrote:

Dear Mom,  
I'm not saying that you 'did' take the gravy ladle from the house, I'm not saying that you 'did not' take the gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.  
Love, Ben

Several days later, Ben received an email back from his mother that read:

Dear Son,  
I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Jennifer, I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Jennifer. But the fact remains that if Jennifer is sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now.  
Love, Mom

*For those who like the Dilbert cartoons.....*

### **The Balloonist & The Engineer**

A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost.

She reduced altitude and spotted a man below. She descended a bit more and shouted:

'Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am.'

The man below replied, 'You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 10 metre above the ground. You're between 25 and 26 degrees South latitude and between 27 and 28 degrees East longitude.'

'You must be an Engineer,' said the balloonist.

'I am,' replied the man, 'how did you know?'

'Well,' answered the balloonist, 'everything you have told me is probably technically correct, but I do not understand your answer & I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip by your talk.'

The man below responded, 'You must be in Management.'

'I am,' replied the balloonist, 'but how did you know?'

'Well,' said the man, 'you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but, somehow, now it's my bloody fault!'

#### **Go Figure!!**

A wife asks her husband, a software engineer; "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk, and if they have eggs, get 6!"

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. The wife asks him, "Why the hell did you buy 6 cartons of milk?" He replied, "They had eggs."

DORMITORY:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
BEST IN PRAYER

ELECTION RESULTS:  
When you rearrange the letters:  
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

I asked my mother if I was adopted. She said, "not yet, but we've placed an ad" Dana Snow. ■