



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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MAY 2011 in Bosco

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I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this.

Emo Phillips, comedian, actor (1956-)

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st June 2011

Dear Friends of Bosco,

The month of May went by very quickly. Even more so because I spent four days preaching a retreat at La Verna next to the Vaal River... followed by a week in Cape Town for some meetings.

This week, Thursday we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. A powerful sign that the Lord not only handed over His mission to his apostles and disciples, but that He had confidence in each one of them to get on with it! Sure there was some hesitation and bewilderment, but who wouldn't be somewhat thrown off course with these events that we continue to celebrate this Eastertide in a somewhat more pedestrian way. The whole joy and thrill of our Easter is that when this earthly body of ours "shuts down" it is not the end as Hawkin¹ will have us believe. The power of the scriptures and the committed witness of the apostles, disciples and believers over the centuries far outweighs the physical evidence of decay and termination. Resurrection and Ascension defy logic and reason and point to the mystery of God's love and confidence in each one of us to grasp, even if "through a glass darkly"², a life that is more than life as we know it here on our beautiful planet.



The Bosco Youth Ministry Team do some entertaining for Fr Klement

Easter Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Fr Vaclav Klement visited us from Rome. One could call it an inspection, an evaluation, of what is going on here at Bosco.
2. 7th May was the ordination to the salesian priesthood of Moeketsi Khetla at Maputsoe, Lesotho. Some of the community members went along to celebrate this our fourth ordination to date this year.
3. Fr Roy Elavungal celebrated his 10th anniversary of ordination on the 16th May. Congratulations.
4. Nhlanhla Mazibuko turned 21 on the 17th May. Nhlanhla leaves for the Novitiate in Lusaka shortly.
5. 24th May Salesians celebrated the feast day of Mary Help of Christians, Don Bosco's favourite title for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

¹ Stephen Hawkin: "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken-down computers" Time May30, 2011, Briefing pg 7.

² 1 Corinthians 13 vs 12

PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. Life is too short. Hope you are all well and life where ever you are is good. For me I am really looking forward to being a grandfather, God willing. I have finally decided to Canvas Life, I have decided the search for answers on how it is to jump and parachute from a plane end. I have decided to do it, Wonderboom airbase Pretoria here we come. Wish me God Speed and hold thumbs. God Bless. MJ Lambert 10 May 2011
2. My brother David was at Bosco from the late 1950's to 1964. He was a prefect and in his last year, Captain of School (as we used to call the head boys then – I don't know if that carried on). This made him quite insufferable and me the subject of much parental comparison: "Why can't you be more like your brother?". Anyone would have thought that I was unruly and inclined to break bounds to catch an illicit ciggy up on the koppie, or to go exploring on the Clonlea farm, which was forbidden. Michael Hennessy.
3. Popped in to see Fr Vincent Ford (at Nazareth House, Cape Town) yesterday and dropped off a little 'goodie bag' [he likes chocolates and biscuits]. Damn his little fridge was more full than mine at home...things were falling out !!! Gee, was he talkative [best I have witnessed] and positive too. Also was sorry to hear that he stood up to close a window in his room and slipped and fractured his leg. Operation under anesthetic and 2 screws later...can't walk yet but must say his mind is fine and still reads and it was nice to have 2 way communication versus the last time when I took him on a guided tour through the Heart Museum. Besides that we are OK and involved in a career change that is still to be finalised. Best to all. Allan Korsman

What is life about?

Over 15,000 pro-lifers have attended Canada's annual March for Life in Ottawa, the country's capital. Organisers said that this represented an increase of at least 2,500 from last year. The march is being followed by an all-day youth conference, which will be attended by an estimated 800 youth.

[LifeSiteNews.com, 12 May] <http://bit.ly/mnilNO>

A columnist for *The Spectator*, an UK current affairs magazine, has argued that a rising population is good for the country. Alex Massie argued that "a rising population is a feature of a healthy society" and that "Britain will need more people" to support the elderly. He also argued that the logic of the case for population control leads to China's one-child policy. [Spectator, 13 May] <http://bit.ly/ilUpbJ>

SPUC's Safe at School campaign has launched a nationwide petition calling on the government to ban sexually-explicit videos from primary schools. [SPUC, 6 May] <http://bit.ly/IU5ZHk> The petition's launch comes at the same time as a poll which found that 59% of parents with primary-age children are opposed to sex education in schools. [Daily Mail, 5 May] <http://bit.ly/kW2K4L> [BBC, 5 May] <http://bbc.in/mgKA0x>

“AS A RULE, MEN WORRY MORE ABOUT WHAT THEY CANNOT SEE THAN ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN.”

Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny. -Carl Schurz, general and politician (1829-1906)

Some of the Groups through during May 2011 :

LoveMatters: Assumption Convent (56).

Day Retreats/Picnics: SACBC Family Life Desk (100); Holy Family College, Grds 4 & 5 (30); Brescia House, Grd 4 (74); St Benedicts, Grd 6 (100). Holy Family college Grd 8 (110); Brescia House Grd 6,(63);

Weekend Programmes: St Margaret's Parish 3rd Year Confirmation (30). Knights of Da Gama (80); African Presbyterian Church (40); AMCARE (25); St Theresa, Alberton (30); 7th Day Adventist Church (58); Tehillah Praise Fellowship (28)

Own 5 day Programmes: Ubuntu Mission (24); LM Training & Teambuilding (10);

COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE LOVEMATTERS PARTICIPANTS

In what way will this experience make a difference in your life?

Thinking before I do something, making good choices & keeping my pledge promise
I want to have a long and lasting relationship with my future husband
It will help me make the decisions and I learnt something new about myself
It changed my perception of everything and made me realise what I want to achieve in my life
Making choices in the future
It made me have a different view on sex in a good way
It helped me learn about my sexuality and made me aware of the realities of life
I used to take sex lightly because of what the media makes it seem, but now I know better
To respect myself & my body

What was the most striking thing you learnt this week?

That the heartbreaks after sex break up hurt so much more
I learnt so much this week, everything was striking and important as well as interesting
The abortion video and talk as well as the sex has a price tag talk
Everything we learned helped and is going to help us in our lives
Everything like the different ways men and women think, what happens to us with babies, sex and more
The reality of the consequences of sex before marriage
I learnt having sex at a young age, and contradicting STDs can change one's life expectation and have life long consequences
Learning so many new things about myself
I learnt that each and everyone is different and special, and that sex can wait till marriage

SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED

Professor Ian Plimer could not have said it better! If you've read his book you may agree that this is a good summary. Are you sitting down? Okay, here's the bombshell.

In just **FOUR DAYS**, the volcanic eruption in Iceland, since its' first spewing of volcanic ash, **NEGATED EVERY SINGLE EFFORT** you have made in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet - all of us. Of course you know about this evil carbon dioxide that we are trying to suppress - it's that vital chemical compound that every plant requires to live and grow and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life.

I know, it's very disheartening to realize that all of the carbon emission savings you have accomplished while suffering the inconvenience and expense of: driving Prius hybrids, buying fabric grocery bags, sitting up till midnight to finish your kid's "The Green Revolution" science project, throwing out all of your non-green cleaning supplies, using only two squares of toilet paper, putting a brick in your toilet tank reservoir, selling your SUV and speedboat, holidays at home instead of abroad, nearly getting hit every day on your bicycle, replacing all of your 50 cent light bulbs with \$10.00 light bulbs ...well, all of those things you have done have all gone down the tubes in just four days.

The volcanic ash emitted into the Earth's atmosphere in just **FOUR DAYS** by that volcano in Iceland, has totally erased every single effort you have made to reduce the evil beast, carbon. And there are around 200 active volcanoes on the planet spewing out this crud out at any one time **EVERY DAY**.

I don't really want to rain on your parade too much, but I should mention that when the volcano Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in its entire time on earth. Yes folks, Mt Pinatubo was active for over one year - think about it.

Of course I shouldn't spoil this touchy-feely tree-hugging moment and mention the effect of solar and cosmic activity and the well recognised 800 year global heating and cooling cycles, which keep happening, despite our completely insignificant efforts to affect climate change. I do wish I had a silver lining to this volcanic ash cloud, but the fact of the matter is that the bush fire season across the western USA and Australia this year alone will negate your efforts to reduce carbon in our world for the next two to three years...and it happens every year.

Just remember that our government is imposing a whopping carbon tax on you on the basis of the bogus "human-caused" climate change scenario. Hey, isn't it interesting how they don't mention "Global Warming" any more, but just "Climate Change" - you know why? It's because the planet has COOLED by 0.7 degrees in the past century and these global warming bull artists got caught with their pants down.

Just keep in mind that you might yet have an Emissions Trading Scheme - that whopping new tax - imposed on you, that will achieve absolutely nothing except make you poorer. It won't stop any volcanoes from erupting, that's for sure.

But hey, relax, give the world a hug and have a nice day!

CRANKY OLD MAN

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking when you're looking at me?
A cranky old man, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding The long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another

A young boy of Eighteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet
A groom soon at Twenty five. . . . my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep.

At Thirty, now I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide And a secure happy home.
A man of Forty My young now grow fast,
Bound to each other With ties that should last.

At Fifty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside me to see I don't mourn.
At Sixty, once more, Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years And the love that I've known.

I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.

"CRANKY OLD MAN" Poem

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in an Australian country town, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meagre possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

One nurse took her copy to Melbourne. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country and appearing in mags for mental health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys.'

But inside this old carcass A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain..
And I'm loving and living life over again.

I think of the years . all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people open and see.
Not a cranky old man . Look closer see ME!!

STATISTICS FOR THE STATISTICALLY CHALLENGED.

If the world had just 100 people, representative of the current population, then:

- 50 would be female, 50 would be male
- 20 would be children, 14 would be aged 65 and older
- there would be 61 Asians, 12 Europeans, 13 Africans
- there would be 31 Christians, 21 Muslims, 14 Hindus, 6 Buddhists
- 17 would speak a Chinese dialect and 8 English as 1st language
- 47 would be urban dwellers, 53 rural
- 82 would be able to read and write, 18 would not
- 75 would have some supply of food & shelter, 25 would not
- 83 would have access to safe drinking water, 17 would not
- 76 would have electricity, 24 would not
- 1 would be dying of starvation, 17 undernourished, 15 overweight
- 53 would live on less than 2 US\$ per day
- 34 would have cell phones
- 1 would have tertiary education
- 1 would own a computer

No moral of the story. Just an opportunity to catch our bearings, attitudes & gritudes

http://www.100people.org/statistics_detailed_statistics.php

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

Smileys have always been interesting as they may portray any number of emotions other than "smiling". Some you may not have come across before:

- :-) Happy; :-D laughing; :-) crying with laughter; :-(sad; :-(very sad;
- ;-) winking; :*) clowning around; ^D great; O:-) angel; :-@ screaming;
- :-o wow!; :-& tongue-tied I-O yawning; \o/ hallelujah!; :-P tongue out;
- :* kissing. ■

A WOMEN'S PLACE

Barbara Walters, of 20/20, did a story on gender roles in Kabul , Afghanistan , several years before the Afghan conflict.

She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem happy to maintain the old custom.

Ms Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked, 'Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?'

The woman looked Ms Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "Land mines."

Moral of the story is (no matter what language you speak or where you go):

**BEHIND EVERY MAN,
THERE'S A SMART
WOMAN**

For dog lovers... a Bible quote...

Tobit 11:9

"Then the dog, which had been with them in the way, ran before, and coming as if he had brought the news, shewed his joy by his fawning and wagging his tail."