



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

No.114

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JULY 2011 in Bosco

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**Children are natural mimics; they act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.**

**From the Rector's keyboard:**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2011

Dear Friends of Bosco,

I am wrapped up as I sit at the computer...the sun shines but it is still cold. A paradox! But that is life...it is like those optimistic quips we resort to for consolation: every dark cloud has a silver lining... accept the good with the bad...no pain no gain! Even in the Gospels we read of Jesus grappling with this for his listeners...the parable of the wheat and the darnel (Matt 13: 24 -43)...for instance, also his saying that the sun shines on the good and bad alike (Matt 5: 45)...but the punch line comes in the reckoning. What have we as individuals and communities... understood, learnt, grown, matured with these conflicting experiences. Just thrown up our hands in despair and cried foul, or put our hands to work together to make a better life, a better world?

This is the substance that structures faith...be it faith in self, in humankind, in God...that struggles with the mystery of life and its ultimate meaning. These thoughts bothered me when considering one man's delusion about life, destroyed the lives of others in Norway, leaving many bereft and asking, "why?" The culture of death is around us...the darnel, "an enemy has done this"! What sort of impact is it having on the minds, hearts and souls of young as well as adults? Euthanasia - assisted suicide – suicide – abortion - partial birth abortion – infanticide - relationship and other problems "solved" by murder- death penalty - criminals killing others and then themselves when cornered. Now also death becomes a political weapon, a quick means to become /stay a celebrity, get into the papers, get people to take notice!

As in the earlier parable of Jesus...the sower of the seeds (Mtt 13 : 3 -9) the seeds' of faith faced various challenges...with some their development was strangled by the thorn bushes. In my words, people who knew what was right, but fell in line with populist thinking, easy money and simplistic solutions. In the reckoning they bore no fruit.

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

For a long time I was ashamed of the way I lived.  
Did you reform?  
No. I am not ashamed any more. Mae West.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

1. Bro Sean McEwen, at present studying in Jerusalem was ordained a deacon recently. He is back in South Africa for his Summer break. This means spending his time here during Winter mostly with the Salesian Community in Lansdowne. Bro Sean worked in the LoveMatters Youth Ministry Team for a couple of years.
2. Over the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July we held our Michael Rua Congress at Bosco Youth Centre. Blessed Michael Rua was the successor to St John Bosco. Since it is 100 years since

his death Salesians world-wide have been holding workshops, seminars and conferences to promote greater knowledge of the man, his times and the work he accomplished after the death of Don Bosco. A lovely interested group of about 60 people gathered for the occasion on Saturday. On the Sunday it was the turn of the youth to have their own gathering.

3. Bro Lingoane Tlaile taught at Michael Rua school for a couple of years. Now he is a student studying theology in Rome. He is also home for the Summer holidays...putting up instead with our Winter once again spending his time, much to the delight of all, at Michael Rua school.

4. Anyone who read the Southern Cross a few Sundays back would have noticed a photograph on the front page of Bros Christopher Sharpe & Raphael on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. A very nice write up covered their adventures. Both brothers are back in this part of the world. Bro Christopher is now at the Salesian Institute in the Cape, and Bro Raphael is at Salesian High,



Manzini, Swaziland enjoying a break from his studies in Moshi.

5. Nhlanhla Masibuko who has been working with us here at Bosco is getting ready to join the Salesian novitiate in Lusaka shortly.

6. Our two aspirants, Craig Plaatjies and Xolile Galata, (*picture left*) will be leaving for the pre-novitiate in Ennerdale which starts on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. During August they will have a few weeks at home.

#### BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE NEWS

1. During the school holidays the Centre was kept very busy with the LoveMatters for the parishes. Since the schools opened again we have had a very quiet two weeks. This has been used for training courses for the new team members and catching up on some of the maintenance. A number of the dead trees have been felled and a some painting done.

2. Robyn-Lee Griffiths joined the admin team during May, replacing Agnes Svejde. She is from Walkerville and comes to work each morning on a motor-bike, which these days is akin to serious dedication. (*Picture right*)



#### YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

1. It is middle of the year so we have a few changes. Paula Martin and Magdalena Zimmerman who have been with us since mid year last year left recently for the homes in USA and Germany respectively. Others have joined the team in the meantime. In the picture you see...*Back row L-R: Katlego Samake; Zama Booyesen; Althea Peters; Sandile Fakude; Front L – R: Steven Dhlamini; Nothando Khoza; Lehlohonolo Yingwane.*

We are still awaiting the arrival of Johannes Kahlmeyer and Catherine Stockle.



#### MAGDALENA ZIMMERMANN – Bosco Volunteer August 2010 – July 2011.

“Lazy bones lying in the sun, how do you expect to get your day’s work done...” she laughs loudly. I am on the airplane to Stuttgart, back home. It is still hard to say, but I can allow my bones to be lazy now, my work at the Bosco Youth Centre is done. A year of working, playing and praying with young people has passed so fast and now it is time for me to look back.

But here is some of what I learnt at Bosco: Before you start with anything it is time for your introduction- “*My name is Magdalena Zimmermann...*” (followed by a lot of noise) “*I know this name is too long, so you can call me Magz*”, a new home - a new name. But that definitely was not the only thing that was new for me here at Bosco. South Africa meets Germany, Vuvuzelas meet Weisswurst and Brezeln. Despite the food, a new language, a different way of living, a different approach to love; there was a lot to get to know and to

understand. Now back to my introduction: “I am a volunteer here at Bosco Youth Centre and I arrived in Johannesburg in August last year. I wanted to become a volunteer because I always felt the desire to have an impact on somebody’s life.” Reviewing my year I ask myself the question: Is that what I actually did? Did I change somebody’s life or did they change mine? Did I improve the work at Bosco or did the work at Bosco improve me?

Volunteering by definition is working without expecting anything in return: Even if it is not anything material, you receive so much: I definitely learnt to stand up for what I think is right, I also learnt to take responsibility not only for myself but also for others and for the programmes we are running. My time in South Africa helped me to mature and to stay a child at the same time.

But I guess that is a process that just started and is not going to finish now. I started my article by saying that my work is done. While working on it I realized that it is not.

I might have left the Bosco Youth Centre, I might have left South Africa, but the reason why I decided to become a volunteer remains the same. I followed God’s plan to bring me to South Africa, let’s see where He leads me to next. ♥



#### PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. **Good memories – even the dread Fr Stubbings! I went back to the school once or twice after he had retired but he was still living there and he was so pleased to see me. Not only was my schoolboy evil quite forgotten, he was utterly charming to my wife, who could not reconcile my anecdotes with this lovely old man!** ( Michael Hennessy 1960’s)
2. **Michael Lambert is now a Grandfather....much to his delight**
3. **Johnny Ramos (1981 and 1982) was in contact, still living in Randfontein.**

#### **Some of the Groups through during JULY 2011 :**



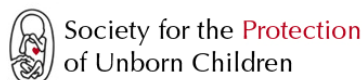
**LoveMatters: Pretoria Parishes:** St Anthony Soshanguve; St Gaspar Berthoni(Mmp); St Mark ; St Clare; St Joseph Oukasie; Holy Cross G/Rankua; St Zeno Letlabile; Holy Rosary Gabalatsane; St Andrews Lekgunyane; M. M. E Garankua (107).

Moya; St Annes & Joachim; Christ The King; St Martin De Porres; St Theresa Mothutlong; St Mary’s Mamelodi; St John The Baptist; St. Charles Lwanga (139).

St Paul’s (4); All Saints Ennerdale, Lawley and Finetown (31); St Michael (35) Good Shepherd, Protea North - Soweto (25);

**Day Retreats/Picnics:** Methodist Church (80)

**Weekend Programmes:** AFM Michael Rua Congress; A&E Church (20)



Society for the **Protection**  
of Unborn Children

## **4 LIFE**

### **Former abortion clinic worker breaks silence, speaks out for life**

BY KRISTEN WALKER

THU JUL 21, 2011

([LiveAction.org](http://LiveAction.org)) - One of the most powerful weapons in the pro-life arsenal is the authentic testimony of those who have advocated for and helped provide abortions, and later seen the light. People like Dr. Bernard Nathanson, Carol Everett, and Abby Johnson have information and insight that will help us win the fight against the abortion industry. Allentown, Pennsylvania native and mother of three, Jewels Green, has made the courageous decision to finally speak up for life. In her first public pro-life testimony, she told [Live Action](http://LiveAction.org) about suffering the pain of abortion as a teenager and later spending several years working in an abortion clinic. This is her story: [LifeSiteNews.com](http://LifeSiteNews.com), 21 June] <http://bit.ly/oSjg0e>

#### **Prominent US psychiatrist says men are traumatized by abortion**

Dr Keith Ablow, a prominent American psychiatrist has said that men are traumatized by abortion. In an opinion column, Dr Ablow said that in his own practice of psychiatry he has heard many men express intense pain about the abortions of

their children. [Fox News, 22 July] <http://fxn.ws/oxkWkU> Abortion Recovery Care and Helpline (ARCH), SPUC's sister organization, provides counselling for men and women hurt by abortion. [www.archtrust.org.uk](http://www.archtrust.org.uk)

### Norway shooter supports abortion for disabled babies

Anders Behring Breivik, who killed scores of people in Norway on Friday, supports abortion in cases of rape and disability. The mainstream media have been reporting that Mr Breivik is a "Christian fundamentalist", whereas in his own writings he made clear that he is not a religious believer. A number of his ideas are at variance with pro-life and pro-family principles. [LifeSiteNews.com, 25 July] <http://bit.ly/pxMRKW>

### UK premature baby survives after doctors advised abortion

A British baby born at 23 weeks into pregnancy has survived, after his parents rejected doctors' advice to abort him. Jacob McMahon was born weighing 1lb 4oz (0.57kg). [Telegraph, 25 July] <http://tgr.ph/pwld7R> The Telegraph's reporter states incorrectly that the upper time-limit for abortion in Britain is 24 weeks. In fact, abortion is allowed up to birth on the ground of disability and on some other grounds.

Browser links (right click - select browser)

## COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE LOVEMATTERS PARTICIPANTS



### What was the most striking thing you learnt this week?

- \* Everything has got its own time no matter how long that good things are worth living /waiting for
- \* I learnt that everything you do depends on your choices
- \* About love and life caring how to decide for myself learning about sexual reproductive organs and how they really work
- \* That everyone has a choice and LoveMatters is the best because it thought me never to trust a person but trust God

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

- To make good choices in life know what you want, to be faithful ,committed and trusting
- It will make me a better person see life in a positive way
- It can make me to be the better person in this world
- It will make me to choose what is best for me
- Wait and have sex after marriage

### Which part of the program was NOT relevant/useful to you?

- > All programmes were good and enjoyfull so I had fun
- > Everything was relevant
- > There was no programme that was not useful
- > Not even one wasn't useful all of them are helpful to my life
- > Discussion sheet with chappies - just how sexy are you?



LoveMatters has a website for participants and other interested parties to share and support each other in the pledge taken during the LoveMatters week. The following is the link:

LoveMatters At Bosco Centre [posted in How has Love Matters@Bosco helped you in your personal Life.](#)

### True love waits! Pledge

"Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

### The Five Commitments of True Love Waits

**To God:** Matthew 22:37 - "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

**To Yourself:** Matthew 22:39 - "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

**To Family:** Philippians 4:5 - "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

**To Friends:** John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

**To Future Mate and Children:** 2 Timothy 2:22 - "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

## SOME STRANGE, FUNNY AND THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF RECEIVED

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, 'What setting do I use on the washing machine?'

'It depends,' I replied. 'What does it say on your shirt?'

He yelled back, ' University of Oklahoma ..'

**Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?**

**A: Rename the mail folder 'Instruction Manual.'**

### **Hunting Tale**

Two Irishmen flew to Canada on a hunting trip. They chartered a small plane to take them into the Rockies for a week hunting moose. They managed to bag 6. As they were loading the plane to return, the Pilot said the plane could take only 4 moose.

The two lads objected strongly. "Last year we shot six. The pilot let us take them all and he had the same plane as yours."

Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all six were loaded. The plane took off. However, while attempting to cross some mountains even on full power the little plane couldn't handle the load and went down. Somehow, surrounded by the moose bodies, only Paddy and Mick survived the crash.

After climbing out of the wreckage, Paddy asked Mick, "Any idea where we are?"

Mick replied, "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

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### **AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL**

**Tower:** "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"

**Delta 351:** "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

**Tower:** "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."

**TWA 2341:** "Centre, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"

**Tower:** "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.

**San Jose Tower noted:** "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

### **Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne – Grandparents of Jesus 26<sup>th</sup> July**

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"

A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.

"No," said another. "He's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

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### WHAT WE SAY....WHAT THEY HEAR!

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

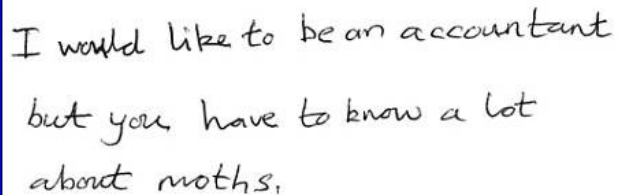
The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the minister stopped by for tea

and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



I would like to be an accountant  
but you have to know a lot  
about moths.

### FAITH / REASON

TGIF <http://www.tgif.org.za>

In the eyes of some, faith is an excuse for not applying one's reason, or an excuse for substituting emotion for evidence. "Faith is believing what you know ain't so," quipped Mark Twain. In the eyes of others, reason is an excuse for not exercising one's faith, or a hindrance to faith because reason causes doubt and doubt is unspiritual. Both groups view faith and reason as incompatible.

There is, of course, a third group. "Fides et Ratio" (Latin: "faith and reason"), for example, posits that faith and reason are not only compatible, but essential together. Faith without reason, it argues, leads to superstition. Reason without faith, on the other hand, leads to nihilism and relativism. [1]

[1] "Fides et Ratio" is an encyclical promulgated by the late Pope John Paul II; see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fides\\_et\\_Ratio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fides_et_Ratio)

### And to end off with: **LEXOPHILES** (*work out the meaning of this word for yourself*)

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

**That's all for now folks!!**