



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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HISTORY IS MADE AT BOSCO CENTRE DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

**The 100th
LoveMatters
experience
was held
from the
25th – 29th
June**



**Snow at
Bosco on
the 27th
June**

In the picture
Salesians and
Volunteers keep
the Bosco
snowman
company.

Some of the Groups through during May:

LoveMatters: Nardini Convent (50 - all the way from Vryheid!); Parishes -All Saints, Ennerdale; Vlakkfontein Parish; Moya Parish, Tembisa; St Matthews Parish Tembisa; St Luke's, Lesotho; Duncan's Group, Soweto; Mozambique Youth Pastoral (83)

Retreats: St Benedict's Gr 5 (50); Brescia House Gr 6 (50); Our Lady of Peace (40); Brescia House Gr 4 (70);

Own programs: Catholic School Teachers (150); Transnet Youth (35); Job Rathebe School (34); AME Church (20);

A few Comments from some LoveMatters participants:

No more sex for me until I get married; Be the change you want to see in your surroundings; Sex is not love, and love is not sex. To stay a virgin until marriage; Abstaining is the way; Thanks for the special experience and all the fun; It was educational; I will make sure I shine among the rest; for the five days that I was here at the LoveMatters somehow I changed my perspective about a lot of things such as loving myself, sex, abuse of substances, love and God; I loved it - you guys do a great job; I'll never forget this experience, thank you; I really love what you guys are teaching. With your help we can make SA a better place.

From the Rector's keyboard:

Our JUNE newsletter marks a special milestone in the development of the Bosco Youth Centre. During this month we celebrated with our parish groups the 100th LoveMatters Week. And just to make it even more memorable, it was freezing cold...but everyone was rewarded with the natural miracle of snow on 27th June. The night before, as the LoveMatters participants made their way up to the Glorious Cross, little timid flakes of wetness were settling on anoraks and beanies.

Little did we realise at the time that the following morning would greet us with a winter wonderland seen usually in this part of the world only on TV or Christmas cards sent by relatives who have emigrated to Canada or Europe. For many this was their first experience of snow...and a Bosco "snowperson" had to be built!

To close the 100th LoveMatters programme on Friday we had a slap up lunch for all those involved - the parish participants, LoveMatters team, administrative and maintenance staff of Bosco Centre and invited guests. One of the many balloons burst at one point drowning out all the noise for an instant of surprise, and then instant relief followed by gales of laughter. Two large LoveMatters cakes were brought into the dining hall, ceremoniously cut by Fr John Coleman with many photographs of team and cake, before it was happily demolished by all present.

God's grace and goodness has blessed us this far; continue to pray for all those who work here at Bosco and for the many young people who come here for fun, relaxation, information and spiritual growth. Your ongoing support – if only reading this newsletter – is greatly appreciated.

May the Lord Jesus be your constant guide in all you do!
Blessings!

Fr Robert

News Snippets from the Community

* Fr Pat Fleming from Manzini, Swaziland, is much better now, and yearning for the warmth of Manzini. Hopefully Home Affairs will get its act together without too much further delay.

* Mr Miguel Figueiredo dropped in to revisit his old school during the month. He first came to Bosco in July of 1985 and left Bosco after successfully finishing his Matric in 1992. Now he works for RMB Private Bank. It was great reminiscing with Miguel about those days.... Sooo long ago!!

* Fr Martin McCormack arrived with 12 young people from Ireland on a tour of the Salesian works in Gauteng, Lesotho and Swaziland. They have been fund raising all year and come in person to present their donations to the Salesians, see what a difference their fundraising is making in the lives of the beneficiaries, and of course to see some of the beauties of Africa. Our gratitude to Fr Martin and companions for all the financial help they give us here at Bosco which allows us to reduce the costs for deserving youngsters attending the LoveMatters programme.

* There is quite some movement among the community and visitors – Bro Bongzi Nhleko is leaving us after two years of practical training to further his priestly studies in Nairobi. Bro Victor Kyanga, a missionary who joined our province from the DRC has left for a holiday at home before continuing his studies for the priesthood in Nairobi. Bro Bao Thoi Nguyen also a missionary who has joined us from Vietnam has taken up his post in Salesians Cape Town. Bro Trung Hieu is awaiting his visa – he should have left already for Manzini, Swaziland. Deacon Alberto Villalba also leaves us on the 2nd July for his posting to Salesian Institute in Cape Town.

* Visitors with us this past while have been Bro Victor Ndlovu who makes his perpetual profession on the 28th July. Bro Teame Zemichael, a theology student in Jerusalem, is spending a couple of months with us during their break to polish up his English. We have also had the pleasure of three Salesians from Mozambique – Frs Joachim, Adolfo and Thomas, staying with us for a LoveMatters week. Bro Tumelo from Manzini also spent a couple of weeks here helping out.

So in all a very busy month!!

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff sent to me:

Prayers :

The sunday school teacher asked, "now, Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?" "No

sir," he replied, "we don't have to, my mom is a good cook!"

Palm sunday:

It was Palm Sunday and, because of a sore throat, five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by." "Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, he shows up!"

Life after death :

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, sir," the new employee replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

Support a family :

The prospective father-in-law asked, "young man, can you support a family?"

The surprised groom-to-be replied, "well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."

First time ushers ! :

a little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "don't pay for me daddy. I'm under five."

The mood ring:

My husband bought me a mood ring the other day. When I'm in a good mood it turns green. When I'm in a bad mood, it leaves a red mark on his forehead.

The water pistol:

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol.. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom smiled and then replied..... "I remember!!"

Beauty

Little Davie watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face.

"Why do you do that, mommy?" he asked.

"To make myself beautiful," said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue.

"What's the matter?" asked Little Davie. "Giving up?"

Waking Up for Church

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and two, I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give YOU two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church. One, you're 54 years old, and two, you're the pastor!"

WRIGHT ON!

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning and all of my stuff had been stolen...and replaced by exact duplicates." His mind sees things differently, to our amazement and amusement. Here are some of his gems:

1- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

- 2- Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3- Half the people you know are below average.
- 4- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5- 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8- If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
- 9- All those who believe in psycho-kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11- I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.
- 12- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- 19- I intend to live forever -- so far, so good.
- 20- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- 25- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32- The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33- Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film!

Never Argue with a Woman

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads.

A PRAYER TO SHIFT US OUT OF OUR SMUGNESS:

In the following prayer, from the USA, I can certainly see echoes of the prayer for our own beloved country South Africa.

This is a Prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems Prayer still upsets some people. When Pastor Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
We have killed our unborn and called it choice.
We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.
We have abused power and called it politics.
We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it ambition.
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
We have ridiculed the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.
Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.
Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest.

In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help! , may this prayer sweep over our nation and whole heartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "one nation Under God."

"If you don't Stand for something, you will fall for everything"

LoveMatters

"That special power of loving that belongs to a woman is seen most clearly when she becomes a mother. Motherhood is the gift of God to women...Yet we can destroy this gift of motherhood, especially by the evil of abortion No job, no plans, no possessions, no idea of "freedom" can take the place of love."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Where do human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

- Eleanor Roosevelt