



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues.

Rene Descartes, philosopher and mathematician (1596-1650)

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.

Confucius (c. 551-479? BC)

*If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the theologians,
nothing is innocent; if you believe the military, nothing is safe.*

Lord Salisbury, British prime minister(1830-1903)

The tears of strangers are only water.

Russian proverb

Some of the Groups through during October :

LoveMatters: Holy Family Gr 9 (80); Sr Angelica (25); Youth Employment Skills (10); McAuley House Gr 10 (53);

Retreats: St Benedicts Gr 4 (85); Maria Regina (15); St John's Florida (40); St John Berchman Gr 7 (100); Holy Family Gr 11 (80); St Josphe Meadowlands (28); St Benedicts Gr 6 (95).

Own programmes: St John's Florida (60); Ithteng (40); Veritas College (15); Emmanuel Ministry (25); Maronite Church (30); Klipspruit Church (20); St Francis of Assisi (20); Missionaries of Africa (20); Goudeveld School (100); Meadoland Chruch (50); St Paul's (25); St Benedicts Gr 6 (95)

A few Comments from LoveMatters Participants (as it was written!)

Thank you for a great time and all the fun experiences and teaching us that sex after marriage is the best.

I would like 2 comend u on the work u do. It takes a lot for people 2 give up their lives for a "lost generation". But that's where I think our world is changing, more and more people give up their jobs to make a greater difference in peoples lives. And what makes it all different is that is that it introduces God into the picture.

All the consolours were great. Please keep up the good work and keep your heads high and make a better generation out of the next group just as u have done for us. Lots of love.

I will still be a proud virgin.

I'd just like to extend my gratitude on behalf of myself firstly, My school mates, my teachers, my parents and God for everything that Bosco and its team is offering. I truly felt at home at peace with myself and others and I appreciate the way I've grown. I have been introduced to a part of my life that I took for granted and didn't really appreciate the true meaning behind it. You have gathered all life tools together in one week and you have put life together for us.

Thank you Jesus for sending you to us.

I must say the time spent here at Bosco was the best experience so far in my life whether it be educational and fun as well, I've really been taught a lot.

I think that I was sent to this camp by God for a special reason. Thank you to all the leaders for making this a cool and fun experience.

Keep up the good work in teaching teens how precious life is. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

The program was wonderful. It mainly affected my spiritual life by just seeing how devoted you guys are. I would love to volunteer here at Bosco.

Keep up the good work and changing peoples lives. You made a difference in my life.

Thanks for helping us make the right decisions for your future to be what God wanted it to be. May God bless u all and, hope you be the same for other children. LOVE YOU ALL.

This week was amazing. I haven't had this much information whilst having fun. It definitely brought us together. WE LOVE BOSCO!! Love Matters. Hope to come back in the future as a volunteer.

I'd like to thank the whole Bosco team for this wonderful, educative and memorable camp and for teaching me some other things that I didn't know

I had the best time of my life.

I really enjoyed this week and thank all the people that allowed us to come, it was a really wonderful experience.

It will help me to make right choices all the time.

I will abstain and make the right choices.

To wait for Mr Right not to do sex before time because things may go wrong.

From the Rector's keyboard:

Dear Gentle Reader,

October 2007 has been a month of contrasts. Lucky Dube is shot dead, making his life and death a rallying point focusing on the cancer of crime slowly killing civil society. Then in stark contrast the rapture experienced by many South Africans with the rugby world cup being brought back home from France by the victorious Bokke.

We certainly are a land of contrasts...peoples, scenery, and traditions are but a few of the worthy spectrums for contrasts to be explored and to take delight in. However, in the shadows there lurks other conundrums and contradictions which spoil the face of what is good in our society.

Life is so precious, and yet life is so cheap. We each share in the one life of the universe which God created...and brought us to life, yet we will spend millions, if not billions of Rands on weapons of destruction instead of building schools and paying teachers decent salaries. Small elite groups of people are getting whopping big salaries while the majority do not have adequate. The government is spending millions on condoms to prevent AIDS while at the same time having to recall batches of them because they are defective...and the numbers of HIV positive people keeps climbing.

Instead of spending so much on protection ...guns, fighter planes, battleships, electric fences, high walls, security guards, ... to make us "safe", something has to be done about the behavioural virus within...attitudes which have no qualms about buying stolen goods, selling – buying pirated DVDs,

harbouring known felons, hiding weapons, cheating and lying for self enrichment, to name but a few.

In a similar fashion latex does not protect or keep one safe from the psychological and behavioural virus within our spirit. The soul or spirit of each one manifests itself in LIFE, and openness to the values of life brought very much to our attention in the Gospels. When these values are compromised by selfishness, self-centredness, greed and hedonism the destructive behaviours eventually give rise to a society at war with itself.

To lighten up this topic a bit...it is good to laugh at ourselves too...I finish by attaching one of those emails that does the rounds ...You know you are proudly South African when:

- o You call a traffic light a 'robot'.
- o The employees dance in front of the building to show how unhappy they are!
- o The SABC advertises and shows highlights of the program you just finished watching.
- o You get cold easily. Anything below 16 degrees Celsius is Arctic weather
- o You know what Rooibos Tea is, even if you've never had any
- o You can sing the national anthem in four languages yet have no idea what it means in any of them
- o You know that there's nothing to do in the Free State
- o You produce a R100 note instead of your driver's licence when stopped by a traffic officer
- o You can do your monthly shopping on the pavement
- o You have to hire a security guard whenever you park your car
- o To get free electricity you have to pay a connection fee of R750
- o You can pay your tuition fees by holding up a sign at a traffic light
- o The petrol in your tank may be worth more than your car
- o More people vote in a local reality TV show than in a local election
- o People have the most wonderful names: Christmas, Goodwill, Pretty, Wednesday, Blessing, Brilliant, Gift, Precious, Innocence and Given
- o 'Now now' can mean anything from a minute to a month
- o You continue to wait after a traffic light has turned to green to make way for taxis travelling in the opposite direction
- o Travelling at 120 km/h you're the slowest vehicle on the highway
- o You're genuinely and pleasantly surprised whenever you find your car parked where you left it
- o A bullet train is being introduced, but we can't fix potholes
- o The last time you visited the coast you paid more in speeding fines and toll fees than you did for the entire holiday
- o You paint your car's registration on the roof
- o You have to take your own linen with you if you are admitted to a government hospital
- o You have to prove that you don't need a loan to get one
- o Prisoners go on strike
- o You don't stop at a red traffic light, in case somebody hijacks your car
- o You consider it a good month if you only get mugged once
- o Rwandan refugees start leaving RSA because the crime rate is too high

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Past Pupil Notes:

Yuri Gill (82 -86) dropped in on the 11th Oct. He is living in Honeydew. Brothers Leslie and Mike Cozens visited during the retreat for St John's Florida. Great to see them looking so well and prosperous! Clinton Parvus visited on the 28th Oct with his fiancé, Gretchen.

News Snippets from the Community

1. 63 of the Spanish Martyrs canonised on the 28th October were Salesians...hip-hip-hooray
2. Bl Michael Rua's feastday was on the 29th so our community had reason to celebrate, being the feastday of the Southern African Salesian Province, but also the feastday of Michael Rua School. The community went to have a good feed at the Boma in Alberton together with the Johannesburg community on the vigil of the feast. Michael Rua had its own celebrations on the Friday with an array of entertaining items, speeches, and a big feed for all 900 children and guests.
3. Fr Stan Jagodzinski attended the Silver Jubilee celebrations in Lilongwe, Malawi, as one of the founders of that parish. The Rector Major also visited for the occasion.
4. The Salesian Sisters held their Chapter (viz: a big meeting of representatives from all their communities in South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia) for a week from the 21st Oct. down at Clonlea.
5. October month we have been focusing on the spreading of the Kingdom of God, that it may be leaven in our society...and among all peoples. We celebrated Mission Sunday to highlight each one's call to implant Gospel values wherever we are.

LIFE ISSUES

Abortion on the rise: Health Minister

The number of women under the age of 18 undergoing abortions at state medical facilities increased from 4 423 in 2001 to 9 895 last year, according to Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang.

During the same period, the number of women over 18 having abortions grew from 32 679 to 71 856, she said in written reply to a parliamentary question by Eddie Trent of the Democratic Alliance.

Only the consent of the pregnant woman was required for an abortion, but in the case of a minor, the health care provider advised the minor to consult with parents, relatives, or friends. However, abortions could not be denied if the minor chose not to consult. – Sapa, Sept 19 2007

Abortion "opposite of human rights" – Pope Benedict

Pope Benedict XVI slammed abortion as the "very opposite" of human rights on Friday, in an address at the start of a three-day visit to Austria.

"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end," the pontiff said at the meeting in the Hofburg, the seat of the Austrian presidency.

"Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right - it is the very opposite," he added, speaking in German.

Other Life / Fertility Snippets

An American medical journal has published a study, entitled *The Breast Cancer Epidemic*, which shows that abortion is the best predictor of breast cancer. In his study, Mr Patrick Carroll of the Pension and Population Research Institute in London, UK, demonstrated a correlation between abortion rates and incidence of breast cancer in several countries. He also noted greater incidence of breast cancer (but not other cancers) among upper-class and upwardly mobile women in four countries, and suggested that this was because of the prevalence of abortion among these women who often delay child-bearing while pursuing higher education and professional careers. [[LifeSite, 3 October](#)]

Scientists at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts, have developed an anaesthetic that blocks pain without impairing movement, touch, or mental awareness. It is likely to be a useful alternative to epidurals during child-birth, allowing mothers to be more responsive to their bodies and aware of the experience. The new drug contains a chemical obtained from chilli peppers. Trials on rats have been successful. [[Times, 4 October](#)]

Guidance to be published in Britain in March says that a daily glass of wine, or its equivalent, during pregnancy will not harm the baby. The advice from the National Institute of Clinical Excellence concludes that there is no consistent evidence of adverse effects from low to moderate alcohol consumption. A spokesman for the Royal College of

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists confirmed this conclusion, but agreed with the government's recommendation of total abstinence from alcohol during pregnancy. [[Telegraph, 11 October](#)]

The Population Research Institute has questioned figures cited by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, which calls itself the research arm of Planned Parenthood. Mr Stephen Mosher, institute president, claims that it is impossible to know how many abortions are performed worldwide each year because only countries with socialised healthcare keep reliable statistics. Mr Mosher was told by the vice minister for health of Colombia that, since the legalization of abortion in that country in May last year, government clinics had performed about 50 abortions, whereas it had been claimed that 450,000 illegal abortions had been taking place each year. Mr Mosher suggests that abortion figures for the developing world "are simply bogus" and are used in an attempt to show that legalising abortions saves lives. [[LifeSite, 11 October](#)]

A campaign providing contraceptives to teenagers has failed to curb the rate of teenage pregnancies in Lothian, which has the highest number of teenage pregnancies in Scotland. Figures show that teenage pregnancies were highest in most deprived areas. The Conservative health spokesperson said that the current policy was not working, and suggested that the girls might be choosing to become pregnant. A spokesman for the Catholic Church called for a change of direction in tackling the problem. [[Evening News, 11 October](#)]

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC:

How free are 'free air miles'? How free are those 'free air miles' that frequent flyers are promised? Research shows you must spend R215 000 over the next six years to get one free flight between Joburg and Cape Town — something the credit card firms don't tell you...

You may wonder, as I did...what research...? But then what about the following...true or false?

Can you guess which of the following are true and which are false? Answers are below.

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a belly button.
3. A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
4. People do not get sick from cold weather; it's from being indoors a lot more.
5. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart!
6. Only 7 per cent of the population are lefties.
7. Forty people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.
8. Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until they are 2-6 years old.
9. The average person over 50 will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.
10. The toothbrush was invented in 1498.
11. The average housefly lives for one month.
12. 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
13. A coat hanger is 44 inches long when straightened.
14. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute.
15. Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than any other time of day.
16. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
17. The REAL reason ostriches stick their head in the sand is to search for water.
18. The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot.
19. John Travolta turned down the starring roles in "An Officer and a Gentleman" and "Tootsie."
20. Michael Jackson owns the rights to the South Carolina State Anthem.
21. In most television commercials advertising milk, a mixture of white paint and a little thinner is used in place of the milk.
22. Prince Charles and Prince William never travel on the same plane, just in case there is a crash.
23. The first Harley Davidson motorcycle built in 1903 used a tomato can for a carburettor.
24. Most hospitals make money by selling the umbilical cords cut from women who give birth. They are used in vein transplant surgery.
25. Humphrey Bogart was related to Princess Diana. They were 7th cousins.
26. If colouring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.

Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Remember when the funniest jokes were the clean ones? They still are! "A cheerful heart is good medicine" (Prov. 17:22)

Companies reserve to themselves certain slogans many of which can collectively be quite applicable to trying to describe the mystery of God...in a fun way. The original email had all the trademarks too. If you can guess them all you are watching too much TV...and not enough time with God!

God is like – 1? - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow.

God is like – 2? -He likes to keep you moving.

God is like – 3?- cereal -The way to start your day.

God is like – 4? - First with the goodies

God is like – 5? - He's the real thing

God is like – 6? -You can rely on Him

God is like – 7? - A promise He makes is a promise He keeps

God is like -8? - He kills germs dead

God is like – 9? - He lights up your way

God is like – 10? - He puts you first

God is like – 11? -available world wide

God is like – 12? - He is all in one

God is like – 13? - It's marvellous what God can do

God is like – 14? - He will not stop the magic

God is like – 15? - Your future in good hands

God is like – 16? - He pumps up your performance

God is like – 17? - He offers 24 hour protection

God is like – 18? - You are always in touch

God is like – 19? - Obey him

God is like – 20? - Everything keeps going right

God is like – 21? - He-forgets-you-not

God is like – 22? - You can't see Him, but you know He's there for you.

God is like – 23? - Your better connection

God is like – 24? - hair Spray -He holds together in all kinds of weather.

God is like – 25? - He was there, from the day you were born.

God is like – 26? - **So go ahead and make that call.**

**Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting.**

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

True or False: They are all TRUE ... Now go back and think about #16!!!

God is Like: 1. Absa; 2 BP; 3. Nestle; 4. CNA; 5. Coca Cola; 6. Defy; 7. Dion; 8. Domestos; 9. Eskom; 10. FNB;
11. MasterCard; 12. DSTV; 13. Milo; 14. MNet; 15. Sanlam; 16. Sasol; 17. Shield; 18. vodacom; 19. Sprite; 20. Toyota;
21. Twinsaver; 22. Scotch Tape; 23. MTN; 24. VO5; 25. Johnson & Johnson; 26. Telkom.