



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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*"When you're down to nothing, God is up to something."*

**Some of the Groups through during January :**

**LoveMatters:** LoveMatters start again in February.

**Retreats:** Assumption Convent Grade 11 (50); Assumption Convent Grade 10 (50); Marian College = Grade 4 (85); Grade 5 (85); Grade 6 (85); Grade 7 (85).

**Own programmes:** Vaal University (50); Smart Kids (26); Marian College Grade 8 (130);

**Leadership Programme:** Dominican Convent (20)

**From the Rector's keyboard:**

31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

Gentle Reader,

Today is the feast of our Patron, St John Bosco. Happy feastday to all those who have a special place for Don Bosco in their lives.

Well, December month closed with a flourish around the 15<sup>th</sup> and we bade farewell to the team of volunteers who had done us so proud during 2007. Paul Jackson continues to work as a volunteer for the Salesians, but this time quite a bit further away from his home town in Vereeniging. He has gone to join the Salesians in Sudan as a volunteer. Keep him and his work in your prayers.

We have another group of volunteers who have already started to get into the spirit of things here at Bosco. Elias, Martha, Henrik, Refiloe and Moleboheng started on the 7<sup>th</sup> January with an orientation course and by the following week were in the thick of things with retreat groups.

Back to our feastday, today! If we are going to use Don Bosco as our role model, then it is only right that we should get to know him pretty well. There are many books and a modern, made for TV, film on his life. What is remarkable, that even as a youngster he was influenced by a deep faith to make God's love and presence a daily reality in his life, and to open this reality to those around him.

He started his priestly ministry by inviting a youngster, called Matthew, to catechism lessons, and to bring some companions with him. You would think that would be an immediate switch off for any youngster. But Don Bosco had a way, which became known as the preventive system, to attract street wise and needy youngsters into his confidence.

In the case of Matthew he prevented the sacristan from putting the boy out into the cold...he called him his friend. He found out a little bit about him. Asked him if he could assist at Mass...the boy said, "No, he could not". As if that didn't matter Don Bosco asked him immediately if he could whistle. Then he showed him how to make the sign of the cross. An achievement for Matthew!

What happened here is the kernel to Don Bosco's approach. One that was quite different from the aloof priests of the time who would not be seen in the company of street urchins. So what was it? Something we can try to imitate - Firstly, make friends and be friends, earning respect and being respectful of the other. Secondly, draw on the good experiences and strengths of the youth; make it fun to engage in growth and grace. Thirdly link this experience, this sharing and friendship to a faith experience, which underscores the love of God.

Don Bosco broke away for the punitive methods in vogue at the time...the overbearing authority and repressive discipline. Don Bosco said "...make yourself loved rather than feared".

Which ever walk of life this is something we can take to heart.

*Blessings and peace*

*Fr Robert*

Fr Robert Gore SDB

#### Past Pupil Notes:

Mark Veale from the 70's called in to see how things were working at the Alma Mater after 30 and more years.

#### News Snippets from the Community

1. Bro Vincent Thai Quang Hoang has moved from Bosco to Booyens from where he is attending the Wits Language School for a semester.
2. Fr Alberto Villalba returned to Bosco to celebrate Mass for us 13<sup>th</sup> January. He is now stationed at Salesian Institute in Cape Town.

### **LIFE ISSUES**

The Pope has warned of the seductive powers of science. Benedict XVI told a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Science and the French science academy: "Human beings always stand beyond what can be scientifically seen or perceived. To overlook the question of man's 'being' inevitably leads to refusing the possibility of research into the objective truth of being ... and, effectively, to an incapacity to recognise the foundation upon which human dignity rests, from the embryo until natural death." [[Reuters Africa, 28 January](#), and [Vatican on EWTN, 28 January](#)]

British parliamentarians have been told that unborn children can feel severe pain at 20 weeks' gestation. Professor Sunny Anand of Arkansas university made a presentation to MPs on Monday and called for a reduction in the time-limit on abortion. [[Daily Mail, 28 January](#)]

Under a government scheme in Scotland, pregnant women as well as pre-school age children, are to be give free fruit. The initiative is part of a drive to reduce obesity. [[BBC, 24 January](#)]

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

**A quiet conscience sleeps in thunder.** -English proverb

**The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it; but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.** -Madame De Stael, writer (1766-1817)

**Happiness in intelligent people is the rarest thing I know.** -Ernest Hemingway, author and journalist, Nobel laureate (1899-1961)

**Lower your voice and strengthen your argument.** -Lebanese proverb

**Several excuses are always less convincing than one.** -Aldous Huxley, novelist (1894-1963)

## **Job Interview Answers for Tough Questions...**

Question : Why did you leave your last job?

Real answer : It sucked.

Suggestion : I felt my talents and abilities were underutilized.

Question : What are your biggest weaknesses?

Real answer : I can't concentrate for more than five minutes, hate all forms of authority, and tend to fall asleep at my desk.

Suggestion : I'm a workaholic. I just don't know when to put down my work.

Question : You seem to have moved around a lot in a short amount of time. Why should we think you'll stay here any longer than you've stayed elsewhere?

Real answer : My employers have always had a hang-up about keeping only non-competent employees.

Suggestion : I'm at a point in my career where I am tired of moving around. I really want to feel part of a team, a long-term enterprise, where I can make a contribution.

Question : How do you handle change?

Real answer : I deal with it everyday unless I'm out of clean underwear.

Suggestion : I think everyone knows that today the only constant is change. I thrive on it.

Question : : How do you get along with others?

Real answer : I love people, as long as they stay out of my face.

Suggestion : I think the interpersonal dynamics of the work place can be among the most satisfying aspects of any job.

Question : What does the word success mean to you?

Real answer : It means that I don't have to drag my sorry butt out of bed to kiss yours.

Suggestion : Success, for me, would be knowing I am making a difference working with a team of people to make a more profitable enterprise.

Question : What does the word failure mean to you?

Real answer : It means I continue to collect unemployment insurance, with the hope of a 6 month extension.

Suggestion : Failure? I'm sorry, I don't know what you mean. That word is not in my vocabulary.

Question: Do you get along with your current boss?

Real answer: I get along fine considering what kind of a malicious jerk he is.

Suggestion : I don't think I'd call him a boss; he's been more of a mentor to me.

Question : Do you ever get angry with co-workers?

Real answer : I don't get angry. I get even.

Suggestion : Nothing angers me more than to see a co-worker not pulling his weight, goofing off, or stealing. Yes, sometimes I do get angry with co-workers.

Question: Can I contact your references?

Real answer : Sure, but they wont know who I am.

Suggestion : Maybe I can arrange to have them contact you.

Question: What words best describe you?

Real Answer: Genius, Clock-watcher, Unorganized, Lazy

Suggestion: Compassionate, Creative, Team player, Organized, Efficient

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**Don't say you don't have enough time.** You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein. -H. Jackson Brown, Jr., writer