



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days." Mark 1:12

Fasting is more effective than charity, for the latter is done with money, but the former can be done only by one's own person. (Talmud)

Some of the Groups through during January :

LoveMatters: Veritas College (50); Loreto Convent (70); M.Rua School (74)

Retreats: Marian College Gr 12; 11; 10; 9; 8; Holy Family (20); St Catherines Gr 8,9 (65); St Catherines Gr 10,11, 12 (50); Holy Family Parish.

Own programmes: Vaal Christian School(25) Adonia Fellowship Centre(70); Assembly's of God College (40); French School (57); Regents Park Primary (13) Dept of Social Welfare (55).

Leadership Programme: African Methodist Church.

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st March 2008

Gentle Reader,

The news that sells papers has to be when schools and universities fail in the education of our future honest, upright, moral, and dare I say – God fearing citizens! Solution: introduce the PLEDGE. It has been proposed that all school children have a pledge to recite dutifully at assembly before class. Now that prayers are being pushed out in some quarters, I suppose something else must be found to focus young minds on higher objectives at the beginning of the day. In the minds of the powers that be, no hymn singing or prayer or raising of the mind to greater powers can substitute a pledge to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

More than schools and universities it is the parents of the children who need to model and live the values and beliefs that their children need to understand their contribution, place and significance during the time given to them in this life. So, I believe the human spirit should soar higher than the limitations of the Constitution. It is also not only the youth who need to be made aware of their potential for good in the land of their birth, but a vast movement that heals and corrects those obvious areas of pain and poverty.

Bro John Kirby SDB promoted the Pioneer Pledge when I was at school. It had to do with abstinence! No, not from sex before marriage (that was a given then!), but from alcohol! We could always sneak a sly slurp of altar wine, or find a lonely bottle of beer to binge on. However, even as youngsters we could relate to the damage caused by alcohol in family life.

If I intend to pledge allegiance to something, then I need to know that it is noble and wholesome in its motivation. The Constitution of our country of birth may be lauded as one of the outstanding constitutions in the free world, but there are laws supported by the Constitution that I am certainly not happy with. The right to life of murderers is protected, but not the lives of those citizens waiting to be born. A girl child as young as 12 years of age can have an abortion without parents even being told, (never mind having a say in the matter), yet that same child may not even buy alcohol or cigarettes!

With this outcome, is it possible to support the recitation of such a pledge with a clear conscience? I think not.

If we are to have a pledge, let it be challenging, life-giving and stimulating: Words that encourage the youth to respect all peoples, their faiths and cultures. Let it promote acceptance of responsibilities as free citizens in the land of their birth.

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Past Pupil Notes:

1. Feb 16, Clinton Parvus married Gretchen during a Nuptial Mass celebrated by his former school principal, Fr Gore. Best man was another past pupil, Lee Pitts.
2. Hugh Lockhart, from the 60's dropped in while on holiday from Scotland.

News Snippets from the Community

1. Our two pre-novices are now engaged almost full time in their classes and studies as they prepare for the Novitiate which will start in Lusaka on the 1st August. Fr John Coleman is their mentor and guide with some help from other community members.
2. Lent has begun and our preparations for the Easter celebration are taking place. The Good Friday morning celebration of the Way of the Cross up Calvary hill will take place as usual.

LIFE ISSUES

The South African government is planning a further relaxation of the country's abortion laws. Under new proposals, 24-hour abortion facilities will be made available, pre-approval procedures are to be scrapped, and all nurses are to be allowed to perform abortions. Critics have said that the South African abortion law - which allows girls as young as 12 to obtain an abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy - is already too lax. The proposals were unanimously passed in parliament's upper house and have been referred to President Thabo Mbeki. [[Reuters, 7 February](#)]

A study published in the *Human Reproduction* journal suggests that teenage boys are more likely to father children with birth problems than are men over 40. Both the Canadian authors and independent British experts recognised that social factors may be involved. [[PA on Channel 4, 7 February](#)]

Better general education would be more effective in cutting teenage pregnancies than more sex education and greater access to contraceptives, according to Professor David Paton of Nottingham University Business School. Commenting on the Labour government's teenage pregnancy strategy, which is well behind target, Professor Paton said that there was strong evidence that schemes to promote birth control for teenagers were counterproductive, and that social deprivation, marriage breakdown and religion had a greater effect on pregnancy rates. [[Daily Mail, 6 February](#)]

IVF clinics that are supplying couples with the Viagra aphrodisiac drug could be harming fertility, experts claim. Research carried out in 2004 showed that the drug made human sperm more active, but damaged them in the process. Dr David Glenn, a gynaecologist, said: "It is worrying that some IVF clinics are using Viagra in order to boost fertility results. Couples who go there for treatment are, by definition, already having problems getting pregnant. Viagra may simply be making these worse." [[Mail on Sunday, 24 February](#)]

In England, a white surrogate mother has given birth to an Asian baby whose parents were suffering from fertility problems. The unidentified woman said: "Colour wasn't an issue for me. It didn't make any difference." Professor Ian Craft, director of the London Fertility Centre, suggested that using surrogate parents of a different race could be beneficial as it prevents the surrogate mother from becoming too attached to the baby. [[Sunday Times, 24 February](#)]

Planned Parenthood has included images of Dr Martin Luther King Jr on its website, in a section celebrating black history month. Ms Alveda King, the civil rights leader's niece, said that, when her uncle accepted an award from Planned Parenthood in 1966, its agenda of death had not become apparent, and that he would not want to be associated with an organisation largely responsible for the deaths of 45 million American babies, one-third of them African-American. [[LifeNews, 25 February](#)]

Mandela's grandson criticises 'un-african', 'immoral' laws

NELSON Mandela's grandson, Mandla Mandela, slammed the Eastern Cape at the weekend, calling it "the most corrupt province in the country" ruled by leaders not committed to development and service delivery. Speaking at the inauguration of Nkosi Dumisani Mgudlwa of AmaJumba tribe at Qhumaco, near Cofimvaba, the young Mandela also took a swipe at the national government, saying it was creating disgusting pieces of laws which are un-African.

Speaking in front of Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Mandela said the government was dragging its feet on service delivery and was not doing enough on the HIV-Aids pandemic. He said that the government was practicing double standards by saying it was supporting the diversity of culture and customs in the country on the one hand, while on the other it was fighting against the norms and standards of societies.

"It is uncalled for that the government legalise abortion on girls young as 12 years old. They must only preach abstinence. We spoke of moral values and moral regeneration ... but the government is passing disgusting laws and rights that are immoral," he said. Mandela also criticised the Same-Sex Union Act, as immoral and un-African.

He urged Mlambo-Ngcuka that government legislation "must be community-driven and not as if they are made from the sky". (*Traditional Affair Reporter, Daily Dispatch, 06/02/2008*)

Marie Stopes Clinics wants exemption from Health Regulations

Marie Stopes abortion clinics have applied to Western Cape Provincial MEC for Health Pierre Uys for exemption from the requirement to comply with the provincial health regulations. They have also instituted court proceedings to exempt themselves from these regulations, but asked the court to delay proceedings pending the outcome of their application for exemption to the MEC.

This is somewhat shocking hypocrisy in view of Marie Stopes daily newspaper advertisements advertising 'safe abortions'. We need to also see this in the context of the statement by Marie Stopes to the Lowvelder Newspaper on 13 August 1999, "It happens almost every day that women start to bleed in our clinics", says Paul Cornelissen, national program director for Marie Stopes abortion clinics"- thus admitting the danger of the procedure.

Please email your objections to:

hvdwest@pgwc.gov.za; Media Liaison Officer: Health Mr. Herman van der Westhuizen

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

A group of graduates, well established in their careers, were talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired.

During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work and lives. Offering his guests hot chocolate, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups -porcelain, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the hot chocolate. When they all had a cup of hot chocolate in hand, the professor said:

"Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup that you're drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the hot chocolate. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was hot chocolate, not the cup; but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each others cups.

Now consider this: Life is the hot chocolate; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The cup you have does not define, nor change the quality of life you have. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the hot chocolate God has provided us.

God makes the hot chocolate, man chooses the cups.

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything that they have.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. And enjoy your hot chocolate!!!

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!" The husband said, "Oh my goodness! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" "Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out."

In America, anybody can be president. That's one of the risks you take.
-Adlai Stevenson, statesman (1900-1965)

If you don't find God in the next person you meet, it is a waste of time looking for him further.
-Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

"If we submit everything to reason, our religion will have nothing in it mysterious or supernatural. If we violate the principles of reason, our religion will be absurd and ridiculous." - Blaise Pascal

Various

1. Two blondes walk into a building.....you'd think at least one of them would have seen it.
 2. Phone answering machine message - "...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key..."
 3. A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only clingfilm for shorts. The shrink says, "Well, I can clearly see you're nuts."
 4. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
 5. I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 quid that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."
 6. My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.
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Some people don't know
how comforting their smile is.
Some people don't know
how good it feels to be near them.
Some people don't know
how much poorer we would be without them.
Some people don't know
that they are like Heaven's gift to us.
They would know if we told them...
Like I'm telling you!
Thanks for being someone special
Have A Beautiful Day!!!