



# THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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**The greatest analgesic, soporific, stimulant, tranquilizer, narcotic, and to some extent even antibiotic -- in short, the closest thing to a genuine panacea -- known to medical science is work.**

Thomas Szasz, author, professor of psychiatry (b. 1920)

## **From the Rector's keyboard:**

30 April 2008

Gentle Reader,

We find ourselves in the doldrums of public holidays. Not only is load shedding slowing us down, we also have compulsory no work days. Bosco Centre is still on the go, though, with a large school LoveMatters group making use of their two day school week with five days of LoveMatters.

Ascension Thursday falls on May 1<sup>st</sup>...Workers Day, so we have a day off work!! Not many people will be linking the two, but there will be those who will give thanks for the opportunity to attend Mass or a church service, not just because they have the time, but to celebrate the confidence that Jesus has in his disciples, so much so, that he delegates them to carry on his work here on earth. He said: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, and baptise them...teach them to observe all the commandments..." That has been, and still is quite a challenge for all of us.

Our holidays (HOLIDAYS) therefore have a dual purpose...to take a break from the work that puts bread on the table, to remind us that we should also be working at the relationships that bring us together at the table. Both are necessary and part of the celebration this 1<sup>st</sup> May...the works of compensation and the works of salvation. Be graced in both.

*Blessings and peace*

*Fr Robert*

Fr Robert Gore SDB

## **Some of the Groups through during April :**

**LoveMatters:** Trinity House & Parishes; Maryvale College (43); McAuley House (57).

**Retreats:** Nardini Convent; Sacred Heart College Grades 8, 9, & 10.; St Patrick's; Our Lady of Loreto; St John Berchmans (200); St Theresa (91) Mayfair Convent (95); St Patrick's Youth Alpha.

**Own programmes:** AIDS Coordinators; Dees Training; Bishop Bavin (53); Emmanuel Ministries.

## A few selected Comments from LoveMatters participants:

1. It was a very wonderful experience and I believe that LoveMatters would grow bigger and it helps us a lot of what we thought was games.

2. It was a great pleasure being here. I enjoyed everything and I have learned so much and hopefully I will share the info with other people.
3. The team leaders were great and thank for educating our mind it was very useful and we could advise our peers and friends.
4. I learnt a lot of things about life. I had a very nice time and will miss it. I also plan on coming later on in the year.
5. This was a great week and thank you Bosco for everything you taught me.
6. This was a cool experience and this must be advertised 2 da world.

#### Past Pupil Notes:

Kevin Greene was killed tragically in a car accident at the long weekend (26/27/28<sup>th</sup> April). He started school at Bosco as a boarder in January 1984, Std 6, and obtained his matric end of 1988. He would have been 38 years of age in September. We extend our condolences to his family. Remember him and family members in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

#### News Snippets from the Community

1. We had a grand birthday party on Fr Ivo's 80<sup>th</sup>. The community went to the Circus Café at the end of the road for lunch. It was a lovely day outside...a clown joined us to sing "happy birthday". The other patrons enjoyed the show as Fr Ivo opened his presents.
2. Earth works have started across the road from us, where the quarry was, in preparation for the building of the Ferrero Packaging Plant. This has been a long time coming as all the permissions, especially the environmental impact study, took many months.
3. Fr Dino Miotto is visiting his family in Italy. Fr Stan Jagodzinski has had his family visiting him here at Bosco. Fr Robert Gore visited his family in Cape Town for the wedding of his niece. Fr Francois Dufour visited the community on his return from Rome.

## **LIFE ISSUES**

SOUTH Africans still think abortion is "wrong" according to a recent Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) survey, despite the procedure being legal for the past 12 years. Bongiwé Mncwango, a senior researcher in the Knowledge Systems unit at the HSRC, and Stephen Rule, director of Outsourced Insight, an independent research consultancy, analysed a set of questions relating to abortion for the past four years, from 2003 to 2006.

The survey questions looked at public attitudes under two different contexts.

These included women opting for abortion if the family had a low income and could not afford any more children, while the other related to a woman opting for abortion if there was a "known chance" that the baby would be born with a serious defect. "Consistently over the four years, nine out of 10 South African adults were of the view that abortion is wrong if the reasons are that a family has a low income and cannot afford any more children.

"A similar sentiment is evident among three-quarters of South Africans, even if there is a strong chance of the baby being born with a defect," states the report. About 2 214 people were surveyed over the four-year period.

Educational levels, religious beliefs and race were also taken into account.

"Several key determinants of attitudes towards abortion emerged, namely level of education, frequency of church attendance and race. Educational level is the strongest predictor of attitude under both circumstances. "Pro-choice sentiments become more prevalent as levels of education increase. So, South Africans with the highest levels of education are least likely to think that abortion is wrong," it said.

Frequent church attendance also played a role over whether a person's attitude toward abortion was that it was "wrong" and vice-versa.

In terms of race, while it was not the strongest predictor of attitudes, black South Africans were far less likely when compared to Indians, coloured or white people to approve of abortion if there was a strong chance that the baby would be born with a defect. [veysha.kassiem@inl.co.za](mailto:veysha.kassiem@inl.co.za) Published on the web by Cape Times on April 9, 2008.

Babies are being born with drug-addiction because their mothers take the substances in pregnancy. In north-west England, 100 children were born with such problems last year. [[Lancashire Evening Post, 9 April](#)]

A mother in Italy, who refused medical treatment for her unborn baby's sake, has died. Ms Paola Breda, 38, declined therapy for breast cancer. Nicola, her daughter, is now 17 months. [\[Catholic World News, 9 April\]](#)

Britain's Abortion Act came into force 40 years ago on Sunday (27 April). The Abortion Rights group has praised the law as an advance for women. [\[Reuters, 25 April\]](#) Women who have had abortions will be among the speakers in Parliament Square, London, tomorrow as part of the Silent No More campaign. As well as saying why they regret their abortions, they will talk about the opportunities for post-abortion healing. [\[Woman Alive, 25 April\]](#) The British government has no plans to change abortion law, according to the prime minister's office. [\[Downing Street Says, 24 April\]](#) The past four decades has seen a fall in the number of adoptions of babies in Scotland. While nearly 1,300 babies were adopted in 1967, just 16 were in 2006. Mr Jackson Carlaw MSP, Conservative health spokesman, wants a debate on the possible link between abortion and adoption. [\[Scotsman, 25 April\]](#)

India is to increase penalties for doctors who perform abortion for reasons of gender. Our source suggests the policy has so far failed, with an estimated 10 million girls aborted over 20 years. New penalties would include permanent exclusion from medical practice and up to three years in prison. [\[Guardian, 24 April\]](#)

Women who start having sex young are more likely to have crisis-pregnancy. The Irish Study of Sexual Health and Relationships found that girls who lost their virginity in their early teens were 70% more likely to have such problems in adulthood, and three times more likely to have an abortion. The Crisis Pregnancy Agency, which commissioned the study, says it will promote delaying initial intercourse. [\[Evening Echo, 10 April\]](#)

(from SPUC Newsletter. - Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.)

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

### 20 Ways to tell that you have GROWN UP

1. Your houseplants are alive, and you can't smoke any of them.
2. You keep more food than bear in the fridge.
3. 6.00am is when you get up, not when you go to bed.
4. You hear your favourite song in the elevator.
5. You watch the weather channel with interest.
6. Your friends marry and divorce, instead of "hookup" and "breakup".
7. You go from 130 days of holiday time to 21.
8. Jeans and a T-shirt no longer qualifies as "dressed up".
9. You are the one calling the police because the kids next door won't turn down the noise.
10. Older relatives feel comfortable telling blue jokes around you.
11. Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.
12. You feed your dog a diet rather than left overs.
13. Sleeping on the couch makes your back hurt for days.
14. You take naps in odd places.
15. Eating chicken wings at 3am would severely upset, rather than settle your stomach.
16. A R60 bag of wine is no longer pretty good "plonk"
17. You actually eat breakfast food at breakfast time
18. 90% of your time in front of a computer is for real work
19. You drink at home to save money before going to a bar.
20. When you find out that your friend is pregnant you congratulate her instead of asking: "what the hell happened?"

**It's better to be in love with your work than in love with your self.**

BC Forbes, *Epigrams*.

### 1500 and the idiomatic heritage

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. I've read these before but enjoyed reading them again...maybe you will too! Here are some facts about the 1500s:

These are interesting...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. **Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.**

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

**Hence the saying: Don't throw the baby out with the bath water..**

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. **Hence the saying: It's raining cats and dogs.**

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. **Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.** That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. **Hence the saying, Dirt poor.** The **wealthy had slate floors** That would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside.

A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. **Hence the saying a ...thresh hold..**

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. **Hence the rhyme, Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old..**

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon.. **They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat..**

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, **so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.**

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. **Hence the custom of holding a wake.**

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and re-use the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and **they realized they had been burying people alive.** So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to **sit out in the graveyard all night** (the "graveyard shift") **to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be saved by the bell, or was considered a ..Dead ringer..**

Now, whoever said History was boring! !

**I do most of my work sitting down; that's where I shine.** Robert Benchley