



# THE BOSCO-Link

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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## From the Rector's keyboard:

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008

Gentle Reader,

Thank goodness May is over!! It has been a challenging time, and it will continue for a while yet. Xenophobia is on everyone's lips and for many it has meant death and destitution. As I sit at the community table here at Bosco with my fellow Salesians...my brothers are from various parts of the world and different parts of Africa...Congo, Lesotho, Canada, Poland, England, Italy and then "little ol' me", from Cape Town! Our communities have grown more and more international over the last few years. Partly due to the lack of local vocations! However, this microcosm of society shows just how our world is changing and changing fast...so fast that there are times that we can be caught unawares.

Jesus teaches us to be alert to what is going on around us and to respond in a caring and compassionate way. If each of us, and enough of us, give witness in practical terms to the Gospel values in our lives - that we are awake and prepared for "the thief in the night" (Matt 24: 43) - then we will see what miracles are.

*Blessings and peace*

*Fr Robert*

Fr Robert Gore SDB

## Some of the Groups through during May:

**LoveMatters:** Assumption Convent Gr 9 (50); Assumpta Convent (50); St Matthews (90);

**Retreats:** St Theresa Alberton (28); St Patricks, Benoni - groups of 60, 30, 30, 20. St John Berchman's (70);

**Own programmes:** Church of Jesus Christ; Holy Trinity; Holy Family College (90).

## A few selected Comments from LoveMatters participants:

Bosco has been fantastic even if we had our ups and downs and I would like to say that it is a life changing experience for most of us. Thank you to all the people who were with us and taught us a lot about what we didn't know in life.

You've all taught us all something and given us something to think about before we try anything. Abstinence is key. Thanks again.

Bosco rocks. I'd like to volunteer to work with you guys. Everything was great the activities, exercises etc. Thanx, you rock!

### Past Pupil Notes:

Kevin Green who died tragically on the 24<sup>th</sup> April was buried on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May from St John Bosco Catholic Church in Robertsham. The Church was packed giving testimony to his popularity and giving support to his mother and brother at this time of grief and loss. Lance Boxall from his class was present, as were his teachers Fr Gore and Fr Dufour.

10 May I met with the two Luizinho brothers, Frank and Vincent at the Girls and Boys Town 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash. Frank was at Bosco from Jan 1975 until Matric at the end of 1979. His brother Vincent was here from Jan 1978 starting in Std 6 and left at the same time as his older boet. They also had a younger brother who also attended Bosco, Jose. Jose has since passed on to his heavenly reward. I was at Bosco for the last six months of 1978, during 1979 I had to do my military service, so I did not get to know the brothers too well. But it was flattering to be remembered by them, with my grey hairs and all! RJG.

Sandy Bell phoned 20<sup>th</sup> May wanting to trace an old friend from the 60s at Bosco, Brian Imrie. Both stayed in Walkerville once upon a time. Anyone with any ideas? Brian's son, Bernard also attended the school in the late 70's.

### News Snippets from the Community

1. The earthwork across the road from us preparing for the Ferrero Facility is now looking more like a building site. A new way up to the Glorious Cross has be found which does not cross the now almost fenced off area.
2. Fr Ivo Pisacane is presently in Hanover Park, Cape Town, helping out there.
3. Bro Victor Kyanga, one of our students from Utume, Nairobi has joined our community for the long holidays. Bro Victor is from the Congo and joined our Province a couple of years ago. We are very happy to have him with us.
4. Bro Leluma Posholi is also joining this community, having finished his couple of years study in Nairobi. We welcome him back to Bosco with open arms. He will be stepping into the gap left by Bro Sean McEwen.
5. Bro Sean has finished his two years of practical training and leaves us for his home leave on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. He will, however, join us again for a few weeks in August and September before he leaves for his further priestly studies in Jerusalem.

### LIFE ISSUES

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

The Pope has lamented 30 years of legal abortion in Italy, saying it has devalued human life. Abortion did not solve women's or families' problems. [[Union-Tribune, 12 May](#)] Benedict XVI praised and encouraged the Italian Movement for Life, saying that they had saved lives and should not fear. [[LifeSiteNews, 12 May](#)]

A Brazilian legislator has suggested that women should get state help with giving birth and have their babies adopted without disclosing their identities. Mr Eduardo Valverde hopes the measure would reduce abortion and abandonment of children. Anonymity would be accompanied by exemption from responsibility for the child. [[Catholic News Agency, 12 May](#)]

The number of abortions in Scotland was the highest ever last year with more than 13,700 performed, nearly four percent more than in 2006. A quarter of abortions were repeats and terminations on under-16s rose. The Catholic church said the news was disheartening and the numbers "beyond the imagination". It blamed value-free sex education. [[Daily Express, 28 May](#)] Ian Murray of SPUC Scotland said: "Either our sexual health policies don't teach women anything about their fertility, or [human] life in Scotland has been reduced to a commodity that can be disposed [of] to suit the convenience of others. The reality is these statistics refer to human lives - both the babies lost and the women whose lives will be scarred by their decision forever." [[Scotsman, 28 May](#)]

Russia is to give awards to large families, recalling Soviet practices. The state says all women should have at least three children. Former President Vladimir Putin has said under-population was the country's biggest crisis; the population could halve by 2050. [[Sunday Telegraph, 25 May](#)]

An unborn child diagnosed *in utero* with brain malformation was born at 23 weeks and has been found not to have the condition. Ms Leeann Phelan of London refused the abortion which doctors offered her after they had suspected that Jayden, her son, had Dandy-Walker syndrome. Ms Phelan said: "They said I could always have more kids, but I said 'So what if I can have more? I'm not going to get rid of this one.'" [[Mail on Sunday, 25 May](#)]

### **Contraception: Pharmacists concerned**

The SA Pharmacy Council (SAPC) was concerned about the rate of teenage girls purchasing contraceptives, it said recently." The SAPC noted with concern... that pharmacists are concerned about the rate in which teenage girls, some as young as 13 buy the "morning after" pill," said the Council in a statement.

This followed a report published last week that pharmacists in the Pretoria area were concerned about teenagers using the pill as a form of contraception. It said that while commending pharmacists for recognising the problem, pharmacists should also play a leading role in educating teenagers and the public about the medication.

"However pharmacists are reminded that according to the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965, no medicines may be dispensed to minors younger than 14 years unless they present a prescription issued by an authorised prescriber."

It said if a child younger than 14-years-old requested the pill, she should be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. It called for all pharmacists to adhere to procedures published by the Pharmacy Council when dispensing the pill.

"Emergency contraceptives are meant solely for emergency use and are not as effective as other birth control methods for ongoing contraception. – Sapa

### **Only Abstinence Education Offers 100 Percent Guarantee for Safe Sex**

Nearly half of all pregnancies as well as 1 million teen pregnancies (95%) are unintended (CDC), and there are approximately 40,000 new HIV infections per year. An estimated 1.3 million babies die every year through abortion, and 84% of all US abortions are performed on unmarried women (US Dept of Commerce; GPO/1998). Teens who have babies out of wedlock are more likely to end up at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. All of these numbers have huge economic implications for the country.

But society has found something that works 100% of the time. They found something on which you can completely depend -- much better than condoms which may work part of the time. And that's if you use them right.

The answer is easy, even though many don't want to hear it -- "abstinence until marriage". It breaks the unwritten rule of sex on demand. It clearly illuminates the slavery to our desires so many of us face. And it emblazons the oft repeated saying, "Why buy the cow, if the milk is free?"

See the full article at LifeNews.com: <http://www.lifenews.com/nat3919.html>

An abortion takes place somewhere in Europe every 27 seconds according to a report to the EU parliament by the Institute for Family Policy, of Spain. Lower birth rates and increasing abortion rates were causing a demographic crisis. [[Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, 15 May](#)]

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

### **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE INCREASING PETROL PRICE**

Do you think petrol is expensive? Going up again by 50c on Wednesday this week!!

Diet Coke	100ml @ R2.80	=	R28.00 per litre
Lipton Ice Tea	200ml @ R3.50	=	R17.50 per litre
Amstel	750ml @ R9.50	=	R12.60 per litre
Energade	250ml @ R3.00	=	R12.00 per litre
Brake Fluid	100ml @ R6.00	=	R60.00 per litre
Vick's Nasal Spray	50ml @ R9.00	=	R180.00 per litre
Hugo Boss Spray	50ml @ R225.00	=	R4500.00 per litre

And this is the unbelievable....

Evian water 500ml @ R15.00 =R30.00! R30.00 for 1 litre of WATER!

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on Water, Coke, or Vicks Nasal Spray!!!  
Just a little humour to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump...which is soon!  
And if you don't pass this on to at least one person, your exhaust will fall off!

### **Subject: The Evolution of British Mathematics teaching**

I used to teach math in the 70's and 80's ... so I am happy to report on the progress of math teaching in England. It may be the same here, but then...I would have to find out. RJG

#### **1. Teaching Mathematics In 1970**

A logger sells a truckload of timber for £100. His cost of production is  $\frac{4}{5}$  of the price. What is his profit?

#### **2. Teaching Mathematics In 1980**

A logger sells a truckload of timber for £100. His cost of production is  $\frac{4}{5}$  of the price, or £80. What is his profit?

#### **3. Teaching Mathematics In 1990**

A logger sells a truckload of timber for £100. His cost of production is £80. Did he make a profit?

#### **4. Teaching Mathematics In 2000**

A logger sells a truckload of timber for £100. His cost of production is £80 and his profit is £20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

#### **5. Teaching Mathematics In 2008**

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodlands. He does this so he can make a profit of £20.

What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers...)

#### The ten best email "out of office" replies.

1. I am currently out of the office at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position.
2. You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.
3. Sorry to have missed you, but I'm at the doctor's having my brain and heart removed so I can be promoted to our management team.
4. I will be unable to delete all the emails you send me until I return from vacation. Please be patient, and your mail will be deleted in the order it was received.
5. Thank you for your email. Your credit card has been charged \$5.99 for the first 10 words and \$1.99 for each additional word in your message.
6. The email server is unable to verify your server connection. Your message has not been delivered. Please restart your computer and try sending again. (The beauty of this is that when you return, you can see who did this over and over and over....)
7. Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.
8. Hi, I'm thinking about what you've just sent me. Please wait by your PC for my response.
9. I've run away to join a different circus.  
*And last but not least, my personal favourite:*
10. No.

<b>Every morning is the dawn of a new error.</b>
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### **THE BOTTLE OF WINE**

*For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married,*

*or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:*

*Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.*

*As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.*

*With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What in bag?" asked the old woman.*

*Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."*

*The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two.*

*Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said:*

*"Good trade....."*

I know one or two people who will be turning 50 shortly... something to look forward to???

Q How can you increase the heart rate of your 50+ year old husband?

A: Tell him you're pregnant.

Q: How can you avoid spotting a wrinkle every time you walk by a mirror?

A: The next time you're in front of a mirror, take off your glasses.

Q: Why should 50+ year old people use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they park your car.

Q: Is it common for 50+ year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem, retrieving it is a problem.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Where do 50+ year olds look for fashionable glasses?

A: Their foreheads.

Q: What is the most common remark made by 50+ year olds when they enter antique stores?

A: "I remember these".

Do not be too quick to assume your enemy is a savage just because he is your enemy. Perhaps

he is your enemy because he thinks you are a savage. Or perhaps he is afraid of you because he feels that you are afraid of him.

And perhaps if he believed you are capable of loving him he would no longer be your enemy.

Thomas Merton, writer (1915-1968)