



# THE Bosco-Link

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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We boil at different degrees.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)

**From the Rector's keyboard:**

1st July 2008

Gentle Reader,

The forces that contrive to subvert and thwart the best intentions and actions of those setting out to correct the imbalances and bring nutrition, peace and harmony to communities suffering from earthquakes, flooding, violence, turmoil seem insurmountable at times. Africa stands by while Zimbabwe self-implodes! Johannesburg police services start shooting at each ...following on what some political dimwits are advocating...if we cannot get our way we will start shooting and killing.

The culture of death to solve problems is seeping ever deeper into the psyche of the nation. The culture of detachment (lack of concern if it doesn't impact on my comfort zones) floods not only the political arena but also our neighbourhoods and communities.

Anyone nurturing the growth of young people at home, in school, in communities such as church and youth centre has to propose values and virtues of human life and wholeness that have to face a contradictory media onslaught, with high profile politicians and celebrities punting dubious if not downright obnoxious opinions and life styles.

It is easy enough to bring into the light, but how to get it right? An old proverb states, *if each person sweeps their doorstep, the whole street will be clean.* ...I could have got the words wrong... but no doubt you get the message. Even though we (each one of us, that is!) make a small contribution to bring some common sense, balance, respect, concern, or in biblical terms...*love of neighbour, love of God, love of self*...and love is only possible with life ... it will make a difference!

"It is not what is taught, but what is caught" is a very wise observation when it comes to influence young people. Yes, young people are more likely to follow the way their parents and mentors behave than what they are told they should be doing. The retort: "don't do as I do, do as I say" just does not impress...except negatively!

Our present times are challenging, but let us be equal to the challenge if only on our own doorstep.

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

### Some of the Groups through during June :

LoveMatters: St John Berchmans (Grade 7, 60); Nardini Convent (Grade 7, 50)

Retreats: St Teresa, Alberton 28; St Patricks (20); Dominican Convent (25); Dominican Convent (79); Brescia House (Gr 5, 70); Brescia House (Gr 4, 70); Brescia House (Gr 6, 53); Marian College (100)

Own programmes: Mthombolwazi Primary School (20); Irish Visitors (24); Zanempilo Homebase Care (80)

### BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. Our new website should be up and ready very soon. I have been looking at the progress and am impressed.
2. Mr Jerry Masitha who has been the stalwart behind the administration at the Centre for a number of years now is moving on to greener fields. We wish him well with his new endeavours.
3. The old principal's and secretary's offices, staff room and standard 10, 9 and 8 classrooms are being transformed into cubicles for accommodation of more senior groups. These should be ready shortly to cope with the spring and summer influx of groups this year.
4. Our LoveMatters Project is registered as a Public Benefit Org. We are now developing this project to be self sustainable with its own staff to run its programmes and office.

### Past Pupil Notes:

1. An email from Sean Furlong who with some other Bosco past pupils is planning to organise a gathering "bring and braai" at Bosco last Saturday in November. Our usual gathering (somewhat neglected during the last few years) has been the last Sunday in November...but maybe this is a better arrangement, so we wait to see how the Saturday arrangements work out.

### News Snippets from the Community

1. Bro Leluma Posholi has joined our community. He has taken over from Bro Sean McEwen running the Youth Ministry Apostolate (LoveMatters, Retreats, Workshops)
2. Fr Martin McCormack is visiting with a group of students and teachers from Ireland. Besides the time spent here at Bosco they are also visiting other Salesian Projects in Swaziland and Lesotho. The group has been fundraising for the projects they visit...so they see where their money goes, but they also have the time to do a bit of sight seeing too and enjoying the wonderful sunshine and hospitality.

### LIFE ISSUES

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

SPUC in Lincolnshire, England, has called for abstinence education in schools after statistics suggested that pregnant teenagers in the county were the most likely in England to have an abortion. Dr Tom Rogers, Lincoln branch chairman, said: "There needs to be a complete change of mind-set. These abortion rates are a tragedy because thousands of innocent human lives have been lost and those who have abortions will have to live with the psychological impact for the rest of their lives." Lincolnshire's total abortions rose by nine percent between 2006 and last year. [[Lincolnshire Echo, 21 June](#)]

An 11-year-old girl in Romania who was allegedly raped by an uncle has been denied an abortion because of the baby's stage of development. The country's law allows abortion before 14 weeks, or if the mother's life is threatened or for foetal disability. Doctors reportedly tried hard to find a reason for a termination. [[AFP on Yahoo!, 20 June](#)] Margaret Cuthill, a highly experienced post-abortion counsellor with [British Victims of Abortion](#), said: "If indeed the young girl has been raped, then performing an abortion on her would be akin to a further assault on her young body. It seems she has not had any say in what has been happening to her at all, and that the adults in her life are making all the decisions for her. In my experience those who have had late abortions in their teenage years are the most psychologically damaged." [[SPUC director's blog, 23 June](#)]

Unborn babies in the Welsh capital have been put on a register of children at risk. In recent years, Cardiff social workers have identified almost 150 children whose parents' lifestyles they considered a threat. Being on the register does not necessarily mean that the child is taken into state care at birth. Parental drug addiction is one reason for registration. [[Wales Online, 23 June](#)]

A patient, presumed dead, revived as transplant-surgeons in Paris began the process of removing his organs. The city's university hospital's ethics committee has reportedly been told that doctors massaged his heart for 90 minutes before surgeons arrived. He began breathing and now can talk and walk. France recently changed its law to allow the harvesting of organs without a declaration of brain-death. [[Telegraph, 10 June](#)]

A man from Liverpool, England, has been jailed for killing an unborn child. Mr David King, aged 31, kicked Ms Hayley Cain who was pregnant with their son, later born dead. Mr King has expressed regret. [[BBC, 11 June](#)]

On the pro-life front we have two news updates. The first, that a crucial battle has been won at the Supreme Court of Appeal on 3 June 08 in the case *Stuart v Botha*. The parents of a child born handicapped wanted the court to force their family doctor to pay them millions of rands for failing to recommend abortion of their child. As crazy as this may seem, the concept of 'wrongful birth' has been accepted by some overseas courts. If it had been accepted in South Africa, it would have put massive pressure on pro-life doctors and nurses to compromise on the issue of abortion. Thank God the court threw out the case with costs. In other words, not only is the case dismissed, but the parents who sued must pay the costs of the doctor who had to defend himself against their abusive legal attack. You can read the court judgement at:

[http://www.legalbrief.co.za/filemgmt\\_data/files/Stewart%20and%20another%20v%20Botha%20and%20another.pdf](http://www.legalbrief.co.za/filemgmt_data/files/Stewart%20and%20another%20v%20Botha%20and%20another.pdf)

The second news update is that the 'Womens Legal Centre' (a pro-abortion, pro-lesbian, pro-feminist legal group), has said that the Western Cape Department of Health has agreed to relax their health standards to allow abortion clinics which violate their standards to continue operating in the Western Cape.

[http://www.sabcnews.com/south\\_africa/health/0,2172,171113,00.html](http://www.sabcnews.com/south_africa/health/0,2172,171113,00.html)

This is amazing hypocrisy considering the main argument used by Marie Stopes abortion clinics and Womens Legal Centre in favour of legal abortion on demand is that it helped protect womens health from unsafe illegal abortions. Now they wish to drop the health standards for legal abortions. So do they still care about womens health and safety? (Remember ChristianView Network called for people to write to Pierre Uys the Western Cape MEC for health on 8 February 2008. Please write to him again and urge him to force the abortion clinics to abide with the law.)

Please email your objections to: [hvdwest@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:hvdwest@pgwc.gov.za); [mcarsten@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:mcarsten@pgwc.gov.za); [khouseha@pgwc.gov.za](mailto:khouseha@pgwc.gov.za)

MEC for Health Mr Pierre Uys Mail: PO Box 2060, CAPE TOWN, 8000 Street: Provincial Administration Building, 21st Floor, 4 Dorp Street, CAPE TOWN Tel: (021) 483 5417 Fax: (021) 483 4143

The following is an extract from ArchBishop Buti's homily requesting involvement and knowledge of *Evangelium Vitae*:  
"It is incumbent upon all Christians and people of goodwill to promote courageously and fearlessly the value of life from conception. It is imperative to promote a culture that appreciates the logical, that life begins at conception, and that the unborn baby is a person with inalienable right to life."

"The purpose of the campaign for life is to enhance the dignity of persons and to strengthen the culture of life. It is also aimed at cultivating compassion towards women who find themselves in difficult circumstances. The God we worship is a God rich in mercy."

"Consistent with the aforementioned facts we make the following recommendations:

- \* that the Archdiocese of Johannesburg set aside a Pro-life Sunday in its calendar, and a month-long programme of activities aimed at promoting respect for the value of life.
- \* that a team of committed persons be put in place to drive a Pro-life campaign
- \* that this team coordinates with other organisations involved in Pro-life activities (Human life International; Doctors for life; Interfaith life movements etc.)
- \* that the Southern African Bishops' Conference be requested to set aside a Pro-life Sunday, and a month-long programme of activities
- \* that parishes appoint a coordinator for Life Issues and that John Paul's Gospel for Life be considered as vademecum for the youth of the Archdiocese
- \* that a long-term campaign strategy be drawn up. [[10 June Pro-life SA](#)]

## **SWITZERLAND: WHO Wants Tobacco Ads Ban to Protect Youth**

GENEVA, May 30, 2008 ([CISA](#)) -The World Health Organization wants governments to protect the world's 1.8 billion young people by imposing a ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

WHO made the call Friday, the eve of 'World No Tobacco Day', May 31. This year's campaign focuses on the multi-billion dollar efforts of tobacco companies to attract young people to its addictive products through sophisticated marketing.

Recent studies prove that the more young people are exposed to tobacco advertising, the more likely they are to start smoking. Despite this, only 5 percent of the world's population is covered by comprehensive bans on tobacco marketing. Tobacco companies, meanwhile, continue targeting young people by falsely associating use of tobacco products with qualities such as glamour, energy and sex appeal.

"In order to survive, the tobacco industry needs to replace those who quit or die with new young consumers," said WHO Director-General, Margaret Chan. "It does this by creating a complex 'tobacco marketing net' that ensnares millions of young people worldwide, with potentially devastating health consequences."

"A ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship is a powerful tool we can use to protect the world's youth," the Director-General added.

Since most people start smoking before the age of 18, and almost a quarter of those before the age of 10, tobacco companies market their products wherever youth can be easily accessed – in the movies, on the Internet, in fashion magazines and at music and sports venues.

In a WHO worldwide school-based study of 13-15 year-olds, more than 55 percent of students reported seeing advertisements for cigarettes on billboards in the previous month, while 20 percent owned an item with a cigarette brand logo on it.

But it is the developing world, home to more than 80 percent of the world's youth, which is most aggressively targeted by tobacco companies. Young women and girls are particularly at risk.

"The tobacco industry employs predatory marketing strategies to get young people hooked to their addictive drug," said Dr Douglas Bettcher, Director of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative. "But comprehensive advertising bans do work, reducing tobacco consumption by up to 16 percent in countries that have already taken this legislative step."

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

### **HOLY FATHER: ELIMINATE AIDS TO BUILD A SECURE FUTURE**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose sixtieth anniversary we celebrate this year, was the product of a world-wide recognition that a just global order can only be based on the acknowledgment and defence of the inviolable dignity and rights of every man and woman. This recognition, in turn, must motivate every decision affecting the future of the human family and all its members.

The building of a more secure future for the human family means first and foremost working for the integral development of peoples, especially through the provision of adequate health care, the elimination of pandemics like AIDS, broader educational opportunities for young people, the promotion of women and the curbing of the corruption and militarization which divert precious resources from many of our brothers and sisters in the poorer countries.

*Pope Benedict XVI to Professor Mary Ann Glendon, the new US Ambassador to the Holy See, 29 February 2008*

### **The Phone Call**

A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; 45 years of misery is enough."

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "No way they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this,"

She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

**I was always taught to respect my elders, But it keeps getting harder to find one.**

Maternal stress in pregnancy causes allergies in children, say Harvard, Massachusetts, medical researchers who measured immunoglobulin in nearly 400 umbilical cords. [BBC, 19 May] The use of mobile telephones (cell phones) in pregnancy raises the likelihood of behavioural problems in offspring, according to a study of 13,000 Danish children. Russian authorities have warned about radiation from such devices [Independent on Sunday, 18 May]