



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

No. 83

Box 1025, Walkerville, 1876. Tel. 9492360/1 Fax.9491022

July 2008 in Bosco

E.mail: boscoypt@iafrica.com Website : www.boscocentre.co.za

There are no crown wearers in heaven who were not cross bearers here below.

C. H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), under "Cross Bearers" in Gleanings among the Sheaves [1869]

"The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to close it again on something solid."
G.K. Chesterton

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st August 2008

Gentle Reader,

It is wonderful to write about a bit of good news for a change. Fr Ivo Pisacane celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Salesian Priesthood on the 13th July. This was the high point of our month here at Bosco



Being a Sunday, he celebrated in the Savio Parish. The Gospel of the Mass about the seed was the starting point of his homily on the mystery of vocation and for that mysterious seed which had initially led him to the Salesians. It was a delightful homily full of 'distractions', as Fr Ivo called them. These distractions were his reminiscences of his own journey along this road of his priesthood and service with the community of believers, especially among young people.

Fr Ivo was born of Italian parents in Scotland in 1928. So this is also his 80th anniversary of birth. While his family were involved in the hairdressing trade, he headed for another path, and made his first profession on the 8th September 1948 as a Salesian. This completes the trinity of celebrations for him this 2008, as a Diamond Salesian (60 years professed).

His sparkling apostolate started after his ordination on the 13th July 1958 at St John Bosco College, Walkerville, in the same year. He is always remembered by his pupils for his absorbing science classes and ecological walks in the hills surrounding Bosco. While mainly involved in education Fr Ivo in latter years spread his wings into Parish work at St John Bosco in Robertsham, as also in Our Lady of the Rosary, Hanover Park.

At present he is stationed back at his haunt of former years, now the Bosco Youth Centre, where he also gives a hand in the Parish. There were still lots of surprises for him as he left the church after his jubilee Mass. As he came out into the winter sunlight he was met with the stirring sounds of the Scottish Bagpipes playing familiar tunes. Accompanied by the pipes Fr Ivo and the parishioners moved to a small reception, where the centre of attraction was two magnificent cakes. One of the cakes proved a real crowd puller as it bore an edible portrait of the Golden Jubilarian.

The celebrations continue as he is visiting Scotland at present. We wish him a happy journey and many years with us. Ad multos annos!

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Some of the Groups through during July:

LoveMatters: Pretoria Parishes; St Charles Lwanga; St Mary; St Paul; St Matthews; Orange Farm Parish; All Saints; Vuwani Youth Group; Maryvale College; McAuley House.

Retreats: St Albert's

Own programmes: Anglican Women's Fellowship

A FEW COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE ~~LoveMatter's~~ PARTICIPANTS

In the morning we washed with cold water! Thank you for a wonderful week.

Life is about choices and what the consequences are.

I'll wake up every morning and tell my Mom of how much I love her and thank her everyday that she didn't abort me.

Always act responsibly not to blame others. Thank you, you made my week perfect and sweet.

Abstaining is the best solution to the spread of diseases and to stop it too!

I've experienced a lot about youth, love, life, and life-style.

I am now a recycled virgin!

Everything was done perfect.

There was time to ask myself about life now you made it clear all my questions.

Some volunteers have lovely attitude. They spend time with us do everything with us and even sit with us.

I am scared for my fellow schoolmates who see all this as a joke.

It will make a huge difference in my life.

I am worth being waited for...now I really get the message that sex belongs in a loving marriage.

There is more to life in a youth than what the media portrays.

Life is so nice.

Change my life and focus on my studies

I am going to teach others what I have learned.

I have had such a great experience here and have learnt many things.

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. Our new website should be up and ready very soon. I have been looking at the progress and am impressed. Just a bit longer to wait for the launch!
2. Welcome Miriam Staber from Germany who has joined our Youth Ministry Team as a volunteer for a year.
3. The alterations in the classroom wing is taking shape too. These rooms will have under-floor heating to counteract the chilly winters for groups staying at the Centre.
4. Ms Janine Burger (Reception Office) has moved onto greener pastures. We wish her well in her new adventures. We welcome Agneshas taken her place until the end of the year.

Community News:

Bro Lingoane represented our community, together with a group of local youth, at the **World Youth Day** in Sydney, Australia. He left us on the 9th July and returned 21st July enthused with all that took place. Now we are gearing up for our **Bosco Mini World Youth Day** Sunday 10th August.

The celebration starts on late afternoon of Friday 8th. Already about 300 participants have booked in from the Cape, Swaziland, Lesotho and Gauteng.



Volunteer News and Views

My Name is Miriam Staber, I am 19 years old. I'm from a village near Stuttgart, in the South of Germany. In June I finished school and on the 23 of July I arrived at Bosco. But how come I am here in South Africa? In Germany, I was very involved in my church community, I was an altar server, I led a youth group and with friends I organized youth masses. Last year in December I decided that I wanted to volunteer in a foreign country after my graduation before studying at a university. I applied at a catholic youth organization; they accepted me and sent me for one year to Bosco.

Since my arrival, I have joined two LoveMatters groups and one confirmation group. I am watching, listening and learning lots of facts, background information, and the methods of the LoveMatters program, ... and I like it very much! The fact that the team members, the community and all the people I already met, have welcomed me very warmly, made my arrival very nice! So, I am very thankful and happy that I am here and I am looking forward to spending a whole year here!



My name is Moleboheng Mosala, I'm from Orange Farm. Before I came to Bosco I was actively involved in the church youth group and youth ministry team also at church.

My experience at Bosco has been great. I have learned a lot more about my religion, an experience of working with people, the challenges we face as young people and changes I can make in my life and other people's lives to better our future. I have discovered so many things about myself, confidence I did not realize was there. One of the most important things is the experience of having a doctor and a mid-wife who are professionally qualified, teaching us about important factors that one would not find else where. This information that took them years to discover; the truth that nobody is willing to share especially with the youth. I do think if we had a better knowledge of things our country would not be encountering such problems. So I believe that when you have the right information you are able to make the right choice. My wish is for all teens out there, especially who are in need, to come to Bosco for an experience of a LoveMatters Programme to make a change in their lives. As for the treatment at Bosco - it is wonderful.

Past Pupil Notes:

1. Mary Penny phoned to let us know that her brother Sandy (Alexander) Bell (59) died recently. He was resident in Port Elisabeth. He was a pupil in the late '60s. May he rest in peace.
2. St Benedict's College celebrate their **Golden Jubilee** this year. If you are a past pupil or staff member, or parent then you are invited to attend the Jubilee Mass at St Benedict's College on Friday 12 September at 11.30am. E-mail: melanie@stbenedicts.co.za

LIFE ISSUES

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

"No one wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal, caught in a trap, wants to gnaw off its own leg."

Frederica Mathewes-Green

A former abortion provider, now pro-life, has described how the American public was misled about the number of illegal and incomplete abortions. Dr Bernard Nathanson, co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said on Canadian talk-radio: "We claimed that between [5,000 and 10,000] women a year died of botched abortions. The actual figure was closer to 200 to 300. We also claimed that there were a million illegal abortions a year in the United States and the actual figure was close to 200,000. So we were guilty of massive deception." Dr Nathanson changed his views after he saw an unborn child on ultrasound during an abortion. [[LifeSiteNews, 29 July](#)]

Instances of serious sexually-transmitted disease in Scotland doubled between 1996 and last year. There were nearly 23,000 acute infections last year and chlamydia increased five-fold over a decade. The SNP health minister was disappointed while the Conservatives called the increase shocking. 80% of chlamydia diagnoses were of females aged 15 to 24. That disease can be symptomless and lead to infertility. [[Telegraph, 30 July](#)]

Sexually-transmitted disease in Britain is more widespread than ever, the total increasing by 72% over 10 years. Half of sufferers last year were aged 16 to 24. [[Independent, 16 July](#)] The Health Protection Agency urged young people to have fewer partners. [[Guardian, 16 July](#)] Family and Youth Concern said: "The answer does not lie in yet more sex education and contraceptive schemes, but in honestly telling young people the only sure way to avoid being infected with [a sexually-transmitted disease] is to keep sexual intimacy within the context of a lifelong, mutually faithful relationship with an uninfected partner." [[Daily Mail, 16 July](#)]

The Pope has said to an audience in Australia: "How can it be that the most wondrous and sacred human space, the womb, has become a place of unutterable violence?" Benedict XVI was addressing a World Youth Day event in Sydney and had just mentioned domestic violence. [[Sydney Morning Herald, 18 July](#)]

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

**My husband and I divorced over religious differences.
He thought he was God and I didn't.**

The following story is in honour of Fr Pisacane who taught Boyle's Law for many years:

THERMODYNAMICS OF HELL

The following is an actual question given on University of Washington chemistry mid term. The answer by one student was "so profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well.

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law, gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa Morrison during my freshman year, "...that it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having s---l relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and will not freeze.

The student received the only "A" given.

It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all.
James Thurber, writer and cartoonist (1894-1961)

Duties of Wives!

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America, and bragged that he had told his wife she needed to do all the dishes and housework. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmie had married a woman from Canada. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a Capetonian girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, laundry and ironing twice a week, lawns mowed, windows cleaned and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, just enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and call a handyman.

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

More serious stuff....

As part of our attempted flight from accountability, we willingly trade in our freedom to be relieved of our responsibility. Marx says we are the product of class, Darwin of a blind process of natural selection, Freud of our unconscious. Other paradigms would have us believe that we are entirely defined by our gender, genetics, ethnicity or culture.

Each of these views arises from powerful experiential truths, but each becomes a debilitating distortion if it robs us of our human responsibility. It may provide temporary relief to blame our unhappiness on our upbringing, our subconscious, systems of the past or the present, the constellations of the stars or the falling of the bones, but blaming never offers any cure.

Blaming gives away too much of our power. It takes the keys of our destiny out of our own hands and places them in the hands of forces that are either hostile or indifferent to us. It turns us from responsible active agents into victims unable to make meaningful and transformative choices.

Adapted from "tell me a story" by Daniel Taylor. (TGIF -email)

Actual exchanges between pilots and control towers

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"

Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

Tower: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."

TWA 2341: "Centre, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?!"

*Tower: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?" *

While taxiing at London's Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"

*Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell

you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?" *

"Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out around Gatwick was definitely running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking:

"Wasn't I married to you once?"*

*Tower: "Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on frequency 124.7"

Eastern 702: "Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way, * *after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway."*

*Tower: "Continental 635, cleared for take off behind Eastern 702, contact Departure on frequency 124.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?"

* *BR Continental 635: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern... we've already notified our caterers." *

*A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in *Munich , overheard the following:

Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"

Ground (in English): "If you want an answer you must speak in English."

Lufthansa (in English): "I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany. Why must I speak English?"

Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent): "Because you lost the bloody war!"

*A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down. *

San Jose Tower Noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

*A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, "What was your last known position?"

Student: "When I was number one for takeoff." *

+++++

Freedom of Speech

A 16-year-old mother was told she should not wear her anti-abortion T-shirt to school, and threatened with exclusion if she did. Sarah Scott wore her shirt with the words 'abortion is murder' on a non-uniform day at her school in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She has become anti-abortion since the birth of her son four months ago, and argues that this is an infringement of her right to free speech. An Aberdeenshire council spokesman said: "It was felt the statement on the T-shirt was inappropriate in a school setting and had the potential to cause offence." [\[BBC, 29 June\]](#)

TRUE WAITING MEANS WAITING WITHOUT ANXIETY.

St Francis de Sales