



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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Our newly designed website will be up and running from September. Pay a visit for a bright new approach.

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st September 2008

Gentle Reader,

August has been a very full month...and since I am writing this on the 31st and will be away for the 1st and 2nd September I wonder if I will be able to get it out on the 1st. This constant busy-ness with a dozen different tasks, and not able to do any one of them with the attention and importance they deserve, is heart attack fodder. This seems to be the trend with so many people...! There is no time to give a hand with anything. So I was very pleased to hear from past pupils Sean Furlong and Raymond Welthagen who together have taken on the task of revamping the almost defunct end of November **Past Pupils gathering**. So take some time out to join other past pupils who know what's important in life...on Saturday 29th November (Yes, a change from the Sunday!) for a bring and braai. A minimum R20.00 donation per person is expected to assist with the work at Bosco. Starting time at around 11h00 on the go until 17h00. To RSVP and for further info contact Sean (Class of 81) sean@recruitlink.co.za (0834610871) or Ray (Class of 81) ray@migrate2oz.co.za (0832578102). If you know Bosco past pupils let them know of the event.

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

PS. I have just heard that Fr Tony Garman died today. He was the oldest Salesian in Southern Africa, having spent most of his time at Lansdowne in the Cape. His contact with Bosco goes back to its foundation. The monument to his contribution to Bosco is the large water reservoir on the hill which gives us a good water pressure. Please keep him in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

**BOSCO PAST PUPIL GATHERING: SAT 29th November from 11h00 till 17h00.
Read all about it ABOVE**

Some of the Groups through during August:

LoveMatters: Iona Convent (60); St Matthews High (45); St Matthews High (79); Lourdes Primary (90);

Own programmes: Salesian Youth Movement (300); UAFC (100); Church of Transfiguration (80).

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

The Bosco Team has taught me a lot of things...it has made me think twice...

I have learnt that keeping your virginity is a good thing until you are married.

I don't have to rush into sex.

I can make good choice with good information given to me.

You are an incredible team!

I go home tonight knowing that the choices I make today will shape my future.

This experience has made a huge difference to me.

I am now positive about life.

In many ways I will pass the message on to others.

It gave me a wakeup call and that I must always have wise thought and stand up for what is right.

It made me realise the preciousness of sex.

This experience saved my life and I'm very grateful for everything.

I've learnt that a healthy relationship doesn't have to have sexual intercourse. I was not sure whether I wanted to break my virginity but now I've made a decision – no sex before marriage.

Thanks for opening my eyes Bosco Team. You really made a difference.

I will abstain and follow what God has said.

Your virginity is a very precious thing to have

I came here as a girl but I leave here a young lady and ready for the world and all it has.

I will make better decisions in future.

Bosco Team you rule!!!

Now I see life and love in a different perspective.

I go out there knowing what I am created to be and that I am beautiful.

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. Mini World Youth Day: 8 – 10 Mini World Youth Day. Lively groups of young adults and teenagers from various parishes in Swaziland, Cape, Lesotho and Gauteng joined together under the Salesian Youth Movement banner to hold a Mini World Youth Day at Bosco. Those young people who had made the pilgrimage to Sydney a month earlier were also present to share their experiences and join in with the world youth day “after-party”. In total just under 300 registered for the events which started on Friday evening and continued until lunch time on Sunday. The grand finale was the celebration of the Eucharist in the Bosco Hall to cater for the large crowd. Fr Francois, the provincial presided at the Mass and Fr Jonathan Daniels preached. The weekend was proclaimed a resounding success with they young people making their way back to their home parishes carrying the fire of the Spirit with them to bring the Good News to the nations.
2. Fire around our property: Saturday 29th the wind blew. The earth was dry calling for rain, but the fire sprang up like an imp, and encouraged by the greedy elements increased our carbon footprint quite considerably. Soot and ash is everywhere and our landscape is blackened. However, Spring is here and the rain cannot be too far away...so soon enough everything will be a bright green. Hope springs eternal..
3. On Sunday 30th August a group of the early Bosco Centre volunteers had a gathering to recall the carefree days of working with the youth apostolate retreats, Easter weekends, holiday camps and LoveMatters programmes. It is wonderful to experience the bond that still exists and the support it continues to provide even as

Community News:

1. Retreat Bethlehem: Fr Robert and Fr Stan joined other Salesians from around the Southern African Province for a week's retreat at the John Paul II Centre in Bethlehem. This was preached by Fr Michael Winstanley, the Salesian provincial of England. We were expecting some cold weather but against all the odds had wonderfully mild summery days. We found the preacher very good on his topic the Gospel of St John, giving us plenty of insights to bring back into our daily lives.
2. Pitso Bethlehem. Following on the retreat other community members joined us for a provincial assembly. This was held over two days and generally explored the way forward for the Salesians in Southern Africa over the next couple of years.

3. August 3rd we bade a festive farewell to our nine Salesian students with a braai. They flew out the next day to continue their studies in Nairobi at Tangaza College.
4. On 5th August Raphael Bhembe, from Manzini, left after his time of pre-novitiate for Lusaka to start his novitiate.
5. 10th August Christopher Sharpe from our Province, together with Zambian Province novices made their first profession as fully fledged Salesians. Bro Christopher continues his studies for another three years in Moshe, Tanzania before he returns to Southern Africa to do his practical training.

Past Pupil Notes:

1. Louis W. Chapman (1977 – 1980) dropped in for a visit, his first since he left the school.

LIFE ISSUES

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

Birth control pills could affect the way women are attracted to men. Liverpool University, England, found that the drugs affected women's perception of pheromones. It is even suggested that this could lead to women's choosing genetically inappropriate partners. [[PA on Channel 4, 13 August](#)]

American pro-life protesters have been deported from China. Mr Michael McMonagle, national director of [Generation Life](#), Boise, Idaho, Rev Pat Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition, Washington DC, and Ms Brandi Swindell, also of Generation Life, were held after demonstrating at the Mao Zedong mausoleum in Beijing, though they were told they were not under arrest. Their visas were revoked, they were threatened with prison if they stayed in the country and they were asked to pay their fares on early flights home to California. [[LifeNews, 8 August](#)] The campaigners seem merely to have been protesting peacefully in two places, including against population policy, during the Olympic games there.

A rape victim has spoken of her love she has for the child whom she was urged to abort. Miss Elizabeth Cameron, 19, of southern England, was allegedly raped by three men when she was 16. Her father arranged for an abortion and other people also tried to persuade her to have a termination. Her mother opposed an abortion and, when Miss Cameron saw her daughter on a scan, she became emotionally attached to her. She says: "I don't regret [keeping the child] for a moment. Every time I look at Phoebe, I know I made the right decision. I never wanted to end my baby's life just because of how she came to be." [[Daily Mail, 9 August](#)]

An Irish politician says some teenagers get pregnant to get free housing. Mr Darren Scully, a Fine Gael councillor in County Kildare, said he had direct and indirect evidence and had received messages of support. More than two-fifths of social housing applicants were single parents. Ms Mary Glennon, an independent councillor, refuted the claims, as did the Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children. [[Irish Independent, 18 July](#)]

SYDNEY, July 18 ([CISA](#)) -The Archbishop of Durban, South Africa, Cardinal Wilfred Fox Napier has said that a change in Catholic teaching on condoms would not lower the rate of HIV infection in Africa. Rather, he argued, positive change would result from trusting people to take control of their lives.

In an interview with an Australian news program reported by Catholic News Agency (CNA) yesterday, the Cardinal said South Africa has the highest rate of condom distribution, but still has one of the highest HIV infection rates in the world.

"We have already been preaching all our lives; don't have sex outside of marriage," the cardinal, who is visiting Sydney for World Youth Day said.

He cited the Uganda program against HIV infection as a successful model. There, he said, the HIV prevalence rate was reduced from 29 to 6 percent in ten years with a program that promoted abstinence for unmarried Ugandans and monogamy for couples. The program also issued condoms only to married people.

Cardinal Napier said the Church trusted in people's ability to control their own lives.

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

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

LINES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.

You're just jealous because the Voices only talk to me.

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.

I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.

Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.

God must love stupid people; He made so many.

The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!

Wrinkled - was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

Procrastinate Now!

I have a degree in liberal arts; do you want fries with that?

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.

Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!

They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.

He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless DEAD.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.

Ham and eggs...A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.

The trouble with life is there's no background music.

The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.

I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

I would rather live my life as if there is a God, and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't, and die to find out there is. email

More serious stuff....

OLYMPIC GAMES... the challenge!

There was something mildly addictive about the Olympics. Perhaps the pursuit of excellence stirs something noble in our souls. But we have also seen how this noble pursuit can become twisted. Some of the reactions to competitors' successes and misfortunes have revealed the extent to which respect is based on merit, and achievement becomes the passport to social acceptance.

Of course, lowering our aspirations to the level of mediocrity is not a good alternative either. There are few things as sad as a human being in voluntary stagnation.

So the answer to an unhealthy aspiration is not its renouncement but its redemption - allowing it to be turned into something that's not primarily about us or our ability to meet other's expectations - something that frees us up to grow and do our best exactly because it does not turn success or failure into the final proof of who we are. TGIF 27/ 8 / 08 Adapted from www.licc.org.uk/culture/winning-losing

FORGIVE MY FATHER...?

When it comes to fatherhood, be it dads in the home or 'fathers' (clergy) in the Church, one leading strength of a father is knowing when to say sorry.

"Fathers" would earn the deepest respect of the family entrusted to them by a simple "sorry" for the mistakes they have made.....

A good father must first of all be unconditionally loving, truthful, respectful, impartial in judgement, fair, non-hypocritical and **able to say sorry when he makes mistakes**. He must be able to encourage the best in his children but nurture and support rather than criticise when they fail. He should be easily forgiving and praise his kids often, letting them be who they are but gently guide them away from harm. A father should protect, build self-esteem and praise his kids often. He should create a sense of boundaries to create security and physically embrace his kids and instil in them an idea of approval. He should have fun often with them and create circumstances so that they enjoy life and be the hero to rush in to keep them in safety. A good father needs to wrap all these attributes in a good sense of humour where he(copied off a blog site on the net)

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

Evil is like a shadow - it has no real substance of its own, it is simply a lack of light. You cannot cause a shadow to disappear by trying to fight it, stamp on it, by railing against it, or any other form of emotional or physical resistance. In order to cause a shadow to disappear, you must shine light on it. Shakti Gawain, teacher and author (b. 1948)

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. Desmond Tutu, clergyman (b. 1931)

That's all folks!