



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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From the Rector's keyboard:

1st November 2008

Gentle Reader,

When there is a building site...crime increases in the area. That is a given from my experience and that of many others. It has been no exception here. In spite of this knowledge and doing our best to prevent it with the budget we have, and with what cooperation we have with the builders across the road, in the last month or so we have been hit - and badly. To find out more, read the news items below.

Now I know you would have missed the last issue of the Bosco Link. My apologies...but it was impossible to use my computer in bed...or dictate...or in fact to even see through my foggy eyes. I visited Cape Town and came back with the flu...special CT variety. I lost my voice, and patience as I dosed myself with antibiotics and other remedies.

It is now almost the end of the year, and while the last two months have been busy, November is less so. Learners are settling down to end of year examinations. Best of luck to them - the first batch of OBE.

Just a quick reminder that the 2nd November is ALL SAINTS, the following day ALL SOULS. We have all our canonised and many more un-canonised departed faithful souls (family members and friends) to pray with us and for us in the heavenly realms.

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

BOSCO PAST PUPIL GATHERING: SAT 29th November from 11h00 till 17h00.

RSVP: sean@recruitlink.co.za or ray@migrate2oz.co.za

Some of the Groups through during September and October:

LoveMatters: Holy Family (78); McAuley House (60); St Peter Claver (155); Mthomblwazi Primary School (70).

Retreats: Dominican Convent (70); Assumption Convent(30); St Davids {Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 (300)}; St John's (50); Lerato Education Centre; Maria Regina; Riverlea Parish (20).

Own programmes: St Laurences (62); Vanderbyl Parish(40); Lourdes Primary (22); Methodist Church (40); Baptist Church (25); Food and Trees (300); Zoe Bible Church (30); UPC Youth (80); Mdlewa Primary School; Veritas College (20); De La Salle Holy Cross (100); Free Baptist Church (20).

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

I think I would have done some of the things in the future not realising what the consequences would be. I'm so glad with what I learnt.
I'll abstain and remain a proud virgin.
I will wait for marriage before I have sex.
Recycling my virginity and to love becos love-matters.
Thanx for opening our eyes.
It has helped me control myself and abstain.
Bosco is a wonderful place to be in.
I learnt more about myself & now I view life differently, in a better light.
Never doubt the power of the Lord.
Wait, wait, till I say yes!
I will teach others what I was taughted.
It shows me a positive way to the future.
I have learnt from peoples mistakes.
I can be a vergen as long as I want.
It taught me things like respect and appreciation
I will always make the right choice.
I have made a pledge. I'm sticking with it.
This experiance has made me ore cautious about life.
It can change your life and it better 4 U.
It will make it much easier to make choices.
I wish I could come back and learn more about things
I definitely have a higher understanding about God and sex.
It will make a difference to me because it taughted me to respect myself.
By learning to know and love myself before I can give the same to others.
I learnt to respect my body
I have the Ten keys to success to guide me.
This was very awesome!

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. **Thefts:** We have had two burglaries during the night over the last couple of weeks. Normally we are crime free but with the R557 becoming busier and the building site across the road we are now feeling vulnerable. Down at the swimming pool our taps and copper pipes were pulled off walls and taken...something which I thought only happened in the suburbs. Then the acetylene equipment was taken from our workshops...through the roof! So if you spot some entrepreneur with a Bosco torch fixing exhaust pipes...let us know!

Now we are following the suburbanites and seeing how we can put preventive measures into place.

2. **First rains.** Bosconians were very happy to see the first rains arrive. The dust and dryness, together with the charcoaled look after the great fire that swept through our grounds a month or so back sorely needed some refreshment. Of course, with the blessing comes the sacrifice... lightning bolts, thunderous cacophony, and no electricity! Usually one of those sneaky bolts hits a transformer or two and Eskom is running around in circles with a singed tailgate. With youthful groups at Bosco being plunged into darkness it makes for more than enough excitement and a headache for the staff.

We have had quite a lot of rain, but not nearly enough to see even a puddle in the vlei which has been a dust pan for a few years now. The canoes for use on the vlei have been collecting dust inches thick.

3. Ferrero Packaging: The building going up on the opposite side of the road to the entrance of BYC has now got all the roofing girders in place. It is expected to be completed by March 2009. There is also going to be a coffee shop and attractive centre highlighting the fauna a flora of the locality.

Community News:

1. News has been spreading around about the events at Bosco on Sunday night (26th), around 7. This is the version of one who was there. But most of all it is to assure everyone that we are all safe and almost sound.

Towards the end of our Sunday evening dinner with the volunteers, three armed men burst in on us and demanded money and threatening us. We were of course quite terrified. Once I realised that we had to do something I offered the money in my room and then Fr Dino went to his office and eventually they were satisfied and left us locked up in the no longer used toilet next to our dining room. During the period they continued to use violence. Most had to lie on the floor but then they were beaten and kicked to keep them intimidated. Fr Ivo had some vicious kicks in the ribs. Guns were pointed at each of the girls. They threatened them and us with death. Bro. Lingoane received a stab on his head and others were hit and bled. A volunteer was stabbed in the back. Fr Dino was stabbed once in the chest and several times on his back. When I came back down from my room with one of robbers I was dragged into Fr Dino's office and again harangued about money and was stabbed in the chest.

Before leaving the cramped confines of the toilet, we waited long enough to know it was safe to get out. Bro Leluma broke the glass in the partition and climbed out to fetch a key from the office and let us out. Police and ambulance were called but had not arrived before I left for the hospital. Fr Stan came in about ten minutes after we had got out. He rang our doctor who was here very promptly and saw to everyone. My wound was in a dangerous position and its depth uncertain and was bleeding heavily so he sent me to Mulbarton Hospital. Mike Lang kindly took me along. There an X-ray indicated that the knife had not penetrated the chest cavity or lungs. He stitched me up and let me go. *Fr John W Coleman SDB*

Past Pupil Notes:

1. Frank Dos Santos has given up the bottle store business and now works for a company.
2. Sean Maher, first time back in 17 years, makes jewellery.
3. David Mabaso called in. Working with ABSA in Johannesburg.

LIFE ISSUES

Catholic schools in England will have to teach all of the government's new sex-education curriculum. Intercourse will be described from age seven and contraception from 11. [[Guardian, 24 October](#)] The Methodist church welcomed the plan. [[Ekklesia, 24 October](#)] The Family Education Trust said compulsion would undermine parents. The so-called safe sex message exposed young people to the risks of heartache, and of both physical and mental illness. [[Independent, 24 October](#)] Teachers' unions complained of excessive pressure on their profession. [[Independent, 23 October](#)]

Human beings are being treated as things, according to an MP speaking in yesterday's debate on the British government's [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill](#). Mr Edward Leigh, Conservative member for Gainsborough, told the House of Commons: "I believe that human embryos are emphatically not just blobs of cells; they have the entire genetic make-up of a human being. I believe not that they are potential human beings, but that they are human beings with potential. ... There is something very dangerous in what we will undoubtedly do today. We are making ourselves less than human, in a sense, by viewing one part of human creation as a thing, a spare part, which I believe is extraordinarily dangerous." [[Official Report, 22 October](#)] Some MPs complained at the lack of debate on the bill. [[Financial Times, 23 October](#)]

The Pope has said that the incurably ill should not be abandoned. He told the Italian Surgical Society that there should be unconditional respect for every person regardless of their condition. Technically sophisticated medicine needed to be counterbalanced by human concern; patients should be listened to. [[Catholic News Agency, 20 October](#)]

NATIONWIDE LIFE CHAINS TOOK PLACE ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA

Sunday, 5 October was International Life Chain Sunday. As many as a million Christians in approximately 1 300 locations worldwide proclaimed the Right to Life of the pre-born. Life Chains took place in 7 different cities in South Africa, in: Empangeni, Durban, Nelspruit, Vosloorus, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, and Cape Town. The Life Chain is an international prayer vigil and peaceful placard protest against the abortion holocaust.

South Africa - Pornography popular among minors

Two-thirds of high school pupils surveyed in major cities have watched at least one pornographic film, according to a report released by the Department of Home Affairs and the Films and Publications Board (FPB). Almost 50 percent said they watched pornographic films regularly. The findings of this and two other studies related to child pornography and children's access to pornographic images, magazines and films were released by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba at a parliamentary news briefing. The reports were commissioned by a ministerial task team on child pornography. 64 percent of teenagers surveyed had been exposed to pornographic images on the Internet, while 81 percent admitted that they had seen such images on friends' cell phones. According to the report, 51 percent of the pupils surveyed who had watched porn films said the movies made them "more curious about sex". 22 percent of the 641 children surveyed had been exposed to "distressing content on the Internet, mostly of a sexual nature and nudity, which had made them feel uncomfortable". <>

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=vn20080514060347773C166352

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

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple was involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting they began to wonder, could they possibly get married in Heaven? When St. Peter arrived they asked him if they could get married in heaven.

St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out" and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer... for a couple of months. While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. If they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married, what with the eternal aspect of it all? "What if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?"

Another month passed. St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple... "But we were just wondering; what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?" St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH, COME ON!!!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me 3 months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take to find a lawyer???"

Affirmation is Good.

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone,' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much', were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's

math teacher?' he asked. She nodded, 'yes'. Then he said, 'Mark talked about you a lot'.

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. 'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.' All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.' Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.' 'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary.'

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said, and without batting an eyelash, she continued, 'I think we all saved our lists.'

The Perfect Husband...

Several men are in the changing room of a golf club. A mobile phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands free speaker-function and began to talk.

Everyone else in the room stops to listen.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Darling, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes"

WOMAN: "I am at the shopping centre and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only R1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure,...go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2008 models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "R230,000"

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing ... The house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking R2,500,000"

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and give them an offer of 2,000,000. They will probably take it. If not, we can go the extra 500 thousand. It really is a pretty good price."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the changing room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths agape.....

He smiles and asks:

"Anyone know to whom this mobile belongs?"

Peter Principle: In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his / her level of incompetence.

Laurence J Peter, educator and author (1919-1990)

The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress.

Joseph Joubert, essayist (1754-1824)

That's all folks!