



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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Like a lawyer, the human brain wants victory, not truth; and, like a lawyer, it is sometimes more admirable for skill than virtue. -

Robert Wright, author and journalist (b. 1957)

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st February 2009

Noble Friend,

Yesterday, the 31st of January was a special day for the Bosco world. It was the feast day of Don Bosco, the day he entered his heavenly reward at 72 years of age. This year, 2009, the feast has a special significance as it marks the start of the commemoration of 150 years. In 1859, 18 December the first Salesians made their religious profession...that is, the Salesian Congregation of brothers and priests was launched.

The work of Don Bosco with youth started with one young person in December 1841. From there it steadily grew. Until in 1859 the Salesian congregation was started. Nowadays Don Bosco is present in about 130 countries worldwide, reaching out to over 15 million young people.

In 1875 Don Bosco phrased it himself: "In doing this we are entering upon a mighty undertaking... who knows, this departure, this humble beginning may be the seed that will grow into a mighty tree... that will grow little by little and accomplish great things"

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB



**Salesians of
Don Bosco**

Some of the Groups through during December and January:

LoveMatters: Pretoria Parishes (150); Youth Groups = Trinity community Church; Vuwani Youth Group; Boipatong Youth; International Ministry for Christ Youth (108); [No LoveMatters during January].

Day Retreats: Neheway Ministries (70); Marian College (various Grades 1136); Assumption Convent (various Grades 220); Marian College Parents (25); Ikageng Burial (50); Kingdom Fellowship (32);

Weekends: Sacred Heart Parish (25); St Peter Claver (32); Bosco Oratory (80); St Vincent de Paul (30);

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. Bosco Centre is off to a good start. Marian College day retreats as well as Assumption Convent keeping the centre busy. February has a LoveMatters week each week, as also busy weekends.
2. The grass is growing as quickly as it is cut. Maintenance is an ongoing battle to keep the grounds looking neat and the facilities up to scratch.

Community News:

1. Most importantly we have a new member starting with us this year: Bro Clarence Watts. Bro Clarence is a perpetually professed salesian brother who has just finished a course of studies in spirituality in Tangaza, Nairobi. He is taking the place of Bro Leluma who is picking up further qualifications at UJ in the next few years. So Bro Clarence is heading up the Youth Ministry Team at Bosco.
2. Our nine volunteers have settled in and are already working hard to make sure that youth and school groups coming to Bosco for retreats are having a rewarding time. On the Feast of St John Bosco, in the presence of a large group of young people here to celebrate the day, they made their promises to take up their ministry in the spirit of Don Bosco.
3. Community members all had a well deserved and pleasant Christmas break. We finished on the 19th December and were back at work on the 10th January 09.
4. Fr Ivo Pisacane spent his holiday at Bosco fixing things around the house and supervising the local youngsters for their afternoon swims.
5. Some of us were able to get to our families for Christmas and New Year, which was great.
6. A very successful camp for 70 local poor kids was held at Bosco after schools broke up and before Christmas. This camp was sponsored by Past Pupils...one of our own Bosco Past Pupils made a very generous donation, as also the Maltese Past Pupil Association in Australia. Thanks guys...hope this encourages others to support the on-going educational and recreational work they once enjoyed.
7. Fr Patrick Martin Ahern died on the 23rd January. He had spent most of his Salesian life working in our school at Manzini, Swaziland. He did however work for a short while in Lansdowne. Whenever I met up with him he always asked after my brother Pat, who was a pupil at Savio College at the time. Remember Fr Ahern in your prayers. May he rest in Peace.

LIFE ISSUES

The congress of Colima state, Mexico, has rejected legalised abortion by 19 votes to one. The Party of the Democratic Revolution said Catholic belief had helped defeat its proposed measure. The same party got abortion legalised in the capital but has been unsuccessful elsewhere. [[LifeSiteNews, 29 January](#)] SPUC's national director writes: "What's happened in Mexico shows that with strong religious leadership, from all faiths and none, throughout the world - the pro-life movement not only *can* prevail, the pro-life movement *will* prevail." [[John Smeaton, 30 January](#)]

A Spanish political party has protested to the US ambassador about President Obama's resumption of funding for abortion overseas. Alternativa Española wants President Reagan's 1984 Mexico City Policy to stay in place. [[CNA, 29 January](#)]

Orthodox Jewish leaders are expected tomorrow to indicate their agreement with the Catholic church's objections to President Obama's approval of US funding for abortion overseas. Human Life International, Rome, has arranged a visit to the city by Rabbi Yehuda Levin of the Rabbinical Alliance of America. Rabbi Levin says he stands shoulder to shoulder with the Vatican on this matter. [[LifeSiteNews, 27 January](#)]

An American national TV station and a sporting association have refused to allow a pro-life advertisement to be shown during a championship game on Sunday. NBC and the National Football League say they do not want to broadcast ads about "political advocacy or issues" during the [Super Bowl](#). Mr Brian Burch of Catholic Vote says his organisation's film is positive. It features an ultrasound scan, notes Mr Obama's achievement in becoming president, and refers to each human life's potential. [[LifeSiteNews, 29 January](#)] At the time of writing, the [YouTube version](#) had been watched more than 850,000 times. There is no abortion imagery in it. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2CaBR3z85c>)

Chemicals in carpets, clothing, cosmetics, food packaging, pesticides and upholstery could harm female fertility. The University of California in Los Angeles found that two types of perfluorinated chemical in women's blood inhibited conception and caused irregular menstruation. The substances could also harm men's sperm. [[Daily Mail, 29 January](#)]

800 000 DEAD BABIES IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE LEGAL ABORTION – Since the ANC led Government promulgated the "Termination of Pregnancy" Act on 1 February 1997, more than 800 000 unborn babies have been aborted.
alive4life@yahoo.com 29 January.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. Joe Burke (1973 – 1976) and his wife Irene called out today to say “Hi” and look around the old haunts of yester-year. Joe is living in Pretoria, running his own successful business in the property trade.
2. Sifiso Mabaso (1986 – 1991) also popped in middle January to visit. He is living in Soweto.

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

THIS MAN SURE HAS A GOOD VIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY!

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it



politics. We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!' (Billy Graham)

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called 'One nation under God.'

THE PARROT.

A young man named John received a parrot named ' Chief ' as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer.

For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed.

Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said, 'I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour. '

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird continued, 'May I ask what the turkey did? '

The only gift is giving to the poor; All else is exchange.

Thiruvalluvar, poet (c. 30 BCE)

Catholic Shampoo

As a kid, whenever I saw my mom with beer she would say it was for washing her hair. In fact, half a soapy beer bottle stood on the bathroom shelf at times....to support her story! Maybe, that is all she used it for! Mothers don't tell lies...nor do nuns! Or do they? RJG.

While shopping in a food store, two nuns happened to pass by the beer display. The first nun said it would be nice to enjoy a beer. The second nun answered that, indeed, it would be very nice to have one, but that she wouldn't feel comfortable about buying it. The first nun replied that she could handle that without a problem. So, she picked up a six-pack and took it to the cashier. The cashier had a surprised look on his face, so the nun said, 'We use beer for washing our hair; a sort of shampoo, if you will.' Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter, pulled out a packet of pretzels and placed them in the bag with the beer. He then looked the nun straight in the eye, smiled, and said, 'The curlers are on the house.'

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

John Wooden, sports coach (b. 1910)

Proof that Men Have Better Friends...??

Friendship among Women:

A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house. The man called his wife's 10 best friends. None of them knew anything about it.

Friendship among Men:

A man didn't come home one night. The next morning he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house. The woman called her husband's 10 best friends. Eight confirmed that he had slept over their place, and two said he was still there.

A Catholic boy and a Jewish boy were talking and the Catholic boy said, "My priest knows more than your rabbi." The Jewish boy said, "Of course he does, you tell him everything."

Saints Days

In this last week of January we celebrate the lives of four saints whose dreams enabled them to make a real difference in the lives of those for whom they worked. St Francis de Sales, St Angela Merici, St Thomas Aquinas and St John Bosco all had a profound effect on Catholic education. In South Africa we have schools and communities that cherish their vision and values. CIE Newsletter. No. 22 info@cie.org.za.

A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in church. Suddenly his eye the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"

REMEMBER, GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY. GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL.

THANKS TO THOSE FRIENDS WHO HAVE SENT ON THE THOUGHT PROVOKING AND FUNNY STUFF to share with us!