



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days."

Mark 1:12

From the Rector's keyboard:

2nd March 2009

Gracious Friend,

It really is a minefield of mixed messages and difficult choices in our world today! What looks so glamorous and easy turns out to be really destructive and sinister. Something like a fish being tempted by a colourful and juicy looking fly on a barbed hook. The common sense warnings sound so hollow compared to the excitement and glitz of public persons and questionable role models who promote values and morals that hardly move beyond the brain-dead premise "it's my life – I can do what I like with it, just so long as I hurt no one along the way!"

News this past week of a teen ("everybody is doing it!") selling nude pictures of herself via MXit. Easy money....? A couple of books coming onto the market may be inadvertently given as a present, without first looking a little more closely: "Conversations with God" where the author makes himself "God". If indeed it is God speaking then I would expect the Word of God to be quoted extensively and accurately. But this is not the case! See more below

The Atheist Bus campaign in London also caught my attention. (See more below) It gives some sort of indication where we are heading in a secular South Africa, although the very secularism itself becomes a religion...as system of beliefs about life and the hereafter.

Now that we are on this roller coaster of politicking in preparation to elect / vote in a government for the next four years...the contradictions, mudslinging, 'dumbing down' of values and morals, extravagant promises of a better life for all...has echoes of the Atheist Bus Campaign...with the added frightening perspective it is not only that God probably does not exist, but many also believe in RSA that the Justice System probably does not exist either!

Unfortunately I missed the first on the Heartlines – values in action – the series of 6 started on the 24th Feb, Tuesday, on SABCTV2 at 19.30. However, I am pleased that there is an effort to bring values through this medium into our homes. I must make sure I am watching next Tuesday at 19.30.

The season of Lent, started last week on Ash Wednesday, is surely a good time to reflect on our values and morals, to check our comfort zones and petty and major addictions which may distract us from the true path leading to eternal life.

Blessings and peace

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Some of the Groups through during February:

LoveMatters: Veritas College (54); Loreto Convent (80); Bishop Bavin (55); Maryvale College (50).

Day Retreats: Free Baptist Church (50); Methodist Ladies Group (30)

Weekends: Randpark High (32); Our Lady of Lourdes (20); Fun Camp (34); Immaculata School (60); St Vincent de Paul (50); Holy Family College (83). St John's, Florida (15)

HE WHO FASTS, BUT DOES NO OTHER GOOD, SAVES HIS BREAD BUT GOES TO HELL.

Italian Proverb.

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. Khanyi (LoveMatters Team member) is representing the work we do here at Bosco in the area of AIDs awareness and Abstinence practice at an international meeting in New York. Also attending are former volunteers from the Youth Ministry Team, Breven Clarke and Charl Domingo. We wish them well on this adventure and that Bosco Youth Centre makes a good impact at the conference.
2. We are opening the doors again to applicants who want to be volunteers for a year on the Bosco Youth Ministry Team. This is to be a midyear intake. The two intakes assist the smooth flow of expertise from one year into the other as some volunteers change at the end of each 12 month cycle.

Community News:

1. Our fax line has been out of order since the 22nd January. So we are using the office fax line, number above.
2. We received a 2 metre high bronzed fibre glass statue of Don Bosco. Thanks to our friends at Megafreight for seeing to its safe delivery. This is to be placed in the niche prepared for it at the Bosco Hall. At present three wood carvings from Malawi stand in its spot. These will be treated with some wood protector and placed elsewhere. At the moment we are still looking for a suitable spot.
3. Now that we have a New Holland TLB out of the box doing our chores around the property, digging holes and trenches, moving rocks, pulling down trees, etc....we have an older, yet still quite agile CASE TLB...to be sold before it rusts up for lack of use. We paid R180000.00 (before VAT was added) for it. If someone reading this knows of someone, or a company...who will make a reasonable offer, please let me know. I would like to get one of those "ride on grass mowers" for all the grass cutting we have to do. Not everyone agrees with me on that!

LIFE ISSUES

A totally different look at abortion

A worried woman went to her gynaecologist and said: Doctor, I have a serious problem and desperately need your help! My baby is not even 1 yr. old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together. So the doctor said: 'Ok and what do you want me to do?' She said: 'I want you to end my pregnancy, and I'm counting on your help with this.' The doctor thought for a little, and after some silence he said to the lady: 'I think I have a better solution for your problem. It's less dangerous for you too.' She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accept her request. Then he continued: 'You see, in order for you not to have to take care of 2 babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. This way, you could rest some before the other one is born. If we're going to kill one of them, it doesn't matter which one it is. There would be no risk for your body if you chose the one in your arms. The lady was horrified and said: 'No doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child! 'I agree', the doctor replied. 'But you

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seemed to be ok with it, so I thought maybe that was the best solution. The doctor smiled, realizing that he had made his point. He convinced the mom that there is no difference in killing a child that's already been born and one that's still in the womb. The crime is the same!

Abortion raises the risk of subsequent premature birth, according to German [research](#) on more than two million pregnancies. Prematurity reportedly increases the risk of cerebral palsy and other health problems. The Reduce Preterm Risk Coalition urged President Obama to stop government funding of abortion because of its dangers to women and children. [[LifeSiteNews, 11 February](#)]

BEST SELLING BOOKS WITH devastating VALUES!

Conversations with God and Conversations with God for Teens, written by Neale D. Walsch. They sound harmless enough by their titles alone. The books have been on the New York Times best sellers list for a number of weeks, and they make truth of the statement, "Don't judge a book by its cover or title."

The author purports to answer various questions asked by kids using the "voice of God". However, the "answers" that he gives are not Bible-based and go against the very infallible Word of God. For instance (and I paraphrase): When a girl asks the question "Why am I a lesbian?" His answer is that she was 'born that way' because of genetics (just as you were born right-handed, with brown eyes, etc.). Then he tells her to go out and "celebrate" her differences.

Another girl poses the question "I am living with my boyfriend. My parents say that I should marry him because I am living in sin. Should I marry him?"

His reply is, "Who are you sinning against? Not me, because you have done nothing wrong."

Another question asks about God's forgiveness of sin. His reply "I do not forgive anyone because there is nothing to forgive. *There is no such thing as right or wrong* and that is what I have been trying to tell everyone, do not judge people. People have chosen to judge one another *and this is wrong*, because the rule is "'judge not lest ye be judged."

(This last sentence shows up a glaring contradiction...which I have put in italics.)

Please pay special attention not only to what your kids watch on TV, in movie theatres, on the internet, and the music they listen to, but also be alert regarding the books they read.

Abortions on teenagers in Britain are higher than ever with more than 21,000 under-18s having the procedure in 2007. Pregnancies among under-16s increased by 6.4%. The British Pregnancy Advisory Service said it was a positive sign that more than half of pregnant teenagers had had an abortion because it showed there was less of a stigma about it. The ProLife Alliance said that remark was offensive and the Family Education Trust said the government's teenage pregnancy prevention strategy had failed. The government says it will spend millions more on birth control. [[Telegraph, 27 February](#)] Professor David Paton of Nottingham University said the government was particularly failing the most vulnerable teenagers. [[Daily Mail, 27 February](#)] Dr Patricia Morgan, the sociologist, writes that she cannot find evidence that sex education of the kind favoured by the government is effective, while abstinence programmes in America have worked. [[Telegraph, 27 February](#)]

LONDON BUS

A new way has been found to enjoy life: All you need to do is to stop worrying that God exists. This is according to the advertising placed on the side of 800 UK buses over the past few weeks. The slogan read: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

The "Atheist Bus Campaign", as it has been commonly referred to, has sparked much good discussion & debate, a few counter-ads, competitions for alternative slogans, similar campaigns in other countries, and at least one vote on God's existence (in which God currently leads with 54%). The slogan is a light-hearted but somewhat bizarre message of atheist evangelism. If one takes it further towards its logical implications, it effectively says something like this: "Human life started as a fluke and will end as fertiliser - now go and enjoy the bit in the middle". It's not the most coherent message, but it may be the best we can come up with in the probable absence of God. TGIF.

The Pope has said that human life is not a disposable product. Benedict XVI told a Vatican gathering of patients and their carers: "Faith helps us to uphold the belief that human life is beautiful and worthy to be lived to the full, even when undermined by sickness." Life was: "a precious casket to keep and safeguard with all possible care, from beginning to final and natural conclusion." [[Vatican on EWTN, 11 February](#)]

PAST PUPIL NEWS

1. Hi Father

I just got back from Swaziland and spoke to some people there and the Salesians are still going strong there. God bless them. I also learned that a pupil at Bosco in Daleside with us whose name was Lionel Rowberry has passed away. God bless his soul to.

Keep up your good work. Best regards to all at Bosco.

Cello (Celestino dos Santos Matric 1978)

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

Language and Politics

An ingenious example of speech and politics occurred recently in the United Nations Assembly which made the world community smile.

A representative from Israel began: 'Before beginning my talk I want to tell you something about Moses. When he struck the rock and it brought forth water, he thought, 'What a good opportunity to have a bath!' He removed his clothes, put them aside on the rock and entered the water.

When he got out and wanted to dress, his clothes had vanished. A Palestinian had stolen them.

The Palestinian representative jumped up furiously and shouted, 'What are you talking about? The Palestinians weren't there then.'

The Israeli representative smiled and said, 'And now that we have made that clear, I will begin my speech.

My Father, a Danish journalist, was faced with translators. His phrase "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" was translated "The vodka is good, but the meat is off".

Sandi Toksvig

The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem.

Milton Friedman

APRIL 22nd

The Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa have issued a letter to urge all South Africans to vote. The letter is titled **Awake, Awake, protect our Democracy**. *"It is important to judge a party on its overall policy regarding the key values of the Gospel such as promoting life, human dignity and justice in relation to the above issues."* Details in the Southern Cross (25 Feb – 3 March) if you haven't seen a copy of the full text.

A past pupil (Greg Hyams – 79 - 80) sent around an email more strongly worded...finishing with the words:

Vote, dammit! People are willing to die fighting for the right to vote. If you don't, and you end up watching as the country slowly slides into an abyss it will be "on you".

Peter Quan (Past Pupil 68 – 74) takes quite a chance when he propagates these "man-type" stereotypical perceptions:

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her.

David Bissonette

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin; they just can't face each other, but still they stay together.

Sacha Guity

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. Socrates

Woman inspires us to great things, and prevents us from achieving them. Anonymous

The great question... which I have not been able to answer... is, 'What does a woman want?' Dumas

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me. Sigmund Freud

'Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.' Anonymous

'There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It's called marriage.' Sam Kinison

'I've had bad luck with both my wives. The first one left me, and the second one didn't.' James Holt McGavra

Two secrets to keep your marriage brimming

- 1. Whenever you're wrong, admit it,*
- 2. Whenever you're right, shut up.*

Patrick Murra

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.... Nash

You know what I did before I married? Anything I wanted to. Anonymous

My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met. Henry Youngman

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong. Rodney Dangerfield

A man inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: 'Wife wanted'. Next day he received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: 'You can have mine.' Anonymous

First Guy (proudly): 'My wife's an angel!'
Second Guy: 'You're lucky, mine's still alive.'

Anonymous

DO VOTE ON THE 22nd – but also take a look at some cynical quotes from outside of RSA.

All politics is based on the indifference of the majority.

James Reston.

“Every thinking person will be voting for you.”

“Madam, that is not enough I need a majority.”

Voter and Adlai Stevenson.

If pigs could vote, the man with the slop bucket would be elected every time, no matter how much slaughtering he did on the side

Orson Scott Card.

I have voted only once in my life. On that occasion, I just had to. There was this one candidate who had been committed to an asylum and upon discharge was issued a Certificate of Sanity. Well, now, how could I resist? What other politician anywhere has an actual medical report that he is sane? I simply had to support him.

Malcolm Muggeridge.

“The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages” Ecclesiasticus 35.12