



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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God is proved not only by the zeal of those who seek Him,
but by the blindness of those who seek Him not. (Pascal)



PALM SUNDAY - 5th April.

We experience and celebrate in our liturgy once again the holiest of weeks in our calendar starting with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter Sunday. May you share in many blessings during this time.

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st April 2009

Dear Friend,

The debate is really warming up...vacuous election promises are flying everywhere like confetti to be gone in the first puff of the cold breeze of reason once the elections ballots are counted. But what continues to get under my skin (makes me mad!) is the posturing by individuals and groups who have other agendas which do not enhance the truth or promote understanding.

The news item bandied around internationally about the Pope and his statement on condoms was twisted to suit the agendas of news agencies. (It doesn't take much imagination for anyone who has been caught in such to understand what I mean.) Firstly, in the interests of understanding...how many news agencies published the text of the reported statement? How many were able to distinguish what some have pointed out...the contradictions caused by confusing broad statements with a particular circumstance?

What I understood the Pope to say is that condoms just do not seem to be working in preventing the spread of the pandemic. People have to examine their attitudes and life-styles. If condoms are working so well - why is it that the pandemic has not been brought under control? It is the same question that undermines the argument that a country will bring peace to a region by sending in thousands of troops to blow the people and place to pieces. The gun and the bomb are not the ultimate answer!!...the people – both sides – have to change their approach and understanding of life. Yet, as we know, peace is bad business for the arms dealers! There has been a lot written...for example the Sunday Times and the Southern Cross last week-end, ...as the saying goes: *Advice is seldom welcome. Those who need it most like it least!*

I quote the following from Edward C. Green, director of the [AIDS Prevention Research Project](#) at the Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies, in response to papal press comments en route to Africa this week* -

“The pope is correct, or put it a better way, the best evidence we have supports the pope’s comments. He stresses that “condoms have been proven to *not* be effective at the ‘level of population.’ “There is,” Green adds, “a consistent association shown by our best studies, including the U.S.-funded ‘Demographic Health Surveys,’ between greater availability and use of condoms and higher (not lower) HIV-infection rates....

Green added: “I also noticed that the pope said ‘monogamy’ was the best single answer to African AIDS, rather than ‘abstinence.’ The best and latest empirical evidence indeed shows that reduction in multiple and concurrent sexual partners is the most important single behaviour change associated with reduction in HIV-infection rates (the other major factor is male circumcision).”

“The pope is not alone. More and more AIDS experts are coming to accept the above. The two countries with the worst HIV epidemics, Swaziland and Botswana, have both launched campaigns to discourage multiple and concurrent partners, and to encourage fidelity”.

Read the full article here:

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MTNINDc1MmMwNDM0OTEzMjQ4NDc0ZGUyOWYxNmEzN2E>

Now that Lent is fast drawing to a close – certainly a time for examining our values and life-styles as we prepare for the great mystery of the Easter Celebration that announces once more eternal life that gives substance and meaning to this life.

Blessings and peace this Eastertide

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

* Thanks to [Metanoia Media \(http://www.catholicportal.co.za\)](http://www.catholicportal.co.za) for publicizing this item of news!

Some of the Groups through during February:

LoveMatters: Michael Rua (80 Gr 9); Holy Rosary (70 Gr 10); St Conrad's (45 Gr 10)

Day Retreats: Dominican Convent (100 Gr 8); St Theresa (40 Gr 7); St Theres (40 Gr 6); St Catherines ((61 Grds 4 & 5); St Catherines (63 Grds 6 & 7);

Own Run Programmes: French School (67); Siloam Ministries (60); Fourways Martial Arts Academy (100); St Benedicts (60); Saida Karate Gym (70); Soweto Progress Secondary School (98); SABC (25); Shotokan Karate Group (8);

Weekend Retreats: Our Lady of Fatima (8); St Theresa (28); Holy Angels (20);

“I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die!” John 11:25

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. LOVEMATTERS REPS AT THE UN IN NEW YORK.

The 53rd Commission on the Status of Women took place at the UN (3rd – 13th March) in New York where branches of the Salesian Family collaborate with NGOs and governments around the theme of equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in the context of HIV / AIDS. The Salesian Sisters and Salesians were able to prepare a joint oral intervention, which was presented by our own Khanyisile Tsiane (Bosco LoveMatters Team) and Charl Domingo (ex-Bosco Volunteer, working now at Michael Rua School – across the road from Bosco)

The LoveMatters programme was presented with its special focus on the prevention of the spread of HIV / AIDS. Among those in attendance at the LoveMatters discussion were many members of the South African delegation to the UN including the Minister to the President, Manto Tshabalala

Msimang and the Deputy Minister Ntombasana Botha. Congratulations to our team who made a huge impact at the UN.

2. The holidays are with us now so this week we have a group of young people from various parishes engaged in the LoveMatters experience.

Community News:

1. Over the past month or so there have been some of our Salesians and close collaborators leaving us for their eternal reward. Bro John O’Kane, worked at Bosco in the ‘70s...always a Celtic supporter. Mr Tony Introna, the woodwork craft master at Salesian Institute for as long as anyone can remember. Fr Lionel Sham who was closely involved with the development of the Bosco Youth Centre in its early years died tragically at the hands of murderers. We thank God for their lives of dedication and service. May they all rest in peace.



2. Yippee!! Our fax line has been restored to full functionality. It only took two months....that’s all!

3. Volunteers did a three full-days course in First Aid with the Red Cross. Thank you Mrs Peters. We all feel a lot safer now!

4. No, we haven’t sold the CASE TLB yet...but I did get a demonstration of a ride-on-mower from Mr Mike Lang. It did a very nice job of not only cutting the grass but mulching it too...which means that there is no raking afterwards. Another plus is that even the old folks can get out there and cut grass in less than half the time it takes pushing one of those other ones!

5. The community celebrated St Patrick’s Day although there is not an Irish soul among us. We went out and had a meal of pasta at an Italian Restaurant....a generous treat from an Irish friend. To ensure we maintained some semblance of an Irish meal, I finished with an Irish coffee!

LIFE ISSUES

Children in England aged 11 will be able to request morning-after pills from nurses by [short message service](#) texts. Schools are involved in the scheme in Oxfordshire. The opposition Conservative party said morning-after pills were only for emergencies. Family and Youth Concern said the move would not cut teenage pregnancy. Rev John Seward of SS Gregory and Augustine Catholic church, Oxford, said it was horrendous and would encourage promiscuity. [[Daily Mail, 25 March](#)]

An American state now requires parental consent for tattoos on minors but not for abortion. Maryland's legislature unanimously approved the measure on tattoos and body piercing. Our source points out that, if a minor requests an abortion, one parent is notified but their consent is not necessary. [[LifeSiteNews, 26 February](#)]

A woman in north-west England refused cancer treatment for the sake of her unborn twins. Mrs Rachel Crossland said: "there was no way I could deal with getting rid of my babies and having to then fight cancer." She received therapy after the babies were delivered by caesarean. [[Daily Mail, 2 March](#)]

POPE on about CONDOMS.

Have you read anything positive about the Pope's visit to Africa yet? The secular press is full of doom and distortion. It's all bias, bias and more bias.

Meanwhile, back at the Catholic ranch, we're reading news reports that tell a completely different story - like this one from National Review Online.

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MTNINDc1MmMwNDM0OTEzMjQ4NDc0ZGUyOWYxNmEzN2E>

So, to help counteract the bias, we've put this page up http://www.catholicportal.co.za/AIDS/The_Change_Is_On.htm Here you can watch the Metanoia Media documentary "The Change is On" on YouTube.



Here's some of what the National Review Online has to say:

'We have found no consistent associations between condom use and lower HIV-infection rates, which, 25 years into the pandemic, we should be seeing if this intervention was working.'

Abortion increases the likelihood of subsequent premature birth by nearly two thirds, according to a survey of 21 studies on the subject published in the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*. [[LifeSiteNews, 4 March](#)]

Volunteering – a Challenge for Growth.

By Sakhile Padi



Bosco is the place where I get to learn, teach play and pray; I make new friends every week (sometimes every day) and still manage to assist in teaching them life changing things. Bosco is a place where I can develop as a person and sometimes even exceed my own expectations.

My name is Sakhile Padi and I'm currently volunteering here at Bosco Youth Centre. I was born and raised in Soweto and attended high school at McAuley House Convent School in Parktown, Johannesburg. When I came to Bosco for the second time in 2006 for the LoveMatters programme (the first time I had come for a retreat when I was in grade seven), I really enjoyed it and I loved how the volunteers worked with us as well as the valuable information they

were giving us.

In 2007 I graduated from High School. I was planning to study at the International Hotel School but unfortunately things did not work out therefore I had to try something which was more feasible. When I came to Bosco in January of this year, I was optimistic and looking forward to working here but somehow my heart wasn't really into it; for me (at that time) Bosco was more of something that I had fallen back on because my original plan did not work out. When the excitement of the first few days faded away I really started to wonder if Bosco was the place for me; there were some challenges that I really didn't feel like facing.

I'm pushing myself and doing things that I never imagined myself doing

But now I'm pushing myself and doing things that I never imagined myself doing. For instance I'm working in the Gift Shop doing all the ordering and cashing up (which is a real challenge for since I'm not a "buisnessy" person). I'm enjoying the work mainly because of all the fun activities and the fact that I'm mostly working with young people and also because of the support and friendship from my fellow volunteers, but it can be challenging at times (naturally) but it makes me (as well as the other volunteers) so proud and happy when the kids, on leaving, are so grateful and we see the change in them and the way they look up to us is just so – amazing.

I am really learning a lot here at Bosco, facilitating, preparing sessions, typing and lots more. I'm really glad that I came here. ☐

Some comments from LoveMatters Participants during March

- * I now know that there is a price tag for sex and our choices that we make. I have enjoyed it and learned about the way of life and will spread my knowledge to who do not know.
- * I know when to say "NO" and what to say "no" to.
- * I'll be very careful in my future decisions.
- * I know how privileged I am.
- * I will be more wary of strangers and trusting of friends
- * It made me realise the reality of life.
- * I will wait till I'm married and I got closer to God
- * To think more about big situations: how to draw a line - say no alcohol to be careful, safe, honest
- * I will definitely abstain.
- * I will be more sensible with my decisions
- * It made a difference in a way that it taught me so much more than expected and it taught me to love myself even more.

- * I will wait for marriage and won't joke around.
- * The fact that I know the truth about sex dangers and emotional factors that came with it I can use it in my own experiences.
- * I can be able to change from the things I have done.
- * I will be more responsible and scrutinize situations rather than just doing it.
- * I will know that I am not alone.
- * I don't want to get STI's or become pregnant too early so I'll remain pure.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

From Klara Steenkamp (nee Fekete) now living in Australia - for St Patrick's Day - to everyone.

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

May there always be work for your hands to do;
 May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your window pane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

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

Being rich is having money; being wealthy is having time. -Stephen Swid, executive (b. 1941)

So long as men worship the Caesars and Napoleons, Caesars and Napoleons will duly rise and make them miserable. - Aldous Huxley, novelist (1894-1963)

A Beautiful Explanation of Death

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT..

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to
 Leave the examination room and said,
 "Doctor, I am afraid to die.
 Tell me what lies on the other side."
 Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."
 "You don't know? You, a Christian man,
 Do not know what is on the other side?"
 The doctor was holding the handle of the door;
 On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,
 And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room
 And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.
 Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
 "Did you notice my dog?
 He's never been in this room before.
 He didn't know what was inside.
 He knew nothing except that his master was here,
 And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.
 I know little of what is on the other side of death,
 But I do know one thing...
 I know my Master is there and that is enough."

APRIL 22nd Please vote....if you are registered to vote....VOTE.

The guy who never votes is the first to tell you what's wrong with the government.

The Metro Police are coming down hard on taxis and motorists in Jo'burg. If you are pulled over DO NOT say anything like the following:

Hey, officer, I can't reach my licence unless you hold my beer.
Sorry officer, I didn't realize my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
Aren't you the guy from the village people?
Wow, you must have been doing 130 to keep up with me, good job.
I thought you had to be in relatively good physical shape to be a police officer.
I was going to be a cop, but I decided to finish high school instead.

Irish Jokes...St Paddy's Day – 17th March 09

From Peter Quan

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!"

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said, "I do, Father."

The priest said, "Then stands over there against the wall."

Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply.

"Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "No, I don't Father."

The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Paddy was in New York

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay, pedestrians." Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop had shouted, "Pedestrians!" for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

"Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!!"

"Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney. "Where are ye callin' from?"

A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Trappist were marooned on a desert island. They found a magic lamp, and after some discussion decided to rub it. Lo and behold, a genie appeared and offered them three wishes. They decided it was only fair that they could each have one wish. The Jezzie said he wanted to teach at the world's most famous university, and poof, he was gone! The Dominican wished to preach in the world's largest church, and poof, he was gone! Then the Trappist said, "Gee, I already got my wish!"

You cannot fool all the people all the time, but politicians figure that once every four years is good enough!