



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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"JOY IS THE ECHO OF GOD'S LIFE WITHIN US"

Joseph Marmion

From the Rector's keyboard:

1st May 2009

Dear Friend,

We have entered another long weekend. Hurray! This Workers' Day the Bosco Team continues to work bringing to a conclusion this week's exciting and enjoyable LoveMatters with Iona Convent.

I am steering clear of any political comment or snide remarks about politicians since the elections are over, and we have been told what is past is past, there is no cloud or mist or showerhead ! So let's zoom onto another topic...

Further down there are some startling statistics about families and children. It is difficult to keep up with the changes that are taking place all the time, but it is obvious that even those as young as 10 years of age are significantly influenced by what is going on around them, and these perceptions they will carry into their teen and adult life.

What adults are doing has a much bigger impact than what they say. If we want to avoid a generation of delinquents and misfits, then we have to look at our own behaviour.:

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

A message every adult should read because children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favourite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

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Volunteers at the front door of Bosco House with the Malawian carvings of Don Bosco and two children which they decided to stand at the front door as a symbol of welcome to the Bosco Youth Centre.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.'

Blessings and Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!
Fr Robert Gore SDB

Some of the Groups through during February:

LoveMatters: Eco Hope (40); Turfontein Parish (23); StMary's (9); Robertsham Parish (25); Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (10); St Mathew's Primary; Iona Convent (60).

Day Retreats: Holy Family College Gr 11 (95); St Catherines Gr 11 & 12 (58); Dominican Convent (36).

Own Run Programmes: Bishop Bavin (74); St Vincent de Paul (15); Methodist Church (40). ISMAA (100); Moravian Women's Association (130).

Weekend Retreats: Our Lady of Peace (85).

**A lot of people nowadays have a B.A., M.D, or Ph.D.
Unfortunately, they don't have a J.O.B.**

Fats Domino

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. The building across the road is nearing completion. As our CSI partners we are hoping to tap into that source of assistance as soon as possible. So go out there and enjoy Ferrero products!
2. As you see above the centre has been busy during the month of April...so we were happy for the cancellation over the Easter weekend which gave everyone a break.

Community News:

1. Easter Monday we held a braai at Bosco for the Salesian Sisters (FMAs) and the Salesians (SDBs) with communities in Gauteng. Joining in with the fun and food were team members who had not "vanished" for the long weekend.



2. The three wood carvings depicting two children and Don Bosco at the Bosco Hall entrance have been replaced by a fibre glass statue of Don Bosco. The statue was imported from Italy for this very niche.
3. Bro Clarence and Fr Ivo are in Cape Town for the week making their annual retreat. I hear the weather is not so good, while here in Gauteng we have had great autumn days.
4. Upgrade of the Bosco Cemetery has taken place. Flag stones have been planted on the path. Crosses all have their name plates and have been lined up nicely. Thanks to those who have made a contribution towards the costs. Now all we need is a couple of concrete garden benches (R500 each) for the niches in the boundary wall so that

visitors may spend a little time in contemplation...only resting for a short while for those who already rest in peace.

5. We had the usual great turnout for the Stations of the Cross up Calvary Hill on Good Friday. It started at 10.30 this year...and finished before noon. It was conducted in both Sesotho and English alternating. Thanks to all those who helped and took part.

6. The Local Community also held its own Paschal Meal in the T-room. In all about 30 attended a wonderful para-liturgical celebration of the Pasch...with plenty of fine foods and drinks.

7. Fr Ivo celebrated his 81st birthday on Easter Day. At the end of 9.00am community mass, attended by many locals, the congregation burst out into a spontaneous "Happy Birthday" to mark the occasion.

8. The Salesians are considering expanding the accommodation for adults at the BYC by about 30 en-suite rooms...so making accommodation for an extra 60 persons sharing. This is being thought about since there are many requests for better accommodation for adult groups. Our usual retort is to say...that it is a youth centre! But we are convinced that with more adult accommodation we will improve the occupancy of the Centre which is already being stretched at times. However, we want to keep the prices very competitive...which doesn't leave much margin for excess funds to be ploughed into upgrading. So we are open to any help in this regard.

9. My computer had a crash a couple of weeks ago...I seem to have it all back as I like it with the help of our local IT guru...Tom Baker. So hope this letter will get out as normal.

10. All of us South African citizens traipsed off across the road to vote on the 22nd at the M Rua school. No Qs, no wait...just plain sailing. Something like 800 people voted at this station.

LIFE ISSUES

I found the following very interesting about children and teenagers in relation to their life in family...sorts of things that we are aware of in some way, but when it comes in print with some research, it makes it all the more imperative to see what we can do as adults to make a difference in our family or community.

- A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is almost 50% more likely to be abused.
- Dating violence perpetrated on an under-age child = child abuse, a fact highlighted by Auburn University.
- Births to unwed mothers reached an all-time high of about 40 percent in 2007 and teen pregnancy is on the rise again after a 14 year decline.
- A University of Puget Sound study published by the National Institute of Health correlates healthy relationship skills to reductions in dysfunctional parenting practices among adolescent mothers and their partners.

Ever wonder what rules a child would make if he or she were king or queen of the world? According to a recent British [survey](#) of under ten year olds, it's not banning bedtime....it's **banning divorce!** Divorce also won the number two slot for "the worst things in the world". It's no secret to kids that family instability creates negative consequences for them, one of which is child abuse.

According to the CDC, teen pregnancy rose three percent between 2005 and 2006--the first increase after 14 years of steady decline, AND births to unwed mothers reached an all-time high of about 40 percent in 2007! Help teens think beyond sex, contraception, and the possibility of pregnancy, to the risks to children born of young parents.

FamilyFacts.org's top ten [research findings](#) this month document the impact of parent relationships on teens, and provide impressive facts you can use to make a case for teaching healthy relationship skills to teens.

They've also published a special report entitled "The Relationship Between Family Structure and Adolescent Sexual Activity" that concludes that compared to peers from

other family structures, teens from intact families were less likely to be sexually active. You can download the [full report](#) or an [abstract](#).



Thanks to the

for the above info: **Visit the Website at** www.DibbleInstitute.org,

Some comments from LoveMatters Participants during April

What was the most striking thing you have learnt this week?

The consequences of having sex before marriage and what life is all about

We as a human being have to know how to do the right decision of our lives and how to be committed to God. Everything about self control. Everything was great

Abortion - I thought I knew a lot but was wrong. I thought it was ok but after seeing the video, I changed my mind no matter whether were raped or not it is wrong.

Is that you shouldn't prove your self that with sex that you love your partner

I learned what life is because I really didn't know many things they have taught us here

Everything that I learn this week striking me half not because I did not know about it, it is because I did only knew half of the stuff not the full lot.

That love matters. And how many choices we have to make in life

How abortions were done and how confusing sex is

About how risky it is to be sexually active and how much you are at risk of getting sti's, std's

That prayer is not just saying the words, we must understand what we are saying.

I learnt that love means waiting for someone special - also learnt a lot about self respect and my relationship with God

That love does really matter and that doing the right thing can get u far

Night prays at the cross - love is not all about sex it's a way some one trusts you, needs you and honour

That my life is so important and there are so many teens dying from STIs

The statistics aids, The abortion video, The different sti's - well basically everything we did this week

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC **– some special mention of worker quips:**

Home is the place where, no matter where you're sitting, you're looking at something you should be doing.

A trade unionist is someone who hates his job and is afraid someone will take it from him.

Many people quit looking for work when they find a job.

Steven Wright.

The following was an article from the St. Petersburg Times Newspaper on Sunday (12.4.09). The Business Section asked readers for ideas on "How Would You Fix the Economy?"

This was the BEST idea. I think this chap nailed it!

Dear Mr President,

Patriotic retirement:

There's about 40 million people over 50 in the work force; pay them \$1 million apiece severance with stipulations:

1) They leave their jobs. Forty million job openings - Unemployment fixed.

2) They buy NEW American cars. Forty million cars ordered - Auto Industry fixed.

3) They either buy a house or pay off their mortgage - Housing Crisis fixed.

Remember: Its cheaper than giving away the taxpayers money to rich people!

THERE ARE 10¹¹ STARS IN THE GALAXY. THAT USED TO BE A HUGE NUMBER. BUT IT'S ONLY A HUNDRED BILLION. IT'S LESS THAN THE NATIONAL DEFICIT! WE USED TO CALL THEM ASTRONOMICAL NUMBERS. NOW WE SHOULD CALL THEM ECONOMICAL NUMBERS.

Richard Feynman, physicist, Nobel Laureate (1918-1988)

A LITTLE BIBLICAL HUMOUR (Weakest Link material?) from Peter Quan

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany ? A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q.. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden ?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan, the banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents? A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark ? A. Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groan

PS. Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

Yup, it's in the Bible. It says . . . "He-brews"

KEEP SMILING!!!! GOD LOVES YOU BUNCHES AND BUNCHES!!!!

If you do not know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

Scott Adams

Mothers Day coming up on the 10th May...some wise cracks!

Every morning I start out as Mary Poppins, and end up like Cruella de Vil. Robin.
Mum's the Word.

Instead of saying "hello", my mother gets on the phone and says, "Guess who died?" Dom Irrera

I asked my mother if I was adopted. She said, "not yet, but we've placed an ad." Dana Snow.

**Friends are God's way of taking care of us.
.....Faith, Hope & Love – but the greatest of these is LOVE.**

1 Corinthians 13:13