



THE BOSCO-LINK

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Team @ Bosco

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Oh what a blamed uncertain thing
This pesky weather is!
It blew and snew and then it thew
And now by jing, it's frizz

Philander Johnson, *Shooting stars.*

From the Rector's keyboard:

Hello dear friend,

Our monthly newsletter is on time again, to warm you up during this cold weather. The Confederations Cup may have been keeping you heated, with Bafana Bafana getting only in fourth place...but unashamedly so! Pam Stenzel left us with a glow of satisfaction, knowing that so many young people turned out to listen to her. I have included a shortened version of an email from her in this newsletter. Of course, as usual there are many issues to get the blood boiling!

Take all the publicity around the issue of bullying...savage / criminal initiation rituals...the prevalence of violence in our society also manifests itself in rape ...not so different from the other issues of bullying for we are well aware it is a crime of violence and power. Shocking figures for rape in South Africa were released middle of June. (If you did not see the local press details, follow the link given in Pam's email) It is difficult to comprehend or believe - but as Pam Stenzel's e-mail confirms a lot of work has to be done in this area of human development, especially with the youth. Yet, many of our schools are focussed not in the education of our youth to a healthy human and spiritual maturity, but in programming learners to pass examinations! Do I over-generalise? I think not! The symbols on a piece of paper become the benchmark of one's worth in a consumerist society. Parents fall into the same trap, replacing values and virtues with achievement and ambition.

A happy balance has to be maintained in all areas of human development. An educative environment has to struggle with the tensions and choices that have to be made in the interest of the young people involved. What is the value of an individual's "straight A" matric certificate, if that individual is going to be dead in a matter of few years because important behaviour management skills and values have not been integrated into that person's style of life.

How often we have heard that remorseful refrain "I killed my friend because I was drunk" or a fifteen year old pregnant teen crying: "But he said he loved me!" What about an intelligent young person at varsity with a very promising career ahead, taking his/her own life! What a tragedy...! Schooling / parenting that avoids the spiritual, emotional, relational, psychological, mental and physical health of its charges in the pursuit of excellence on a piece of paper is doing a great disservice to those involved.

Of course I do realise the value of achieving ones best in the classroom and laying the foundations for academic achievements / technical skills and career preparation....but not at the expense of developing happy, responsible and caring young adults.

Peace and Blessings

Fr Robert

Fr Robert Gore SDB

Some of the Groups through during June:

LoveMatters: Nardini Convent (50); Pretoria Parishes (63); St Pauls (14) Orange Farm (65) .

Own Run Programmes: Red Cross Youth (30); Irish Group Tour (27)

Weekend Retreats: St Angela's (30 - final confirmation); Our Lady of Peace(42);

Day Retreats: Brescia House (59 Gr 4); Dominican Convent (30); Brescia House (66 Gr 6); Holy Family College (70);

Weekend Camp: Bosco Oratory (70);

COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM LOVEMATTERS PARTICIPANTS

Not to have sex before marriage

It showed me good and a lot of bad, I will be ready

I will never ever ever have an abortion or premature sex

Knowing more this tour has changed many of my views of life & thank you Bosco so much

To feel good about myself and saving sex for marriage

I now know that teenage sex is not right and abstinence should be the way of everyone's love life

This will help to make the right choices in my and not making a mistake that can effect me for the rest of my life

Be more careful of who I want to sleep with

I have decided & promised that I will save myself for that special person

My confidence , self- respect and I will definitely be more careful and aware

This will help me with my choices in life

It taught me a lot about the consequences of peoples action and how dangerous it is doing things that have severe consequences like loosing a life. It simply isn't worth it

Pam Stenzel writes:

To: boscoypt@iafrica.com

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2009 3:50 PM

Subject: Greetings from Pam Stenzel

Dear friends at BOSCO YOUTH CENTER!

I wanted to send my greetings and much appreciation to you all for your LOVE and hospitality to me and my team! I am so grateful for you all and for the amazing work you are doing there with students and their families! I LOVE the DVD! You did an amazing job of describing your ministry and the students who spoke did a great job of communicating the impact the program has made in their lives! I am planning to share the DVD with some donors here in the US... let's pray that they will see the vision for the important LIFE SAVING work you are all doing there!

I came across this story in the BBC new.. I thought you might be interested... just one more proof that EVERYTHING you do there is SOOO important: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8107039.stm>

Please pass on my love to all there! God bless you all, you remain in my prayers!!

Pam Stenzel

www.pamstenzel.com

Community News:

1. Bros Leluma, Tumelo and Lingoane took a Condor with four Salesian Youth Movement youth leaders to the Cape for a Leadership Training Workshop with other SYM leaders from the rest of the Salesian Southern Africa (Lesotho and Swaziland). This was held at the Salesian Institute in Cape Town city.
2. Bro Lingoane Tlaile leaves Bosco on the 1st July after two years teaching at Michael Rua School. He also oversaw the running of the training of soccer teams, both male and female, under the banner of our kind funders, Jugend Eine Welt. Bro Leluma has stepped in to help both at the school and with the soccer teams, all of which are doing very well, I may add!
3. Fr John Coleman went to England for two weeks to preach two retreats during the month.

BOSCO CENTRE NEWS

1. We have been happy to host a group of youth with their teachers from our Salesian School in Limerick, Ireland. 27 in all have come to visit not only our beautiful land but also to visit the Salesian presences in Gauteng, Lesotho and Swaziland. Seeing the work that is done and the needs that exist, gives them the motivation to see what they can do in the way of help when they return to Limerick.
2. Nardini Convent comes all the way from Vryheid, a four hour bus journey, to ensure its Grade 7 pupils enjoy and learn from a Mini LoveMatters over three days.
3. As I write the work has started on renewing the fence around the Bosco erf. (Not the whole property!). This is to up the security profile at Bosco which has always enjoyed a care-free country atmosphere for 60 years. But as the criminals multiply at an exponential rate new soft targets are being picked on in country settings.
4. We welcomed on the 26th June...Ms Eugenia Mar to join our Youth Ministry Team for a couple of months. A trained teacher with a BS in Community Health, all the way from San Antonio, Texas. She is a Vides Volunteer Missioner.
5. Leaving us after a year on the Youth Ministry Team is Miriam Staber.. We will miss her infectious laugh and energetic contribution. *Auf wiedersehen*. Nhlanhla Nhlapo has also left the team after a six month commitment to continue with his studies in Chemical Engineering. His ready smile and gentle nature will take him far. We wish them both all the best in their studies.
6. Nhlanhla Mdlalose (Lucky) a member of our LoveMatters Team is distinguishing himself on Radio Veritas. The programme is called Letsemeng and broadcasts in Zulu from 15:00 until 16:00 every Tuesday: Nhlanhla and Thabo Mokone talk about topics that involve and challenge Youth e.g. Peer Pressure, Relationships, Faith, etc

They have started a group called “LETSEMENG@RADIOVERITAS CHANNEL 170 ON DSTV” on facebook to interact with those who are unable to call on the show: During the show people can call to give their opinions, at the same time there is the possibility to chat on facebook with Nhlanhla and Thabo.



Above: Thabo and Lucky (L-R) on air in the Veritas Radio studio.

I came to South Africa from Germany to be a volunteer at Bosco Youth Centre for one year. Now this one year is almost over. I am going back home soon – I'm sad and happy about it. Of course I missed my family and friends back home. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again. But on the other hand I'm very sad. My time here has been great! I am going to miss everyone very much. The openness I found in so many people, the multicultural life I experienced here in South Africa opened my horizons. I want to say THANK YOU to everyone. I'm hoping to come back. This may not be too soon since I am going to study social sciences and journalism from October this year. However, I'm still dreaming of the world cup next year ...and one day I'll definitely be back!



PAST PUPILS

Firstly, some encouraging words for doddering ex-educators....

I've been thinking about you and all the teachers, priests and brothers at St John Bosco...

I wanted to thank you for a wonderful education (both from a literacy and life point) at Bosco, if I've never thanked you properly. My time in the 1980's in that environment, with your guidance, and the wonderful friends (I still have) has always sparked a very warm feeling in my heart.

If you are in e-mail contact with some of my teachers, I'd be grateful if you could pass this e-mail on. It's never too late to sincerely thank you....

I'm living in Sydney as you know, and Russ Colquon and Erwin Riendle also live here, with Craig Deetlefs in Perth. Hans Dummer is coming to visit in Dec – that's cool news....Here's how your guidance has helped mold a beautiful family – see our family blog: <http://thewhalleyfamily.blogspot.com/>
Much love, warmth over the miles....

Peter Whalley

Secondly, some closure to disturbing and sad news...

Some closure has finally been brought to the family of murdered past pupil **Johnny Abbatermarco** (1963 – 196?). He was hijacked and murdered after picking up the wages for his staff some months ago, but his body was not traced until yesterday (24th June). His remains were found in a distant corner of his farm north of Johannesburg. Our prayers are with his family at this time of bereavement.

LIFE ISSUES

A British television presenter has written of how caring for his sick mother has led to his opposition to euthanasia. Charles Ottley has cared for 14 years for his mother, who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Mr Ottley wrote: "I believe it's worth fighting for every moment of life - which is why I was so dismayed to hear in the past few days that there are 800 British people on a waiting list for Dignitas". [[Daily Mail, 9 June](#)]

The abortion centre run by George Tiller, the American abortionist who was murdered last month, is to close permanently, his family have announced. Operation Rescue, the pro-life group which moved its headquarters near to Tiller's centre in Wichita, Kansas, said that it intended to remain in the city. Tory Newman, Operation Rescue's leader, said: "I want to see [abortion centres] close through peaceful, legal non-violent means". [[BreakingNews.ie, 10 June](#)]

Sarah Palin, the former candidate for American vice-president, spoke of her feelings when her unborn child was diagnosed with Down's syndrome. Mrs Palin, speaking to a pro-life banquet, "I had to ask myself, 'Was I going to walk the walk or was I just going to talk the talk?'" Pro-life leaders welcomed the openness of her remarks. [[First Post, 11 June](#)]

Doctors are reported to be opposing the ASA's proposal. Dr Mark Pickering, a general practitioner in York, northern England, said: "Allowing abortion services to advertise on TV would then be saying, 'Here is a quick medical fix for the consequences of having sex.' That is giving all the wrong messages and is very disturbing." Doctors are expected to speak out against the proposals at the representative meeting of the British Medical Association (BMA) which starts this weekend. [[Daily Mail, 21 June](#)]

He who sees a need and waits to be asked for help is as unkind as if he had refused it.

Dante Alighieri, poet (1265-1321)

Some strange, funny and thought provoking stuff received at BYC

***This was written by a black gentleman in Texas.
What a great sense of humour and creativity!!!***

When I was born, I was BLACK,
When I grew up, I was BLACK,
When I went in the sun, I stayed BLACK,
When I got cold, I was BLACK,
When I was scared, I was BLACK,
When I was sick, I was BLACK,
And when I die, I'll still be BLACK.

NOW, you 'white' folks, well, that's a different story....

When you're born, you're PINK,
When you grow-up, you're WHITE,
When you go in the sun, you get RED,
When you're cold, you turn BLUE,
When you're scared, you're YELLOW,
When you get sick, you're GREEN,
When you bruise, you turn PURPLE,
And when you die, you look GRAY.
So now, who y'all callin' COLORED folks???



Ready for the long journey?

A priest waited in line to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

'Reverend,' said the young man, 'I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.'

The minister chuckled, 'I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.'

Those Dominicans and Jesuits

Two men considering a religious vocation were having a conversation. "What is similar about the Jesuit and Dominican Orders?" the one asked.

The second replied, "Well, they were both founded by Spaniards -- St. Dominic for the Dominicans, and St. Ignatius of Loyola for the Jesuits. They were also both founded to combat heresy -- the Dominicans to fight the Albigensians, and the Jesuits to fight the Protestants."

"What is different about the Jesuit and Dominican Orders?"

"Met any Albigensians lately?"

Strike an average between what a woman thinks of her husband a month before she marries him and what she thinks of him a year afterward, and you will have the truth about him.

H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)

A few more things not to say to a traffic cop who has pulled you over to the side of the road!

You're not going to check in the boot, are you?

Gee, that gut sure doesn't inspire confidence.

Is it true that people become cops because they are too dumb to work at McDonalds?

So, uh... you on the take or what?

Gee officer, that's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning.

Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does. ▲