Bosco Society

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My Dear Friends,

First I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and your donations to Bosco Society. Your contributions are so greatly appreciated and have enabled us to help so many needy children and adolescents since 1970. I can't believe that in about two years Bosco Society will celebrate it's 50th Birthday!! Please join me to pray and thank God for all the good help and many blessings He has given us.

People often seem worried about my health. They'll ask me in a quite, sombre tone, "Are you getting enough rest? Do you have pain anywhere? However, there does not seem to be any urgent reason. It is true that I turned 85 on September,14th of this year and have already buried 3 of my medical doctors, but in fact I feel very well.

However, the other day I really got a terrible scare. I was getting out of the car, moved my crutches out, then swung my good right leg out without any effort, then tried to move my polio leg out and slide toward the open door at the same time. Suddenly I was terribly weak, shocked, stunned, horrified and felt that I was staring death in the face. But then I finally realized I had forgotten to take off my seatbelt!!! So to avoid these terrible feelings of helplessness, always unbuckle your seat belt before leaving the car!!!

It is true that I've gotten weaker over the years and are obliged to walk with crutches again, but crutches are easy for me since I walked with crutches as a boy. In fact, I feel much safer with crutches. It's just like being a 4 legged creature again. I really believe my sister Jeannette had it right when she said, "Age is not important, it's only your attitude that really matters".

In the forty-eight years since I started Bosco Society the Good Lord has blessed us with many unbelievable miracles. Let me tell you about a recent beautiful miracle. Two years ago when we were planning to help the poor children in the Philippines, who were suffering from brain damage, we decided to use a very effective method called Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. You will remember that we managed to purchase a used HBO chamber and are in the process of getting it set up in the province of Cavite in the Philippines. It's a difficult, complicated process but we're moving ahead!

Inside our hyperbaric chamber which can hold up to 20 children

However, we ran into at huge obstacle. According to regulations a HBO chamber must be supervised by a Medical Doctor and I am only a neuropsychologist and clinical psychologist. So we desperately needed an M.D. or we would not able to use HBO therapy for the children. So I began looking for an M.D. who knew something about HBO therapy to supervise our project.

I was shocked to learn that HBO therapy was virtually unknown in the Philippines so we would be terribly lucky to find one who knew anything about HBO therapy. I was shocked and stunned to learn that in the Philippines, with a population of over 100 million, there were over 100,000 medical doctors. To find one who knew anything about HBO therapy would be about as easy as catching a minnow in the Pacific Ocean!!!

Dr Bernardo and family

So in looking at long lists of doctors in alphabetical order, I decided to first phone a name that began with "A", then one with "B", and so on, to make my work more interesting. So the first doctor I phoned in the "A" group told me he knew nothing about HBO therapy, was not interested and was upset that I had bothered him for nothing. I felt so discouraged after his scolding that for a moment I considered dropping the whole project.

However, then I finally went on to the "B" section of the list. The first doctor I phoned in that list was called Dr. Bernardo. I asked him if he knew anything about HBO therapy and he said, "Yes! I specialized in that with Dr. Neubauer in Florida." Neubauer was the creator of many of the applications of HBO therapy and the biggest expert in the world. I couldn't believe what I was hearing!

Then Dr. Bernardo asked me, "What are you doing?" I told him I was working on bringing a used HBO chamber to the Philippines to help poor children with brain damage. He immediately exclaimed with excitement in his voice, "I'll help you!". He and his wonderful wife, Angel, an RN, and their two sons, Johann and Josh help me in every possible way. It was an absolute miracle to have found him. In the Philippines, Ria and I have two homes, the Sisters and the Bernardo family.

Father concelebrating Mass with his nephew Fr. Danny Yasinski at one of his parish missions in Unity, SK.

There have been so many special people that have helped us over the forty-eight years and we could not have done it without them. This year I would like to tell you about some very special people who made, and are still making, significant contributions to Bosco Society. Since I do all the preaching, speaking and teaching, people get the false idea that "Father Larre is Bosco Society". Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm just a squeaky little wheel in a wonderful organization called Bosco Society whose mandate is to help children in need wherever they may be. This year I want to give you a clearer picture of who are some of these hardworking people who keep Bosco Society running smoothly. Here are a few of the Stars who volunteer endless hours!

Massood Joomratty

Massood is an immigration lawyer and has offices in both Vancouver and Manila in the Philippines. He is deeply committed to helping people from poorer countries immigrating to Canada. Massood has been on our Board if Directors for many years and has an amazing talent of finding quick, practical solutions to difficult problems. Lately he has helped us in so many ways to unravel some very complicated problems in

bringing our HBO chamber to the Philippines.

Daren Hancott

Darren has also been on our board of directors for years and is a gifted writer, professor and organizer. He earned a Ph.D. in organization and management with a leadership specialization. His speciality is to establish and organize new universities. He is also a financial wizard and did a wonderful job improving Bosco Societies' financial situation which we will be forever grateful. Lately, Darren wrote a book on leadership. The title of the book is "Leadership is What?" and is readily available.

Rob Gagno from Cratex and Father

Rob Gagno of Cratex

Rob is the general manager of Cratex in Delta. This company prepares and crates things to be shipped across the ocean. After we purchased our big Hyperbaric Oxygen chamber from the clinic in Coquitlam, we brought it down to Cratex to have it properly prepared for shipping which they did. However, we ran into some nasty problems with regulations and severe problems in finding an appropriate parcel of land for our HBO clinic. We were stuck and had to keep our shipment on hold.

Space at the seaport is very precious, expensive and all crated goods must be moved out within a few days. This placed us in a terrible dilemma. We had nowhere else to store our HBO chamber and could not afford to keep it at the seaport. However, Rob the good Samaritan, offered to store our chamber free of charge. Unfortunately, we had so many complicated problems getting our HBO chamber admitted into the Philippines that Rob kept it free of charge for many months. Without Rob's generous help, we would have never succeeded in being able to establish a HBO chamber and clinic for poor children.

Ria Kaal

Ria has now worked for Bosco for over forty years. She is highly creative, never panics, amazing organizational skills, a problem solver, a great story teller and very funny.

Ria came to Canada from the Netherlands as a 3-year-old child with her parents and two sisters. The family settled in Muenster, SK. After graduating from grade 12 in 1970, Ria went on her own, to Europe and spent six months there. On this trip she felt herself called to become a religious. So on returning home she joined the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno, SK.

As a religious, Ria taught at the St. Ursula's Academy and took university courses in theology, education, psychology, photography and art. While taking psychology at the University of Regina she heard about this "crazy priest who was looking after a bunch of troubled teenagers". She contacted me and I put her in charge of one of the Bosco Homes "with some dozen kids". After two years, she left the Ursuline Sisters to work full time at Bosco Homes. Ria has now been working as a volunteer for Bosco for 42 years!!!

As a fundraiser for Bosco, Ria was instrumental in creating the Big Valley Rodeo & Stampede and the Big Valley Country Music Jamboree and the Luck of the Irish lottery. With the raised funds, Ria helped me build the Lazy B Ranch in Craven, SK. and Camp Grizzly on

Deschambeau Lake for the Bosco kids. She also helped organized and operate the Bosco Centre in Coquitlam, BC and managed it for 20 years. She helps plan and organize our Parish Missions and is working hard to establish our HBO treatment centre for poor children struggling with brain damage.

In 1992 when I wanted to learn more about helping children I had a dream of getting a doctorate from Wright State University in Dayton Ohio It was one of the top 3 psychology programs in the USA at the time. Unfortunately, I didn't have the means to do so. Ria was hired by Cirque du Soleil, as a Tour Producer, and set up their European tour in 20 different cities. Ria used her good salary to send me to school This gave me a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. After that I took 4 years of Neuropsychology with the Fielding, Institute in San Francisco. There I learned how to test for brain damage and how to retrain damaged brains which has helped me to understand why and be able to help so many children to have a better life.

These are only a few of the many wonderful people that have helped Bosco to realize it's mandate which is to help children who fall through the cracks.

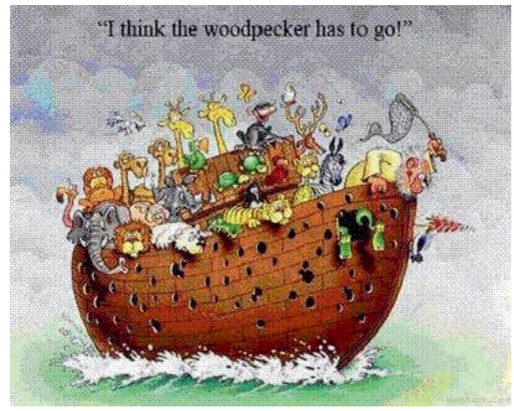
As 2017 draws to a close we wish to thank you our friends and benefactors for your ongoing generosity, support and many donations to Bosco Society. You are making it possible for us to be the first in the world to bring Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy to poor children with brain damage. With Hyperbaric Oxygen, they will do much better in school, get better jobs later in life and never fall back into severe poverty again. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for saving these precious children and may God bless and keep you always! Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours!

Lovingly in Christ,

Father Larre

Father Larre

PS A big, big thankyou to the teachers and students of Archbishop Carney School in Port Coquitlam, who volunteer their time to help us with our annual mail out.



" A little cartoon that made me laugh out loud and thought you may enjoy also!"