



Praise the Lord II: The Bosco Academy

By Brother Tom Eades

Praise The Lord All you Fellow Servants of the Lord!

Well, it is time for an update about The Bosco Academy and all the Boscovites (residents). At the end you will be able to read a small amount of selected quotes out of the hundreds we receive by residents, parents, social workers and a judge. Through the glory of God a lot of good things have been happening. First below is our new mission statement for the Bosco Academy:

The John Bosco Academy for Homeless Young Men and Troubled Adolescents, part of St Luke's Mission of Mercy, is dedicated to providing hope to the young male trapped by the street life of gangs, substance abuse or any number of other issues that inevitably prevents them from developing in a healthy way. Located in the inner-city of Buffalo NY, a place not many young men are given a chance to grow, we provide an oasis of hope. We do this by dedicating ourselves to creating a family atmosphere that is produced by God's love through His mercy, while molding them Academically, Physically, Mentally and Spiritually to become productive citizens in today's society.

Secondly we would like to congratulate DeAndre White for being voted student of the month at his school last month. This is God's work because three months ago when he came here, DeAndre was ready to drop out. Congratulations also to Antoine Gerald, he has earned enough credits now to graduate high school. Also to Mark Fitzgerald for his commitment to RCIA and Andrew Kocol for his graduation from the Naval boot camp. All are current and prior residents.

Thirdly we have added about 40 young men to the list of past and current residents. Many have been reunited with their families, others have ventured out and now are productive young men in society, others to college, the Armed Services, etc... and a small amount have ended up back in the system. All are His "works in progress" and have been touched by Him. Please pray for all of them, especially those that are incarcerated. It always amazes me how God continues to be a part of all their lives, especially the ones incarcerated. When they write to me God is always the center of focus and with that there is always Hope. We have also been raised to the status of Academy! We now offer and officially teach a full CISCO networking and ITT course on site to further the careers of the young men. There are still many young men lost to the streets because we don't have the room to help them. We are in desperate need of a new facility. Our present facility is old and we have outgrown it. If it wasn't for the Bosco Academy these young men would have no one and no hope. God even touches the kids and young adults that are part of our outreach program; He calmed their anger, they are all in school again and even greater some are entering the Church this coming Easter Vigil.

In November we had Judge LoVallo of the Domestic Violence Court of Buffalo (from whom we have received many young men) spend time at the Bosco House; she also visited the rest of the

mission. The Judge was so impressed she came as a volunteer for the December toy giveaway.

The following are some quotes that show what powerful work God is doing here at the Bosco House even with such an unworthy person as myself:

"Brother Tom has struck that difficult balance between discipline and compassion that gives these young men a fighting chance. Not every young man referred to St. John's House is a success story, but without Brother Tom and St. John Bosco House, countless young men would be left adrift in a sea of poverty, violence and substance abuse. Brother Tom and St. John's House are willing to work with the young men no one else will and provide a service to this Court no other agency is able to. I find Brother Tom and St. John's House to be an invaluable resource to this Court and this community."

-Judge LoVallo-Domestic Violence Court- Buffalo

"His growth and success is a direct result of the quality work that you and your staff have done to guide and direct him. The improvement we have seen in our son over these couple of months has shown us that your program works. With your guidance our son now realizes the importance of education, respect for others, and has developed a relationship with the Church,"

-Mr. & Mrs. Fitzgerald--Parents

"If it wasn't for the love and guidance Bosco house I would be dead right now. Not only I am alive physically I am now alive spiritually. Thank you God for your house Br. Tom and the staff."

-Jermaine Kirkwood, 18 yrs old- former resident

"I thank God for The Bosco House which has taken care of me since I was 16 yrs old. I have also seen many young men come and go in which many of these would have been lost to the streets if it wasn't for the house."

-Ben Caviness 18 yrs old- resident

"James has become part of a stable family for the first time in his life. The trust that was placed in James and unconditional love and acceptance helped restore a broken heart and his dignity. James has recently told me that in these last eight months that he has felt more love, guidance, and acceptance than he has in twenty one years of his life. He said the values he has learned and the examples set forth for him are something he will hold forever in his heart and try to live by. He never knew such feelings were possible"

-Susan Lord Wetherbee -Social worker

"What you have done for our son a whole city and 6 yrs could not accomplish...you have given us our son back and given him a life...he has found God and He has become a big part of his life... For without you and 'St. John Bosco Home' there would be no place for all those boys in the streets to have a better chance at a new life, and you have done that for many."

-John and Diane Torma-parents



**St. John
Bosco,
Pray for
us!**