

# Praise the Lord

## all you servants of the Lord!

by Thomas Eades

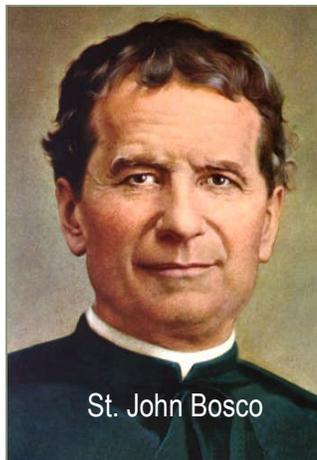
Again I am writing you with joy and sorrow in my heart. Let me begin first with the gift of joy. I was blessed to sponsor another young man from the St. John Bosco House into the Catholic Church. Tevin, 15 years old, was one of two to be baptized into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass. Tevin graduated from the residential part of the program this year to the respite stage. He lives at home and spends time at the house on a part-time basis. Tevin has been associated with the Bosco House for about a year and half. He is doing a great job in school and at home with his family. My second gift of joy was when Tevin informed me that he was also becoming a junior associate, the first ever to come from the Bosco House.

This leads me to the sorrow. Due to escalating health problems and at the request of my children and grandchildren I left the Mission to go live with them in Fredericksburg, Virginia on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2008. At this point it looks like it will be an extended stay. I am going to undergo several operations to alleviate some of the problems and if it is in His will I hope God heals the incurable health problems that plague me. The health problems are not life threatening at this stage, but they do severely incapacitate me, keeping me from living a normal or even limited life style, Praise the Lord!

If It wasn't for the request of my kids (which is also a great joy that I don't deserve, but I'll take it) I would never have left my awesome mission family. I have learned many things from them; I love and admire them so much. I could deal with all the small amount of suffering and incapacitations the Lord has awarded me and live here the rest of my life; but I couldn't do it knowing the sorrow I would be causing my children worrying about me. Even though my children had given their blessings on my work for God, it hurt them deeply knowing I was suffering and that they couldn't be with me to comfort me. They gave up a lot for me over the last 13 years seeing me travel all over the world in life threatening situations, never knowing if they will see me again. I have four great kids and five awesome grandchildren who I am very proud of.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me be a part of hundreds of young men's lives and to experience the joy of seeing God work in them spiritually. I have been the sponsor and God-fathered over twenty of them that have come into the Faith. I want to thank Amy and Norm for giving me the chance to be a small part of God's work here at St. Luke's. Thank you, as well, to Eddy Simon, my younger brother I never had, my sister Jeanne who fed the young men and all in my missionary family. My thanks to Tom, Tony, Pat, Gino, and the house mothers: Liz, Liz and Mel, and all who have kept this house operational. Please keep The Bosco House and young men in your prayers. Ask God to continue to give grace to all those who labor there, and pray that their hearts are ready to receive that grace.

Praise the Lord, I love and pray for you always God Bless and God Speed.



## What a team!



Thank you to the Buffalo Sabres, WGR 550 Sports Radio, and First Niagara Bank for joining the St. Luke's team this Christmas to provide toys for hundreds of children all over WNY!

On Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> a hearty group of volunteers descended upon HSBC Arena to collect toys and funds from the fans coming out to the game. It was an incredible night! Thanks to WGR 550 folks all over the area heard about our annual toy drive, and fans were wonderfully generous, with many toys and thousands of dollars raised to make Christmas special for needy children.

First Niagara also helped the team by collecting toys in their branches all over the community. It was a great boost for the Mission and brought a lot of Christmas smiles!

When wonderful organizations and businesses join together with St. Luke's amazing things happen! Are you a business owner looking for ways to help? Call the Mission today at 894-4476 and join a winning team!