

# Bosco Society

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Coquitlam, B.C.  
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Feast of St. John Bosco, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Dear Friends,

We wish to “thank you” for your great generosity in helping us provide a better, happier, more successful future for our poor children. We deeply appreciate your charity and are most grateful. We believe that a simple “thank you” is not sufficient. Yet we believe that “thank you” is indeed the most beautiful, precious phrase in the world.

We must offer a huge “thank you” for the great generosity and sacrifices of the early pioneers who bravely left their native lands and settled in Canada. It brings to mind my father, Jean Baptiste, who immigrated to Saskatchewan in 1906. At that time the center of Canada was largely vacant. To become a Canadian, you did not need to know any English. You didn’t need much money, good health, or a big education. My father had none of these gifts. In those days to become a Canadian my father only needed a one-way ticket on a ship to Halifax and a railroad ticket to Saskatchewan. Today these brave pioneers would not be allowed to immigrate to Canada.

I have to say a big “thank you” to God for allowing me to be born in Canada at the beginning of the great depression. My parents worked hard and prayed even harder. After having 8 children my mother was sickly, weak and frail. Our good Doctor Finlayson sat her down and explained to her that she could not have another baby or she would die. However, my parents prayed hard, sacrificed and had five of us after that.

My father had a very bad heart. When I was three months old, he passed away, just before the new year, in 1932. Then my mother was left on the farm with 12 children, bad crops, the beginning of the “dirty 30s” and the great depression. However, mother was a wonderful cook. We had cattle, sheep, chickens, ducks and we never went hungry. We even had our own hockey rink and team on the farm and never suffered. In fact, in our parish we were known as “the Fat Family”. We knelt together and said the Rosary every day to say a big “thank you” to God for all our blessings.

Then at five years of age I got "infantile paralysis, now called polio. There still was no vaccine and children quickly died from it. In our village two children died from it in a few days. I was very sick in bed for 3 years. However, my family prayed the Rosary every day and I survived. Then after another 3 years I learned to walk with crutches. Then in another 3 years I learned to walk without crutches and walked without crutches for the next 50 years. Then when I was over 70 I had to go back to crutches again. However, I have absolutely no pain and I'm able to work full time at 86 years of age. I continue to say the Rosary every day and say a big "thank you" to God for my good health and ability to work seven days a week.

God has been extremely good to me. I was blessed with the privilege of living with over 400 troubled teenagers in Regina for over 25 years. Then I went to university in Ottawa, Edmonton, Dayton Ohio and San Francisco. I was able to get 3 bachelor degrees, 2 masters degrees, a doctorate in clinical psychology and also in neuropsychology.

Then I was blessed with Ria Kaal coming to help me as a volunteer at Bosco Homes in Regina. We raised funds to support our homes. We raffled cars and houses. Then for a dozen years we raised money for our homes with chuck wagon races, stampedes and the 5-day Big Valley Country Music Jamboree in Craven. It became the biggest country music Jamboree in the world with 50,000 people in attendance. We had 2,000 volunteers helping us

Then I went to Dayton, Ohio and San Francisco to get my doctorates in clinical and neuropsychology. During that time Ria went to Europe to managed the European Tour for Cirque du Soleil and paid for my university training. After that we ran our Children's Clinic in Coquitlam for the next 13 years.

Now for the past 5 years we have also been working in the Philippines with the Sisters of Mary who care for 12,000 children and the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres who operate 14 big hospitals and 40 schools. Yet we still help children and teenagers in Canada. We must say a big "Thank You" to Our Lord for allowing us to work with these poor children for so many years.

We have been blessed with much success, but without the tremendous, steady financial support and prayers from our good of benefactors like yourselves since 1970, we could not have helped any children. We can never ever thank you enough for your great generosity.

We pray that God will bless you and yours, grant you good health and every success. "Thank You" again and again for your great generosity and for helping us to build a better world for our poor children.

Lovingly in Christ



Father Larre