IN SEARCH OF HOPE:

ROLAND’S STORY

THIS COMIC IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY ABOUT A MAN NAMED ROLAND. GROWING UP, ROLAND WAS OFTEN LEFT ALONE TO HIS OWN DEVICES AS HIS PARENTS WERE BUSY AT WORK. HE WAS DISTRACTED FROM STUDIES WITH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRINKING BEER AND HANGING OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS. THIS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIS FORMATIVE YEARS, AND ALSO IN HIS ADULTHOOD.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

I DON’T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!

THEY DON’T CARE ABOUT MY STUDIES, SO WHY SHOULD I?

ARGH! I GIVE UP!

SCHOOL IS SUCH A WASTE OF TIME! I’LL GO HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

YEAH, SURE!

ALONE AGAIN...

IS THIS MY LIFE? BEER? FRIENDS? BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

YOU’RE PRECIOUS TO ME!

WHO AM I? I CAN’T STUDY.

I’M STUPID AND USELESS.

I’M NOBODY!
14 years later, Roland returns to Boys’ Town as a youth worker.

Hi, Joseph!

Hey Roland!

I guess we’re colleagues now?

Good morning, Mr. Roland!

What trouble can I give you today?

How about none?

Oh no!

Welcome! Here at Boys’ Town, we strive to learn and uphold these core values...

In Boys’ Town, Roland learns to help others by building a school for underprivileged children.

In Indonesia, Roland learns to help others by building a school for underprivileged children.

In the classroom, Roland learns to thrive and succeed for learning.

Roland, would you consider becoming a maintenance leader?

Hey, maybe not.

Well, think about it. Don’t say no quickly!

I guess so... I’ll try.

Guys, can you help clean the tables over there?

As Roland struggled with his studies, he and his parents felt it was best for him to go to Boys’ Town for vocational skills training.

In Boys’ Town’s dining hall, Roland starts his role as a maintenance leader.

Welcome! Here at Boys’ Town, we strive to learn and uphold these core values...

What is he saying?

Wah...

What is this Place?

Roland, would you consider becoming a maintenance leader?

Yeah, I’d try.

You’ve got it, Roland!

Actually, I’ve been doing that already...

Good, Roland!

Thank you, Roland!

This is but one of many Roland’s hard work, dedication and care for others.

Thank you for your hard work, Roland!

As Roland ~

I can serve others!

I can help others!

Core values

Welcome here at Boys’ Town and strive to learn and uphold these core values...

Youth workers

Roland, would you consider becoming a maintenance leader?

Yes!

I can learn!

I can serve!

I can help others!

Youth worker

Core values

Thank you for your hard work, Roland!

This is but one of many Roland’s hard work, dedication and care for others.

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Core values

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Oddly enough, his father agreed and gave him the freedom and the money he wanted. Why did the father give his son what he wanted instead of asking him to wait?

Eventually, the happiness the youth anticipated turned into the sour reality of solitude and utter poverty. The youth found himself wishing he were one of his father’s servants. He came to his senses and put his pride down. It was an awakening to reality.

He returned to the father, and the father welcomed him unconditionally - no questions asked.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

(Luke 15:20)

However, the elder son was enraged at the unconditional mercy of the father. He wanted meritocracy and rejected mercy. We hear that his father comes out to welcome the elder son just as he did with the younger son, and then ... Jesus leaves the story open-ended.

We do not know if the elder son decided to open his mind to a constructive future of a reconciled home, or chose to cling to a contractual understanding of his relationship with the father: I work for you and so, you owe me my reward.

The story of the prodigal son is not just about the disengaged youth. It is also an avenue to provoke us to choose between accepting unconditional reconciliation and clinging to a cold meritocratic understanding of societal relationships.

The crux of the story is not the sad cases of “prodigal youth” but the ultimate response of our society.

Do we give youth uncountable opportunities to come back?

- Do we accept them with their challenges and all?
- Do we let them know that they are loved for who they are and not for what they do?
- Do they experience this unconditional care for them?

Have you experienced this unconditional love?
PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2019 (EVERY THURSDAY)

Module 1 (Who decides what is right or wrong?)
Personal Moral Compass (PMC) is a year-long modular course, with a total of six modules on ethical issues. In module 1, Fr David Garcia, OP, a Dominican moral Theologian, will cover topics such as moral principles, personal decisions, and conscience, who decides what is right or wrong, cultural dogmas and morality, and how one decides what to do with his/her life. PMC is for all Catholics and non-Catholics who are interested in the foundation of ethics. Visit www.caritas-singapore.org for more information.

Module 2 (Becoming Persons)

📅 7:30pm to 9:30pm
📍 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Level 3, S187954
📞 6338 3448
✉️ formation@caritas-singapore.org

REVIEW OF LIFE (ROL) WORKSHOP

Do you want to learn how to see clearly with eyes of faith, start living the Gospel in your daily lives and grow in faith? Come and be introduced to the Review of Life (ROL) Method as a tool to help you integrate faith and life.

📅 7:30pm to 9:30pm
📍 To be confirmed
📞 6338 3448
✉️ formation@caritas-singapore.org

AGAPE EXPERIENCE

Through prayer, experiential learning, and engaging activities, this programme helps youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation learn about the Catholic Church’s social mission and how the Sacrament of Confirmation relates to Catholic Social Teaching. It is also available for Catechumens and Candidates preparing for baptism or reception into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

📅 15 Feb
📍 Church of St. Francis Xavier

📅 29 Feb
📍 Church of St. Mary of the Angels

📅 Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S319264

📞 Thomas at 9027 6244
✉️ thomas@caritas-singapore.org

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Wish to receive an e-copy of this newsletter? Write to us at comms@caritas-singapore.org

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