

Did you know . . .

Blessed Among Us: St. John Bosco

John Bosco, also known as Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco or Don Bosco, was born in Becchi on August 16, 1815, amidst the Napoleonic Wars. John lost his father at the age of two and he and his two older brothers were raised by his mother Margherita Occhiena, who was declared venerable in 2006.

John attended church, becoming very devout; when not in church he helped his family grow food and raise sheep. Despite being very poor, his mother always found enough food to share with the homeless.

When John was nine, he had a dream in which he tamed a group of unruly boys after receiving encouragement from a lady he did not know. She said to him, "Softly, softly, if you wish to win them. Take your shepherd's staff and lead them to pasture." Through this dream, he discerned his calling...to care for and inspire poor boys to lead healthy lives.

He pursued a vocation to the priesthood and was ordained in 1841. He established an oratory to house hundreds of homeless boys. He established workshops to help them with skills and employment. His dedication drew dedicated assistants who helped him form a new religious congregation in 1859, the Salesians, named after St. Frances de Sales. These communities grew in number and spread throughout Italy and across the world. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist with girls.

John Bosco died on January 31, 1888. He was canonized in 1934. St. John Bosco is the patron saint of boys, editors and youth. His feast day is January 31.

*"I have promised God that until my last breath I shall have lived for my poor young people. I study for you, I work for you; I am also ready to give my life for you. Take note that whatever I am, I have been entirely for you.
-St. John Bosco*



St. John Bosco

1815-1888

"Apostle of Youth"

Founder of the Salesian Society and of
the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians

Memorial - 31 January

Judy Pearson