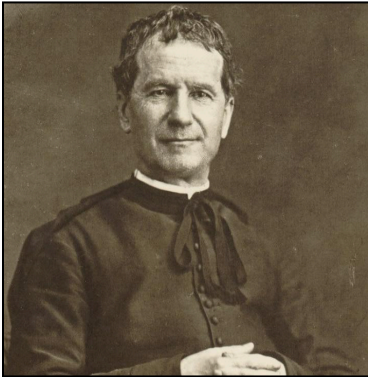


Saint John Bosco



Date of birth: August 16, 1815
Birthplace: Becchi, Italy
Date of death: January 31, 1888
Canonization: April 1, 1934 by Pope Pius XI
Feast Day: January 31

**Patron Saint of: apprentices; editors and publishers;
schoolchildren; magicians; juvenile delinquents**

About Saint John Bosco:

John Bosco was born into a world of famine, war, and drought to a farmhand family. His father died when he was two, leaving his mother to raise three boys alone. When a traveling circus came to town, John, fascinated, realized he could use sleight-of-hand tricks to capture the attention of others - and so he did. John would gather local children, perform tricks, and recite the homily he heard that day. Through this practice, John Bosco would discern the priesthood.

Despite pushback and abuse from his brother, John would leave the family home at age 12 to pursue his vocation in the priesthood. He found work as a farmhand, and a priest who was willing to mentor him until he could join the seminary in 1835.

After his ordination in 1841, Fr. Bosco was assigned to the city of Turin. The city, struggling through industrialization, developed slums and widespread poverty. In reaction to the large numbers of teenage boys ending up in prisons, Fr. Bosco went back to his roots: he would do tricks to catch the attention of children, especially teen boys, on the streets and share his message of the day. This practice, along with Fr. Bosco tirelessly working to find work and lodging for young boys in poverty, set the stage for the development of the Society of St. Francis De Sales in 1859. The mission was to continue the charitable works Fr. Bosco had started - helping young boys stay out of trouble and catechizing them in the Catholic faith.

Fr. John Bosco was canonized on Easter Sunday in 1934 by Pope Pius XI and given the title "Father and Teacher of Youth". Some miracles attributed to him include: the complete healing of Sister Mary Joseph Massimi, an Augustinian nun, of her deadly duodenal ulcer on her deathbed in 1928; and the complete healing of Catherine Pilenga, a woman who suffered from chronic arthritic diathesis that caused lower near-paralysis and painful lesions for 28 years.

A word from John:

"Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow."

Find out more:

Books: *Forty Dreams of St. John Bosco*
Formed.org: Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love
Podcast: Miracles and Prophecies of Saint John Bosco by Matthew Miller