



St. John Bosco
Friend of Youth

Prayer For Direction

Lord God,
it is not clear to me
how I should spend my life.
It is not clear to me
the way I should go.
I am often confused.

So many attractive things
hold out empty promises
for happiness.

Help me,
through the prayers of
SAINT JOHN BOSCO,
who was a friend
to any young person in need.

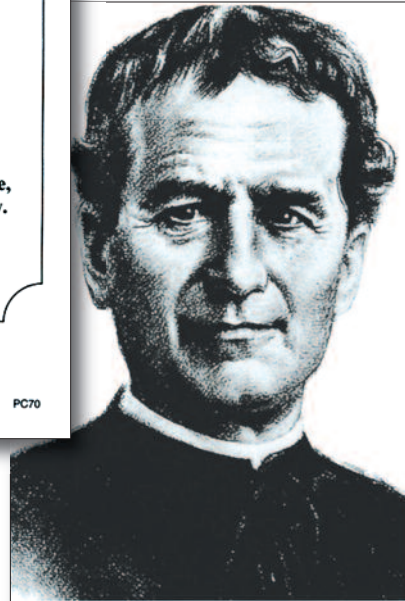
Help me to know Your will for me,
and give me the courage to follow.

May I know the true joys
that are only found
in giving my life for others.

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SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Sketched from a true photograph (1880)

Novena Prayer to St. John Bosco

Dear St. John Bosco, in need of special help, I appeal with confidence to you, for I require not only spiritual graces, but also temporal ones, and in particular for (here specify the grace you are praying for).

May you, who on earth had such great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary, Help of Christians, and who always had compassion for those who were in suffering, obtain from Jesus and from His heavenly Mother the grace for which I now pray. I also ask for a sincere resignation to the will of God. Amen.

(Recite an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be to the Father).

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*Saint John Bosco's
Vision of the Church*

In a vision, the Lord showed St. John Bosco the dangers threatening the Church. He saw the Church, Ship of Peter, surrounded by a loyal flotilla, locked in mortal combat with superior forces which repeatedly brought it to the edge of annihilation. At a crucial moment, the Holy Father fell mortally wounded. The enemy, sensing victory, closed in for the kill.

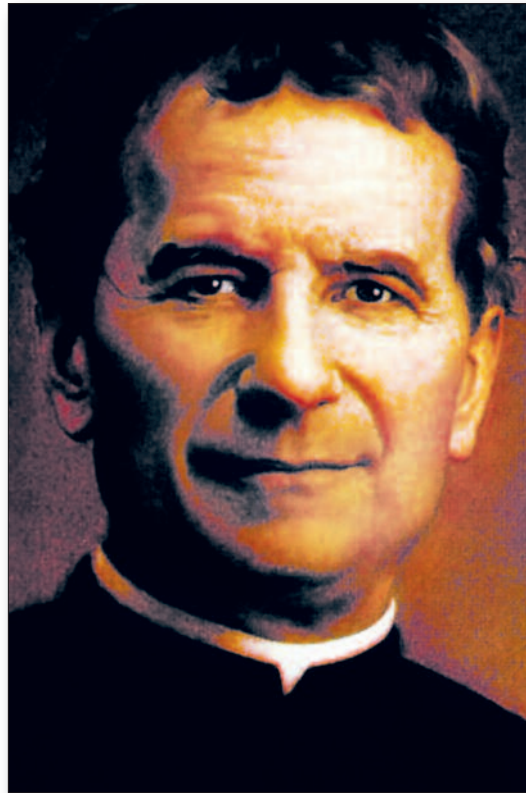
Suddenly two columns surged from the depths of the ocean. One was surmounted by a monstrosity holding the Blessed Sacrament – "Salvation of Believers;" the other by a statue of Mary Immaculate – "The Help of Christians."

The sight of the columns and the election of a new Pope caused the enemy to unleash a last blistering attack to prevent the Pontiff from anchoring the Church between the two pillars. The assailant's plan failed, and their attack turned into a rout and total disaster.

The Pope and his faithful defenders found safety anchored between the two columns. The winds subsided and the sea grew calm. The victory was complete.

St. John Bosco assures us that when the Church is battered by enemies from within or from without, salvation can only come from JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST, MARY, THE HELP OF CHRISTIANS, and THE POPE, the Vicar of Christ on earth.

The dreams/visions of St. John Bosco are published in the book **DON BOSCO'S DREAMS**, Salesiana Publishers, 148 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801 (\$9.90)



John Bosco was born on August 16, 1815 in a small town not too far from Turin, Italy. His father died when he was two years old. He was raised with tender love yet firm discipline by his mother, Margaret.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1841 and went to work in Turin, where the industrial revolution was attracting waves of young people to the city. The misery and abandonment of these youngsters moved John Bosco deeply.

He dedicated his life to them and began youth clubs for them. He then started hostels and boarding schools, where he taught them trades.

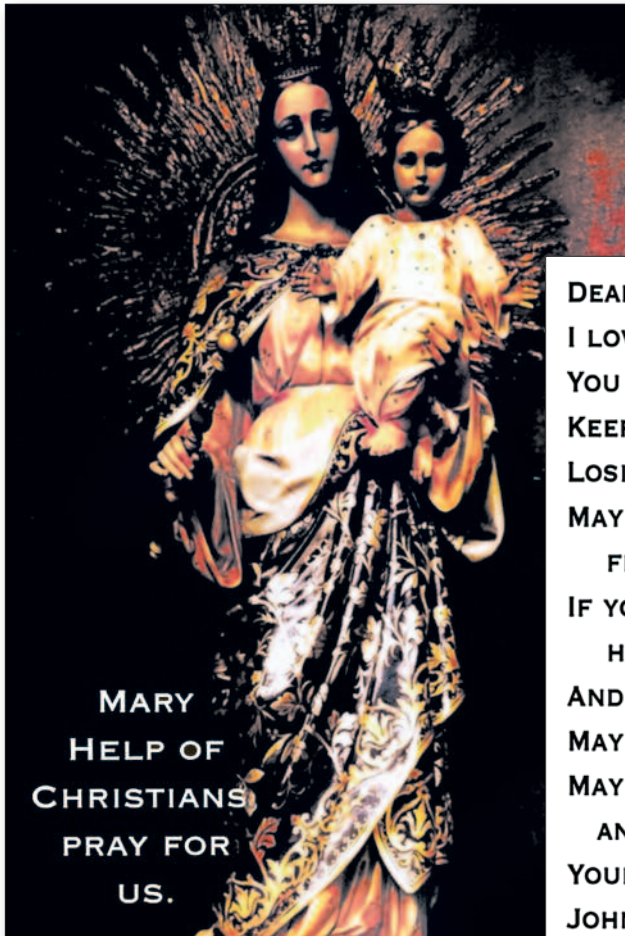
In 1854 he founded the Salesian Society and in 1872 the Salesian Sisters to work for girls.

Three years later, he sent the first missionary group to Argentina. His work spread throughout the mission world and today more than half the Society works in mission lands.

The educational philosophy of John Bosco can be condensed in three words: reason, religion and kindness. The basic principle of his system was a deep, understanding and love for young people and their problems.

John Bosco died on January 31, 1888. Today the Salesian Family numbers 40,000 members working in over 100 countries.

Salesians of St. John Bosco • Development Office
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DEAR FRIEND,

I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART.

YOU BEAR THE TREASURE OF THE LORD'S FRIENDSHIP IN YOUR HEART.

KEEPING IT, YOU ARE EXCEEDINGLY WEALTHY.

LOSING IT, YOU ARE AMONG THE POOR AND UNHAPPY OF THE WORLD.

MAY THE LORD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU, AND HELP YOU TO LIVE AS HIS FRIEND.

IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE THAT, I ASSURE YOU THAT GOD WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY WITH YOU,

AND YOU WILL SAVE YOUR SOUL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE.

MAY GOD GRANT YOU A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE.

MAY THE LORD'S FRIENDSHIP ALWAYS BE YOUR WEALTH IN THIS LIFE AND IN ETERNITY.

YOUR FRIEND,

JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST

Compliments of: Salesian Family of Mary Help of Christians Parish 1898 + 2007