

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our

St. John Bosco

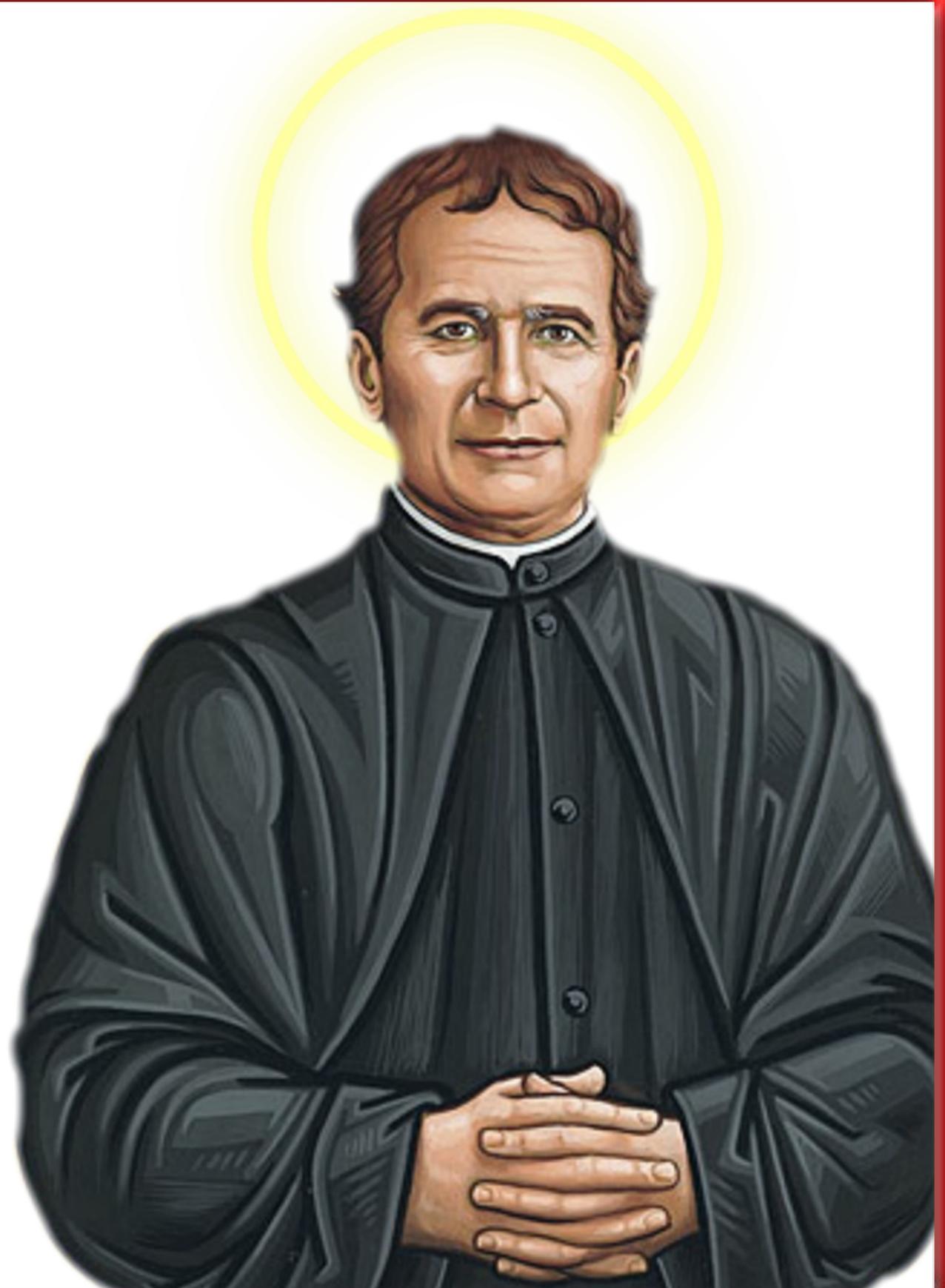
1815 - 1888

John Bosco was born in Turin, Italy. His parents were poor farmers. His father died when John was only two years old. As soon as he was old enough, John, too, worked as hard as he could to help his mother.

By the age of nine, John wanted to become a priest and his mother let him go to school. John used to wake up early in the morning to do his chores before he left for school. Finally, a holy priest, St. Joseph Cafasso, found out about John's wish to be a priest. Father Cafasso helped him enter the seminary. He learned to do all kinds of trades. He was a carpenter, a shoemaker, a cook, a pastry maker and a farmer. He did many other jobs as well. He didn't realize how much this knowledge would help others later. John became a priest in 1841.

As a priest, Don Bosco, which means Father Bosco, began his great ministry. This kind priest felt sad when he saw so many children living on the streets of Italy. Like a loving father, he gathered together these homeless boys and taught them trades. This way they would not have to steal or get into trouble. He opened a home for boys and by 1850 there were 150 boys living there. He later started a printing press so he could print books and leaflets to teach people about God's love for them and how to be good Christians. One of the boys listening very carefully was young Dominic Savio who told John Bosco that he would try very hard to become a saint and please God. And he did.

Don Bosco started his own religious order of priests and brothers. They were called the Salesians, after St. Francis de Sales. Then he started the order of Salesian sisters with the help of St. Mary Mazzarello. These men and women pray and teach young people about God's love in countries all over the world even today.



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