

A sepia-toned portrait of Don Bosco, a man with curly hair, wearing a dark clerical suit with a large bow at the neck. He is seated with his hands clasped in his lap. The background features stylized orange and brown floral patterns.

# THE TIME *of Don Bosco*

## Saint John Bosco

is remembered as a man who dedicated his life to the service of abandoned young people. Over 150 years ago he challenged the way the youth were treated in the desperate poverty that existed at that time in the city of Turin, Italy. Driven by first-hand experience of the effects of misery and hunger on the young people he came across, he was determined to change their condition. Others were inspired to follow his example. Thus, he created an order in the Catholic Church, called the Salesians, dedicated to respond to the needs of the young everywhere. For Don Bosco, his Salesians were to be the Signs and Bearers of God's love for the young.



# 1815

AUGUST 16

## John Bosco

is born at Becchi, a cluster of farmhouses, part of the village of Morialdo, attached to the town of Castelnuovo d'Asti. His parents are Francis Bosco and Margaret Occhiena. His father dies when he is barely two years old.

# 1824

A mysterious dream reveals to 9-year old John God's mission for him: to take care of abandoned children and of youth going astray.

# 1829

NOVEMBER

John meets Fr. Calosso, who becomes his teacher and like a father to him. A year later Fr. Calosso dies suddenly, struck by cerebral hemorrhage.

ALOISIVS COMOLLO

ALUMNIVS MORIBVS SVAVISSIMIS

TERTIA MORTIS NOCTE

PER STREPTVM ET LVCEM

SAC. DI. PORTICV

IOANNI BOSCO AMICISSIMO

SE SALVVM

EST SVA VOCE TESTAEVS

SEMINARIVM

ANNVENTE MAVRILIO CARL. FOSSATI

ARCHIEPISCOPO TAVRINENSI

INVC. CAPIDEM SACRAMENTVM CREAVIT

A. D. IV. NON. APRIL

MDCCCXXXIX — MCMXXXIX

I. CAPILLA accepti

# 1835

## OCTOBER

John enters the Chieri seminary. His friend Louis Comollo, whom he admires as a model of restraint and devotion to duty, joins him. Louis' death on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1839 affects him deeply.

# 1841

## JUNE 5

The Archbishop of Turin, Msgr. Louis Fransoni, ordains John Bosco a priest in the chapel of the Episcopal palace. He says his first Mass next day at the altar of the Guardian Angel in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, assisted by Fr. Joseph Cafasso, his lifelong spiritual director.



# 1841

## DECEMBER 8

The feast of the Immaculate Conception. In the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Don Bosco meets a young country boy, Bartholomew Garelli from Asti. Starting with a "Hail Mary," he teaches him catechism and invites him to return with his friends. It is the beginning of the Oratory.

# 1845

## SEPTEMBER

Don Bosco meets 8-year old, fatherless Michael Rua to whom he pretends to give his right hand. Ten years later, he becomes the first Salesian professing the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on 25th March 1855. Eventually he will become Don Bosco's right hand and successor as the head of the Salesian Congregation.



# 1846

## APRIL 12

The Oratory finds its home under a shed rented from Francis Pinardi at Valdocco. It is Easter Sunday.

# 1846

## NOVEMBER 3

Mama Margaret accepts to stay at Valdocco with Don Bosco. For ten years, she is the mother of his boys till her death on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1856.



# 1854

## OCTOBER 29

Dominic Savio joins the Oratory. Three years later, on 9th March 1857, he dies a saintly death. Don Bosco writes his Life, which inspires many young people to follow his example.



# 1854

JANUARY 26

Don Bosco proposes the foundation of the Salesians to four young men: Rua, Cagliero, Rochietti and Artiglia. The proposal is to commit oneself with "charity towards one's neighbour."

Official birth of the Salesian Congregation, with Don Bosco and 18 other members.

# 1859

DECEMBER 18



# 1860

Don Bosco accepts the first lay member amongst the Salesians: Coadjutor Brother Joseph Rossi.

# 1869

FEBRUARY 19

The Holy See approves the Salesians as a Pious Society with a decree promulgated days later on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1869.

# 1874

APRIL 3

The Holy See gives final approval to the Salesian Rules.

Don Bosco  
opens the first  
Salesian house  
outside Turin at  
Mirabello  
Monferrato. Its  
director is  
Michael Rua.

# 1863

OCTOBER 20

Beginning of the  
Salesian missions.  
The first ten  
missionaries leave  
for South America  
headed by Fr John  
Cagliero. On the  
21st of December  
1875, the group  
arrives at Buenos  
Aires and in 1879  
makes first contact  
with the Indians of  
Patagonia.

# 1875

NOVEMBER 11



# 1875

NOVEMBER 21



First Salesian house outside  
Italy is opened in Nice,  
France. In February-March  
1883, Don Bosco makes his  
visit to France.



# 1881

Beginning of the Salesian work in Spain.  
In 1886, Don Bosco makes a very  
successful and historic visit to Barcelona.



# 1868

JUNE 9

Consecration of the Basilica of  
Mary Help of Christians in Turin.  
Its construction began in 1863.



# 1872

AUGUST 5

Birth of the Institute of the  
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.  
Mary Mazzarello, its first superior,  
proves a capable formator and teacher  
of spiritual life. Cheerful and serene, she  
brings peace wherever she goes. On  
14<sup>th</sup> May 1881, she dies a holy death.



# 1876

MAY 9

With the approval of the Holy See, Don Bosco  
founds the Co-operators, the third member of  
the Salesian Family. Their task is "to help the  
Church, the bishops and the parish priests,  
doing good according to the spirit of the  
Salesian Society."

# 1884

MAY 10

Don Bosco writes the famous Letter from Rome considered as the Magna Carta of Salesian Education. There he states:

"By being loved in the things they like, through taking part in their youthful interests, the young are led to see love also in those things which they find less attractive – such as discipline, study and self-denial – and so learn to do these things with love."

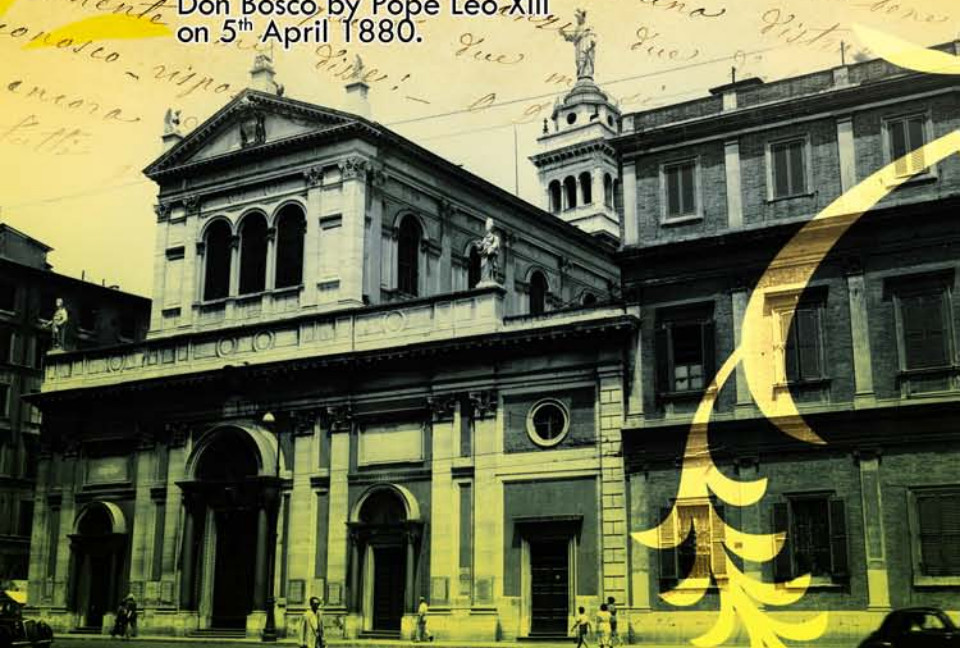
"If you want to be loved, you must make it clear that you love. Jesus Christ made himself little with the little ones and bore our weaknesses. He is our master in the friendly approach. The teacher who is seen only in the classroom is a teacher and nothing more; but if he joins in the pupils' recreation he becomes their brother."

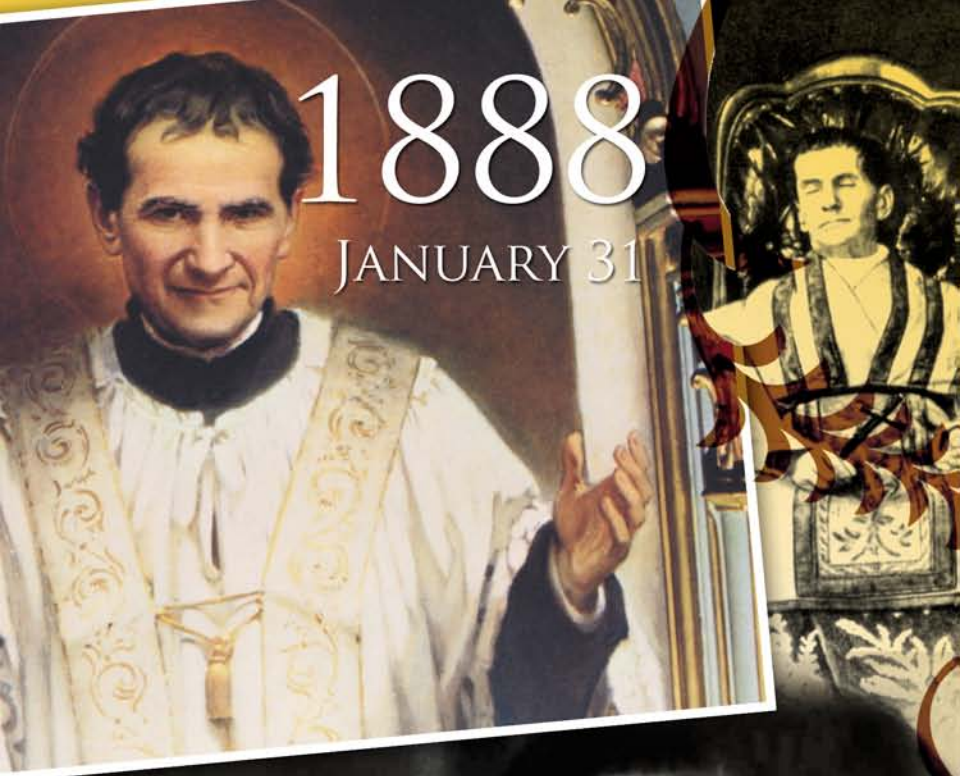
"It is enough for a young person to enter a Salesian house for Our Lady to take him under her special care."

# 1887

MAY 14

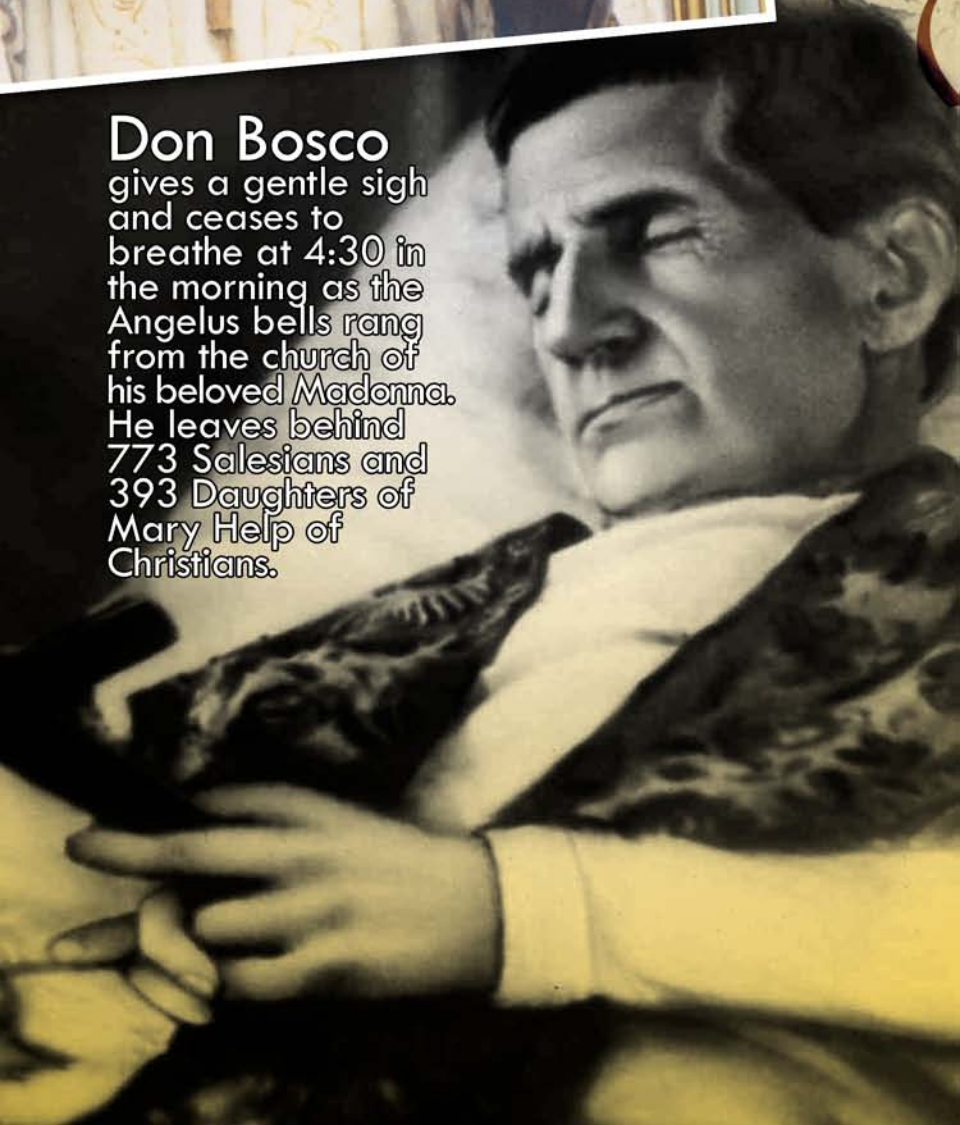
Consecration of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart – Rome. The work was entrusted to Don Bosco by Pope Leo XIII on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1880.





## Don Bosco

gives a gentle sigh  
and ceases to  
breathe at 4:30 in  
the morning as the  
Angelus bells rang  
from the church of  
his beloved Madonna.  
He leaves behind  
773 Salesians and  
393 Daughters of  
Mary Help of  
Christians.





# 1890

Don Bosco's cause for canonization opens in Turin. He is declared Venerable by Pope Pius X on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1907.

# 1929

JUNE 2

Pope Pius XI, who had met Don Bosco as a young priest, raises him to the honors of the altar, declaring him Blessed.

**"God gave  
him largeness  
of heart as  
the sand on  
the seashore."**

Pope Pius XI

# 1934

APRIL 1

On Easter Sunday, the Closing of the Jubilee Year of the Redemption, Pope Pius XI proclaims Don Bosco a Saint at what was then described as the most solemn canonization ever held in the Catholic Church.

# 1946

MAY 24

Don Bosco is declared the patron of Catholic editors. From 1853 to 1878, he was the editor of the Catholic Readings, a monthly magazine that evolved into the Salesian Bulletin. His Library for Italian Youth, which he edited from 1869 to 1885 and which had over 204 volumes, made accessible to the schools of his time the treasures of Italian, Greek and Latin classics.



# 1958

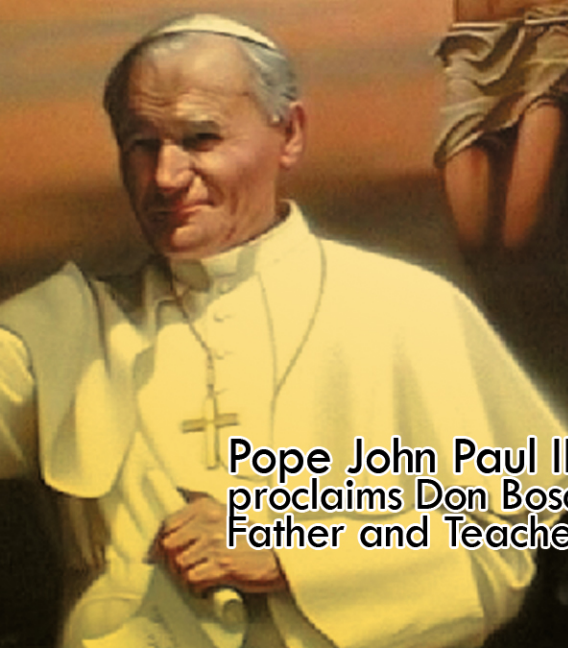
JANUARY 17

Don Bosco is declared patron of apprentices in Italy. In the Oratory, he started classes for shoemakers, tailors, bookbinders, carpenters, printers, and mechanics – determined to form the young into good Christians and honest Citizens



# 1989

JANUARY 24



Pope John Paul II officially proclaims Don Bosco as Father and Teacher of Youth.



# SUCCESSORS ST JOHN BOSCO

BL MICHAEL RUA  
1888-1910

*San Giovanni Bosco*

FR PAOLO ALBERA  
1910-1921

BL PHILIP RINALDI  
1922-1931

FR PETER RICARDONE  
1932-1951

1952-1965  
FR RENATO ZIGGIOTTI

FR LUIGI RICGERI  
1965-1977

1977-1995  
FR EGIDIO VIGANO

FR JUAN VECCHI  
1995-2002

FR PASCUAL CHÁVEZ  
2002-Present

The Salesian Coat of Arms, designed by Prof. Boidi, appears for the first time in a circular letter of Don Bosco on 8th December 1885. The large anchor, the shining star, and the blazing heart symbolize faith, hope, and charity. On the left is St. Francis de Sales, the Patron of the Society. The woods in the lower part remind us of Don Bosco (*bosco* is Italian for woods). The high mountains signify the heights of perfection to which members strive. The laurel and palm branches are emblems of a life of virtue and sacrifice. The motto "Da mihi animas, coetera tolle" expresses every Salesian's ideal.



## SALESIAN COAT OF ARMS

The zealous pastor and doctor of charity inspired Don Bosco by his optimistic humanism and his complete dedication to the pastoral care of souls. In 1854 Don Bosco declared:

"The Madonna wishes that we begin a Society. I have decided to call ourselves Salesians. Let us put ourselves under the protection of St. Francis de Sales so that we may obtain his extraordinary gentleness."

In 1859, Don Bosco gave the name *Society of St. Francis de Sales* to the first band of 18 young men who wished to follow him in his work for youth.

## ST FRANCIS DE SALES

The Salesian Logo has two superimposed images. In the background, an "S" (for Salesians) is formed within a globe, like a road winding between hills. Over this is a stylized arrow pointing upwards. This symbolizes the Salesian, embracing the young, leading them and journeying with them. It also represents a home held up by the three pillars of reason, religion, and loving kindness.



## LOGO

# PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

cfr. John Paul II, *Letter Iuvenum Patris*, 10-12

## REASON

In line with Don Bosco's view of Christian humanism, *Reason* emphasizes the value of the individual, of conscience, of human nature, of culture, of work, of social living – that vast set of values which are essential for human beings in their familial, civil and political life. It also includes *Reasonableness* – understanding, dialogue and unfailing patience – through which the practice of reasoning finds expression.

## RELIGION

Don Bosco's pedagogy is essentially transcendent and, thus, *Religious* in nature. Its ultimate educational objective is the formation of the believer. For him the properly formed and mature man was the citizen with faith, who places at the centre of his life the ideal of the new man, Jesus Christ, and who bears courageous witness to his own religious convictions. For Don Bosco, the columns of an educational edifice are the Eucharist, Penance, devotion to Our Lady, and love for the Church and its pastors.

## LOVING KINDNESS

From a methodological perspective comes *Loving Kindness*, which is a daily attitude that is neither simple human love nor supernatural charity alone. It is the expression of a complex reality and implies availability, sound criteria and an appropriate style of conduct. It is expressed in practice in the commitment of the educator as a person entirely dedicated to the good of his pupils, present in their midst, ready to accept sacrifices and hard work in the fulfillment of his mission. In this atmosphere of pedagogical presence the educator is not looked upon as a superior, but as a father, brother, friend.