



St. Dominic Savio (1842-1857)

Patron Saint of Children, Falsely Accused and Juvenile Delinquents

Dominic Savio's family were peasants in the northern Italian province of Piedmont, yet they scraped together the funds to send him to St. John Bosco's school in Turin. Don Bosco's establishment was part academy, part trade school, part orphanage, and part reformatory. Initially, Dominic did not fit in. He was excessively pious and especially drawn to inventing penances for himself. Don Bosco, who was devout but extremely practical, brought Dominic down to earth and insisted that he give up his self-imposed penances, saying that if he wanted to do penance he should endure irritating people patiently. Dominic flourished under Don Bosco's spiritual direction, and his reputation with his fellow students soared after he defused a violent fight on the playground. At age fifteen he developed a lung infection and died. Don Bosco wrote his biography. St. Dominic Savio is the only non-martyred youth to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Feast Day: March 9

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