
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

To Be A Saint!

We have addressed the difference between “extraordinary” Saints and “ordinary” Saints before but it is good to be reminded. Both groups of Saints *are* Saints, no doubt! The difference is in the way that God decides to lead a particular soul on the road to Heaven. Those who travel the “extraordinary” way (receiving visions from Jesus or Mary, for example) have a much harder journey. You might think it would be easier but it really isn’t. It is *much* harder. Thankfully, most of us are called to travel the safer “ordinary” way towards becoming a Saint! The good news is that when we study the lives of the Saints who *did* travel this “extraordinary” way, we can learn important lessons. Here is a story about the great Saint John Bosco whose feast day is this week. On December 22, 1876, Father Bosco told the boys who were students in his oratory about a vision he experienced. In it, he spoke with Saint Dominic Savio, one of his pupils who had died and was now in Heaven. Here is a part of it: “...Savio held out a gorgeous bouquet of roses, violets, sunflowers, gentians, lilies, evergreens, perennials and sprigs of wheat and handed it to me. ‘Give this bouquet to your sons (students) so that when the time comes, they may offer it to the Lord. See to it that everyone has it, that no one is without it, and that no one steals it from them. Do this, and you can rest assured that they will have enough to make them happy.’ ‘What do these flowers symbolize?’ I asked. ‘They symbolize the *virtues* that most delight the Lord. The rose is the symbol of *charity*; the violet of *humility*; the sunflower of *obedience*; the gentians of *penance and self-denial*, and the wheat stocks of *frequent Holy Communion*. Then the lily stands for the beautiful virtue of *chastity*... finally the evergreen and perennials tell us these virtues must endure forever. They denote *perseverance*.’

Mrs. Prather - CatholicKids101.com
"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint John Bosco

‘Very well, my dear Savio,’ I answered. ‘Now tell me, you who practiced all these virtues in your lifetime, what comforted you the most at the moment of your death?’ ‘What do you think it was?’ Savio prompted. ‘Perhaps having preserved the beautiful virtue of purity?’ ‘Not that alone.’ he answered. ‘Having your conscience at peace?’ ‘That too is a good thing, but it’s still not the best.’ ‘Perhaps, the hope of Paradise?’ ‘No, not even that.’ ‘Well, was it the treasury of good deeds that you had stored up?’ ‘No, no!’ ‘Well, what was it then?’ I pleaded with him...’The one thing that consoled me at the hour of my death,’ Savio answered, ‘was the assistance of the mighty and lovely Mother of the Savior. Tell your sons **never to forget to pray to her as long as they live!**’”