



# Youth Ministry

**The Province Youth Ministry Office along with other members of the Salesian Family and the Salesian Sisters collaborated to provide the province with monthly resources for you to use. Each month each resource will have a video from a member of the Salesian Family, a theme, prayer, saint and call to action. We encourage you to use these monthly resources not only with your young people but young adults as well. If you need further information or help please contact our Province Salesian Youth Ministry Office.**

**Introduce the topic “St. John Bosco “Continuing the Dream” and invite the young people to read along with you or ask for participation.**

**Adult Leader:**

“St. John Bosco “Continuing the Dream”

Through St. John Bosco’s style of education and pastoral practice, through religion and loving kindness he helped young people to think seriously about their lives. He opened their hearts to encounter Christ. He taught them about their faith and sacraments. He encouraged them to serve not only the church, but their community and it all began with a dream. As we celebrate the new year and prepare for the feast day of our Founder St. John Bosco on January 31<sup>st</sup>, we continue his dream. How can we continue St. John Bosco's dream? How can we live our lives through faith and loving kindness? How can we open our hearts to encounter Christ? We look to St. John Bosco and our Blessed Mother to guide us.

**Adult Leader, young person or group read opening prayer:**

**Opening Prayer**

Father of us all,  
You gave to us a father and teacher in the life and example of our founder, St. John Bosco.  
He, who sought out a father throughout his entire life,  
transformed that search into a Mission to become Father for the young.  
You took his fragile heart and molded him into a lasting sign of your powerful love.  
You gave him your own Mother to lead and shape his vision.



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Don Bosco followed that vision and took with him countless young in his care. That dream lives on in every young heart attached to this Salesian Mission. Give us the grace to renew that dream of bringing hope and meaning to the young.

Let us not stay asleep, but give us the courage to live the dream.

As our Lady guided and shaped Don Bosco's vision, give her to us as our teacher and guide.

With Mary as our guide, our dream will always correspond with your will and serve you in the young throughout our lives.

We ask this through Jesus your Son, the author of our dreams and the Savior of the young.

Amen.

## **Adult Leader:**

**Before showing the video please give a brief intro on Fr. John.** Fr. John Roche is currently the Vocation Director for the Salesians in the Western Province. Fr. John has ministered as a Salesian in many capacities: a high school teacher, chaplain and was the Director of the Institute of Salesian Studies in Berkeley.

**-Show Video- (given by our Fr. John Roche, SDB)**

<https://youtu.be/FPm3yAMk7Qg>

## **Adult Leader:**

**Ask your young people the following questions and have a short discussion on their responses.**

## **Saintly Role Models**

How can you show others to open their hearts to Christ as St. John Bosco showed his young boys? How can we live our lives through faith and loving kindness?

## **Adult Leader:**

**Have the young people read the story of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello.**

## **St. John Bosco**

We all have dreams. Some of us dream to own our own business, to go to college, or even to explore the world. Dreaming and desiring are two of our



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most basic human faculties. In the Bible we read about dreams of the future like those of Joseph in the Old Testament, and in the revelation of God to Joseph.

Dreams are God's way of talking to us and sparking in us a passion to act, whether those are the dreams when we sleep or the desires we have. One of the most impactful dreams of history was given to nine-year-old John Bosco.



*In a "dream," John found himself fighting a large crowd of rowdy boys who were cursing and carrying on abominably. He tried to stop them, but they refused to listen to him. Suddenly, a Man appeared, who motioned to John and said, "Not with punches will you help these boys, but with goodness and kindness!" "Who are you?" gasped the astonished boy.*

*Then a Woman [Mary] appeared. Putting her arms around him, she said, "Watch what I do, John." John looked. The boys changed to a pack of snarling wild animals whose growls sent terror to his heart. Then the woman put out her hand. The beasts changed again, to a frolicking flock of lambs. "But what does it all mean? I'm just a farm boy. What can I do?" He burst into tears. The Lady's answer came to him, ever to resound in his heart, to be repeated audibly several times in his life, "This is the field of your work. Be humble, steadfast, and strong!"*

*(<http://www.donboscowest.org/saints/donbosco>)*

This fateful dream at nine was something he just could not ignore. This dream inspired St. John Bosco to help those most in need, particularly the young. When he took action on the dream, God was able to work through him for the salvation of souls with the joy and love of Christ. As in the case of Bartolomeo Garelli, a young street boy who's encounter with Don Bosco transformed his life. On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Bartolomeo was taking shelter from the bitter cold in the sacristy of the church in which Don Bosco was assigned. As Don Bosco was walking in the sacristy, he



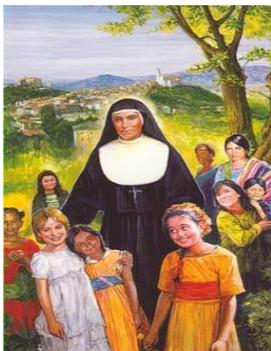


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noticed the sacristan "shooing" the young boy away with a broom, immediately Don Bosco stepped in and regarded the boy as his friend and stopped the violence that was occurring. He then began to make small talk with Bartolomeo about his family, education, and spirituality, in this practice he discerned the young boy's need of a father, friend, and teacher. Following the prompting of the dream at nine years old, Don Bosco acted, inviting him for further catechesis. The willingness of Don Bosco to follow his dream in this encounter, allowed the beginning of the worldwide family we know as - Salesian!!

## **St. Mary Mazzarello**

Don Bosco's dream inspired one young woman in Mornese, Italy, who had dreams of her own. Mary Mazzarello had a dream to help young orphaned girls in her hometown. Young Mary was known to be strong, joyful and hardworking; her like Don Bosco had a dream that would be the seed of something magnificent.



*One day, walking home after Mass, Mary saw something strange. She saw a building, where there was an open field, and in the courtyard, she saw Sisters and girls playing and laughing. She heard the voice of a majestic and kind woman, which said, "I entrust them to you." Mary shared this with her best friend, Petronilla, who was also a member of the Daughters of the Immaculate. While they wondered what it all meant, they began caring for young girls. (<http://www.salesiansisters.org/st-mary-mazzarello/>)*

The first steps in pursuit of her dreams were from small beginnings, helping a few girls; teaching, instructing, and accompanying them. She began by forming herself and learning to sew in order to teach the young girls to do the same. This set the base which soon became the refuge of countless young women and children in serving God and neighbor. However, this dedication grew and was amplified when her path crossed with Don Bosco. Two dreams rooted in Christ took hold and entered into a divine dance for the salvation of souls.

Over the decades the dream has grown following the mission Jesus gave to his disciples "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). What started as two dreams inspired and unified by God, has lived on and grown beyond anyone's expectation. Reaching and enkindling in the hearts of



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countless young people, the desire and dream to become all that they can be in witness of the Gospel and transformation of the world.

**Adult Leader:**

**Ask your young people what struck them about their stories. Have them reflect on what dreams God has placed in their hearts. How can they be witnesses of the Gospel to others? How can they be transformers of the world?**

**Adult Leader:**

**Below is a link for the novena of St. John Bosco's feast day. Feel free to share with your young people to prepare for his feast day as well as quotes from St. John Bosco.**

<http://www.donboscowest.org/resources/novena-prayers/novena-donbosco>  
<http://donboscowest.org/saints/donbosco>

**Call to Action**

**Leader:**

**Encourage your young people to take a picture of themselves during the month of January bringing joy to others such as St. John Bosco brought to his young boys. Use the #donbosco and #db and post to our Instagram page. Have them encourage other young people to do the same.**

**Leader:**

**Invite the young people to say the closing prayer together. Encourage them to meditate and think about how they can be more aware of God's call and how they can serve God joyfully as St. John Bosco taught us.**

**Closing Prayer**

O Saint John Bosco,  
You followed God's call for you  
And became a teacher and  
Father to the young.  
Help us to learn how to love as you did;  
May we serve God joyfully all  
Our days, and give ourselves



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Wholeheartedly to the service of  
People in need.

Amen

In the month of January as a Salesian Family we also celebrate the feast days of St. Francis De Sales and Blessed Laura Vicuna below are some resources you can share with your young people.

[www.donboscowest.org/saints/francisdesales](http://www.donboscowest.org/saints/francisdesales)

<http://www.donboscowest.org/saints/lauravicuna>