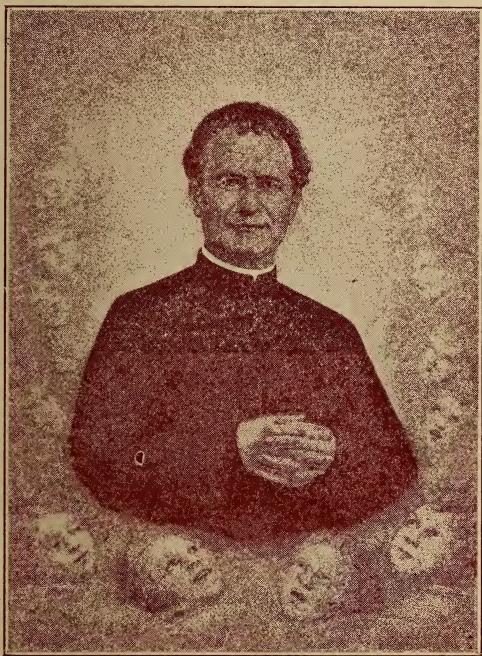


WHO WAS



BLESSED
JOHN BOSCO?

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WHO WAS BLESSED JOHN BOSCO?

BLESSED John Bosco was born in 1815, at Murialdo di Castelnovo not far from Turin, Italy. Some secret call from the Most High had made him say while yet a child: *"If I could be a priest I would devote my whole life to the welfare of the young. I should call them around me; we should be the best of friends; I should instruct them and exert all my energies to gain them eternal salvation."*

Ordained in 1841, his apostolate among the young took shape immediately. It began by Sunday catechism, and a few weeks sufficed to draw hundreds of children around him. He established first in Italy and then abroad. Festive Oratories, day and evening schools, homes for poor Children, schools of Arts and Trades, churches for the people, establishments for emigrants and missions for the conversion of the heathens.

The sun never sets on the fields of

Salesian missionary labors, because there is no region on this globe that is not dotted with Salesian missionary stations, from the virgin forests of Brazil and Equador to the frozen marshes of Patagonia, and from Terra del Fuego to the Vacariates apostolic of China, Australia, India, Siam, Japan, and to the missions of Belgian Congo, Egypt, Tunis, and the Holy Land.

The chief works founded by blessed John Bosco are:

1. The Society of St. Francis of Sales, or the Salesian Fathers who study to follow in his steps and carry on his work of zeal and charity.

2. The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, which is a Society of nuns who do the same work for girls that the Salesian fathers do for boys.

3. To carry on these works, Blessed John Bosco established the "Association of Salesian Co-operators." They assist the Salesians by prayers and alms.

A MAN OF GOD, whose extraordinary virtues and inestimable benefits, brought upon Christian society, have been recognized by the Church, which has sanctioned the unanimous choice of her children.