



Minute of Mercy

ST. JOHN BOSCO

“Entrust everything to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and to Mary, Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are.” St. John Bosco

As we know, we are in a most Extraordinary Year of Mercy; some may not know however that Pope Francis has designated various individual jubilees throughout this year. For example, the Sunday that Mother Teresa was canonized (September 4) was quite fittingly a “Jubilee for Workers and Volunteers of Mercy.” As it happens, last week we celebrated Catechetical Sunday to give thanks for all those who volunteer to teach the faith to our children. This week we celebrate the “Jubilee for Catechists” and with that we choose to speak briefly on the Patron of Religious Educators, St. John Bosco.

- ❖ *St. John Bosco was born in Castelnuovo, Piedmont, Italy on August 16, 1815*
- ❖ *His Feast Day is January 31*
- ❖ *He is the Patron Saint of apprentices, editors, publishers, school children and young people*
- ❖ *At the age of 20, he was ordained on June 5, 1841*
- ❖ *In December 1859, John Bosco began the Congregation of St. Francis de Sales, commonly referred to as the Salesians*
- ❖ *He chose Mary Mazzarello, age 25, to be with him a co-foundress of a new religious congregation for women, calling them Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, in gratitude of his heavenly helper, the Blessed Mother. They were the feminine counterpart of his Salesians.*
- ❖ *He died on January 31, 1888*
- ❖ *On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934, Pope Pius XI declared John Bosco a saint.*

From an early age, St. John Bosco heard the Master calling him to the vocation of the priesthood and at the age of 9, he openly heard his special assignment. Throughout his life, he had many dreams, which guided him in forming and saving the souls of many boys. The most notable dream was that of the “Two Columns in the Sea.” This dream signifies the great battle between the Church and her enemies.

Let us continue to remember those who volunteer to educate our children in the Catholic Faith. In addition, remember to pray for all parents who, as the Catechism states, are the principal and first educators of children (1653).

Mercy in Action

This week’s Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray daily the Glory Be prayer, giving thanks to God for His Love and Mercy. The prayer can be found on the St. Peter Parish App. Please see the Year of Mercy table for more resources.