St. Dominic Savio

A Story in Rhyme starring St. Dominic Savio and St. John Bosco

Written by THERESA DAVIES &
Illustrated by ANNE SIMONEAU

Made available through Catholic Heritage Curricula  www.chcweb.com
St. Dominic Savio
A Story in Rhyme
starring
Saint Dominic Savio and
Saint John Bosco

Written by
Therese Davies

Illustrated by
Anne Simoneau

Text © Theresa Davies. Illustrations © Anne Simoneau. All rights reserved.
In Italy,
the country shaped
like a boot,

There lived a family
with little loot.

Sad they were not, for they
sought a heavenly goal,

And no amount of money
could buy that for a soul.
The family had a little boy,
Who brought them so much joy.
Dominic Savio was his name.
And love for Jesus was his fame.
To be a saint was his one desire.

It set his little heart on fire.

To please God he would obey with a smile.

Or happily walk that extra mile.
Dominic
at the age of four,
Could say his prayers and
more.
He could listen to Mass
without wiggling
around,
Even though his feet could
barely touch the ground.
Excited to be near
Jesus in His golden home,

To church Dominic
would often roam.

Mass he would serve
early, at five,

When few people were
awake or alive.
Instead of waiting to receive Jesus at thirteen years old,

Back then that was when they were told,

Dominic asked and received Jesus at seven.

Now he was one more step closer to heaven.
Death but not sin!
On his First Holy Communion Day,

Dominic did not let his mind wander away.

To Jesus, he promised, "Death but not sin."

With Jesus help, Dominic would have, victory within!
Dominic was never stingy.

Nor did he make fun of his friends whose clothes were dingy.

Rather, he would give his few pennies to the poor,

For he knew they needed them so much more.
Young Dominic wanted to become a priest.

No cost or sacrifice would discourage him in the least.

At nine years old, three miles to school he would walk.

For company, to his guardian angel he would talk.
Good Don Bosco finally entered his life,

He helped Dominic end his scholarly strife.

“A garment for God” Father Bosco would make him become.

He was the tailor and Dominic the cloth...how awesome!
Study well, pray hard, and play your best!
To Fr. John Bosco

Dominic would ask,

“Can you make me a saint?”;
Dominic was up to the task.

Fr. John advised:
“Study well, pray hard, and play your best!”

Dominic replied,
“I can do this, I won’t be a pest!”
Don Bosco never lectured or judged his boys; by example he led,

From sins that left their souls dark and dead!

He taught them to avoid bad words, deeds, and pictures.

Obedience to God would give them the peace that endures!
Anger made two boys decide to fight in a stone duel;

Dominic stepped between them with a cross; he was God’s fool.

The boys failed to realize that Jesus was their friend,

To Confession they went and their knees they did bend.
“Give me souls, Lord; you take the rest.”

St. John Bosco
Because of his love for Jesus in the tabernacle,

Dominic started a Communion club.

On Christmas day, many boys received Jesus because they were able.

Confession had given their soul a good scrub.
Dominic would sometimes know when a soul needed the Last Rite.

To Don Bosco he would go in the middle of the night.

Together they would save a soul.

That was their goal!
Dominic and Don Bosco's earthly friendship was soon to end.

A terrible sickness forced the fourteen-year-old to leave his friend.

On earth they would never again each other greet.

However, in Heaven, they surely did meet.
Saint Dominic Savio

St. Dominic Savio is a great saint for children to follow. He did not go off to far-away mission fields, write great books, or do great deeds in the eyes of the world. However, he loved Jesus as much as he could and tried to bring everyone he met closer to Christ by his kindness and good example.

Dominic's love for Jesus began at a young age. He started going to Mass with his father daily at the age of five. He was an altar boy and was able to receive Holy Communion at the age of seven, which was very rare in his time. On this special day, he made Jesus and Mary the promise to be their closest friends, to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist as often as he was able, and to choose death before sin.

(He realized that mortal sin killed the life of Christ in his soul and never wanted to offend Jesus in this way.) These promises helped Dominic to stay close to Christ all his life.

Dominic, also, had the desire to become a priest at a very young age. To fulfill this dream, he did his best in school and walked miles back and forth to school, in all kinds of weather.

(He was asked why he wasn't afraid or lonely.)

He replied that his guardian angel kept him company.

Don Bosco, a holy priest who later became a saint, entered Dominic's life. He sought to help Dominic in his desire to not only be a priest, but a saint too. When Dominic tried to do difficult penances, Don Bosco reminded him that not by doing great penances does one get to Heaven, but by faithfully doing the tasks set before you well and with love. Fr. Bosco also told him that being kind to those whom Dom didn't particularly like and to obey those in charge in all that was good were better ways to please Jesus.

Don Bosco quickly helped Dominic on his way to sainthood.

Dominic helped many of the boys in Don Bosco's school stay away from sin. Once he tore up bad pictures that a man was trying to show the boys. When two boys filled with hatred planned a stone duel, he showed them how their anger offended Jesus who died for love of both of them and encouraged them to get to Confession. Also, Dominic would wake up Don Bosco in the middle of the night to go to a home of a person dying and in need of Last Rites. Lastly, he formed a "Communion Club" which encouraged boys to get to Confession more often so that they could receive Jesus frequently. These are only a few of the "little" good works of Dominic.

Even though Dominic's dream to be a priest was never fulfilled, he did become a saint. At fourteen, Dominic became very ill and had to leave Don Bosco's oratory. Dominic knew that he would never return. Sadly, he did die. However, he appeared to Don Bosco and thanked him for helping him get to Heaven. Even though Dominic did not become a priest or do "super" things in the eyes of the world, he became a saint because he did his best, was cheerfully obedient, loved Jesus as much as he could, and helped others to do the same.
Written to give honor & glory to God through illustrated stories of His friends, the saints