

January 31, 2025

Daily Reflections



ETERNAL LOVE

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Consider the Eternal Love God has borne you, in that, even before our Lord Jesus Christ became Man and suffered on the Cross for you, His Divine Majesty designed your existence and loved you. When did He begin to love you? When He began to be God, and that was never, for He ever was, without beginning and without end.”

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, "INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE"

Reflection

Most of my grammar school years were spent in military dependent or public schools. However, once my family returned stateside and settled into civilian life, and following considerable pleading on my part, I was able to attend parochial school, St. Athanasius in North Long Beach, grades six through eight.

As I became more familiar with life at my school, one of my favorite things to do was to hang out and help the sisters (Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate) with tasks like cleaning blackboards or covering books. The hallway outside of the second story classrooms where I completed the sundry chores was lined with bookshelves filled with an assortment of tomes and in moments of quiet, I liked to look through the assortment and in particular read about the lives of the saints. It was here that I was introduced to St. John Bosco.

For the time, Don Bosco (as he is also known) was a popular guy. First, he was a relatively recent saint, having been canonized in 1934. Secondly, he was the patron saint of schoolchildren and young people challenged by life, circumstance and wrestling with good vs. not so good -- also known as juvenile delinquents. His call and ministry engaged being the face of God's love for some of the most challenged young people of his time. His integrated approach to caring for young people was well ahead of his time and was expressed in his "The Preventive System in the Education of the Young," written in 1877.

Don Bosco's ministry was inspired by St. Francis de Sales. "He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do -- work, study, and play." (*Saint of the Day: The Definitive Guide to the Saints*, 68, Kindle) He also had a special devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians. He founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales, the Salesians, as well as the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians, or the Salesian Sisters, with St. Mary Mazzarello.

Today is the Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest. Happy Feast Day.



"The statue of Don Bosco Sihanoukville, Cambodia" by Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia is licensed under CC BY 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

- Who were the formative people who influenced you growing up?
 - What are the teachings and values you have carried with you to adulthood and that you would like to share with young people today?
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For Prayer

Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers, forget me? Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners.

Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven. Amen.

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