

March Holy Hero St. Dominic Savio

Patron of children and the falsely accused

Feast Day March 9

By Stephanie Purcell, Catholic Identity Committee



Hi kids,

My name is Dominic Savio and I would like to tell you the story of my life. I was born in Italy in 1842, one of ten children in my family. My dad was a blacksmith and my mom a seamstress. Our family was quite poor, but hardworking, and we had a great love for God. I began serving Mass when I was five years old. I loved being able to assist the priests in such a special way. On my First Communion Day, I wrote down four rules that I would always follow: *1. I will go to confession and Holy Communion often. 2. I will keep Sundays and feast days holy. 3. Jesus and Mary will be my best friends. 4. I will rather die than commit a sin.* These rules helped me stay close to Jesus. If you would like to follow them, I am sure they will help you stay close to Jesus too.

Once, when I was eleven, two boys filled the school stove with snow and then told the teacher that I did it. Even though I was innocent, I did not tell on the boys because I wanted to imitate Jesus, who also kept silent during his persecution and crucifixion. The truth was known in the end.

At twelve I entered the Oratory school run by St. John Bosco, hoping with all my heart to one day become a priest. Father Bosco wanted a school in which he could help boys that no one seemed to pay attention. Some were homeless, and some were very poor. We all worked together in taking care of our school. We didn't have the sports like you may play today, but we had lots of fun running races and playing field games outside. I enjoyed school, as well as play. I tried my best to be cheerful, helpful, obedient, and keep peace among my friends. It was also very important for me to make time for prayer every day. I could not do big things, but I wanted everything, even the smallest acts, to be for the glory of God. Anyone, no matter how young or old, can become holy by thinking this way.

After two years at the Oratory school, Dominic became very sick with lung problems (tuberculosis) and was sent home to recover. Instead, he grew worse and received the last Sacraments. Dominic did not fear death and the thought of going to Heaven brought him happiness. Just before he died on March 9, 1857, he said, "What beautiful things I see!" Dominic was only 15 years old.