

# Saint John Bosco

1825-1888

*In Don Bosco's life* the presence of his Guardian Angel is represented by a dog called "Grigio" (the Gray Wolf) who defends him from dangers.

Don Bosco was on his way home one foggy evening in November 1854. He had been in Turin on some errands. At a certain moment, he realized two men were walking ahead of him and watching him. Every time he went to the other side of the road, the two men did the same. Frightened, he tried to reach a nearby house and take refuge there, but it was already too late. The two men ran towards him and covered his head with a mantle. While struggling with them, he raised a heartfelt prayer to the Lord, asking him to save him. Lo and

to the point that he could not control them nor, even less, stop them. Then the coach went off the road and the passengers got into an accident. Frightened, the women began to scream and, while a door of the coach was opening, the wheels slammed against some rocks, causing the coach to overturn with all the passengers in it. The open door broke into a thousand pieces and the coachman had time to jump down from his seat, while the passengers risked being trampled to death. The wife of the Portuguese ambassador fell to the ground



behold, Grigio suddenly appeared and began to bark and throw himself at both the criminals, who fled in fear. Another time, Don Bosco found himself on the mountains of Liguria. He did not know which way to turn to get back to the village. He invoked his Guardian Angel when suddenly Grigio appeared, showing him the way and accompanying him to the place where he wanted to go. Well known is also the episode in which the wife of the Portuguese ambassador figures prominently. On August 31, 1844, this woman needed to go from Turin to Chieti. Before leaving, she wanted to go to confession to Don Bosco. At the end of the confession, the Saint recommended that she recite the prayer to the Guardian Angel three times, because she would need his help in times of danger. During the trip, the horses of the coach suddenly became nervous and refused to obey the coachman,

and was in danger of being trampled and killed by the pawing of the horses who kept running crazily. The woman then remembered the words Don Bosco had spoken to her at the end of her confession and invoked her Guardian Angel. All at once, the horses calmed down and the coachman was able once again to control them and stop them. The distraught passengers could not figure out how the accident had happened and why the horses had gone crazy and then calmed down so suddenly. The woman very well knew the answer. She profusely thanked her Guardian Angel for having saved her life and that of all the other passengers. It was her confidence in the intercession and protection of the Guardian Angels that had been rewarded. The woman had no doubt that Don Bosco had had a premonition of what would happen.