

Saint John Bosco

1815 - 1888

HELL

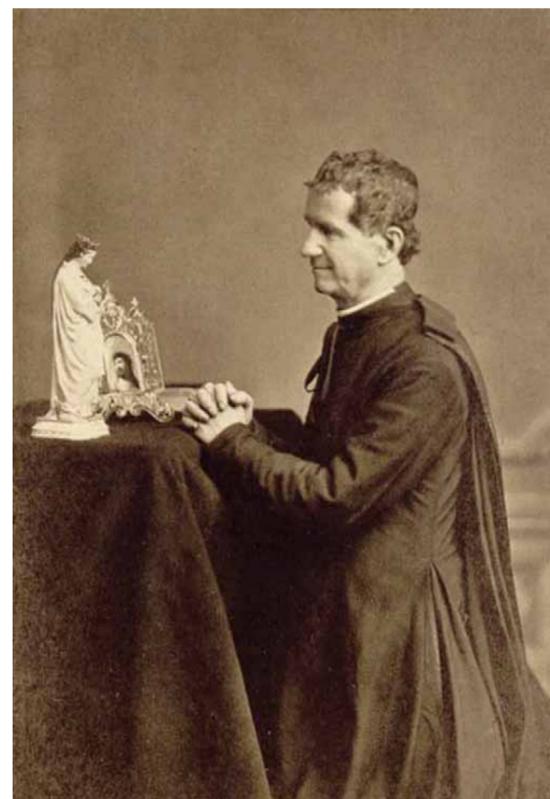
Saint John Bosco was born in Castelnuovo d'Asti the 16th of August 1815 and died the 31st of January 1888. He had a vision of Hell which he recounted to his youth: "I found myself with my guide (Guardian Angel), at the bottom of a precipice which ended in a blackened valley. And here appeared an immense edifice, having a very high door, locked. We touched the bottom of the precipice; a stifling heat overwhelmed me, a thick smoke, almost green, rose up the walls of the building and flashes of bloodlike flames. I asked: Where do we find ourselves? Read, responded my guide, the inscription which is on the door! There it was written: *Ubi non est redemptio!* That is: *Where there is no redemption.* Meanwhile I saw plummet into that chasm... first a young person, then another and still others following; all of them had their sin written on their brow. Exclaimed the guide: Here is the cause of these damnations: bad companions, wicked books, and perverse habits. The miserable people were young men recognized by me. I inquired: But then is it useless that one works among the young, if so many end up like this? How to impede such ruin? Those whom you saw are still alive; this however is their current state and if they were to die, they would certainly come here!

"After we entered the structure; it ran with the rapidity of a flash. I read this inscription: *Ibunt impii in ignem aeternum!* That is: *The impious (wicked) will go into the eternal fire!*

"Come with me! – added the guide. He took me by the hand and led me in front of a door, which opened. It was presented to me the gaze of a kind of immense cavern, full of fire.

"Certainly that fire surpassed thousands and thousands of degrees of heat. I cannot describe this cave to you in all its frightening reality. Meanwhile, all of a sudden, I saw young men and women falling into the fiery cavern. The guide said: 'The transgression of the sixth commandment is the cause of eternal ruin of many young people.' 'But if they sinned, they have however confessed?' 'They have confessed, but the sins against the virtue of purity they have badly confessed or left completely untold. For example, one had committed four or five of these sins, but said only two or three. There are also those who may have committed one of them in childhood and was always embarrassed to confess it, or perhaps they confessed it badly or did not say everything.'

"Others did not have the pain and the resolution; on the contrary, some of them, instead of doing an examination of conscience, studied the way to deceive the confessor. And whoever dies with that resolution, resolves to be in the number of reprobates and this is the way it will be for all eternity... And now do you want to see why the mercy of God brought you here? The guide raised a veil and I saw a group of young men from this Oratory, all of whom I knew, condemned for that same sin. Among them were those who in appearance keep good conduct.



"Continued the guide: Preach everywhere against immodesty! – Then we spoke for about half an hour on the conditions for making a good confession and it was concluded: 'Change your life!... Change your life!'

"Now, added the friend, that you have seen the torments of the damned, it is necessary that even you experience a bit of Hell! Exiting from that horrible edifice, the guide seized my hand and touched it to the last outer wall; I emitted a scream...

"When the vision ceased, I observed that my hand was really swollen and for a week I wore a bandage."

