

Saint Dominic Savio

1842 - 1857

PARADISE

Saint Domenico Savio, a Salesian student, died in 1857 and was canonized in 1954. After his death, he appeared to Saint John Bosco. The Holy Founder recounted the apparition to the young members and superiors of his Congregation in this way:

“I was in my room, in Lanzo. Suddenly, I saw myself on top of a hill. My gaze was lost in the immensity of a plain which was divided by broad avenues into vast gardens. The flowers, the trees, everything was very beautiful, and everything else was just as magnificent.

While I was contemplating this beauty, I perceived the most pleasant music. There were a hundred thousand instruments, and each one producing a different sound. Choirs of singers joined their voices to the sound.

As I listened in ecstasy to the heavenly harmony, there appeared a huge number of young people coming toward me. At their head walked Dominic Savio. All of them stopped in front of me at a distance of eight to ten paces... Then lightning flashed, the music ceased, and a great silence fell. Dominic Savio stepped forward a few more paces and stopped near me. How beautiful he was! His garments were unusual; his white tunic, which fell all the way to his feet, was embroidered with diamonds and sewn together with gold thread. A wide red

sash was wrapped around his waist, it was embroidered with precious stones so close together that they touched each other. From his neck there hung a garland of flowers of a kind never before seen; they looked like diamonds connected together. These flowers sparkled with light. On his head was a crown of roses. His hair hung down to his shoulder in waves, and gave him such a beautiful appearance, so affecting, so attractive that he looked – he looked like an angel.

I trembled and could not speak. Then Dominic Savio said:

– Why do you remain mute and dismayed?

– I don't know what to say – I responded – So, you are Dominic Savio?

– It is I! Don't you recognize me any more?

– And how does it happen that you are here?

– I am to talk to you. Ask me any question at all.

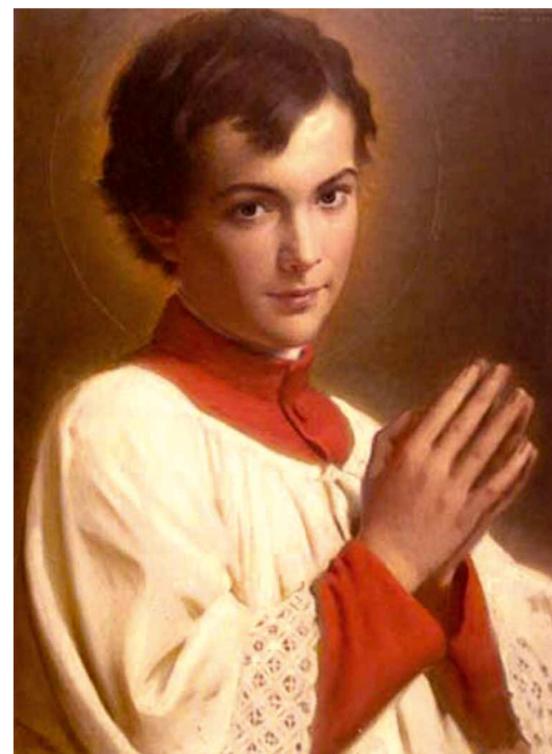
– Are all these wonders that I see natural?

– Yes, but they have been embellished by the power of God.

– To me it seemed that this was Paradise!

– No, no! No mortal eye can see the eternal beauties.

– And you, what do you enjoy in Paradise?



– It is impossible to tell you. There is no mortal man who can know what one enjoys in Paradise, as he has not yet left this life and been reunited with his Creator.

– Now then, my dear Savio, tell me: what gave you the greatest consolation at the moment of death?

– What comforted me the most at the moment of death was the aid of the mighty and lovable Mother of the Savior, Mary Most Holy. And tell this to your young people, that they should not forget to pray to her as long as they live!”

