

# Saint Dominic Savio

1842-1857

*Dominic Savio* was so devoted to the Guardian Angels that he never neglected to pray to them.

On January 26, 1915, when Dominic's sister, Teresa, was being questioned under oath during the canonization process for her brother, she said: "My sister, Raimondina told me that when she was a young child she fell into a small pond of water and was in danger of drowning. My brother Dominic rushed to her aid and carried her to safety. When some bystanders asked him how he managed to save her even though she was older and heavier, he replied: I did not accomplish it on my own, because as I held my sister with one arm my other arm was held by my Guardian Angel (S.P., p. 218)."

takes away the peace of our heart; they both allow us to fulfill our duties."

He was faithful to his life goal, sustained by an intense and daily participation in the Sacraments and by a son's filial devotion to Mary. As a result, he was blessed with gifts and charisms from God. When Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854, Dominic consecrated himself to Mary and quickly began to advance on the road to sanctity. In 1856, together with friends, he started "The Society of the Immaculate" for purposes of Catholic Action. One day, Mamma Margaret,



Dominic was born on April 2, 1842 in San Giovanni de Riva, near Chieri (Turin).

He received his First Communion when he was seven years old. At the time he declared his life's purpose: "I will frequently go to confession and receive Holy Communion as often as my confessor permits me to do so. I wish to sanctify the holy days. Jesus and Mary will be my friends. Death rather than sin." When he was twelve years old, he asked Don Bosco of the Oratory in Turin to help him become a saint. Always joyful and serene, he sought to accomplish his tasks with serious purpose: from helping his schoolmates with their studies, teaching the Catechism and caring for the sick.

Once he declared to a friend who had just entered the Oratory: "You should know that here we believe holiness to be joyful. We try to avoid sin which is the great enemy that destroys the grace of God and

who came to Turin to help her priest son, told him: "You have many fine young men here, but none of them surpasses Dominic Savio in beauty of heart and soul." She went on to explain: "I always see him at prayer, remaining in church long after the others had left; instead of taking recreation each day, he makes a visit to the Blessed Sacrament...in church, he is like an angel in Paradise." Dominic died at Mondonno on March 9, 1857.