



Novena to Saint John Bosco

Day One – Signs and Bearers of God’s Love

Lord, may we be so aware of our own brokenness that it may give us the compassion to care for others, as Don Bosco did. May we be driven by the call for justice through this inner spirit to make sacrifices for young people at risk. May we be called by compassion to live a healing gentleness among young people, our family and our friends. Let the spirit of justice and compassion move us so that, in our lives, we may become signs and bearers of your love.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Two – The Call to Belong

Don Bosco calls us into a wider community and into a network of care for others. Everyone we meet is both our pupil and our teacher, whatever their age or status. Ours is a vocation to interdependence; to giving and receiving in a way that challenges the individualism of many cultures. Lord, may we never lose touch with the still small voice of your Spirit, and be aware of our need of others.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Three – Hospitality

For Don Bosco, every Salesian house was a place of hospitality and welcome. Lord, help us to make every encounter a sacred space where people can feel safe, relax and be present just as they are. Lord, you said: whenever you welcome one of these little ones, you welcome me. So, we pray, that hospitality may for us become an act of faith in the unique spirit at the heart of each individual.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Four – Awakening the Family Likeness

Don Bosco emphasised the family spirit in his communities. Lord you remind us in the scriptures that *everyone moved by the Spirit is a son or a daughter of God*. So, it's as if we are recognising a family likeness in others, a likeness that makes each person a sacrament: an outward sign of your inner presence. Lord, help us to recognise that every gathering of two or three people is potentially a family reunion when viewed through the eyes of love.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Five – The Eucharist

Lord, as we eat and drink at Holy Communion, your Body and Blood become one with us. You give of yourself that we may become, like Don Bosco, food for others. The intimacy of your risen presence moving in our lives goes beyond our understanding. Help us to try to live this mystery of intimacy with you, our Risen Lord, and allow it to shape our lives and deepen our friendships.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Six – Little Ones

Lord, help us to imitate Don Bosco in making the first move in responding to the needs of the vulnerable. Teach us to look beneath the brash bravado or the shrinking shyness of others to see your face. Help us to create opportunities for conversation, to engage in the world of the poor and abandoned and allow them to test the strength of our care.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Seven – Self-Sacrifice

Don Bosco often said to the young people of Turin: *for you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life*. Lord, help us to go the extra mile in the care and safeguarding of others, to witness to the sacredness of all human life. Help us to escape from self-centred thinking and move to the self-sacrifice that will give our lives meaning and direction.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Eight – Mary Mother of God

Don Bosco dedicated his every project and plan to Mary Help of Christians. Lord, may the silent presence of your mother bless and guide us on our journey through life. At the Visitation Mary made the first move to reach out to her cousin and in that generous act the presence of God within her was awakened and recognised. In the same way we are called to make the first move in welcoming others. May we be ready to recognise the movement of the Spirit within other people.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

Day Nine – Compassion

The emptiness of young people's lives in Don Bosco's time resonated with the troubles of his own childhood. Compassion opens our eyes to the need for loving kindness in the lives of others. Pain, sadness and violence reveal an emptiness in life that will often find an echo in our own lives. Lord, help us not be afraid to express our compassion for those who struggle.

Hail Mary..... Saint John Bosco, pray for us.

This novena is based on the book **A Salesian Way of Life**
by David O'Malley SDB, obtainable from
Don Bosco Publications 01204 308 811 or sarah@salesians.org.uk

