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John BOSCO

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Champion for Youth

1815–1888

Born in Becchi, Italy (near Turin)

Feast Day: January 31

**Family Connection:
Boys and Schoolchildren**

Text by Barbara Yoffie
Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set, *Saints of North America*, honors holy men and women who blessed and served the land we call home. The second set, *Saints of Christmas*, includes heavenly heroes who inspire us through Advent and Christmas and teach us to love the Infant Jesus.

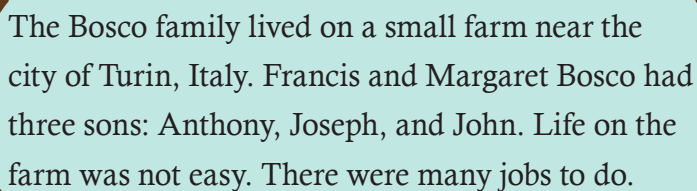
Saints for Families introduces the virtuous lives of seven saints from different times and places who modeled God's love and charity within and for families. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux felt the love of her family and carried it into her religious community (which included her sisters). Saint Anthony of Padua is the patron of infants and children. Saint John Bosco cared for young, homeless boys, raising them like sons. Saint Thomas More, a father of five, imitated Christ's sacrificial love and devotion to the truth until death. Saints Joachim and Anne became the grandparents of Jesus, raising Mary as a sinless disciple. And Saint Gerard Majella, the patron of pregnant mothers, blessed families with food, knowledge, penances, and healing miracles.

Which saint stood up against a king? Who became a tailor and priest? Which saint is "the little flower?" Who was known for his excellent preaching? Which saints lived before Jesus? Which saint climbed trees, did flips, and turned cartwheels? Find out in the *Saints for Families* set—part of the *Saints and Me!* series—and help your child connect to the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

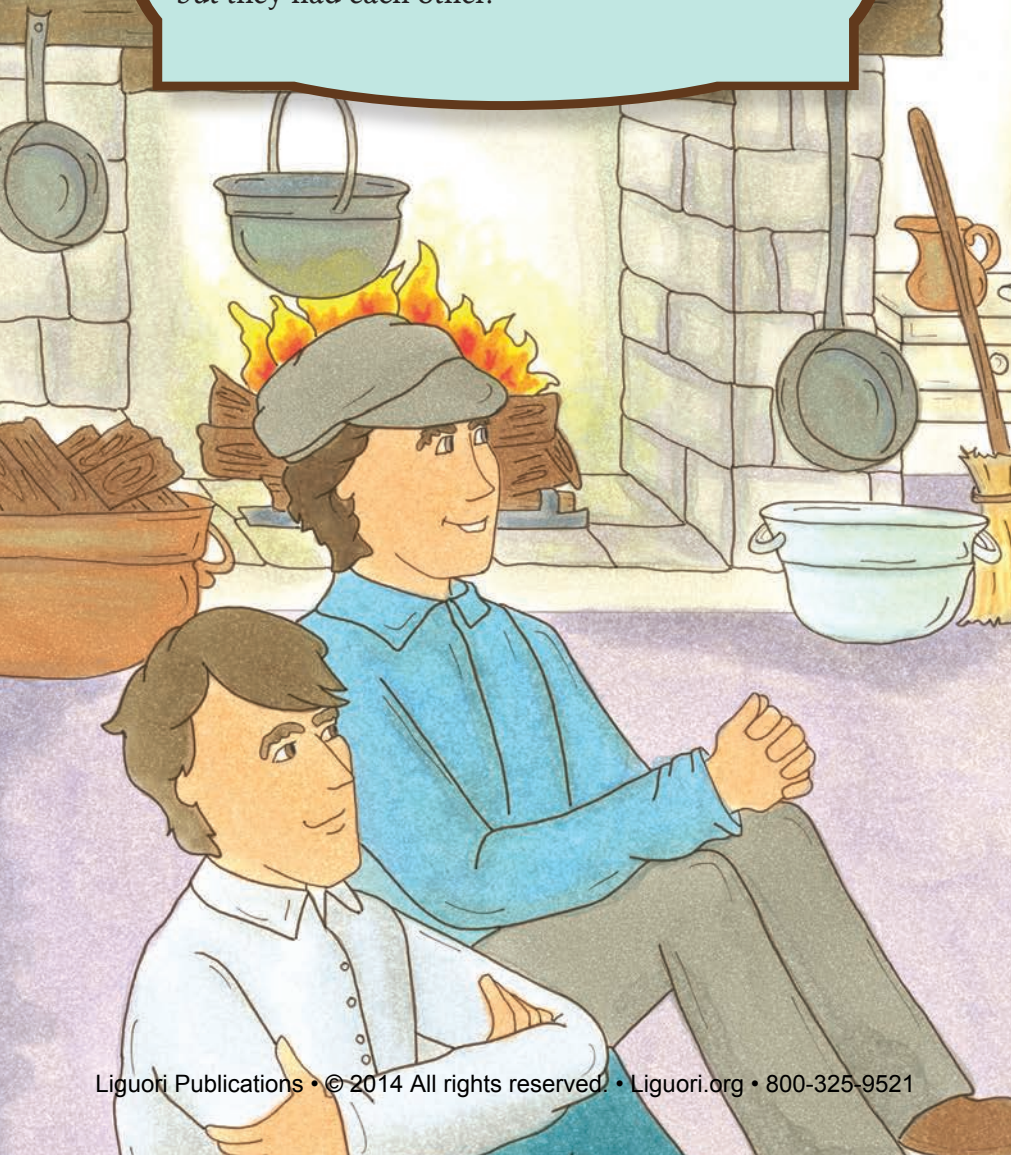
- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.





The Bosco family lived on a small farm near the city of Turin, Italy. Francis and Margaret Bosco had three sons: Anthony, Joseph, and John. Life on the farm was not easy. There were many jobs to do.

John was only two years old when his father died. His mother worked hard to keep her little family happy and safe. They did not have a lot of money, but they had each other.



They also had faith in God. Margaret told her children stories about God. “God wants us to help other people,” she said. John listened to his mother. He liked to pray and go to church.

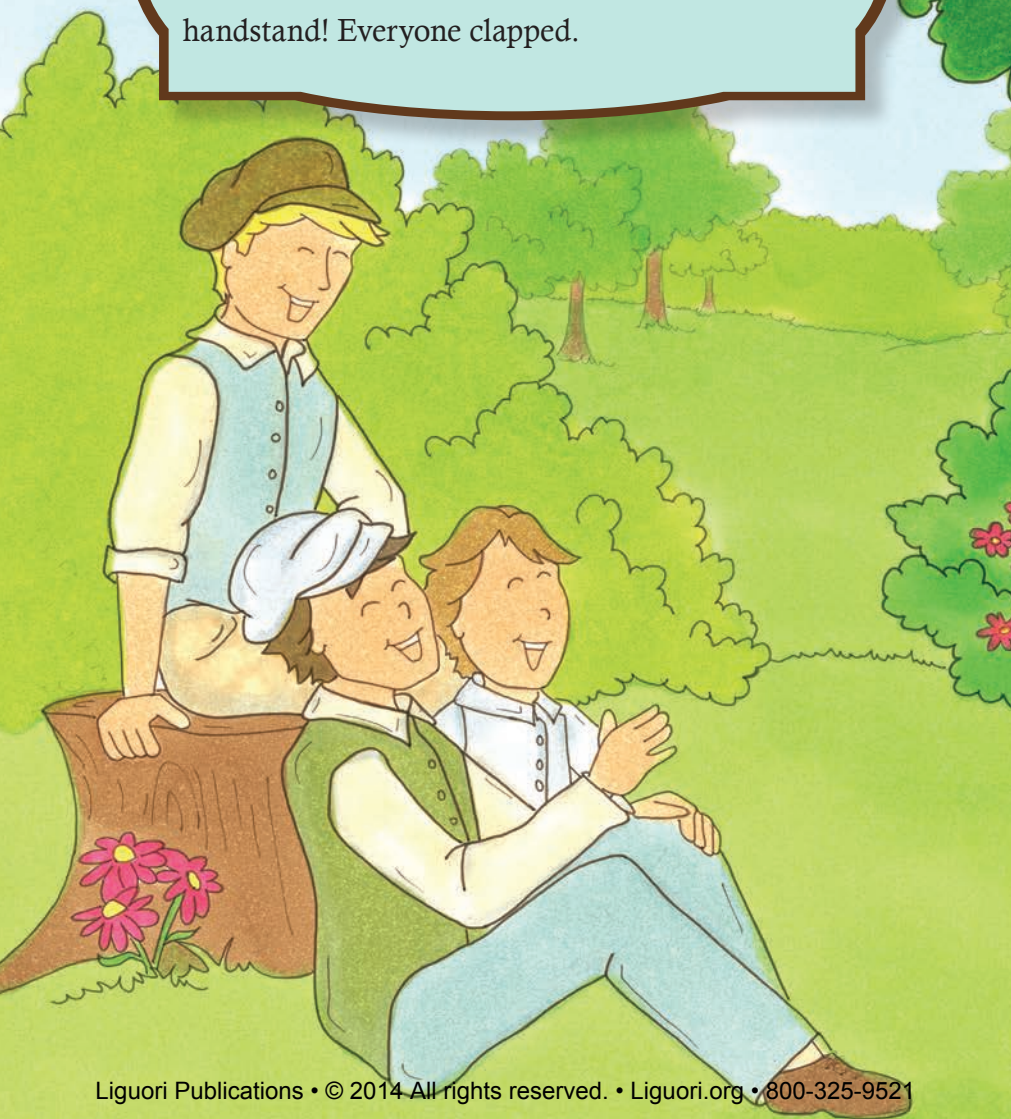


When John was nine years old, he had a dream. He saw many boys shouting and pushing each other. John tried to stop the rough play. A voice told him to be kind and gentle. He never forgot his dream. What did it mean?





One warm day, John was playing with his friends near a big tree. "Look at me!" he shouted. He climbed on a low branch and hung upside down. Then he jumped to the ground and did a handstand! Everyone clapped.



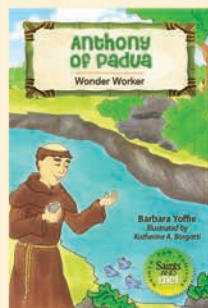


John told his friends, "I will do more tricks for you. But we should pray first." The boys prayed together. John jumped up and did a cartwheel and a flip in the air! *We can play and pray*, he thought.

Liguori Publications saints and me! series

SAINTS FOR FAMILIES

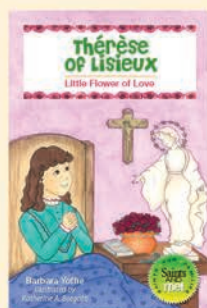
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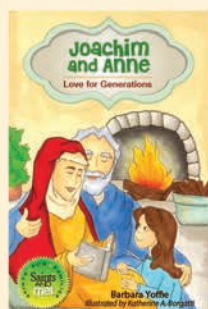
ANTHONY OF PADUA
wonder worker



JOHN BOSCO
champion for youth



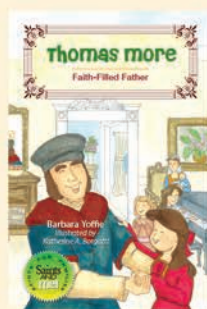
Thérèse of Lisieux
little flower of love



JOACHIM AND ANNE
love for generations



GERARD MAJELLA
guardian of mothers



THOMAS MORE
faith-filled father



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