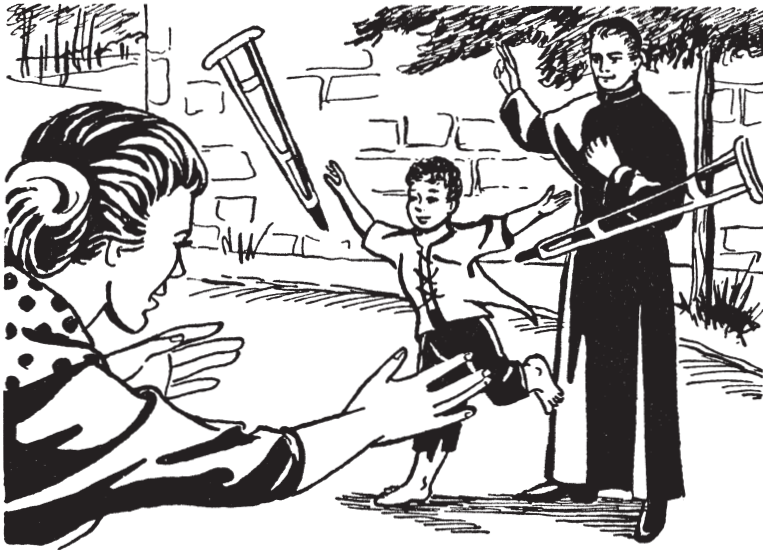


*A Story of Saint
John Bosco*

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Dedication
To Brother Liborius, C. S. C.



A STORY OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Little Johnny Bosco came into this world on August 16, 1815. He was born in a town in Italy known as Becchi. He was quite like any other little fellow—except that when he got to be about ten years old he liked to study better than to play. But there are a lot of lads like that.

And the reason why John liked to study was because he thought he wanted to be a priest some day.

John's mother was a good lady. She often told him about God and Our Lady. It helped him to be good.

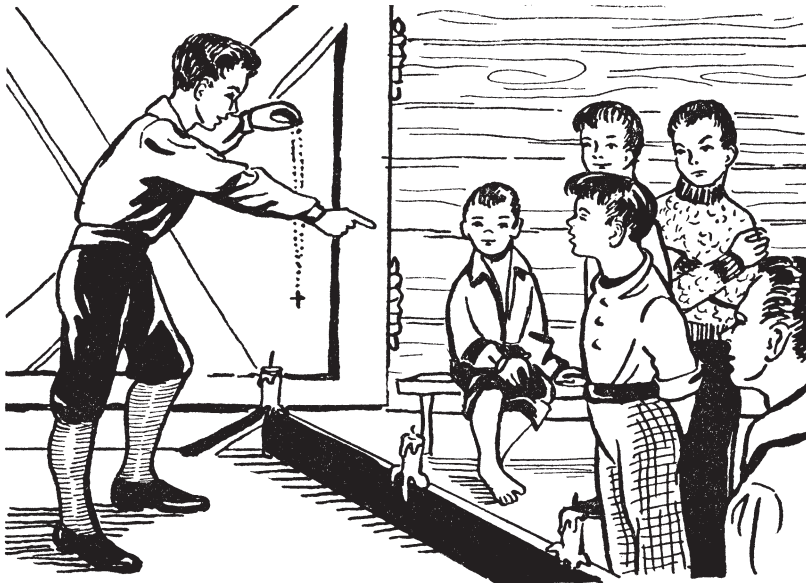


One day John went with his father to a fair. There he saw a man doing wonderful tricks. John watched him carefully. Then, when he got home, John tried to do them. He began by tossing saucers into the air, trying to keep three of them in motion at once. And he did it, too! From that day young Bosco learned many tricks. Soon he became the best entertainer in the whole village.

Then what do you think John did?

Well, there were a lot of boys in the village. Some of them were pretty rough. Most of them didn't know much about their religion. John got them to come to his father's barn. There he had a platform built. When all were together, John did some of his best tricks. The boys all called for more!

“Kneel down, then, and say the rosary first!”



Well, the boys didn't mind that. John led the beads and they all answered. And when they finished the rosary, John did many more tricks.

The news of John's skill spread very fast.

Then, one day, a lad who was several years older than John, and who was a very good athlete, dared John to race with him. All of Bosco's friends stood waiting to hear what John would say. After all, this was a big fellow!

"Yes, I'll race you: right now!"

And what do you think? John beat him!

"I bet you can't jump across that creek," said the athlete. He was hoping to win back his reputation.

The boys all yelled for their hero.

"Take him up on it, Johnny!"

"Yes, I'll take your bet," said John as he walked toward the stream.