

Saints for Boys

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Saints for Boys

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SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

Little Aloysius Gonzaga lived in a castle in Italy. His father was a great soldier.

Aloysius liked to watch his father's men marching. He liked to march with them, too.

Once, when no one was looking, he loaded a cannon and fired it. There was a great "Bang!" Everyone in camp was frightened, for they thought an enemy had come.

When Aloysius was eleven years old, he read about priests who went to faraway places as missionaries. “Maybe I will become a priest instead of a soldier,” Aloysius thought.

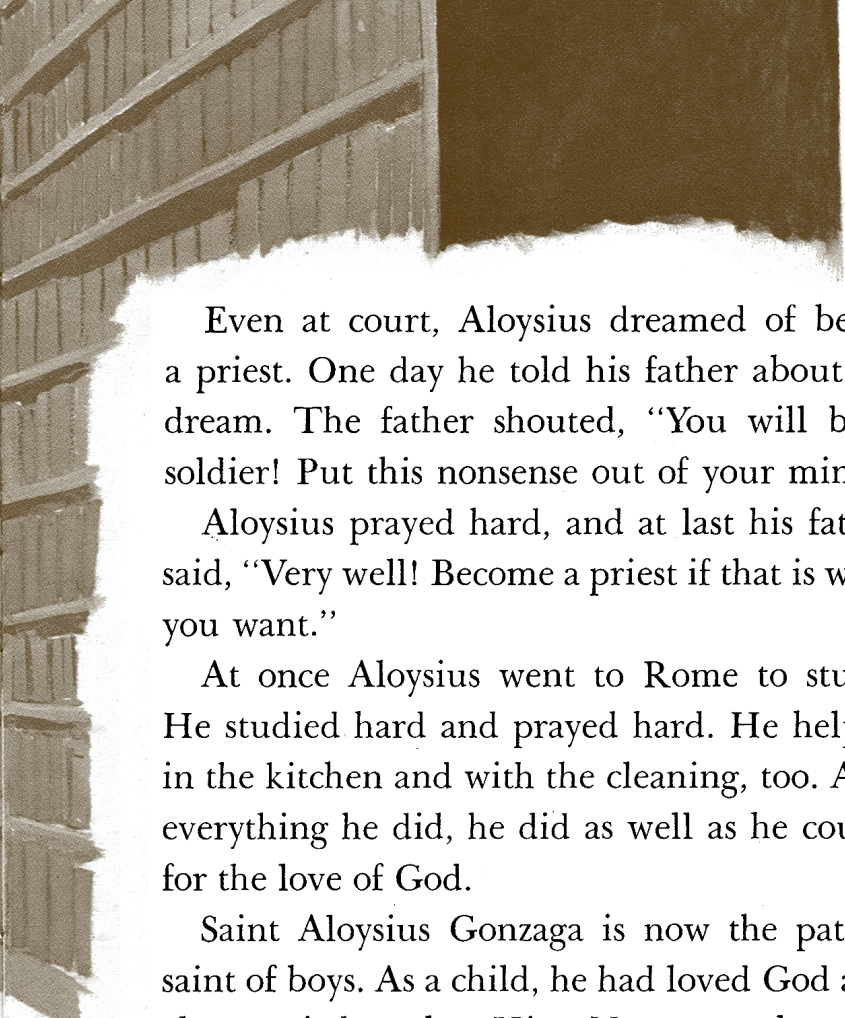
He was too young to go to far-off lands to teach people about God. But he thought, “I will teach people right here at home.” Soon he began to give catechism lessons to the poor boys who lived nearby.

This made him happy, but it ended when he became a page at the court of a prince. Aloysius did not like being a page, but he offered his work to God. “This is what God wants me to do, and I will do it well,” he said.









Even at court, Aloysius dreamed of being a priest. One day he told his father about his dream. The father shouted, “You will be a soldier! Put this nonsense out of your mind.”

Aloysius prayed hard, and at last his father said, “Very well! Become a priest if that is what you want.”

At once Aloysius went to Rome to study. He studied hard and prayed hard. He helped in the kitchen and with the cleaning, too. And everything he did, he did as well as he could, for the love of God.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga is now the patron saint of boys. As a child, he had loved God and always tried to obey Him. Now every boy can pray to Saint Aloysius and try to do God’s will as he did.