

Don Bosco

Father and Friend of Youth

John Bosco was born on August 16, 1815 in a small town not too far from Turin, Italy. His father died when he was two years old. He was raised with tender love yet firm discipline by his mother, Margaret.

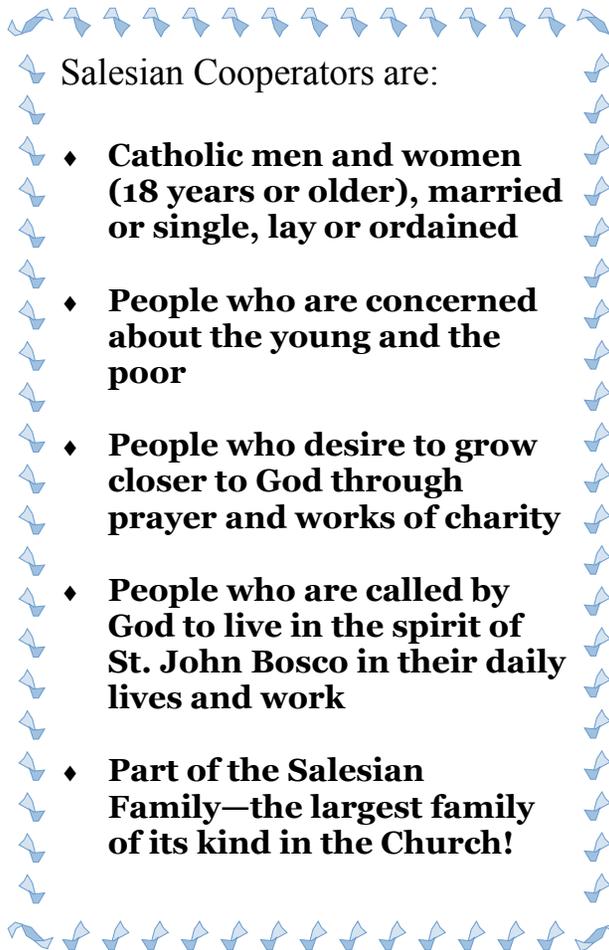
He was ordained to the priesthood in 1841 and went to work in Turin, where the industrial revolution was attracting waves of young people to the city. The misery and abandonment of these youngsters moved John Bosco deeply.

Dedicating his life to these poor youth, he began youth clubs where they could have fun; hostels and schools where they were educated for life; and parishes where they were led to God.

In 1854 he founded a religious order of priests and brothers, the Salesian Society; in 1872, he founded the Salesian Sisters; and in 1876, the Association of Salesian Cooperators came into being.

The educational philosophy of St. John Bosco can be condensed into three words: reason, religion, and kindness. In his system, it is not enough to love the young people; they must know that they are loved.

John Bosco died on January 31, 1888. Today the Salesian Family numbers in the tens of thousands working in over 100 countries.



↙ Salesian Cooperators are:

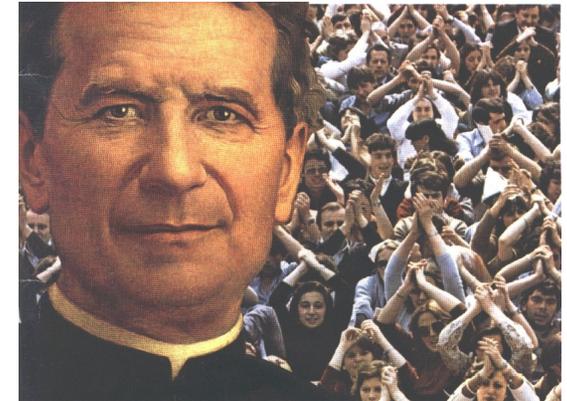
- ◆ **Catholic men and women (18 years or older), married or single, lay or ordained**
- ◆ **People who are concerned about the young and the poor**
- ◆ **People who desire to grow closer to God through prayer and works of charity**
- ◆ **People who are called by God to live in the spirit of St. John Bosco in their daily lives and work**
- ◆ **Part of the Salesian Family—the largest family of its kind in the Church!**

**TO BE A
SALESIAN COOPERATOR
IS A VOCATION!**

For more information contact:

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**Catholics united
in serving
the young and
the poor.**

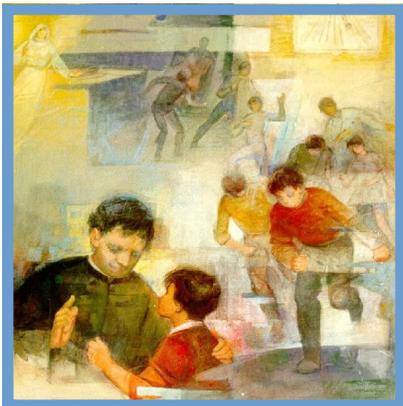


WHO?

*Any Catholic lay man or woman,
or diocesan clergy,
18 years of age or older
wanting to become a member of
the worldwide Salesian Family
established by St. John Bosco.*

Salesian Cooperators are the essential lay component of the Salesian Family. They live their normal daily lives in the world; they are parents, teachers, executives, youth workers, volunteers, students — anyone desiring to live the Gospel in a dedicated way according to the charism given to St. John Bosco.

Becoming a Cooperator is a personal response to the call of the Holy Spirit to live one's Christian life in a particular way — the Salesian way. The call is not a dramatic summons from on high. It may simply be an invitation to come to a meeting, a desire to help others, or a curiosity that attracts one to share St. John Bosco's work.



WHY?

*To bring God's love and joy
to those in greatest need,
especially the young and poor.*

Cooperators are motivated by a simple but profound union with God and a desire to serve others. They seek to live Don Bosco's motto, "Da mihi animas," that is, "Give me souls." Cooperators are apostles; they express their deep spirituality through active charity. Cooperators are zealous and available for the Lord's work in a realistic and practical way.

HOW?

*Through sharing one's God-given
talents in the unique Salesian spirit.
This spirit was given to the Church
by God through St. John Bosco and
it is kept alive by the hundreds of
thousands of members of the
Salesian Family.*

The Lord invites the Cooperators to share their gifts and abilities with the young and others in need. Through this humble service, the Cooperators reveal in a concrete way God's loving presence. There is an initial period of instruction and formation before a person is formally inducted into the Association of Salesian Cooperators by making a simple promise. Membership in the Association creates a strong bond of support and friendship among all St. John Bosco's spiritual sons and daughters.

WHERE?

*In one's own family,
neighborhood, parish,
workplace — Wherever the
opportunity exists to carry out the
Salesian apostolic mission in all
its depth and richness.*

The Cooperators live according to a spirit, so their vocation may be lived everywhere. The Cooperators help especially pastors and bishops in the activities of their local parish or diocese. They may also be found working side by side with the Salesian Priests, Brothers, and Sisters in schools, youth centers, retreat house, camps, and mission lands. Called to be signs and bearers of God's love in the world, Cooperators respond to the needs of others as their life circumstances allow. Service to the Lord Jesus and to His Church is their vocation, their way of life.

WHEN?

*Now! Because the need is great,
and the Spirit may be calling you.*

