

Saint Dominic Savio

Dominic Savio is one of the few teenage saints in the history of the Church.

He was born in 1842 in the village of Riva in northern Italy. He was the eldest child of Charles and Brigid Savio who were poor and hard working people.

At the age of 8 Dominic walked ten kilometres each day to the school in the neighbouring village. There he became an excellent student who always tried hard in his lessons.

At the age of 12 he commenced at Don Bosco's school, The Oratory of St Francis de Sales in Turin. He made many friends due to his cheerfulness and willingness to be part of every activity.

Dominic was a gifted student leader. At school he would actively look out for those who were lonely and befriend them. When a new student arrived he would be the first to greet them. He would encourage them to be a good Christian, saying that it is "not a matter of doing extraordinary things but of doing ordinary things extraordinarily well."

Dominic loved God. He had a strong faith and was actively involved in community service. He was a constant visitor to the school hospital where he would cheer up those who were sick. He and his friends would go into Turin to assist those who were old or ill.

Dominic was not a physically strong boy and had bad health. His teachers and friends admired the way he never complained about his sickness. He died at the age of 15.

Dominic's life is a great example to young people through his effort at school, his loyalty as a friend, his qualities as a student leader, his service to others and his love of God.

<http://www.scr.vic.edu.au/our-school/82/p/saint-dominic-savio/>

