

Using Our Gifts to Help Others



Know about people who use their gifts to help others.
Think about what we can learn from them.

Living a Christian life

One day Jesus warned his friends: "It is not those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord', who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21-22).

This means that we have to 'live out' what Jesus has taught us. We have to put it into practice every day! This is what Dominic Savio did.

St. Dominic Savio

Dominic Savio was born on 2 April 1842 at San Giovanni di Riva, near Turin in Italy. When he was seven years old, he made his First Holy Communion.

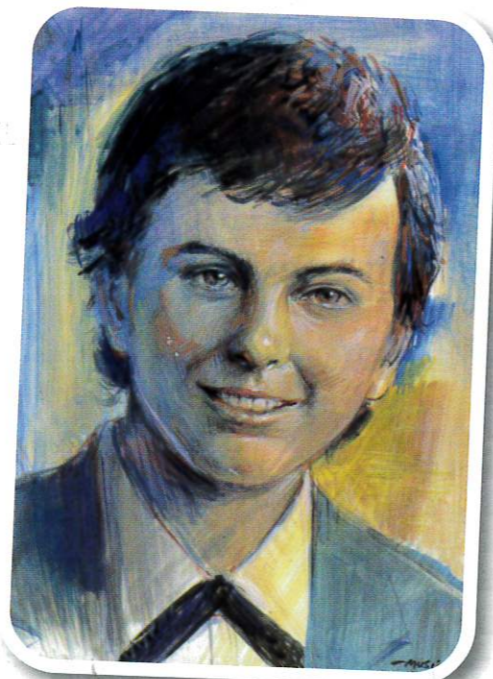
Then, he wrote this plan for his life:

I will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion often.

I will keep Sundays and feast days as holy days.

I will have Jesus and Mary as my best friends.

I would rather die than sin.



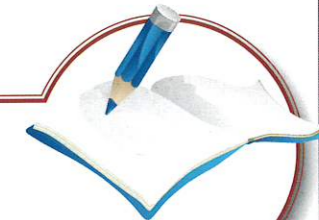
When Dominic was twelve years old, he went to the Oratory School in Turin. He made friends quickly with the other boys. They admired him because he was always willing to help them with their work and he was particularly kind to anyone who was sick. Most of all, he was a great peacemaker. Whenever he saw boys fighting, he would help them to become friends again.

Dominic's school was beside a church so he would try to find a little time every day to pop in to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. He never forgot that Jesus and Mary were his best friends.

When Dominic was only fifteen years old, he became very ill and died on 9 March 1857. Dominic's friends were the first to realise that he was a saint. They began praying to him and many said that he answered their prayers.

In 1954, Dominic Savio was canonized; that means that the Church stated that he was a saint.

Activities



1. a) Make notes on what you admire most about Dominic Savio.
b) Share your notes with the rest of the class.
2. Why do you think Dominic Savio became a saint? (You may like to use the 'Thinking map' in the Teacher's Book p109)
3. Write down three ways you would like to be more like Dominic Savio.
4. Research.
 - a) Find out what it means to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.
 - b) Would you be able to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament? Why? Why not?