

Memorial of St. John Bosco
Catholic Schools Week 2024
Homily of Bishop Barres
St. Agnes Cathedral
January 31, 2024

As we celebrate Catholic Schools week and all the contributions that Catholic education makes to the evangelizing mission of the Church and the public common good, we also celebrate today the Memorial of St. John Bosco (1815-1888).

St. John Bosco is the great 19th Century mystic of Catholic education and the formation of young people. He is known as the “Apostle of Youth” and is the founder of the Salesians.

He once made a visit to St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome with his Salesian companions and humbly and serenely pointed to the niche in the Basilica where his statue would one day be placed after his canonization.

Similarly today, St. John Bosco points us to the nature of love. He writes: “Where true love is the guiding principle, no one wants anything but the glory of God and the salvation of souls.”

This simple sentence drives to the heart of the Second Vatican Council’s emphasis on the universal call to holiness and mission that is the logic of every person’s baptism.

You and I are called to be men and women of communion and mission. We are called to be saints.

As we continue to celebrate Catholic Schools Week this week, we remember that this universal call to holiness and mission is at the center of every Catholic School in the Diocese of Rockville Centre and beyond.

Our Catholic Schools are workshops for our students and their families to become Catholic saints.

Our Catholic Schools are designed to lead our students and their families to Heaven.

Our Catholic schools form young Catholics on fire with the inspired Word of God. Our students understand with Psalm 119 that the Word of God is a Light and a Lamp for their steps on earth, steps of holiness that lead them to Eternal Life and Happiness with God in Heaven.

Our Catholic Schools are instruments of Eucharistic Evangelization and are designed to form in our students and families a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass and Eucharistic evangelization.

Our Catholic Schools are designed to form our students in the liberating truths of our Catholic faith: the truths of the Creed; the truths of the Word of God and the Seven Sacraments; the truths of Catholic Moral teaching such as the Catholic Church's teaching on Marriage, Catholic Anthropology, the Dignity of the Human Person made in the image of God, the Sanctity of Human Life at every stage of life and our Catholic Social Justice teaching; and the truths of how Catholic doctrine guides progress in mental prayer and liturgical prayer.

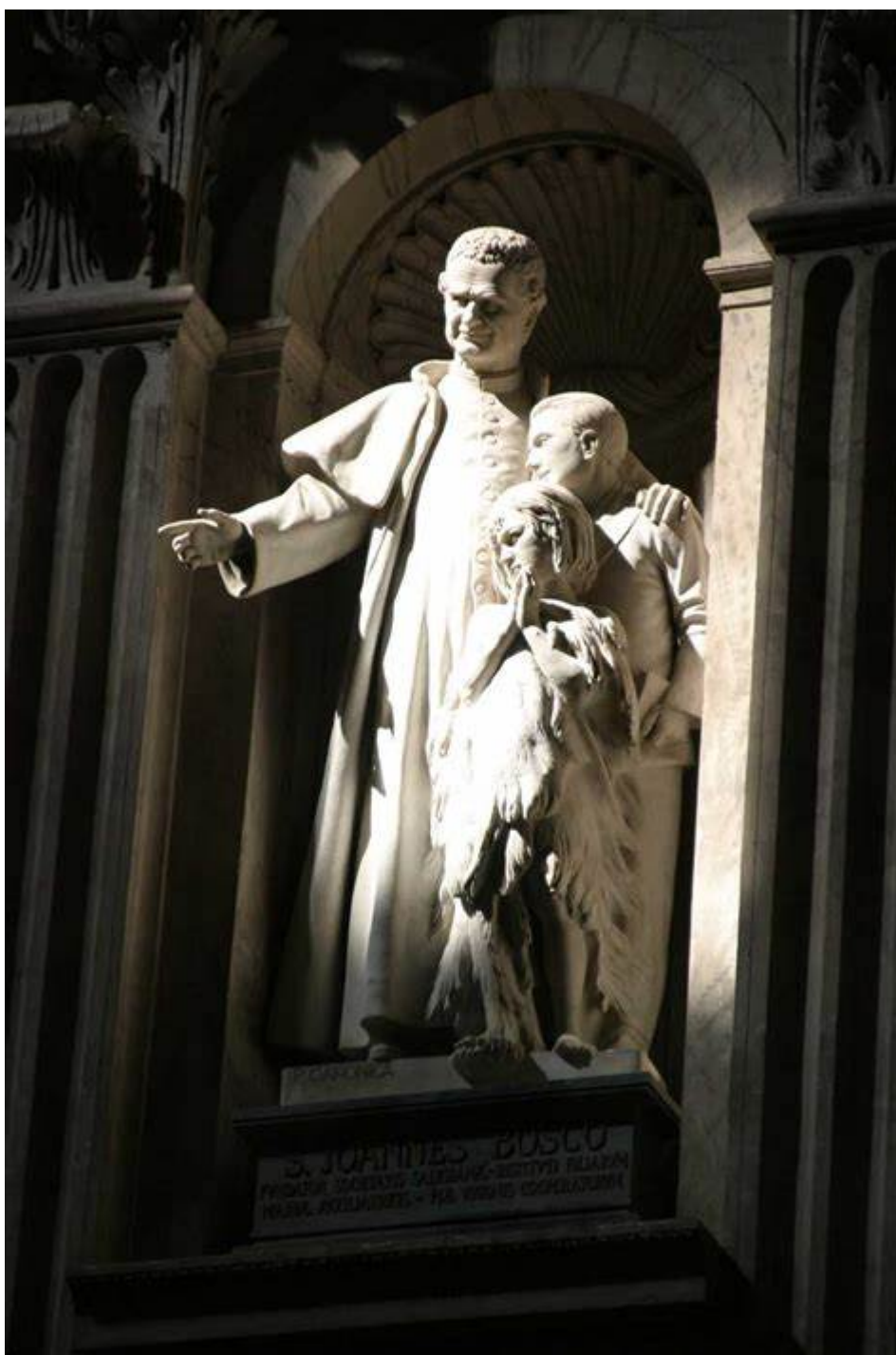
Our Catholic Schools are designed to form public square Catholics who bring the liberating truths of our Catholic faith directly and joyfully into society and into their future careers and professions.

Our Catholic Schools are designed to form global Good Samaritans who live the Parable of the Good Samaritan first within their own families and then reach out and serve the poor, the sick, the elderly and the suffering.

Our Catholic Schools are designed to help students to discern every dimension of their future career and vocational paths by forming them in the sanctification of work.

Graduates of our Catholic schools are known for both their prayerful and reliable work ethic and their moral compass in the workplace.

I encourage us all to pray for and to support the evangelizing mission of our Catholic schools.



St. John Bosco's Statue in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome