

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

Saint John Bosco, Priest

Memorial — January 31

## Introduction

In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, social concern was almost incipient and poverty considered an insoluble problem, with children as the great victims. Especially in cities they grew up in alleys and slums and roamed the streets. Turin had thousands of them. Don Bosco took the initiative to care for these neglected children and youth. His sensitive heart and his firm guidance could bring them together to give them shelter and an education. He understood them and made himself accepted by them. He had a hard time to change the mentality of politicians and Church leaders and to spur them to do something about the problem, but he succeeded little by little. In all his difficulties he kept his good cheer.

## Opening Prayer

Lord our God,  
with you and with your Son Jesus  
Don Bosco loved the young  
and dedicated his life and that of his Congregation  
to their education and care.

Dispose your Church and its leaders  
and also all parents,  
to pay very much attention  
to the formation and development of the young,  
who are our hope for the future.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God, ever young,  
with bread and wine we celebrate  
how Jesus became one of us  
and how he made himself little  
to be close to us.  
May we also learn from him  
to become little and humble  
to make ourselves available to children,  
to understand and to love them,  
and to help them grow up  
to the full adulthood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, we tend to come before you  
with our human wisdom:  
self-assured, sophisticated, world wise,  
but Jesus made children the privileged symbol  
of the truly adult disciple.  
Let him give us the openness and receptivity  
of children: humble, authentic,  
and open to your love and gifts.  
Let him make us mature in Christ Jesus our Lord.