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## THE STORY OF A SAINT ST DOMINIC SAVIO

UNIT 16

Dominic was born on the 2nd April, 1842 in a small village close to Turin in northern Italy. His parents were Charles and Bridget. When he was five years old his mother used to take him with her to church every day. Soon, Dominic asked the priest to become an altar server. The priest agreed and at the age of five, Dominic started serving mass. He loved Jesus a lot and wanted to meet him at mass everyday. He would go to church early to spend some time talking to Jesus in prayer. Sometimes the church door would still be closed, but this didn't stop him from kneeling on the door step.



Children then used to make their First Holy Communion at the age of twelve. But the parish priest decided to make an exception for Dominic. Dominic

knew his catechism well. He understood and believed that Jesus was present in Holy Eucharist. He received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time when he was seven years old. Later on whenever Dominic talked about his First Holy Communion with the other children, he would say: "This was the happiest and most wonderful day of my life!"

Dominic liked writing notes of the important things that took place in his life. Before his First Holy Communion he wrote some promises in this 'Little Book':

- I will go to Reconciliation and Holy Communion often
- I will sanctify Sundays by going to Mass
- My friends will be Jesus and Mary
- I rather die than sin.

Later on Dominic went to live at the Oratory, a special house for young people run by St John Bosco. He showed a wish to become a priest. At the Oratory Dominic was lively, friendly and took active part in all the games. Every time he saw anyone who was lonely he would invite them to join in his games. John Bosco's mother once remarked: "Every day I see Dominic slip out of the playground to go to visit and pray to Jesus in church."

Due to ill health Dominic died at the age of fifteen on the 9th March 1857.

