

Saint Speech-St. Dominic Savio

Respected Thomas Achan, Sister Maryanne, teachers, parents, and my dear friends, my name is Ansa and I'm going to talk to you about my saint, St. Dominic Savio.

St. Dominic Savio was born on April 2nd, 1842 in Riva, Italy to Charles and Brigid Savio. They were poor, hardworking, pious people. Like his parents, St. Dominic grew to be a humble follower of God.

He attended the Oratory of St. Francis De Sales, a school, youth center, and hospice founded by Don Bosco. He was highly respected by his friends. Most of us easily get angry at someone when they annoy us or do something that displeases us right? Well St. Dominic was an ordinary child like us who had a remarkable control over his emotions. Instead of choosing to get angry at someone, he would control his anger and pray for them. Now, we don't always have to keep quiet, we are all not perfect humans and need to express our emotions at times, but following St. Dominic, we can try to forgive whoever mistreats us. He was a prayerful person and had an ever maturing personality.

St. Dominic Savio teaches us to never feel lonely because our guardian angel is always with us and protecting us. Due to his exemplary faith, he started altar serving at the age of 5 and he received his Holy Communion at the age of 7! I honestly find it inspiring to see someone understanding the importance of Jesus and following Him without ever being bored at a very young age!

St. Dominic was always concerned about the people around him. He was afraid that they would drift away from God. So, whenever he saw his companions taking the wrong route, he held their hand and led them back to the right path. One day a boy brought a magazine full of bad pictures to school. In about a minute, a group of boys had gathered around him to see it. Wondering what was going on, St. Dominic took a look and one glance was enough for him! He took the magazine and tore it into pieces. He was outraged and asked them, "Did God give us eyes to look at such things? Aren't you ashamed?" No one said anything because they knew Dominic was right. Such incidents show us his intense love for God!

St. Dominic Savio is known as the patron saint of the falsely accused because of an incident where he was accused and punished for something another kid did. But, he didn't say that he was innocent because he wanted to give that kid another chance, just like Jesus did for us. St. Dominic was also a commander of peace. One day, while two kids were planning on throwing stones to each other due to anger, Dominic Savio took out his Crucifix and told them that the first person should throw a stone at him before throwing it at each other. Both kids were ashamed of themselves and promised to reconcile.

All of St. Dominic's small acts made huge impacts that reflected Jesus. St. Dominic had predicted his death and told everyone at the Oratory that he would die before everyone else. Within that month itself St. Dominic's health began to fail. Soon he was sent home and taken to the doctor. That was when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Right before he died he told his father, "Goodbye, Dad, goodbye . . . what was it the parish priest suggested to me ... I don't seem to remember . . . Oh, what wonderful things I see ..." St. Dominic Savio traveled all the way to heaven on March 9, 1857 at the age of 14. He was canonized by Pope Pius XII on June 12, 1954. Pope Pius XII described him as "SMALL IN SIZE, BUT A TOWERING GIANT IN SPIRIT. " Though St. Dominic only lived 14 years, with that short period of life, he has done so much to lead the souls to Jesus. What a great teenage Saint !

St. Dominic proved to all of us that even we can follow Jesus from a very young age. We may commit sins, but God still loves us and is waiting to hug us. St. Dominic's strongest point was humility. Humility is one of the main characteristics that can bring us way closer to God. It also gives us confidence. But, humility is lost when we sin and drift away from our parents.

St. Dominic teaches us that we are all called to be saints and all we have to do is diligently do the ordinary things of the day truthfully and according to God's will.

In fact, we can follow his humble acts by creating a strong friendship or bond with Jesus and Mother Mary. Just like how we are eager to get some time to talk to our friends, we must be eager to have our spiritual conversation with God, prayer. We can be ordinary boys and girls, with an extraordinary love for God. Similar to him, let's try to purify our mind and body. And that doesn't just mean taking a bath everyday. It means that we must try to keep our innocence from Baptism until the end of our life by doing periodic confession and receiving the Holy Sacraments in the best way possible with due preparation and reverence. Let's try to listen, more than speak and try to wholeheartedly be the good material to make a suit for God. Shall we all bow our heads now to say a short intercessory prayer to St. Dominic Savio. St. Dominic, please help us to live a humble life, following your example as footsteps and keeping our innocence from baptism and continuing our endless faith and love for God. We love you and please intercede for us. Amen.

Let's try to keep St. Dominic's words as an inspirational, but simple guide to follow in our daily life,"Death, but not sin!"

Thank You!