

## Prayer Service for Welcoming the Relic of St. John Bosco

Commentator: Welcome to our celebration. This visit of the relics of St. John Bosco is very special to all who have heard about and prayed to this great saint. He is the patron of youth. He is a father and teacher for us all. During his lifetime, Don Bosco sent out missionaries to bring Christ's message of hope to the young and the poor in far away places. And yet, Don Bosco himself did not travel too far out of his native Italy. Now, in death, he is present in a special way to people all over the globe, including our gathering here. Let us stand and pray that we might follow St. John Bosco in following Jesus Christ.

### **Song: Friend of the Young and the Poor**

1. You were the light in the dark for the young who could not see.  
And you were a spark for the young to become all they could be.  
Help us all come to be all God calls us to be.

Refrain: We will send the message. We will be the witnesses that you,  
Don Bosco, are the friend of the young and the poor.  
Lead us safely through the storm to the heavenly shore.

2. You felt the fire in the heart of the Lord who burns with love.  
And you touched the heart of the young with that fire from above.  
Touch our hearts with that fire, make our God our desire.

Refrain

3. You showed the young they were called to the service of their Lord.  
You taught them to walk in the light and the power of His Word.  
Help us walk in that light, make His Word our delight.

Refrain

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord,

Your servant, St. John Bosco, was a pilgrim in your service. As his work with young people began, he wandered from place to place in an effort to find rest for poor and abandoned boys. Sharing his joyous friendship and zealous faith, he led the young up mountains, across countryside, through city streets, and even out of prison cells. Without fear, he was led by God to journey and beg for poor youth. Now, even in death, Don Bosco visits us again from far away. May we be faithful to his call to help the young and the poor. And may this journey of his be the beginning of a deeper and more meaningful pilgrimage of faith for all of us. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 11, 18. 21-30

Since many are bragging about their human distinctions, I too will boast. To my shame I must confess that we have been too weak to do such things. But what anyone else dares to claim—I speak with absolute foolishness now—I too will dare. Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I! Are they ministers of Christ? Now I am really talking like a fool—I am more: with my many more labors and imprisonments, with far worse beatings and frequent brushes with death. Five times at the hands of the Jews I received 40 lashes less one; three times I was beaten with rods; I was stoned once, shipwrecked three times; I passed a day and a night on the sea. I traveled continually, endangered by floods, robbers, my own people, the gentiles; imperiled in the city, in the desert, at sea, by false prophets; enduring labor, hardship, many sleepless nights; in hunger and thirst and frequent fastings, in cold and nakedness. Leaving other sufferings unmentioned, there is that daily tension pressing on me, my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak that I am not affected by it? Who is scandalized that I am not aflame with indignation?

The Word of the Lord.

## **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117**

### Go Out to the Whole World

Refrain: Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News! Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News!

1. All praise the Lord, all ye nations, acclaim God all you peoples. All praise the Lord, all ye nations, acclaim God all you peoples.

2. Strong is his love for us; he is faithful forever. Strong is his love for us; he is faithful forever.

(Sheet music and sample song available at: <http://www.ocp.org/compositions/56110>)

## **Gospel Reading**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

John 17, 11-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

“O Father most holy,  
protect them with your name which you have given me,  
[that they may be one, even as we are one.]

As long as I was with them,  
I guarded them with your name which you gave me.  
I kept careful watch,  
and not one of them was lost,  
none but him who was destined to be lost—  
in fulfillment of Scripture.

Now, however, I come to you;  
I say all this while I am still in the world  
that they may share my joy completely.  
I gave them your word,  
and the world has hated them for it;  
they do not belong to the world,  
[any more than I belong to the world].  
I do not ask you to take them out of the world,  
but to guard them from the evil one.  
They are not of the world,  
any more than I am of the world.  
Consecrate them by means of truth—  
‘Your word is truth.’

As you have sent me into the world,  
so I have sent them into the world;  
I consecrate myself for their sakes now,  
that they may be consecrated in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord

## **Reflection**

## **The Blessing of Mary Help of Christians**

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
Congregation: Who made heaven and earth.

Hail Mary. . .

We fly to your patronage, o holy Mother of God,  
despise not our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Minister: Mary Help of Christians,  
Congregation: Pray for us.

Minister: O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Congregation: And let my cry come unto you.

Minister: The Lord be with you.  
Congregation: And also with you.

Let us pray.  
All powerful and ever-loving God,  
by the work of the Holy Spirit,  
you prepared the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary  
to become a worthy dwelling for your Son.  
We celebrate her memory with joy.  
Through her motherly intercession  
may we be delivered from present evils  
and from everlasting death.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.