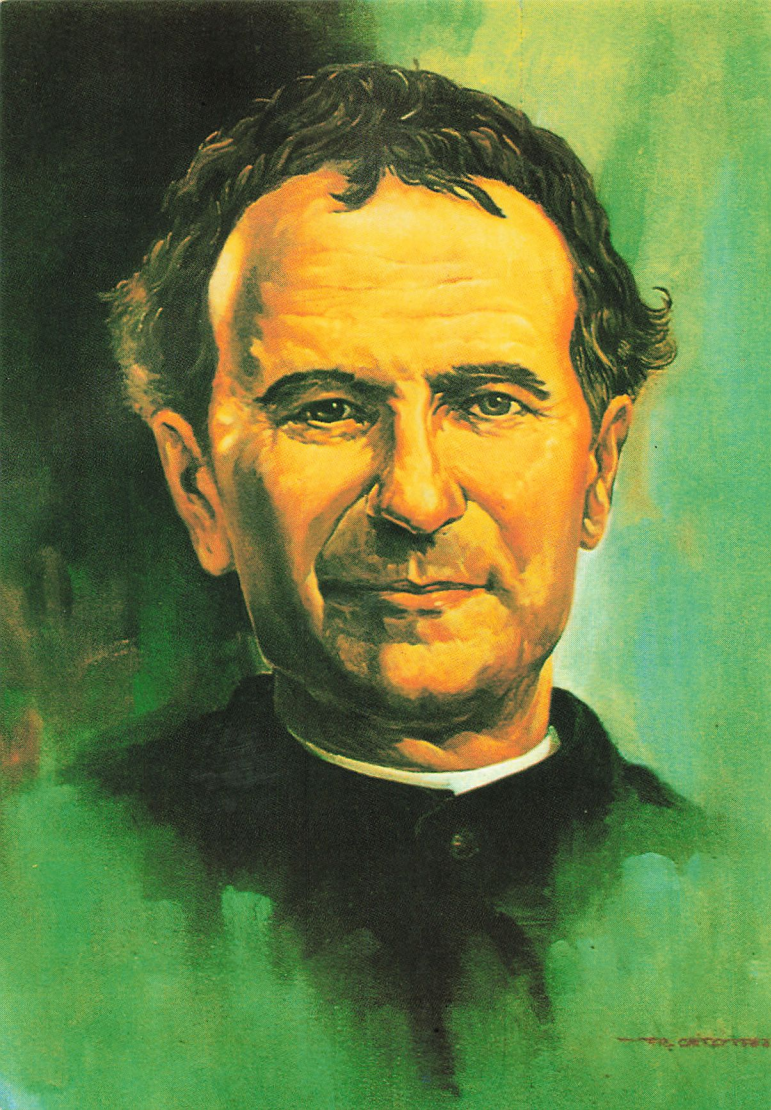




St. John Bosco's Educational Method

THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

The term "Preventive" which Don Bosco used is to be understood not so much in its linguistic sense as in the richness of the character typical of THE SAINT'S EDUCATIVE SKILL. It implies in the first place the intention of foreseeing and preventing anything that might give rise to negative experiences which could compromise youthful energies or commit young people to long and distressing efforts at recovery. But the term also includes deep intuitions, precise options and methodological criteria. Examples are: the ART of positive education by putting forward what is good through appropriate experiences which call for the involvement of the pupil and are attractive because of their splendour and lofty nature; the ART of producing growth in the young persons 'from within' by appealing to their inner freedom to oppose external conditioning and formalism; the ART of winning the heart of young people so as to inculcate in them a joyful and satisfied attraction to what is good, correcting deviations and preparing them for the future by means of a solid character formation.

Evidently this pedagogical message supposes in THE EDUCATOR the conviction that in every young person, no matter how far he may seem to be from the straight and narrow, there are hidden sources of good which if properly stimulated can lead to an option for faith and honesty.

(Source : Don Bosco Centenary Letter of Pope John Paul II - 1988)

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