

# JOHN BOSCO IN CHIERI 1831 – 1841

## TEN YEARS THAT COUNT AS A LIFETIME

### SUMMARY

1. Marchisio Giacomo's House
2. Theologian Giuseppe Maloria's House
3. Carpenter Barzochino's Workshop
4. Chieri Town Hall
5. Public Schools of the Chieri College
6. Mr. Michele Cavallo's Stable
7. Vergnano House (Caffè Pianta)
8. Bookseller Elia Foa's Shop
9. Church of Saint Anthony
10. Cathedral
11. Tailor Tommaso Cumino's House
12. Small Bridge Outside the City
13. Viale di Porta Torino
14. Hotel del Muletto
15. Convent and Church of Peace
16. Bertinetti House
17. Archiepiscopal Seminary
18. Church of San Filippo
19. Convent and Church of San Domenico
20. Casalegno House
21. Birthplace of Blessed Maddalena Morano and Church of Santa Margherita with the Attached "San Luigi" Institute

### Initiative of Mamma Margherita

When conditions permitted, Mamma Margherita, saddened that her son had already ~~lost~~ wasted so much time, resolved to enroll him in the public schools of Chieri. "With her usual smile, she gave him the happy news and began preparing the necessary items. But Giovanni, realizing that the family's financial difficulties were causing her some embarrassment, immediately told her: 'If you are happy, I will take two sacks and go door to door in our neighborhood to collect donations.' Margherita agreed. This was a significant sacrifice for Giovanni, who had to beg for himself; but he overcame his reluctance and submitted to humiliation. These were the first steps on that difficult path he would have to walk until his last breath" (G.B. LEMOYNE, *Biographical Memoirs of Saint John Bosco*, 1, 245). The sense of solidarity and Christian charity from the residents of Borgo, from the parish priest Don Dassano, and from some gentlemen of Castelnuovo allowed them to gather what was needed for clothing and initial necessary expenses. Giovanni Bechis, having nothing to donate, took it upon himself to transport the trunk of clothing and the sacks containing two measures of wheat and half a measure of millet that were to be used to pay part of the boarding fee. In Chieri, Margherita introduced her Giovanni to her friend Lucia Pianta, Matta's widow, who was to host him "and, placing the sacks of grain before her, said: 'Here is my son, and here is the boarding fee. I have done my part, my son will do his, and I hope you will not be displeased with him.' And moved, but full of joy, she returned to her farm" (MB, I, p. 250).

### Giovanni Bosco in Chieri

Giovanni Bosco lived in Chieri from November 1831 to May 1841: ten years during which his personality was structured and consolidated. He arrived at the age of sixteen, a country boy full of goodwill, and left at the age of twenty-six, spiritually solid, culturally qualified, with a great desire to immerse himself in ministry for the salvation of youth and society. It was a journey undertaken in two major stages: public schools and the seminary.

## **The Public School**

The four years of public school were characterized by expectations, intense work and sacrifice, and long nights of study and reading. But they were also lively years rich in interests, during which his human qualities, exuberant energy, joy, and cordiality burst forth. The serene environment of the town proved ideal for his maturation. The students could be followed and cared for at every moment of their lives by the strict but always humane presence, often warmly friendly, of the professors, the Prefect of Studies, Father Sibilla, and the Spiritual Director. There was also the attention of the families where the students stayed, deep friendships, and lively, cheerful escapades among peers. The educational system of the time included, before the two years of philosophical studies, seven classes named in descending order: seventh (or municipal school), sixth, fifth, fourth, third, Grammar, Humanity, and Rhetoric. During the first school year (1831-1832), Giovanni attended consecutively the sixth, fifth, and fourth classes under the guidance of the professors theologian Valeriano Pugnetti, Don Placido Valimberti, and Don Giuseppe Vincenzo Cima. He was fortunate to encounter a good confessor (the theologian Maloria) and to choose a lively but good group of friends with whom he founded the Society of Joy. Father Giacinto Giusiana, of the Order of Dominicans, was his professor in the Grammar class (1832-1833) and led him to brilliant academic results. Giovanni was able to help many classmates by giving them tutoring and guiding them in their studies. Even during the Humanity course (1833-1834), he met an excellent teacher in Professor Pietro Banaudi, with whom he developed a close friendship. However, those were the hardest months for Giovanni. The good Lucia Matta, who had been boarding him, had returned to her hometown, and he found himself forced to stay for a while in the stable of the baker Michele Cavallo and then in a small room under the stairs at Caffè Pianta, places truly unsuitable for living and studying. The precariousness of the accommodation was aggravated by scarce means of sustenance and a painful phase of uncertainty regarding his vocational choice. But joy, strong will, and faith always sustained him. The situation improved in the year of Rhetoric (1834-1835), under the guidance of the young theologian Professor Giovanni Bosco. Thanks to the intervention of the parish priest of Castelnuovo and a fellow villager, Don Cafasso, he was accepted as a boarder in the family of the tailor Cumino. During that period, he met Luigi Comollo, nephew of the parish priest of Cinzano, an exemplary and gentle student with a rich spiritual life. His friendship, advice, and fervent daily prayer at the feet of the Madonna delle Grazie helped him resolve his last doubts and make a decisive vocational choice. With the financial help and sympathy of many friends, sustained by the encouragement and sacrifices of his mother, on October 25, 1835, he donned the clerical habit, and on October 30 of the same year, he entered the seminary of Chieri.

## **The Seminary**

The seminary, established by Archbishop Colombano Chiaverotti, had opened six years earlier (November 1829) in the beautiful premises of the former convent of the Fathers of the Oratory. The cleric Bosco spent six decisive years there. During the two years of philosophical studies (1835-1837), he gradually abandoned the lively and playful rhythm of life of the previous years and concentrated his efforts on cultural qualification, spiritual commitment, precise and motivated observance of the Regulations, and service to his peers. Gentle, available to everyone, he made the most of every crumb of free time in reading historical, biblical, theological, and ascetic works. He chose the best among his companions, including Luigi Comollo (who entered the seminary in 1836). He would meet with them for study, recreation, and prayer. In the following years, during his theological studies, he grew in spiritual tension and broadened his cultural interests. He immersed himself in reading increasingly demanding works, making good use of his days, especially during the summer vacation months. The effort, intense work, and ascetic lifestyle weakened his health, and more than once he was on the brink of collapse; but the robust fiber of young Bosco was not broken. His friend Comollo, however, was struck down and flew to heaven on April 2, 1839, at the age of twenty-two. When, on June 5, 1841, in Turin, in the chapel of the archbishopric, Monsignor Luigi Fransoni laid hands on him and consecrated him a priest, his cultural and spiritual formation was complete. Don Cafasso invited him to the ecclesiastical convent to provide him with the pastoral skills that would be necessary to face the unprecedented challenges posed by the sociocultural transformation taking place in Turin. The solid foundations laid in the decade in Chieri and the treasures accumulated during those hidden and intense years revealed their

fruitfulness throughout his very active life as a pastor, educator, writer, and founder vitally engaged in the society of his century. The Salesian community of Chieri presents this booklet in its third edition, curated with passion and expertise by Comm. Secondo Caselle, who, through serious research, pinpointed the places relevant to the life of Don Bosco, documented by the Salesian coadjutor Teresio Chiesa, a photographer. We hope that this work will serve the many who love the "Saint of the Young" and wish to follow him closely in one of the most important moments of his life.

**NOTES: The parts in quotation marks are generally direct testimonies of Don Bosco, taken from his work \*Memories of the Oratory\*, written between 1873 and 1878 and published by LDC; Those who wish to learn more about Don Bosco can usefully consult the biography written by Don Teresio Bosco: \*Don Bosco, A New Biography\*, LDC edition.**

**1 - Casa Marchisio Giacomo - where he rented Pianta Lucia ved. Matta di Morialdo and kept John Bosco in boarding school in the school years 1831-32 and 1832-33.**

In Piazza Mazzini, 81/a (entrance from Via Mercanti, 9) - where Lucia Pianta, Matta's widow from Morialdo, rented and hosted Giovanni Bosco during the school years 1831-32 and 1832-33.

The lady has a son who is not very eager to study. He is not bad, but he has a visceral dislike for anything that smells of school. Giovannino tutors him and, early on displaying his educational skills, manages to engage him in his studies enough to earn a waiver of the boarding fee. The somewhat lazy student grows up, opens a grocery store in Castelnuovo, serves as mayor for many years, and sends his son to Valdocco with Don Bosco, who treats the boy with special favor out of great gratitude for his benefactors.

*"At first in this city, I knew no one. In the first four classes, I had to learn at my expense how to deal with my peers. Despite the strict Christian life imposed by the school (everyone had to submit the receipt of their monthly confession), there were some bad apples. Some wanted to lead me to a puppet show; others to play a game, to go swimming; some even to steal in the gardens or in the countryside. One fellow was so bold that he advised me to steal a valuable item from my landlady to get some sweets. I managed to free myself from this chain of idle people by strictly avoiding their company as soon as I could recognize them. Generally, I told everyone that my mother had entrusted me to the landlady, and that, out of love for her, I did not want to go anywhere or do anything without her consent."*



**2 - HOUSE OF THE THEOLOGIAN MALORIA – Canon of the Collegiate of the Cathedral**

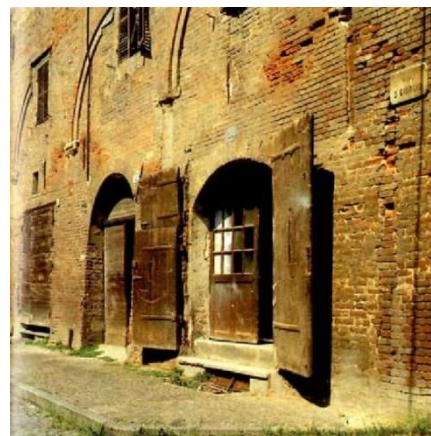


*"It was of great help to me to have a stable confessor in the person of Theologian Maloria. He welcomed me with great kindness every time I went to him. In fact, he encouraged me to confess and communicate more frequently. It was very rare in those times to find someone who encouraged frequent participation in the Sacraments. I can thank this confessor of mine for helping me to remain good."*



### 3 - CARPENTER BARZUCHINO'S WORKSHOP - Via S. Giorgio 2 – where Giovanni Bosco went to work

In his free hours from study, Giovannino goes to a carpentry workshop to learn to plane, square, and use the hammer... He becomes skilled at building furniture, good enough for household use. Sometimes he works for himself, other times in service to his benefactors. Don Bosco, also as a result of these artisan experiences, later established vocational schools in Turin, which the Sardinian State did not know how to or could not create.



### 4 - CHERI TOWN HALL – until 1842 where Giovanni Bosco performed in two academies: one in honor of the Mayor and the other in honor of the Chieresi



*"Since my memory served me well, I memorized a large part of the classics, especially poets; Dante, Petrarch, Tasso, Parini, Monti, and others were so familiar to me that I could use them as if they were my own. Therefore, it was very easy for me to suddenly address any topic. I was accustomed to giving public and private performances, in which I played, sang, or composed verses that were considered masterpieces, but which were actually just pieces from authors adapted to the proposed topics. For this reason, I never gave anyone these compositions, and some that were written, I tried to burn."*

The young artist, aware of the importance of music and theater in the formation of youth, would later give ample space to aesthetic values in his educational method. Indeed, singing and theatrical representation are part of the most genuine Salesian tradition.

### 5 - PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE CHERI COLLEGE – Via Vittorio Emanuele 45 – attended by Giovanni Bosco from 1831 to 1835

Giovannino studies diligently. Although he is sixteen, he is assigned to the preparatory class of the gymnasium (the last elementary grade). In January 1832, he moves to the first gymnasium; in March, to the second; by the end of the year, he passes and attends the third gymnasium. In the second class, the professor was Giuseppe Cima, a strict man. Seeing a student as tall and big as him, during class, he jokingly said:

- "This one is either a big mole or a great talent."

All astonished by that strict presence, I replied:

- "Something in between. I am a poor young man who has the goodwill to do my duty and progress in my studies."

Those words pleased him, and with unusual kindness, he added:

- "If you have goodwill, you are in good hands. I will not leave you idle. Be courageous. If you encounter difficulties, tell me right away, and I will help you."

I thanked him from the bottom of my heart.

I had been in this class for about two months when a small incident made people talk about me. One day the professor explained the life of Agesilaus, written by Cornelius Nepos. At that moment, I didn't have the book with me, having forgotten it at home; and to hide that omission from the teacher, I held my grammar open in front of me. Since I did not know what to pay attention to, while I listened to the teacher, I flipped the pages from side to side. My classmates noticed. One started, the other continued to laugh, to the point that the classroom was in disorder.

- "What's going on?" asked Professor Cima.

Seeing that many were looking at me, he ordered me to repeat his explanation, reading the Latin text of Cornelius Nepos. I stood up holding the grammar in my hand and managed to recite the Latin text and explanations from memory. My classmates instinctively applauded. The professor got furious: it was the first time, he said, that he couldn't maintain discipline. He gave me a slap on the head which I dodged by bending my head. Then, holding his hand on my grammar, he had the neighbors tell him the cause of that disorder.

- "Bosco does not have Cornelius Nepos. He only has the grammar, and yet he has read and explained as if he had Cornelius in hand."

The professor then looked at the book, had me continue for two more sentences, and then, in an instant, going from anger to astonishment and admiration, he said to me:

- "I forgive you for your happy memory. You are fortunate. Just be sure to use it for good."

#### **6 - MR. MICHELE CAVALLO'S STABLE – Via Valimberti**

At the beginning of the school year 1833-1834, Giuseppe Pianta, who was to host Giovanni Bosco, had not yet finished preparing the room intended for the café. Therefore, Giovanni had to accept hospitality from the baker Michele Cavallo, who assigned him a corner of the stable to rest at night and in exchange forced him to take care of the donkey and do some work in his vineyard not far from the city. Giovanni asked to be left free every Saturday evening to go to confession (M.B., I, 288-289).





**7 - VERGNANO HOUSE (Caffè Pianta) – Via Palazzo di Città 3 –** where Giuseppe Pianta, brother of Lucia Matta, opened the café and liquor shop

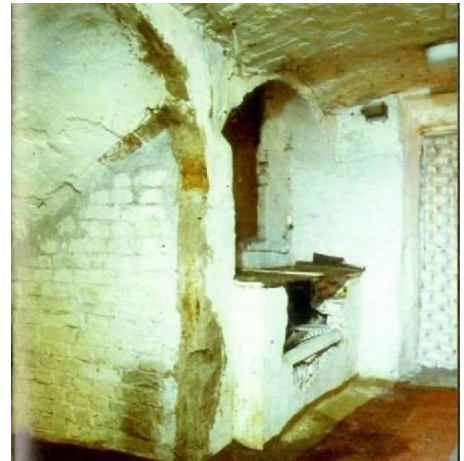


Mr. Pianta offers Giovanni the position of errand boy. He must clean the premises in the morning before going to class and spend the evenings in the billiard hall. In return, he is given a bowl of soup and offered a bed in the under-stairs area, "a cramped space next to a small oven where sweet pastries were baked, a corridor connecting the billiard room and the café premises.

No matter how much he stretched out on the little bed, his feet would hang out not only from the uncomfortable straw mattress but from the opening of the space itself."

*"This boarding was certainly quite dangerous due to the*

*patrons; but being with good Christians and maintaining relationships with exemplary companions, I was able to continue without moral harm."*



**8 - BOOKSELLER ELIA FOA'S SHOP – Via della Pace, 12 –** in the ghetto frequented by Giovanni Bosco where he met the Jew Giona (Giacobbe Levi)



In the city, there lives a "nice" group of Jews. Giovanni, overcoming the prejudices of those times and the distrust prevailing in the Kingdom of Sardinia (according to the laws of Carlo Felice, Jews in the city had to live in a separate quarter from Christians, the "ghetto". They were tolerated, that is, considered second-class citizens), tutors his young Israeli peers, who could not attend public schools.

At Caffè Pianta, he often meets a young Jew named Giona: eighteen years old, of beautiful appearance, with a wonderful voice, an excellent billiard player. The two become good friends, willingly discussing important

topics and even touching on religious themes. At a certain point, Giona converts to the Catholic religion, impressing the entire citizenry. Many Chieresi participate in the event...

**9 - CHURCH OF SAINT ANTHONY – Via Vittorio Emanuele 33 – frequented by Giovanni Bosco and friends of the "Society of Joy"**

Giovanni Bosco founded the original "Society of Joy," a club of friends. There is a regulation: only three articles, but very significant and important:

1. No action, no speech that could discredit a good Christian.
2. Fulfill one's school and religious duties.
3. Be joyful.

*"Every feast after the college congregation, we would go to the Church of Saint Anthony, where the Jesuit Fathers conducted a wonderful catechism, recounting many examples so well chosen that would be remembered for a lifetime."*

On the right side of this church, which opens onto the parade ground, this inscription can be read above a beautiful plaque with the saint's medallion: In this church - the venerable Giovanni Bosco in the years 1831-1835 - student and craftsman - amidst the hardships of living - amid the labors of work and study - gathered companions and friends - for catechetical instructions - from the Fathers of the Society of Jesus - prefiguring his worldwide institute - of festive Oratories - to his noble apostolate for youth. In perpetual remembrance, the Chieresi in the year 1916.



**10 - CATHEDRAL – Piazza Duomo 1 (Church of Santa Maria della Scala)**



Among the many beautiful churches in the city, Giovanni particularly prefers this one. Every day, as long as he is a student, morning and evening he goes to pray before the Madonna delle Grazie.

In the sacristy, he prepares for the Latin course with the sacristan Carlo Palazzolo, who, at the age of thirty-five, desires to become a priest. As a cleric, Giovanni Bosco continued to attend the Cathedral for functions and Sunday catechism for the youth.

In this church, his grandfather Filippo Antonio had already been baptized on September 18, 1735.

At the altar of the Madonna on June 9, 1841, Don Bosco would celebrate his fourth Mass.





**11 - TAYLOR TOMMASO CUMINO'S HOUSE – Via Vittorio Emanuele 24 – where Giovanni Bosco boarded in the school year 1934/35**

For several months he stayed in a basement (which used to be a

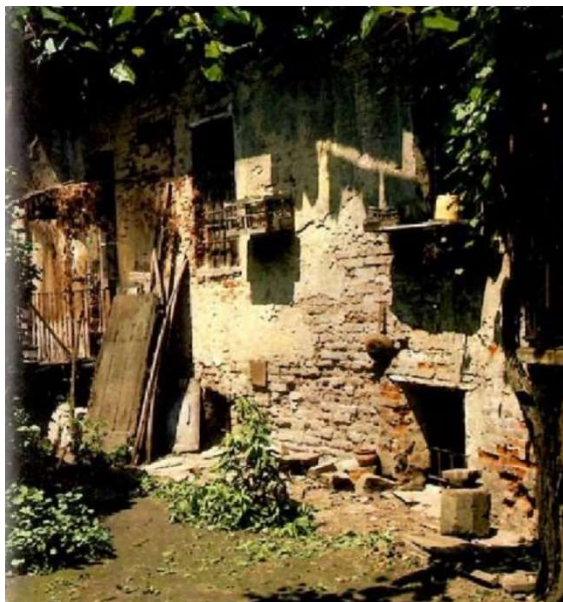


stable). Later, thanks to Don Cafasso's intervention, Cumino arranged for him a more dignified accommodation. In the meantime, Giovanni continued to showcase his skills in magic tricks, even among the family of the landlord, who began to doubt whether the amateur magician was in league with the devil. Tommaso had a similar impression. He loved to joke, and Giovanni, taking advantage of his great and cheerful curiosity, played all sorts of tricks on him.

"Once, on the occasion of his name day, Don Lemoyne writes - Cumino had prepared with great care the chicken in jelly for his boarders; but when he brought the



dish to the table and uncovered it, to everyone's amazement, a rooster jumped out, fluttering around and began to crow. Another time, after boiling a pot of macaroni, as he was pouring it into the dish, he found only dry bran. Often, after filling a bottle with wine, when pouring it into a glass, he found it had turned into water; and vice versa, wanting to drink water, he saw the glass filled with wine..."



Then Cumino reported his young boarder to the ecclesiastical authority and had him interrogated by Canon Burzio, a very educated, pious, and prudent priest. During the examination on Christian doctrine, Giovanni replied wonderfully; but he barely restrained his laughter, easily predicting the true reason for that meeting. The conversation continued and arrived at the crux of the matter: with whose help did Giovanni perform his "witchcraft"? But the good priest had already fallen into the trap because the examinee, as soon as he entered the room, had snatched the watch and purse left on a table. At this point, he was asking him for the time and a coin. The canon could not find either the watch or the wallet, and Giovanni explained to him very simply the mysterious trick. The ecclesiastic laughed and had him demonstrate some skillful tricks. Having learned how to make things appear and disappear, he was very pleased, made Giovanni a small gift, and ended by saying:

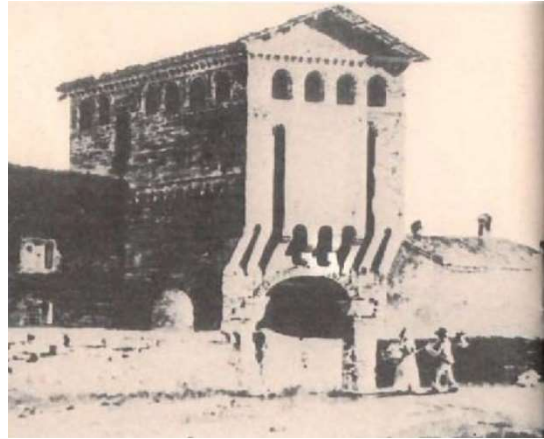
"Go and tell all your friends that 'ignorantia est magistra admirationis' (wonder is the child of ignorance)." Giovanni continued with his tricks, becoming famous especially for transferring objects from far-off places or making them appear among people; for this skill, his friends added the nickname "magician" to his original one of dreamer.



## 12 - SMALL BRIDGE OUTSIDE THE CITY

Here, Giovanni Bosco's companions gathered in the evenings during the beautiful season, numbering twenty or more, waiting for their friend to hear stories of new and edifying things; here Giovanni challenged a juggler to jump over a stream that had its banks reinforced by a parapet.

*"Amid my studies and various entertainments, such as music, singing, declamation, and theater, in which I willingly participated, I also learned many other games. Cards, tarots, stilts, jumps, races were my favorite amusements, in which if I was not famous, I was certainly not mediocre. This caused much wonder, because at that time, such games, being little known, seemed like things from another world."*



## 13 - VIALE DI PORTA TORINO – where in 1835 the student Giovanni Bosco challenged a charlatan to a race

"One Sunday at the Church of Saint Anthony, there were few listeners. A juggler had arrived who in the afternoon of Sunday gave high acrobatic performances and challenged the city's most agile young men to races and jumps. People flocked. Giovanni, annoyed at having been let down by his friends, went to see.

He was a true athlete. He ran and jumped with the power of a machine and intended to stay in the city for a long time. Giovanni gathered the best of his group:

- "If that one continues to perform in the afternoon on Sunday, our society risks falling apart. Someone needs to beat him."

- "Who can beat him?"

- "Someone can be found. It's not the end of the world. In the race, for example, I don't feel inferior to him at all." Giovanni was 17 years old and felt strong.

But in the Memoirs, he immediately adds: *"I had not considered the consequences of those words. An imprudent companion relayed this to the juggler, and here I am committed to a challenge: a student against a professional athlete."*

The chosen place for the test was the Viale di Porta Torinese. The bet was twenty lire, a month of boarding. Giovanni didn't have it, but his friends from the society pooled their money. *"A multitude of people watched,"* Don Bosco recalls. At the start, the juggler took a ten-meter lead. He was a sprinter, while Giovanni was more of a middle-distance runner.

*"Quickly, I regained ground and left him so far behind that halfway through the race he stopped, conceding me victory."*

Everything should have ended there, but the juggler requested a rematch. It was a point of honor to grant it.

- "I challenge you to jump," he told me, "but I want to bet 40 lire."

*"We accepted. He chose the place: we had to jump over a small stream, which had its banks reinforced by a parapet. The juggler took off and landed with his feet very close to the parapet. He could not go further - remembers Don Bosco. - I could lose, but I could not win the challenge. However, I devised a trick. I made the same jump, but, placing my hands on the parapet, I extended the leap beyond." In short, a rudimentary "pole vault." And I won.*

"The juggler was annoyed, for the lire and for the people who began to mock him."

- "I want to challenge you again. Choose any game of skill."

*"I accepted. I chose the magic wand, with the bet raised to 80 lire. I took a wand, placed a hat at one end, then rested the other end on the palm of my hand. I made it jump on the tip of my little finger, ring*

*finger, middle finger, index finger, thumb; then on the back of my hand, on my elbow, on my shoulder, on my chin, on my lips, on my nose, on my forehead. Repeating the same path, the wand returned to the palm of my hand. This time, I will not lose," he told me confidently. He took the same wand and with wonderful skill made it walk to his lips. But he had too long a nose; the wand bumped and he had to catch it with his hand to prevent it from falling."*

At this point, Giovanni felt compassion for that man, who, after all, was a good worker. "That poor man saw his fortune going down the drain, and almost furious he exclaimed:

- "I still have one hundred francs, and I bet them on a climb. Whoever places their feet closer to the tip of that tree (and pointed to an elm near the viale) will win."

*"We accepted, and in a way, we were glad that he would win because we didn't want to ruin him. It was his turn to go first. He climbed and brought his feet so high that if he had gone up just a bit more, the tree would have bent, and he would have fallen. Everyone said it was impossible to go further up. It was my turn. I climbed almost exactly where he had reached. Then, holding on to the tree with my hands, I raised my body vertically and placed my feet about a meter above the height he had reached. Underneath, applause erupted. My friends hugged and jumped for joy. The poor man, on the other hand, was sad to the point of tears. Then we returned the money to him, on the condition that he came and treated us to lunch at the Hotel del Muletto."*

Don Bosco notes in his Memoirs the cost of that collective lunch, 45 lire, and what the juggler could pocket, 195 lire. He also notes the words that that athlete (after agreeing to clear the square) said to the boys:

- "By returning this money to me, you prevent my ruin. Thank you. I will remember you fondly, but I will never bet with students again."

#### 14 - HOTEL DEL MULETTO

In this hotel, Giovanni Bosco and his twenty-two companions from the college enjoyed a hearty lunch after their overwhelming victory over the juggler. The place must have had a certain elegance, as members of the House of Savoy, when coming to Chieri, would make a stop there. Student Giovanni Bosco must have had a good friendship with the owners, given the proximity to Caffè Pianta.



#### 15 - CONVENT AND CHURCH OF PEACE – Via Albussano 17 – where Giovanni Bosco wanted to begin the novitiate of a Franciscan friar

After finishing his classical studies, Giovanni decides to become a friar. The parish priest of his village is



not very supportive. He goes to visit Mamma Margherita in Becchi and urges her to dissuade her son from that idea.

- "You are not rich, Margherita, and you are getting older. If your son goes to the convent, he will no longer be able to help you."

Mamma Margherita comes to Chieri, takes Giovanni aside, and says to him:

- "Think carefully. Follow your path without looking at anyone. The first thing is the salvation of your soul. The parish priest would like me to make you change your mind. Don't mind me. God is above all."

"If by misfortune you became rich, I would never

come to visit you again." In the under-stairs of Caffè Pianta, he has the famous dream of the friars running in opposite directions. One of them says to him: "You seek peace, but you will not find peace here." He knows that there is a young priest in Turin, a fellow countryman. His name is Don Giuseppe Cafasso, and he is 24 years old. He goes to visit him and presents his situation. Don Cafasso replies:



- "Enter the seminary. Continue your studies." Giovanni listens to the advice.

**16 - BERTINETTI HOUSE – Via Palazzo di Città 5**

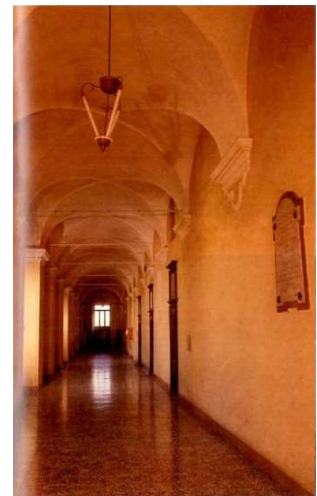
Student Giovanni Bosco took the exam to wear the clerical habit from the archpriest Canon Burzio. This building was bequeathed to Don Bosco in December 1868 by the spouses Carlo and Ottavia Bertinetti, who was Giona's godmother. Don Bosco would give it to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who from 1878 would organize their flourishing work, the "Santa Teresa" Institute.



**17 - ARCHBISHOP'S SEMINARY – Via Vittorio Emanuele, 63 where Giovanni Bosco was a cleric student from October 30, 1835, to May 10, 1841**



On October 30, 1835, he entered the seminary established in the large convent of the Fathers of the Oratory. Above a sundial, this verse can be read: "afflictis lentae, celeres gaudentibus horae". In this environment, Luigi Comollo, Giovanni's friend, who died shortly before, appeared to an entire dormitory of seminarians on the night of April 3 to 4, 1839, preceded by a gloomy noise.







**18 - CHURCH OF SAN FILIPPO – Via Vittorio Emanuele 61 – attached to the seminary**

Cleric Bosco went daily to receive Communion, "paying" with fasting until lunch. Holy Communion could only be received on Sundays or other special solemnities. To nourish himself with the Eucharist during the week, one had to forgo breakfast and go to San Filippo. Under the presbyter, cleric Luigi Comollo was buried on April 3-4, 1839; recent excavations unearthed his tomb.

**19 - CONVENT AND CHURCH OF SAN DOMENICO – Via San Domenico 1 – Don Bosco celebrated his third Mass at the altar of the Madonna del Rosario on Tuesday, June 8, 1841**

Recalling that day, Don Bosco would write: *"My old professor, Father Giusiana, was still alive, who followed me with paternal affection; during that Mass, he cried out of emotion. I spent that entire day with him, which I can call a paradise."*

Father Giusiana had helped his student a lot. At the end of the third gymnasium (school year 1832-33), the schools of Chieri had an examining commission presided over by Professor Giuseppe Gazzano, a famous scarecrow for the students. The students were in great turmoil. The grades obtained in the exam were not very high. However, Giovanni's classmates all received promotion to the higher class (fourth gymnasium). Bosco, however, was at risk of failing for having passed his work to others; and if he got promotion, he owed it to the friendship of Father Giusiana, who obtained a new theme for him. Giovanni handled it well and passed with full marks.



**20 - CASA CASALEGNO – Via Giovanni De Maria 3/a here an extraordinary event occurred: a bilocation of Don Bosco**

Don Lemoyne in volume VII of the Biographical Memoirs reports what Don Bonetti wrote in this regard.

"At the beginning of July 1862, Don Bosco had said that a young man of his would die; now Bernardo Casalegno from Chieri, a student at Valdocco, died at home on Friday, July 18, at 2:15 PM, while Don Bosco was at Sant'Ignazio above Lanzo for spiritual exercises. That same Friday, the Saint told the boys that he had been at Bernardo's bedside and had assisted him in his last moments. We in Turin knew nothing and already Don Bosco was communicating

to Don Alasonatti the news of the death. How had he come to know it? We questioned the boys and concluded that it was humanly inexplicable, given the circumstances of the fact."



**21 - BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER MADDALENA MORANO  
Via Vittorio Emanuele 101**