

SOGL K Website
Faith-Filled People

Chapter 8
A Read-To-Me Story

Blessed Pope John XXIII
Feast Day: October 11

Angelo Roncalli grew up in Italy with 10 brothers and sisters. His big family was happy, but very poor. Angelo walked barefoot to school every day. He waited to put his shoes on until he got to school. He did not want the shoes to wear out. When his feet got too big for them, they would be passed down to his younger brothers. Angelo knew that sharing was a sign of love.

Angelo's parents taught him about God. The family went to church every week and prayed together every day. Angelo decided that he would be a priest when he grew up. He wanted to help others learn about Jesus' love.

When Italy went to war, Fr. Angelo joined the army to take care of soldiers who were hurt. He also blessed the soldiers and prayed for peace. When he left the army, Fr. Angelo worked for the pope. He traveled to many countries to help people solve problems. He reminded people that we are all God's children. Everyone liked Angelo. He had a happy smile and treated everyone with kindness.

Angelo was elected pope when he was 78 years old. He chose the name Pope John XXIII. He surprised everyone by calling all the leaders of the Church to Rome for an important meeting. He said that the Church must be part of the modern world. At the meeting, the leaders made changes in the Mass so that people could better understand the words and join in the celebration.

Pope John XXIII loved talking to all sorts of people. It didn't matter to him if people were rich or poor or if they were kings or worked in a little store. He treated everyone with respect. People called him "Good Pope John." When he died, people all over the world were sad.

We can ask God to help us follow Blessed John XXIII's example of love. We can pray, "Loving Father, help us to treat everyone with kindness and respect. Help us to be like Good Pope John. Amen."