

**Perkins, Jennifer, 1995, Don Bosco's Preventive System: An Approach to School Discipline and the Education of the young**

**ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

John Melchoir Bosco (1815-1888) was an Italian priest who entered the field of education at a time of deep and complex, political and social change. The educational philosophy which he crafted and later advocated in a brief treatise, is known as the 'Sistema Preventivo', (Preventive System). It is based on the conduct and teaching of St Francis de Sales who advocated a kind, gentle, yet firm approach. This dissertation examines the meaning and application of punishment and discipline as found in Don Bosco's educational writings. It looks at the influences which inspired him and the manner in which his methods contrasted with Nineteenth Century practices.

The author presents a brief account of some contemporary models of discipline and mirrors them against Don Bosco's methods. Considering the needs of young people today, Don Bosco's system provides us with the means to integrate the permanent values with new solutions so as to meet in a creative fashion the newly emerging problems.