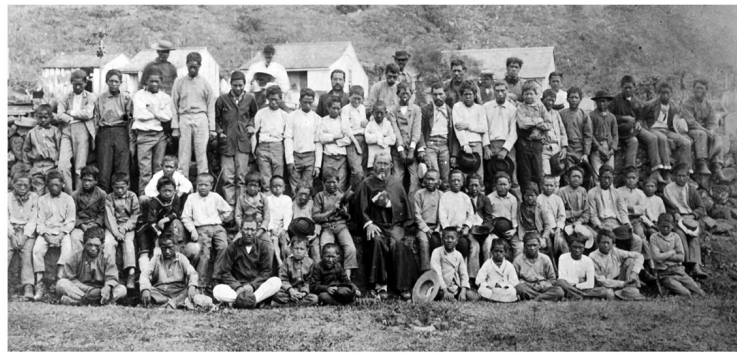




Damien at twenty-three just before he left Europe.



Damien two months before his death in 1889. The flowered sling supporting his arm was given to him by Mother Marianne Cope, OSF.



Damien with boys of the settlement, 1889.



Father Damien with some children of the settlement, probably members of the choir.



Mother Marianne Cope, OSF and Sister Leopoldina Burns, OSF prepared the funeral bier and casket of Father Damien, April 1889.

## *Prayer to Saint Damien*

Father of Mercy, in our brother priest, Saint Damien of Molokai, ss.cc., You have given a shining witness of love for the poorest and most abandoned. Grant that, by his intercession, as faithful witness of the Heart of Your Son Jesus, we too may be servants of the most needy and rejected.

Teach us to live our lives with joy like Yours, and to celebrate and contemplate the Eucharist so we might be good disciples of Jesus and Mary.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



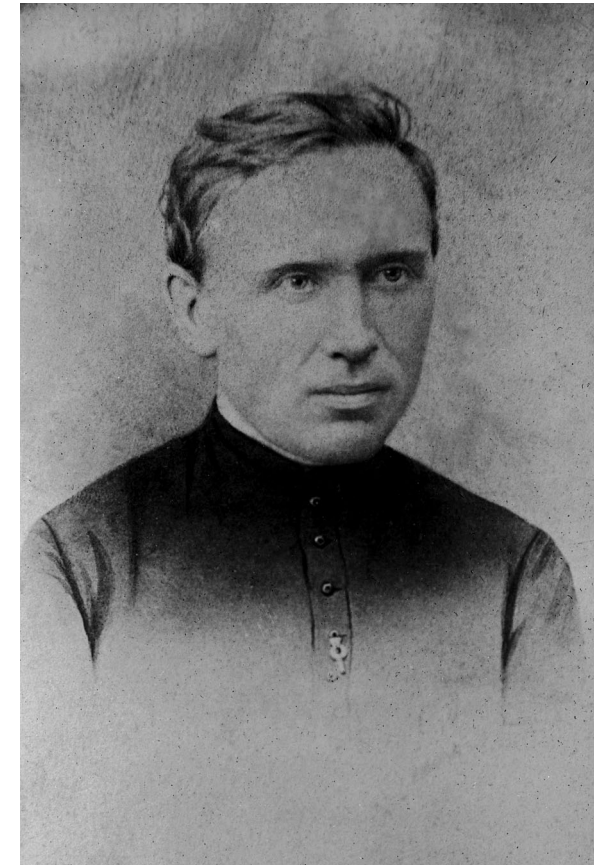
*Feast Day May 10<sup>th</sup> - the day St. Damien arrived to serve the Leprosarium in 1873.*



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*Saint Damien  
De Veuster, ss.cc.  
of Molokai*



*Servant of God  
Servant of Humanity*

*Sanctus Damianus Molocaiensis  
Ora pro nobis*

Joseph De Veuster was born on January 3, 1840 in the village of Tremeloo, Belgium. He was the seventh of eight children born to Frans and Anne-Catherine DeVeuster in a devout Catholic family. His father intended for him to take over the family farm someday. However, Joseph felt drawn to the religious life like two of his sisters and a brother before him. At age 19, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at Louvain. For his religious name, he chose DAMIEN after a third-century physician-saint and early Christian martyr.

In 1863, Damien's older brother, Father Pamphile, was headed for the Sacred Hearts mission in the Hawaiian Islands. A case of typhus prevented him from going. Damien, with missionary zeal and unbridled enthusiasm, asked and received permission to take his brother's place. After a sea voyage of nearly five months, Damien arrived in Honolulu on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, in 1864. For the next two months, he studied the Hawaiian language and prepared for ordination to the priesthood.

The ordination of Damien and two others took place at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu on May 21, 1864. His first assignment was to the island of Hawaii. He labored there for nearly nine years – first in the Puna district, and then in an area encompassing the districts of Kohala and Hamakua. It was on Hawaii Island that Damien first witnessed leprosy patients being separated from their families and banished to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa on Molokai. These government-

imposed measures were meant to prevent the spread of the disease, with no regard for the emotional impact this would have on those affected.

In May of 1873, Bishop Maigret blessed the first stone church of St. Anthony in Wailuku, Maui. To the assembled priests, he expressed the dire need to provide spiritual help for the people of Kalaupapa. Realizing the risks and sacrifice that this would entail, the bishop asked for volunteers on a three-month rotating basis. Damien was the first to volunteer, and accompanied the bishop to Kalaupapa. After seeing the paltry living conditions and the despair of its residents, he decided to remain there. With no house to shelter him, he slept under the canopy of a pandanus tree for several days after his arrival. The tree stood next to the small Catholic chapel erected the year before in the village of Kalawao.

Damien cared for the spiritual and physical needs of the residents of Kalaupapa. In addition to celebrating Mass and hearing their confessions, he built houses, an orphanage, and a hospital. He constructed churches, both in Kalaupapa and on top-side Molokai. For those who died, he made their coffins and dug their graves.

Father Damien's acts of compassion and advocacy for the patients at Kalaupapa earned him the respect and admiration of people around the world. In 1881, the Princess Regent Liliuokalani met Father Damien during her visit to the leprosy

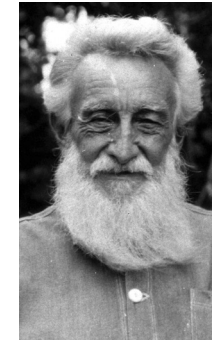
settlement. She later conferred upon him the decoration of Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Kalakaua, in recognition of his dedicated service.

A medical examination in 1884 confirmed that Damien had contracted leprosy. In the face of this adversity, he stoically stated: "I have accepted this malady as my special cross." Despite his failing health, Damien continued to work up until a few days before his death on April 15, 1889. He was buried beneath the pandanus tree which first sheltered him nearly 16 years earlier.

In 1936, at the request of King Leopold III, Father Damien's remains returned to his homeland. Much pomp and circumstance heralded the return of this native son of Belgium. His remains now rest in the crypt of the church where he first entered religious life.

Public acclamation of Damien's sanctity was heard even during his lifetime. But, it would take 120 years after his death before he was officially recognized as a saint. Official acknowledgment began on July 9, 1977 when Pope Paul VI accorded Damien the title of Venerable. Pope John Paul II declared him Blessed on June 4, 1995. Finally, on October 11, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Father Damien a saint of the church. His feast day is celebrated on May 10, the first day of his arrival on the island of Molokai. A relic of Saint Damien is enshrined in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace; and another relic has been reinterred within his original grave site at Kalawao for veneration by the faithful.

## JOSEPH DUTTON



One of the notable persons assisting Father Damien at the Kalaupapa Settlement was a man named Joseph Dutton. He was born in Stowe, Vermont on April 27, 1843. The name given to him at birth was Ira. At the

age of 18, he enlisted in the Union army and served during the Civil War. In 1866, he entered into an ill-fated marriage that ended in divorce 14 years later. He fell into a downward spiral of intemperance and depravity. Longing for redemption and intent on pursuing a life of penance, Ira converted to the Catholic faith on April 27, 1883. He took the name of Joseph. For two years he lived at the Trappist monastery in Gethsemane, Kentucky. Then one day he read an article about Father Damien and his work in the leprosy settlement. This would be a profound turning point in his life. Dutton made his way to Molokai. On July 29, 1886, he descended down the steep pali trail and arrived at Kalaupapa. There he would remain for the next 40 years. He proved himself capable and dedicated as he filled the roles of nurse, gardener, carpenter, cook, and sacristan. After Father Damien's death in 1889, Dutton took charge of the home for boys, later called Baldwin Home. On March 26, 1931, Joseph Dutton died at the age of 88 years old. He was buried near the grave of Father Damien, his friend and mentor, in the churchyard of St. Philomena at Kalawao.

