

Damien of Molokai

Builder of Community

1840–1889

Born in Tremelo, Belgium

Feast Day: May 10

Patronage:

Hawaii and people with leprosy

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Liguori

Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints. Six books make up the first set: *Saints of North America*. In this set, each book tells a thought-provoking story about a heavenly hero.

Saints of North America includes the heroic lives of six saints from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Saints Kateri Tekakwitha and Elizabeth Ann Seton were both born in the United States. Saint Juan Diego was born in Mexico, and Saint André Bessette was from Canada. European missionaries also came to North America to spread the Catholic faith, making it their home while they worked with people in the New World. Saints Rose Philippine Duchesne and Damien de Veuster were missionary saints.

Through the centuries, saints have always been dear to Catholics, but *why*? In most instances, ordinary people were and are transformed by the life of Jesus and therefore model Christ's life for us. It is our Lord who makes ordinary people extraordinary. As your children come to know the saints, it is our hope that they will come to understand and identify that they, too, are *called to be saints*.

Which saint wanted to work with Native Americans? Who wanted to work with the sick people on the island of Molokai, Hawaii? To which saint did the Virgin Mary appear? Who loved Saint Joseph? Which saint started the first American religious community of women? Do you know which saint is the patron of nature? Find the answers in the *Saints of North America*, *Saints and Me!* set and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.



Joseph de Veuster was born in Belgium. He lived on a farm with his family. They prayed together every day. Joseph's mom read to them. He liked saint stories the best.



Joseph's big brother joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Joseph wanted to be a priest, too.

"I want to be a missionary priest," he said.

When he was nineteen he joined the same order as his big brother.

Joseph took the name Damien.

He studied very hard. He prayed that he would be a good priest—a good missionary priest.



Damien's brother was ordained.
He was sent to the Hawaiian missions,
but he got sick and could not go. Damien asked
to take his place. The Superior General said
yes. The news made Damien very happy.





The ocean trip took many months.
They stopped in the big city of Honolulu.
It was a beautiful place. Damien saw flowers,
palm trees, and colorful birds. He prayed,
“God, help me to do your work here.”

Damien finished his studies in Honolulu and
was ordained a priest. People called him
Father Damien. He taught the people about
God. He said Mass and heard confessions.
Father Damien was friendly and cheerful.

