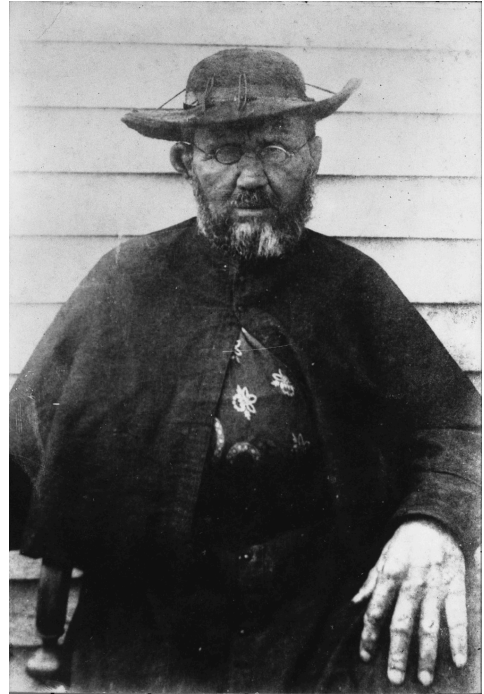


Saint Damien de Veuster

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

Saint Damien de Veuster is better known as Saint Damien of Molokai for his many years of ministry to the sick people from the Hawaiian islands. There was an outbreak of leprosy in the mid-1800s in the Kingdom of Hawaii and because the disease was so highly contagious, all of the sick were shipped to the island of Molokai. More than eight thousand people were banished to the island. With so many people there, the local bishop knew it was important to have a priest sent to minister to them. Saint Damien was the first among four priests to volunteer. He went well beyond his expected duties on the island. Saint Damien cared for the sick and he built homes, orphanages, and a church. He gave hope to the sick people on the island when so many others were afraid to be near them for fear of getting sick themselves. After ten years of serving them, Saint Damien did indeed contract leprosy and died in 1889 as the “apostle to the lepers” and “martyr of charity.”



1. What did Saint Damien do to serve the people banished to Molokai?

2. Why do you think Saint Damien risked his own life to go and serve the sick on the island of Molokai?

3. What are some ways you can serve people who are sick in hospitals or nursing homes?
