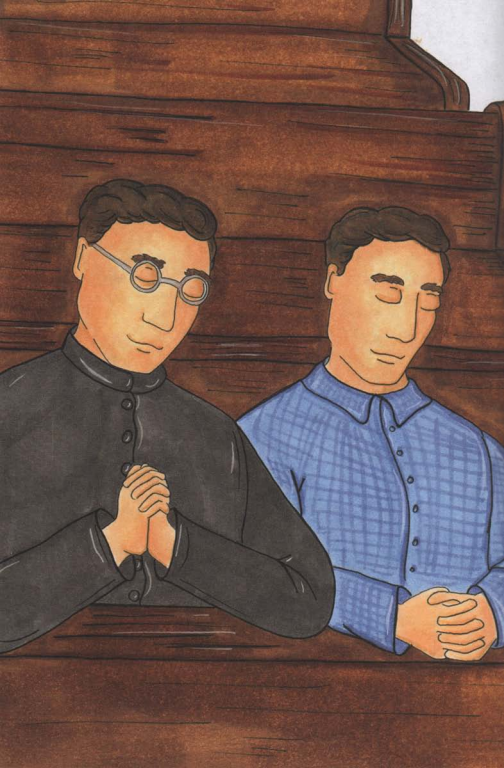


Joseph de Veuster was born in Belgium. He lived on a farm with his family. They prayed together every day. Joseph's mom read to them. He liked saint stories the best.





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.



Father Damien worked in many villages.
He was strong and a hard worker.
He helped the people build churches and
chapels. He showed them how to farm.
The people loved him very much.

