

Blessed Damien of Molokai

May 10

Draw and Tell Saints



Father Joseph Damien de Veuster was a missionary in **HAWAII**.



In 1873, after working there for **NINE YEARS**, he volunteered to go to the island of Molokai.



MOLOKAI is in the center of the Hawaiian Islands chain, but most people would not go there.

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on Molokai was the place where people with leprosy **WERE SENT**.



Leprosy is a skin disease that causes **SORES** over a person's body.



At that time, people believed that leprosy was **VERY CONTAGIOUS**.



People who had the disease

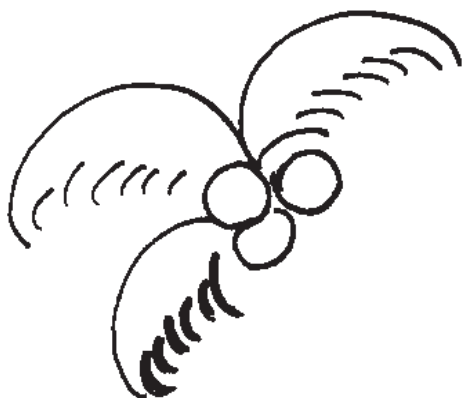
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were ordered to live on Molokai away **FROM EVERYONE** — even their families.



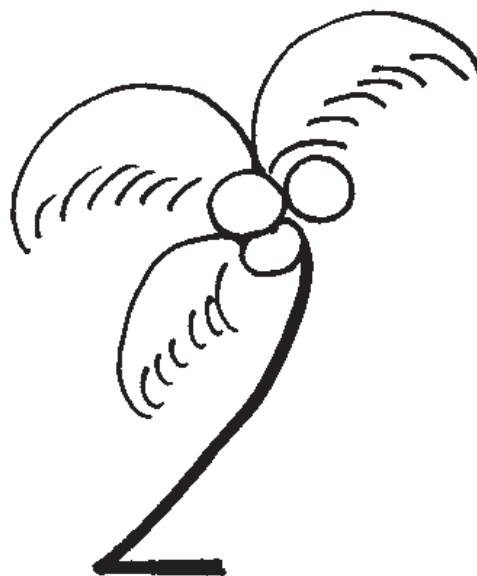
It was a **TERRIBLE PLACE**, with helpless people living in awful conditions. When Father Damien arrived, he found people covered with sores, dressed in rags, and living in shacks. Fresh water was scarce and flies were everywhere. Damien prayed to God to give him the strength, courage, and charity to work with the people.



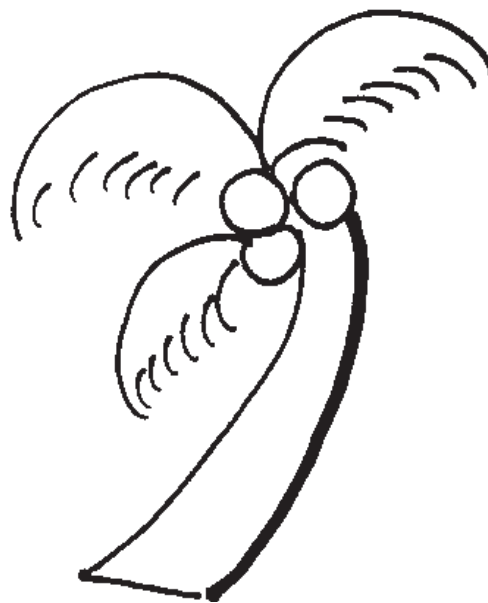
Father Damien received permission from his religious superiors to remain there, to care for the people **FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE**. He was only thirty-three years old. Father Damien saw that besides the wounds to

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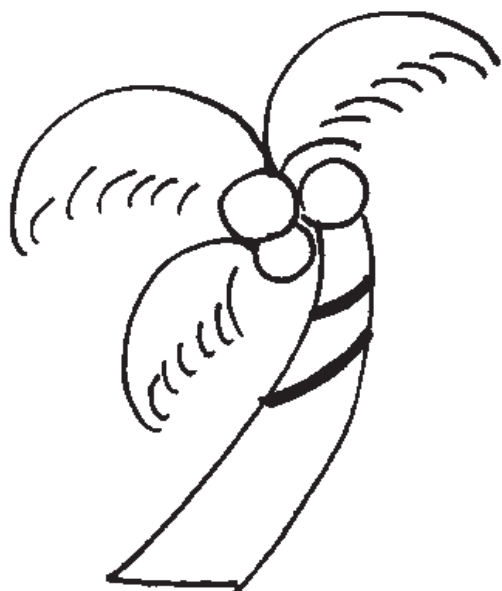
their bodies from the disease, the people were also discouraged and felt they had no reason to live. Damien believed that these people needed to be cared for and treated **WITH DIGNITY**.



He helped them clean **THEIR BODIES**, and he bandaged their sores.



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Damien **BURIED THE DEAD, CLEANED UP THE SHACKS,** and taught the people to raise crops and animals. He organized recreational activities and even started an orchestra.

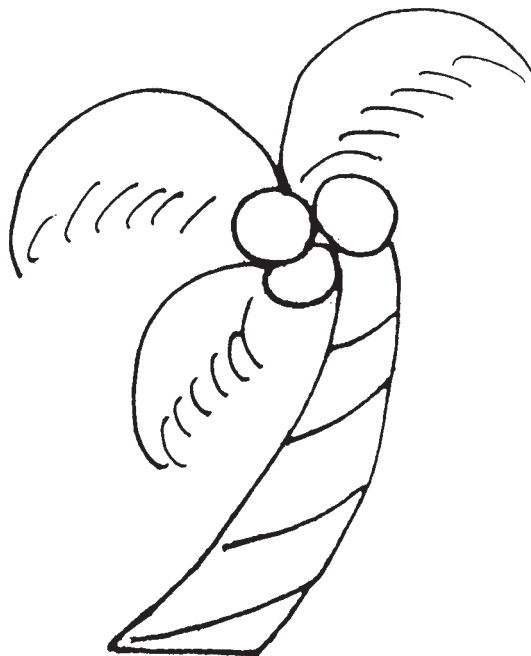
The people called him *Makna*, which means "Father."



After a while, with Father Damien's help, the people began to **HELP ONE ANOTHER.** They started to discover the spirit of Christian joy.

In 1884, when he plunged his feet into boiling water and

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felt no pain, Damien discovered that he had contracted leprosy. He was forty-four years old.

He continued to work even as his own body became weaker and weaker. Father Damien died on April 15, 1889, a few days before Easter. He has been called the "Apostle of Molokai." The island of Molokai, Hawaii, is now part of the United States.

His feast day is May 10.

What kind of tree can be found on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, where Father Damien worked?
(Palm tree.)