



August 11, 2019

Fr. Damien's Coat Tails.

Very often, when someone is declared a Saint, there is usually another Saint in the wings. Think of St. Augustine and his mother St. Monica. Her persistence in prayer and example eventually led her son to become the great Saint that he grew to be.

Think of St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents. Also, recall Our Lady and her parents Sts. Joachim and Ann.

Fr. Damien is famous as the priest who served the Lepers of Molokai in Hawaii.

The other Saint of Molokai in the wings was Mother Marianne Cope.

She was born in the Grand Duchy of Hesse in modern Germany. Her family migrated to New York probably around 1838. She was only 2 years old.

At the age of 24 she joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse. She founded two hospitals, one in central New York and the other in Syracuse in the 1870's.

A letter arrived from the King of Hawaii seeking assistance with medical work on the Islands of Hawaii.

She accepted the invitation and was rewarded the medal of the Royal Order of Kapiolani in 1885.

She of course met Fr. Damien and when he was diagnosed with leprosy, she became his successor to care for the Lepers. She established a home for women and girls on Molokai.

She looked after Fr. Damien during his last days and when he died in 1889, she took over responsibility for the Leper Colony. She continued this work until her own death in 1918.

She was beatified in 2011 and canonized with Kateri Tekakwitha on October 21 2013.

St. Marianne Cope of Molokai, pray for us.

Father Martin

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