



## The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times

*By Jan De Volder*

Download now

Read Online ➔

**The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times** By Jan De Volder

Father Damien, famous for his missionary work with exiled lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, is finally Saint Damien. His sanctity took 120 years to become officially recognized, but between his death in 1889 and his canonization in 2009 amid creeping secularization and suspicion of the missionary spirit he so much embodied Fr. Damien De Veuster never faded from the world's memory. What kept him there? What keeps him there now?

To find an answer, Belgian historian and journalist Jan De Volder sifted through Father Damien's personal correspondence as well as the Vatican archives. With careful and even-handed expertise, De Volder follows Father Damien's transformation from the stout, somewhat haughty missionary of his youth, bounding from Europe to Hawaii and straight into seemingly tireless priestly work, to the humble and loving shepherd of souls who eventually succumbed to the same disease that ravaged his flock.

De Volder finds that as spiritual father, caretaker, teacher, and advocate Father Damien accomplished many heroic feats for these poor outcasts. Yet the greatest gift he gave them was their transformation from a disordered, lawless throng exiled in desperate anarchy into a living community built on Jesus Christ, a community in which they learned to care for one another.

Every generation seems to have its own image of this world-famous priest. Already during his life on Molokai and at his death in 1889, many considered him a holy man. Even today, in the highly secularized Western world, he is widely admired. In 2005 his native Belgium honored him with the title the greatest Belgian in polling conducted by their public broadcasting service. Statues honor his memory in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and at the entrance to the Hawaiian State Capitol in Honolulu. In 1995, in the presence of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II beatified him in Brussels, Belgium; and in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI canonized him in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Today Father Damien is the unofficial patron of outcasts and those afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

De Volder contends that the common thread running through the saint's life, the

spirit of Father Damien that so speaks to the world, is at once uniquely Christian, fully human, and as important today as ever before.

 [Download The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - ...pdf](#)

# **The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times**

*By Jan De Volder*

## **The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder**

Father Damien, famous for his missionary work with exiled lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, is finally Saint Damien. His sanctity took 120 years to become officially recognized, but between his death in 1889 and his canonization in 2009 amid creeping secularization and suspicion of the missionary spirit he so much embodied Fr. Damien De Veuster never faded from the world's memory. What kept him there? What keeps him there now?

To find an answer, Belgian historian and journalist Jan De Volder sifted through Father Damien's personal correspondence as well as the Vatican archives. With careful and even-handed expertise, De Volder follows Father Damien's transformation from the stout, somewhat haughty missionary of his youth, bounding from Europe to Hawaii and straight into seemingly tireless priestly work, to the humble and loving shepherd of souls who eventually succumbed to the same disease that ravaged his flock.

De Volder finds that as spiritual father, caretaker, teacher, and advocate Father Damien accomplished many heroic feats for these poor outcasts. Yet the greatest gift he gave them was their transformation from a disordered, lawless throng exiled in desperate anarchy into a living community built on Jesus Christ, a community in which they learned to care for one another.

Every generation seems to have its own image of this world-famous priest. Already during his life on Molokai and at his death in 1889, many considered him a holy man. Even today, in the highly secularized Western world, he is widely admired. In 2005 his native Belgium honored him with the title the greatest Belgian in polling conducted by their public broadcasting service. Statues honor his memory in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and at the entrance to the Hawaiian State Capitol in Honolulu. In 1995, in the presence of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul II beatified him in Brussels, Belgium; and in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI canonized him in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Today Father Damien is the unofficial patron of outcasts and those afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

De Volder contends that the common thread running through the saint's life, the spirit of Father Damien that so speaks to the world, is at once uniquely Christian, fully human, and as important today as ever before.

## **The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder**

### **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #892085 in Books
- Published on: 2010-10-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.95" h x .71" w x 6.16" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 234 pages

 **[Download](#)** [The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A ...pdf](#)

 **[Read Online](#)** [The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder**

---

### **Editorial Review**

About the Author

John L. Allen (Laramie, WY) teaches geography at the University of Wyoming.

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Christopher Forney:**

The book The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a good thing like a book The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times? A number of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim which book can give many details for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you may give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by wide open and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

**Christopher Levi:**

This The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times usually are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The key reason why of this The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times can be on the list of great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you actually with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed ones. Beside that this The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

**Corinne Parsons:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, often the book you have read is actually The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times.

**Clinton Perez:**

This The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it info accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but difficult core information with wonderful delivering sentences.

Having The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times in your hand like finding the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

**Download and Read Online The Spirit of Father Damien: The  
Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder  
#VEYH4CLZBN8**

## **Read The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder for online ebook**

The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder books to read online.

### **Online The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder ebook PDF download**

**The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder Doc**

**The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder Mobipocket**

**The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder EPub**

**VEYH4CLZBN8: The Spirit of Father Damien: The Leper Priest - A Saint for Our Times By Jan De Volder**