

ADORATION WITH DAMIEN

By way of motivation

Here we are Lord, as your brothers. At this moment, in many parts of the world, brothers, sisters and members of the SSCC family are also at your feet.

We are also here with our brothers, who have gone before us in following you, among them, especially our brother Damien. He met you here in Adoration and in the service of your smallest and poorest brothers. In his encounter with you were the names of his brothers and sisters, the leprosy patients. In his encounter with you, Damien found the consolation of your faithful presence in the midst of his loneliness.

We, too, have with us the fatigues and the sorrows of the men and women we walk with, especially the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and those who are alone. We are here to tell you, as Peter did: "Lord, you know that I love you."

Hymn

(during the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Silence

Consecration

We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

John 4: 42

Damien

"The memory of the fact that twenty-five years ago I lay under a funeral pall on the day of my vows has allowed me, in fulfilling my duty, to run the risk of being infected with that horrible disease and to die to self, more and more. As my disease develops, I feel content and happy in Kalawao." (Damien to Bishop Koeckemann, October 29, 1885)

Prayer

In our religious profession we expressed our desire to live and die as children of the Sacred Hearts. Help us to be faithful to this promise of consecration, as our brother Damien was.

Silence

Adoration

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

Lk. 9: 35-36

Damien

"As I was temporarily the only priest on the island of Molokai, I had to take our Lord, who remains in the tabernacle, as a confessor. Alas, my dear brother, it is at the foot of the altar that we find the necessary strength in our isolation. There I meet you every day and all the dear fathers of our beloved Congregation. Without the Blessed Sacrament, a situation like mine would be untenable. But with our Lord at my side, I'm always joyful and content." (Damien to Pamphile December 13, 1881)

Later, after having contracted leprosy, he was sentenced to imprisonment on Molokai without even having the presence of a brother. This would become more difficult after the definitive departure of Fr. Albert Montiton for Tahiti.

"Since that time I am, contrary to an article of our rule, always alone. I surrender to Divine Providence and find consolation in my only companion who does not leave me, i.e. our Divine Savior in the Holy Eucharist. It is at the foot of the altar that I often confess and that I search for relief from my interior pains. It's before Him and before our Holy Mother that I sometimes grumble asking for the preservation of my faith." (Damien to Pamphile, November 26, 1885)

Prayer

At your feet we bring you many personal situations and those of our brothers that would be unsustainable without your faithful presence. You are the companion who is there until the end of time. Your Eucharistic presence makes the joy that Damien speaks about present to us, the joy of losing his life for you in the service of your brothers. Give us to drink of your live-giving water, which alleviates the fatigue of the journey and of the battle, that water which makes us live joyfully and dangerously as Damien did, loving without calculation or measure.

Silence

Service

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Mt. 25: 40

Damien

Damien served you, Lord, in the leprosy patients of Molokai:

“The joy and the peace, which the Sacred Hearts have given me, make me feel that I am the happiest missionary in the world. All things considered, the sacrifice of my health, which the good God has deigned to accept while He was making my labors with the lepers fruitful, seems to me very light and pleasant. I feel that I can now say with Saint Paul: Mortus sum et vita mea abscondita est cum Christo in Deo (I'm dead, and my life is hidden with Christ in God).”

(Col. 3:3)

(Damien to Pamphile, Nov. 16, 1887)

On December 31, 1888, the last day of the visit of Anglican painter Edward Clifford to Molokai, Damien wrote this dedication in Clifford's Bible with his leprous hand: *“I was sick and ye visited me.”* (Mt. 25:36)

Prayer

We have our hidden life with Christ in God. There, our names are inscribed with our successes and failures. There, also, are our brothers the poor, the sick, the strangers, the refugees, the unemployed... in whom you are today.

Help us to recognize you in these suffering brothers who are also in our communities; and teach us to bring your comfort, peace and mercy to them, as Damien did.

Silence

Prayer to Damien

Damien, brother on the journey, happy and generous missionary, who loved the Gospel more than your own life, who for love of Jesus left your family, your homeland, your security and your dream.

Teach us to give our lives with a joy like yours, to be lepers with the lepers of our world, to celebrate and contemplate the Eucharist as the source of our own commitment.

Help us to love to the very end and, in the strength of the Spirit, to persevere in compassion for the poor and forgotten so that we might be good disciples of Jesus and Mary. Amen .

Our Father

Final Blessing

Closing Hymn

Community Adoration
Friday, May 9, 2014
(9-10 pm GMT)

Adoration with Damien



CONGREGATION OF
THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY
Via Rivarone, 85
00166 Roma - Italia

The Year of Damien - 2014
Adoration Guide
ADORATION AND THE POOR

