



THE CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY (SS.CC)

NOVEMBER 2009



FR. STAN KOLASA, SS.CC.  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of Sacred Hearts Missions,

Each year the entire Church celebrates All Saints Day...and what a beautiful time it always is. But this year it is even so much more special for The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. For this year we celebrate *Saint Damien of Molokai, ssc!*

What a joy it is to at last experience the Church's recognition that one of our own brothers has been raised to such a sacred level of holiness. He

spent his life living our Charism, our Spirit. He lived a simple but saintly existence with and for those whom society had cast aside.

What an excitement for us to acknowledge more clearly that the call to religious life, as members of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, is the very same call received by Saint Damien. It is joyful and hopeful and encouraging for all of us as we continue to offer the same "Good News" through the Spirit of our founders and now, through our Saint.



Service to everyone, especially to those in great need, is a part of who we are and how we live and move and have our being. How wonderful to walk and minister in the company of all the saints, especially "*our own Saint Damien.*"

Saint Damien didn't do everything for everybody. He couldn't. But he did what he could for as many as he could for as long as he was able. What a great example for each of us. I try to be like him with a radical faith and love - for all things are possible with God. If anyone would have told Father Damien he would be canonized a saint by the Church, he would probably have laughed, wishing only to become a saint in his heart before his God. Me too! ...and you?



"You may stay as long as your devotion dictates...."

All God's blessings and love,

*"Catholic saints are holy people and human people who lived extraordinary lives. Each saint the Church honors responded to God's invitation to use his or her unique gifts. God calls each one of us to be a saint."*

American Catholic.org

Fr. Stan

Fr. Stan Kolasa, ss.cc.  
Director of Development



A memory from Fr. Stan...

Most of us will never be made a Saint by the Church.  
But I have already gone further than that!

Craig, a young man with Downs Syndrome, wanting to become Catholic, studied very hard. He came to church each Sunday with his Aunt and Uncle and listened very attentively. They told him to listen to Father Stan and he would one day be able to receive Jesus in Communion. I heard him pray one day at the beginning of the Mass and his prayer began, *"In the name of the Father Stan and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*.

A little boy with autism who always clung close to his mother ran down the steps of the church after Mass one Sunday and threw his arms around my legs. His mother, shocked that he was so close to another person asked him what he was doing, and his simple reply was, *"I'm hugging Jesus."*

For those moments, and there have been so many, my communion with the saints has been so real. Saint Stan may never be, but Father Stan is close for me.