



## Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter January 24, 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

Our e-newsletter usually goes out on a Saturday morning, and today, Saturday, January 23, is the feast day of one of our newest American Saints, St. Marianne Cope. In this e-newsletter, I have included her official biography from the Vatican News Agency along with an excerpt of Pope Benedict XVI's homily at her Beatification.

St. Marianne Cope cared for the sick in general and the terminally ill in particular. She did so because she understood that one of God's greatest gifts is the gift of life, and so that all life is precious in His eyes. She did so understanding that Greatest Commandment of Love demanded a special care and respect for life.

It is this understanding that all life is precious from conception to natural death and that Love of God and Love of neighbor demands a love of life, which drives the American Pro-Life Movement. Of course, the Pro-Life Movement fights for an end of abortion and an end of euthanasia, but, even more importantly, it works to change minds and hearts to embrace the gift of Life. To this end, the Pro-Life Movement promotes proper care and respect for the ill and disadvantaged, and most especially promotes the proper care and respect of the terminally ill. It also promotes purity and chastity in a world where co-habitation, relations outside of marriage, artificial contraception, and pornography have become socially acceptable. All of this to teach people what love really is and to convert people's minds and hearts to the Culture of Life.

There is much hope. Because of the prayers and sacrifices of so many, minds and hearts are changing. The number of abortions performed in America each year continues to decline while simultaneously the number of Americans who identify themselves as "pro-life" continues to increase. Also, the number of young people who commit or re-commit to lives of purity and chastity continues to increase year by year. Lastly, we have the constant witness of so many who lovingly care for the sick and the dying with their own hands, sweat, and tears. So let us thank God and His Angels and Saints for the graces that have brought us this far and, with great confidence, let us continue to ask for the graces to get us to the finished line.

Please join us this Thursday, January 28, at 6:30 PM, for a Holy Hour for Life here in church, and let us continue to pray our Rosaries and Chaplets for our nation, for the sick, for the deceased, and for the end of this virus, and for the triumph of the Culture of Life.

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

St. Marianne Cope, pray for us.

Fr. Michael J Pawelko

# ST. MARIANNE COPE (1838-1918)

*Virgin*

*Professed Sister of St Francis*

*Missionary to leprosy patients*



**Barbara Koob** (now officially "Cope") was born on 23 January 1838 in SE Hessen, West Germany. She was one of 10 children born to Peter Koob, a farmer, and Barbara Witzenbacher Koob. The year after Barbara's birth, the family moved to the United States. The Koob family found a home in Utica, in the State of New York, where they became members of St Joseph's Parish and where the children attended the parish school.

## *Sisters of St Francis*

Although Barbara felt called to Religious life at an early age, her vocation was delayed for nine years because of family obligations. As the oldest child at home, she went to work in a factory after completing eighth grade in order to support her family when her father became ill.

Finally, in the summer of 1862 at age 24, Barbara entered the Sisters of St Francis in Syracuse, N.Y. On 19 November 1862 she received the religious habit and the name "Sr Marianne", and the following year she made her religious profession and began serving as a teacher and principal in several elementary schools in New York State.

She joined the Order in Syracuse with the intention of teaching, but her life soon became a series of administrative appointments.

## *God had other plans*

As a member of the governing boards of her Religious Community in the 1860s, she participated in the establishment of two of the first hospitals in the central New York area.

In 1870, she began a new ministry as a nurse-administrator at St Joseph's in Syracuse, N.Y., where she served as head administrator for six years. During this time she put her gifts of intelligence and people skills to good use as a facilitator, demonstrating the energy of a woman motivated by God alone.

Although Mother Marianne was often criticized for accepting for treatment "outcast" patients such as alcoholics, she became well-known and loved in the central New York area for her kindness, wisdom and down-to-earth practicality.

In 1883, Mother Marianne, now the Provincial Mother in Syracuse, received a letter from a Catholic priest asking for help in managing hospitals and schools in the Hawaiian Islands, and mainly to work with leprosy patients. The letter touched Mother Marianne's heart and she enthusiastically responded: "I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders.... I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned "lepers".

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## *A mother to the lepers*

She and six other Sisters of St Francis arrived in Honolulu in November 1883. With Mother Marianne as supervisor, their main task was to manage the Kaka'ako Branch Hospital on Oahu, which served as a receiving station for patients with Hansen's disease gathered from all over the islands. The Sisters quickly set to work cleaning the hospital and tending to its 200 patients. By 1885, they had made major improvements to the living conditions and treatment of the patients.

In November of that year, they also founded the Kapi'olani Home inside the hospital compound, established to care for the healthy daughters of Hansen's disease patients at Kaka'ako and Kalawao. The unusual decision to open a home for healthy children on leprosy hospital premises was made because only the Sisters would care for those so closely related to people with the dreaded disease.

## *St. Damien and Mother Marianne*

Mother Marianne met Fr Damien de Veuster (today Saint Damien is known as the "Apostle to Lepers") for the first time in January 1884, when he was in apparent good health. Two years later, in 1886, after he had been diagnosed with Hansen's disease, Mother Marianne alone gave hospitality to the outcast priest upon hearing that his illness made him an unwelcome visitor to Church and Government eaders in Honolulu.

In 1887, when a new Government took charge in Hawaii, its officials decided to close the Oahu Hospital and receiving station and to reinforce the former alienation policy. The unanswered question: Who would care for the sick, who once again would be sent to a settlement for exiles on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the island of Molokai?

In 1888, Mother Marianne again responded to the plea for help and said: "We will cheerfully accept the work...". She arrived in Kalaupapa several months before Fr Damien's death together with Sr Leopoldina Burns and Sr Vincentia McCormick, and was able to console the ailing priest by assuring him that she would provide care for the patients at the Boys' Home at Kalawao that he had founded.

## *Optimism, serenity, trust in God*

Together the three Sisters ran the Bishop Home for 103 Girls and the Home for Boys. The workload was extreme and the burden at times seemed overwhelming. In moments of despair, Sr Leopoldina reflected: "How long, O Lord, must I see only those who are sick and covered with leprosy?" Mother Marianne's invaluable example of never-failing optimism, serenity and trust in God inspired hope in those around her and allayed the Sisters' fear of catching leprosy. She taught her Sisters that their primary duty was "to make life as pleasant and as comfortable as possible for those of our fellow creatures whom God has chosen to afflict with this terrible disease..."

Mother Marianne never returned to Syracuse. She died in Hawaii on 9 August 1918 of natural causes and was buried on the grounds of Bishop Home.

# *POPE BENEDICT XVI'S HOMILY at Marianne Cope Beatification*



## **Witness to Sacrificial Love**

It is with great joy that I welcome you to Rome, dear brothers and sisters, for the Beatification of Mother Marianne Cope. I know that your participation in Saturday's solemn liturgy, so significant for the universal Church, will have been a source of renewed grace and commitment to the exercise of charity which marks the life of every Christian.

Marianne Cope's life was one of profound faith and love which bore fruit in a missionary spirit of immense hope and trust. In 1862 she entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse where she imbibed the particular spirituality of St Francis of Assisi, dedicating herself wholeheartedly to spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Her own experience of consecrated life saw an extraordinary apostolate unfold, adorned with heroic virtue.

As is well known, while Mother Marianne was Superior General of her Congregation, the then Bishop of Honolulu invited the Order to come to Hawaii and work among the lepers. Leprosy was spreading rapidly and causing unspeakable suffering and misery among the afflicted. Fifty other Congregations received the same plea for assistance, but only Mother Marianne, in the name of her Sisters, responded positively.

True to the charism of the Order and in imitation of St Francis, who had embraced lepers, Mother Marianne volunteered herself for the mission with a trusting "Yes!" And for 35 years, until her death in 1918, our new Blessed dedicated her life to the love and service of lepers on the islands of Maui and Molokai.

Undoubtedly the generosity of Mother Marianne was, humanly speaking, exemplary. Good intentions and selflessness alone, however, do not adequately explain her vocation. It is only the perspective of faith which enables us to understand her witness — as a Christian and as a Religious — to that sacrificial love which reaches its fullness in Jesus Christ. All that she achieved was inspired by her personal love of the Lord, which she in turn expressed through her love of those abandoned and rejected by society in a most wretched way.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us today be inspired by Blessed Marianne Cope to renew our commitment to walk the path of holiness.

May the Virgin Mary obtain for us the gift of continual fidelity to the Gospel. May she help us to follow the example of the new Blesseds and to strive tirelessly towards holiness.



# Sunday Mass Readings

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Reading 1: [Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying: “Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.” So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD’S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day’s walk announcing, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed, “ when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

### Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#)

R. (4a) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

► Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. **R.**

► Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. **R.**

► Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way. **R.**

### Reading 2: [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

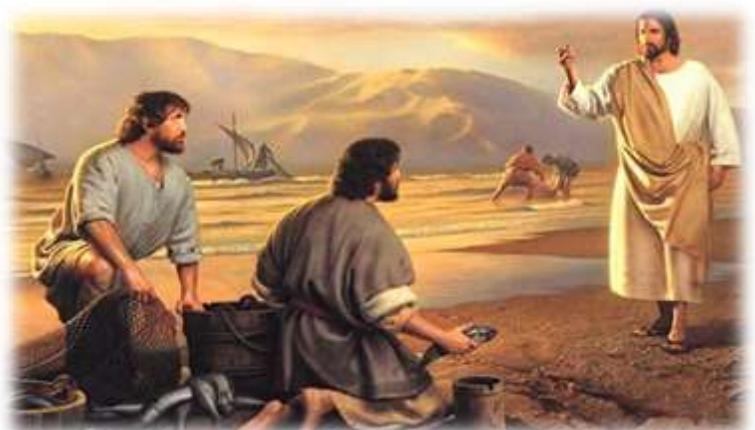
The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe in the Gospel.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: [Mark 1:14-20](#)

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.





*Holy Hour*

**FOR**

*Life*



*January 28, 2021*

**6:30 ~ 7:30 PM**

*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church*

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament • Prayer • Benediction**

**For the End of Abortion**

**The preservation of all life ~ Conception to Natural Death**

