

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *Blessed Marianne Cope*

- 1 For Mother Marianne, serving God meant serving Jesus' brothers and sisters who were most in need. St. Francis of Assisi, who had embraced diseased outcasts, was her model.
- 2 During her seven years in leadership at St. Joseph Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y., Mother Marianne was instrumental in its success. After traveling to Hawaii, Mother Marianne established Malulani Hospital in 1884, making it the first general hospital on the island of Maui. It still exists today.
- 3 In addition to bringing professional hospital care and infection control to the Kalaupapa settlement, Mother Marianne brought a woman's touch, fixing landscapes and celebrating local culture. At Bishop Home in Kalaupapa, Molokai, Mother Marianne and the sisters made dresses for the girls in the latest fashion. She loved to teach them crafts, and to beautify their bedrooms or themselves with the work of their own, often disabled hands.
- 4 As she treated Hansen's disease (leprosy) patients with dignity and respect, Mother Marianne not only improved their quality of life, but she also created a meaningful and supportive community environment.
- 5 Since Mother Marianne arrived at Kalaupapa, Molokai in 1888, 63 Sisters of St. Francis have followed in her footsteps by providing loving care to people with Hansen's disease and their families. No sister has ever contracted the disease as promised by Mother Marianne.
- 6 Her spirit of self-sacrifice enabled Mother Marianne to live and minister to people with Hansen's disease for 35 years.
- 7 Poet Robert Louis Stevenson spent one week in Kalaupapa, and during this time wrote a poem for Mother Marianne and the sisters. He later donated a piano so there would "always be music."
- 8 The remains of Mother Marianne are in a reliquary at the St. Anthony Convent chapel in Syracuse, N.Y., adjacent to her museum.
- 9 In 2005, Mother Marianne received both church and state honors when she was proclaimed Blessed at the Vatican in May and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame at Seneca Falls, N.Y. in October.
- 10 The spirit of Mother Marianne lives on today as more than 60 Sisters of St. Francis serve in schools, parishes, a retreat center and health care facilities on four islands.

Sister Agnes Hino shows the Mother Marianne Cope relic to Ho Kyong Kim, and Bo Kyong Hong. Both are seventh graders at St. Francis School in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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