



# NEWS RELEASE

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Congregation Offices

2500 Grant Boulevard, Suite 3 ~ Syracuse, N.Y. 13208  
Telephone 315.634.7000 ~ Fax 315.634.7023  
Web site and online resources: [www.sosf.org](http://www.sosf.org)

**Release:** Immediate  
**Contact:** Sister Lorraine Wesolowski  
Executive Director, Congregation Communications  
412.821.2200 ext. 214  
412.606.4278  
[lvesolowski@sosf.org](mailto:lvesolowski@sosf.org)

Sister Patricia Burkard  
General Minister  
315.634.7000  
[pburkard@sosf.org](mailto:pburkard@sosf.org)

Sister Grace Anne Dillenschneider  
Vice Postulator for the Cause for the Diocese of Syracuse  
315.534.7096  
315.440.2770  
[gdillenschneider@sosf.org](mailto:gdillenschneider@sosf.org)

## Pope Benedict XVI Proclaims Blessed Marianne Cope a Saint

**Syracuse, N.Y., December 19, 2011** -- Today Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed Blessed Marianne Cope a saint. This follows a Dec. 6 ruling by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes for Saints that a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Marianne Cope was an inexplicable medical recovery. Earlier this year, both the medical board and theologians at the Vatican ruled unanimously that the second miracle was due to the intercession of Blessed Marianne. A date for the canonization ceremony is yet to be determined.

Marianne Cope, a sister of St. Francis, entered religious life in 1862 in Syracuse, N.Y. For a period of time she ministered as teacher and principal in several schools in New York State. She participated in the establishment of two of the first hospitals in the central New York area, St. Elizabeth Hospital in Utica (1866) and St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse (1869). These two hospitals were among the first 50 general hospitals in the entire U.S. and continue operating today.

In 1883, Mother Marianne was the only one out of 50 religious leaders to respond positively to an emissary from Hawaii with a request for Catholic sisters to provide health care on the Hawaiian Islands, especially to patients with Hansen's disease (leprosy). For more than 30 years, Mother Marianne ministered to these patients at Kalaupapa, Molokai, Hawaii and promised her sisters that none of them would ever contract the disease. To this day, no sister has. Her compassionate care has earned her the affectionate title of "beloved mother of outcasts."

## Timeline

- 2003 -2004 The Vatican Medical Board, theologians and cardinals and bishops at the Congregation for the Cause of Saints unanimously affirm Mother Marianne’s heroic virtue and Mother Marianne becomes Venerable Marianne Cope.
- 2004 The Vatican Medical Board rules unanimously that a miracle case is an inexplicable medical recovery.  
Theologians rule unanimously that the miracle was due to the intercession of Venerable Marianne Cope.  
The Congregation for the Causes of Saints affirms Mother Marianne for beatification.  
Pope John Paul II affirms the miracle case, allowing Mother Marianne to be eligible to be declared blessed.
- 2005 Mother Marianne Cope is proclaimed “Blessed” during a ceremony at St. Peter’s in Rome.
- 2011 The Vatican Medical Board rules unanimously that a second miracle case is an inexplicable medical recovery.  
Theologians rule unanimously that the miracle was due to the intercession of Blessed Marianne Cope.  
The Congregation for the Causes of Saints affirms Blessed Marianne for canonization.  
Pope Benedict XVI proclaims Blessed Marianne a saint.
- 2012 Mother Marianne Cope will be canonized a saint.

***Editor’s note:*** More information is available in an online media kit at: <http://www.sosf.org/blessed-marianne-cope-media-kit>

*The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, who claim Mother Marianne as one of their own, is a congregation of 496 vowed women religious whose Franciscan spirit motivates them to continue God’s work and respond to God’s people wherever there is a need. Together, the sisters serve in three countries and 14 U.S. states/territories.*