



Sister Mary Laurence Hanley
December 2, 2011

Fred Dutcher wrote in the Post Standard, Syracuse, NY, on August 18, 1918, “When the roll of the saints is called, Mother Marianne will be there. Fifty-six of the eighty years of her life she gave in the service of the Man of Galilee whose touch made a leper clean and thirty-five of these she devoted in ministering to the doomed people of Molokai”. Sister Mary Laurence lived sixty-seven years as a Sister of St. Francis. Thirty-seven of those years were committed to being Mother’s herald to Mother Marianne’s Cause. Mother Viola appointed her in 1974 to be the Postulator for the Cause. This task was part time for two years besides her work at Maria Regina College. In 1976 it became Sister Mary Laurence’s full time ministry. This would make it thirty-five years of full time commitment to the Cause. There is a parallel to these two women. The strength of steady commitment to their mission until death called them home. Sister Mary Laurence lived to see Mother Marianne’s possible canonization. When it was in sight of happening, she knew her work was finished and said, “I have brought her this far, my work is done”. Dedication to the Cause was her life. Her gift to all the people of God is knowledge and the virtue of this saintly woman, Marianne Cope. What a legacy Sister Mary Laurence has left to all of us. She was a gifted woman who gave all her talents so the world would know the story of Mother Marianne. Sister Mary Laurence has earned the highest respect and love from all who recognize the value of this humble servant of God. Mother Marianne Cope and Sister Mary Laurence are linked together for all time.

On August 4, 1925, Anna Mae Hanley was born to Anthony Hanley and Madalen Bukowsky both from Syracuse, NY. Anna Mae entered the Sisters of St. Francis on January 2, 1944 from her home parish, Assumption Church, in Syracuse, NY. Sister made her Final vows on August 17, 1949.

Sister Mary Laurence received her BS Degree from LeMoyne College, her MS Degree from Catholic University and an Honorary Doctorate from LeMoyne College. Her ministry from 1945 to 1973 was as a teacher of English in schools in the states of New York and New Jersey. Sister’s appointment as full time Postulator in 1976 was the work that she was deeply devoted to until her death.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 7p.m., Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in St. Anthony's Convent Chapel. Viewing was from 3 to 7 p.m. in the chapel. A farewell service was held at 8:30a.m. on December 8, 2011. Burial was in Assumption Cemetery.

Sister, May God Hold You in the Palm of His Hand.