



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Path to Sainthood Cleared for Blessed Marianne Cope

**Syracuse, N.Y., December 6, 2011** -- Today the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes for Saints at its ordinary session of the cardinals and bishops (members) confirmed the unanimous ruling of the medical board of the second miracle as an inexplicable medical recovery as well as the report of the theologians who confirmed that the miracle was due to the intercession of Blessed Marianne Cope thus opening the way for her canonization. The final step is approval by the Holy Father of her canonization and the announcement of the date for the canonization.

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 only one 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 the 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.

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, who claim Mother Marianne as one of their own, is a congregation of more than 500 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 15 U.S. states/territories.