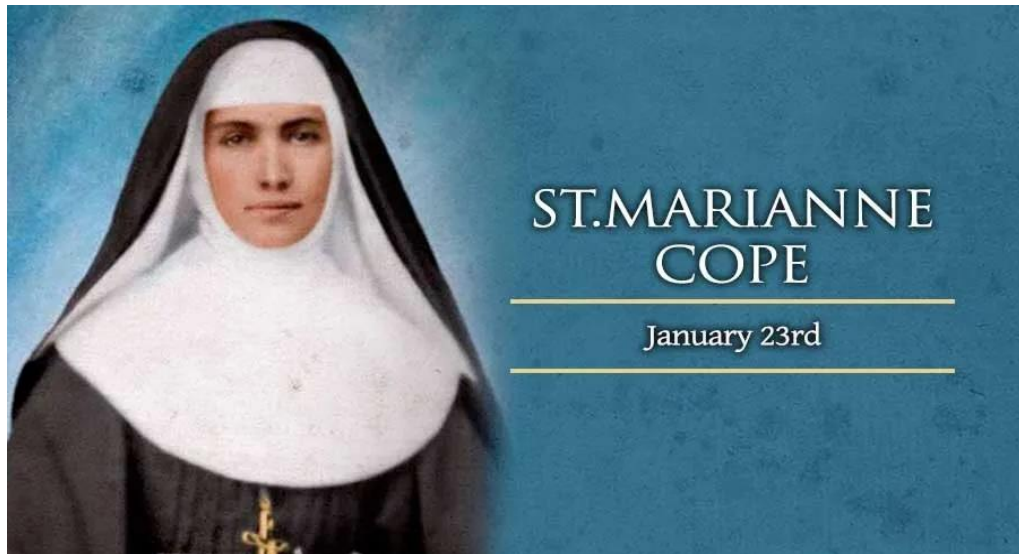


REGIONAL FORMATION: SUMMER STUDY ON FRANCISCAN SAINTS

ST. MARIANNE COPE



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ST. MARIANNE COPE

St. Marianne Cope was born Barbara Coop on January 23, 1838 in Germany. Her parents emigrated from Germany to Utica, New York the next year. She joined the sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis after helping to support her family. She taught and was principal in their schools and then went on to build and administrate two hospitals in central New York. These hospitals cared for patients regardless of their race or creed. Medical students treated their patients in order to learn their practice, and the patients had the right to refuse care given by students. She was invited to Hawaii after King Kalakaua had asked fifty other religious congregations had declined to serve the Leprosy Hospital on the Island of Oahu. She soon built a hospital on Maui and later served on Molokai at the Leper Colony with St. Father Damien. She died of natural causes never having contracted the disease.

St. Marianne Cope demonstrated the Holy Spirit's Wisdom in her administrative skills; Kindness, Patience and Love to her students and patients. She showed Self-Control as she dealt with problems at the Hawaiian Hospitals. She was Faithful to her patients as she stayed and cared for the lowest of the low. She dealt with cultural differences in New York and Hawaii while still acknowledging the dignity of each person. She was a fierce leader and protector of those she cared for.

Having worked as a nurse in various hospitals, St. Marianne Cope's self giving, faithfulness and eagerness to serve God and others continues to encourage me even as I grow older. St. Marianne Cope is a great example of how we can serve God by serving others. She showed great wisdom in her management of hospitals and the people who worked with her. She depended on God for her strength and energy, always giving of herself to others with generosity and love.