



**March 14**

**St. Marianne Cope**

**Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!**

**One of our Franciscan newbies to the company of Franciscan saints is Marianne Cope, also known as Saint Marianne of Molokai. Molokai is the name of the Hawaiian island where she and her sisters spent many years caring for lepers, unprotected women and girls. The Franciscan community can take great pride from the example of her extraordinary service.**

**When the Hawaiian government sent out a request to over 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada, 35 Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, New York, immediately responded to the call. In 1883, Marianne and six other sisters enthusiastically made their way to Honolulu and quickly set to work building a hospital and a school for the education of girls.**

**Continuing the work of St. Damien of Molokai, Marianne Cope, along with two sisters, journeyed to the island to take on what the Hawaiian government believed was a work too difficult for the Franciscan women. The strength of these Franciscan women quickly put to rest any doubts about their determination to bring Franciscan joy to the leper colony.**

**Sharing the gift of Franciscan joy changed the life of people of Molokai dramatically. By introducing cleanliness, pride, and fun to the colony, spirits were lifted. Added to these simple changes was colorful clothing for the women. For Franciscans joy is so much more than happiness. It is a lasting conviction that no matter what one's circumstances, hope can burn brightly. Living this Franciscan joy, Marianne Cope and her sisters made a positive difference in the lives of the people she served. We also can do this.**

**Lord, inspire in me the joy-filled conviction that "faith is not about everything turning out Okay. Faith is about being Okay no matter how things turn out." Amen. – Annette Powell**

**Marianne Cope is a friend of God and the company we welcome today.**