



Uhane na Kea'au

February 2012

February Retreat. Following several months of exceptions because of various holidays and events, we return to our customary monthly retreat schedule. The topic for the Franciscan Teaching portion will be Saint Bernadette Soubirous, whose Feast Day is February 11. On February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in a grotto to the young girl and her sisters. Today, Lourdes has become one of the most frequently visited Marian shrines in the world. Water from the spring at the grotto is associated with miraculous healings. The retreat begins at 8 a.m. with morning prayer and concludes with lunch and dishwashing.

January Hospitality. After all the holiday activities, it was relatively quiet at Our Lady of Kea'au as far as hosting visitors. Ho'o Mau held its usual graduation celebration in the longhouse. A confirmation class from Our Lady of Perpetual Help joined us for a long weekend.



January Projects. Never idle herself, Sister Beatrice makes sure that much is accomplished at Our Lady of Kea'au. The Hawaiian garden is beginning to flourish, the renovation

of Cabin 7 continues, and there's a new washer in the convent. The imu hale was painted as was the upper shed. A new shrine recognizing soon-to-be-canonized Mother Marianne was created at the convent.

Canonization Tour. Although nothing is definite, there is growing expectation that the official canonization of Blessed Marianne will take place in Rome in October. Recently Bishop Larry Silva mentioned that he expects to sponsor a tour from Honolulu to Rome with a stop in Syracuse, New York. Mother Marianne Cope is remembered for her work throughout Hawaii, particularly at Kalaupapa, but the Motherhouse for the Sisters of

St. Francis is in Syracuse, where Blessed Mother's earthly remains were relocated in 2005.

Birthdays. February is the month of very special birthdays. We'll sing a double-header for Sister Beatrice and Sister Pat; their birthdays are February 7 and February 10, respectively. Wedged right in between is Margie Stercho on February 8; she will miss our vocalizations as she leaves about 11 a.m.. Two other birthdays in the month are associated with volunteers we remember often but don't see much of: Bryce Lindsay, who readily makes his big, shiney pick-up truck available for all kinds of missions, celebrates another year on February 4. Liz Massad, who just returned from an extended tour through Europe, adds another year on February 16. Birthday blessing to all of you and to anyone we have missed.



Our Service Population. With the closing of homeless encampments in urban Honolulu, we see new faces each week in our service area. Conversely, each week we learn that folks we've served and come to know have moved on to shelters, transitional housing, or simply some place else. The community is transient in every sense of the word!

Sadly, many are in personal decline. Some have impressive pasts--one man, for instance, was an MIT engineer, another was an excellent wood carver and another was a graphic artist. There are occasional uplifting stories, too. One man has successfully taken the hard road from drugs and alcohol to a job with a future in Waikiki. A grandmother moved from the bushes to Section 8 housing and took her teen-age granddaughter and grandson with her. Another person was an "extra" in the hit movie, "The Descendants."

As the original volunteer, Wilfred Morales, remarked a few years back, the situation is inherently unpredictable. This makes it difficult for us to anticipate how many meals to prepare. Over time, however, we've learned that it generally works well to begin the month with a target number of 140 meals and then increase by 10 or 15 each week into the month. It is always sad for those who do the actual serving to run out of meals or clothing or bedding with needy people looking on, and it's just as painful to have too many meals and find that ironically, no one is home when we're there.

Artwork. Our Lady of Kea'au is filled with visual art of many media. Most of it is representational, but some of it is abstract or even whimsical. Near the shuffleboard court there is a mosaic sculpture of St. Francis, and over the years he has become surrounded by

a veritable zoo--a blue Flamingo (pink is for Florida!), a penguin, zebras, roosters, bunnies, elephants and more. In the longhouse is a koa sculpture entitled "The Spirit Within Us," but also called "Dancing Francis." It was created by Jerry Vasconcellos, whose work was seen at St. Francis Hospitals and is displayed at the Honolulu Academy of Art, the Bishop Museum, Hotel Hana Maui and the new Aulani Resort, among other locations. Talks are underway for him to create an abstract representation of Mother Marianne. For more information on this possibility, please discuss it with Sister Beatrice.

A Friendly Reminder. Our Lady of Kea'au maintains a kitchen certified by the Department of Health. Please do not use the kitchen as a shortcut from here to there. And whenever entering the kitchen, please be sure to wash your hands thoroughly, with soap, in the sink dedicated for that purpose.

**Our Lady of Kea'au is a subsidiary of St. Francis Healthcare System.
Sister Beatrice Tom, OSF, Chief Administrator
Sister Patricia Rapozo, OSF, Assistant Administrator**

This newsletter is a volunteer effort to keep friends of Our Lady of Kea'au aware of various things happening in our ministry and at our facility. Although we try to be accurate, this is not an official publication of the St. Francis Healthcare System.

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