



# Uhane na Kea'au

**January 2012**

**January Retreat.** Thanks to the calendar, this year we'll be combining the monthly Saturday retreat with our Three Kings celebration. Following morning prayer and breakfast, we will concentrate on the life and legacy of Blessed (and soon to be canonized) Mother Marianne. Then will follow our traditional Three Kings Celebration, featuring the selection of graces, beatitudes and patron saints for the year. Father Lim will join in the festivities.

**December Hospitality.** In addition to the first-time visitors to Our Lady of Kea'au who came to enjoy the Christmas Concert, we opened our doors to our friends at Hoomau Ke Ola who held their Christmas party in the longhouse and used the outdoor kitchen. The Wainaku family stayed for a week, absorbing the seasonal aloha and catching up on the news from Albert Silva.

**December Projects.** Always a busy month, several projects were nonetheless completed. As part of the preparations for the Christmas concert, a stage was built for use in the longhouse. There is now a storage trailer, thanks to Esau, between the swimmingpool and the tennis courts.

**Aloha, Travis.** Travis Namohala became an especially popular part of the OLK ohana in recent months. He came out almost weekly to assist his father, Randy, with various construction and maintenance projects. He always made time to greet everyone personally with a warm smile and a hug. Now Travis has moved to Idaho for college and will study criminal justice. Incidentally, Travis received a football scholarship, but he chose the school because of its academic program.

**Birthdays.** Happy birthday on January 2 to Bert Beaman! Ten days later, January 12, it's time to light the candles again for Joy Yadao. And once again, year after year, January 20 is JoAnn Agena's big day; there's something different this time however-- JoAnn is now a grandmother!

**Feast of Mother Marianne.** January 23 is Blessed Mother's birthday and is celebrated locally and in Syracuse, NY, as her Feast Day. A memorial day for her has been approved for the U.S. Liturgical Calendar, but that date has not yet been set.

**We Have a Saint!** The hopes and prayers of so many were answered December 19, 2011, when Pope Benedict XVI certified the second miracle necessary for her to be proclaimed officially as a saint. Her canonization is anticipated some time in the coming year. As we all know, Mother Marianne brought a group of Franciscan sisters to the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1883. She was declared "heroically virtuous" in 2003 (known thereafter as "Venerable") and beatified in 2005 (known as "Blessed"). Now that two miracles have been attributed to her intercession by the Vatican Medical Board, only formalities remain before she is added to the Calendar of Saints.

The two miracles both involve medically unexplained healings. The first miracle was the inexplicable cure in 1992 of a young girl in New York with ovarian cancer. The second miracle attributed to her intercession involved a woman diagnosed with acute pancreatitis. According to Sister Patricia Burkard, General Minister of the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities, a bag of soil containing fragments of Blessed Marianne's bones was pinned to the patient's hospital gown.



***Some Misconceptions About Blessed Mother Marianne.*** Mother Marianne selected six other sisters to join her in coming to a foreign country to address a wide range of medical needs. Asked by Father Leonor acting as a representative of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii to create a system of hospitals, Mother Marianne readily accepted the challenge. She did not shy away when she learned that the patients would primarily be victims of leprosy. Instead, as she herself stated, she remembered St. Francis and his literal embrace of lepers. “I am not afraid of any disease,” she declared.

Similarly, Mother Marianne did not come to Hawaii to care for an ailing Father Damien. Upon arriving in Honolulu in October 1883, she organized care for leprosy patients at what was known as the “receiving station” in Kakaako. The next year she was asked to go to Maui, where she set up Malulani Hospital, the first general hospital on the island. In 1885 she created Kapiolani Home for young girls taken from their parents who were leprosy patients. She first met St. Damien in 1884 before he had been diagnosed himself with leprosy. She moved to Kalaupapa in 1885 both to care for Father Damien during his terminal illness and to care for women and girls with the disease. After his death, she also took charge of the Boys’ Home.

***Blessed Mother Marianne’s Influence at OLK.*** As Bishop Larry Silva remarked, “Her sainthood is meant to inspire us all to hunger, as she did, for the work of serving the poorest among us in the most trying of circumstances.”

Indeed, her values and principals guide our activities in many specific and practical ways as well. For instance, her insistence on sanitation and cleanliness is legendary. We, too, are strict about sanitation. Everyone is reminded to wash hands in the dedicated hand-washing sink whenever entering the kitchen. Similarly, the outdoor kitchen and the processing area near the imu pit help maintain the hygienic level of the main kitchen. Mother Marianne treated all the patients she encountered with love and respect, and we try to act in the same way as we interact with the homeless. She defined her role in a large way, realizing that the people she dealt with were more than just diseased bodies. By the same token, we take the time to meet the homeless as individuals and greet them warmly, not simply handing out food and beverage. Mother Marianne was especially concerned with the needs of the children she encountered, both patients and disease-free children of patients. Although we make special efforts to encourage women with children to find housing away from the beaches and bushes, we bring diapers, books and the like for the youngsters we encounter. We also prepare special packs for kids at Christmas and hold an Easter teaching and egg hunt for them in the Spring.

According to the Blessed Marianne Cope website, “at Kalaupapa, she incited an interest in color harmony, needlework, and landscaping.” At OLK you will see artwork, a tasteful conference room, Sister Pat’s Tau Shop, pleasant areas for relaxing and dining, and whimsical creatures near the St. Francis sculpture and around the cabins. Here is yet another manifestation of her legacy.

Mother Marianne did not hesitate using feminine wiles to achieve important goals. Perhaps it is this flirtatious yet pragmatic quality that has particularly attracted two loyal volunteers, Col. Don Arakaki and the late Al Shaver.



**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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