

CONSECRATED

“You will find life by giving life, hope by giving hope, love by giving love.”
-Pope Francis

February 2015

Ho'ola Hou...
to revive
Ho'ola'a...
to consecrate
Poni...
to anoint;
first glimmer
of dawn



E Ho'ola Hou I Ka Ho'ola'a Poni

2014 Year of Consecrated Life 2016

Let Us Renew Our Consecration



Monthly Resources for Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

Video Views to Renew...

- Cindy's Story– A Visit to Timau Mission, Kenya
http://youtu.be/2juvM6_QZg
- Heroic Priesthood <http://youtu.be/TaoqdKz4m5E>
- DVD: Reluctant Saint: St. Joseph Cupertino

Good Reads...

For the young at heart:

- God Is With Me-Always and Everywhere/Cornelia Bilinsky
- Saints and Their Stories/Maria Loretta Giraldo

For Spiritual Reading & Study Groups:

- Prayer and You-Wit and Wisdom from a Crabby Mystic/
Mary Lea Hill, FSP
- Classic Wisdom Collection: Secret to Happiness-Wisdom
from John XXIII

For Discerning a Priestly or Religious Vocation...

- Discerning the Will of God: An Ignatian Guide to Christian
Decision Making / Gallagher
- Vocation Guide Network (articles, quizzes, videos)
<http://www.vocationnetwork.org>
- Vocation Boom! www.vocationboom.com



Embracing the future with hope...

1902

Sacred Awe: Like A Gothic Cathedral in Honaunau

*With grateful
remembrance...*

Father Aloys Lorteau, SS.CC., a young Belgium scholastic filled with missionary zeal, was the first priest assigned to South Kona. He lived by St. Francis Regis Chapel in Honaunau on the beach. The Hawaiians loved him.

However, it was only two years later that he succumbed to influenza

and died. Fr. John Velghe, SS.CC. succeeded him.



St. Francis Regis chapel was moved upland following the congregation. In 1902, the renovated chapel became St. Benedict Church. Fr. Velghe, a great teacher, missionary and artist, began painting biblical scenes on the walls as a means of

illustrating catechism. Gothic cathedral designs awed those knelt in prayer uplifting their spirits to God's throne.

An annual Corpus Christi procession grew out of the creativity of the parish becoming a great fiesta for all of South Kona.

Years later, the Maryknoll Fathers continued the work the SS.CC. began.

Trivia: In 1926, lava destroyed which chapel in Hoopuloa, causing the steeple bell to peel its last above the flames?

Living the present with passion...

Finding My Home with the Franciscans

Meryl Weiss, RN

St. Francis Home Hospice Program



My name is Meryl Weiss and I am a Registered Nurse for St. Francis Home Hospice Program in Honolulu, Hawaii. I have been working for the Sisters of St. Francis on and off for the past 19 years. The Sisters have touched my life, inspired me, and helped to mold me into the person I am today.

In 1997, after a vacation in Hawaii, my husband, two young children, and I decided to leave New York and the dream house we had just built, to pursue living in Hawaii. With a graduate degree in Gerontological Nursing from Hunter College in Manhattan, I was able to get a job at St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu as a Geriatric Clinic Nurse Specialist. On my first day there, I was greeted by Franciscan Sisters Bea and Gretchen. Being from a Jewish background, I had never met a nun before. What did I know? I was scared to death!! What I soon found out after was that they were warm and loving, stern and compassionate. There was a certain energy there. It is hard to explain how I felt safe and loved, respected and nurtured.

During the 5 years that I worked there, I spent a lot of time at St. Francis Convent in Manoa helping another Franciscan nun, Sister Petra care for the elderly Sisters who had geriatric related concerns. I found the convent to be a calm and serene place. Professionally, I was extremely satisfied. I led such teams as Restraint Reduction, Fall Prevention, and Pressure Ulcer Prevention. I was also able to do research on Pain Assessment in the cognitively impaired patient and was inducted into the Nursing Honor Society, Sigma Theta Tau. I was always encouraged to do my best and be my best. I learned the true definition of joy, simplicity, peacemaking, and charity. The environment was very spiritual and calm. I learned to slow down and enjoy each and every day.

In 2001, after an unexpected death in the family, we made an impulsive decision to move back to New York. The next 3 years I cried almost every day. Not only because I missed Hawaii, but because I missed the Sisters so much. Yes, this Jewish girl from NY cried for the Sisters of St. Francis in Honolulu, Hawaii! There was only one thing to do and that was to go back to them! This time I was hired by Sister Alicia Damien as Director of Nursing of a Long Term Care Facility where she was the COO. I hadn't met her before. She was strict and professional and very "by the book", or else! I learned more from her than anyone else in my life! I admire her very much. Eventually however, it was time to return to the St. Francis Health Care System; this time as a Hospice Nurse.

It is an honor, and I am grateful to work with the patients and families bringing them comfort and support at this period of their lives. There is nothing better. Working in Hospice has brought me the gift that is Sister Patricia. She is my mentor and my friend. Always there to provide love and encouragement, and most recently Sister Chris, "the rebel" and my friend. She makes me laugh and brings me joy. In 2011, I became a Franciscan Associate, with my Recommitment Service this past November, 2014. I am now, truly home.

Congregation of the Month...

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities (OSF)

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Arrival in Honolulu
November 8, 1883



St. Elizabeth Convent / Bishop Home



St. Francis Hospital



- St. Elizabeth Convent / Bishop Home, Kalaupapa
- Malahini Hospital, Maui
- St. Francis Hospital, Honolulu
- St. Joseph School, Hilo
- St. Francis School, Honolulu
- St. Francis Healthcare Systems of Hawaii
- St. Francis Adult Day Care, SMILE, Manoa
- Chaplains for St. Francis Healthcare
- Sister Maureen Koberer Hospice Facility, Honolulu
- Maurice Sullivan Hospice, Ewa
- Franciscan Vista, Ewa
- St. Francis Pre-School, Ewa
- Pastoral Associate
- Damien and Marianne of Molokai Heritage Center, Waikiki
- Our Lady of Koa'au, Retreat Center and Homeless Ministry
- Blessings House, Ewa Beach
- St. Francis High School, Lihue
- Mother Marianne Cope Pre-School, Manoa
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Ewa Beach
- Chaminade University
- Patient Centered Medical Home, Kalili-Palama Health Center, Honolulu
- Damien Health Care Consultant
- Prayer Ministry

*Rooted in the gospel,
we are sisters to all.
Serving with reverence,
justice and compassion*



St. Marianne Cope of Molokai



Sr. M. Edward and St. Francis School Students



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Did you know?...

It was at the request of King David Kalakaua that Bishop Koeckemann invited the OSF to Hawaii.

St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1929, graduating 824 successful nurses by 1966.

The OSF's Neumann opened and operated some of the first general hospitals in the U.S., instituting cleanliness standards which influenced the development of America's modern hospital system.

OSF Sisters serve in 12 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as in Kenya and Peru

Canonized Oct. 21, 2012, St. Marianne Cope, OSF, is the first Franciscan woman from North America and the 11th American to be declared a saint.



SOSF. Can you find the following words related to the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann Communities in the puzzle? Make sure to check all directions, as the Sisters went “up and down and even horizontally” across the island chain and even “bent over backwards” to assist the poorest of the poor; the most outcast.

1. Assisi
2. Comforters
3. Franciscan
4. Hospice
5. Kakaako
6. Kalawao
7. Kalaupapa
8. Liliha
9. Molokai
10. Philadelphia
11. SOSF DOT ORG
12. St. John Neumann
13. St. Marianne Cope
14. St. Philomena
15. Syracuse



F I Q Y B R D D Q O U R X S P
S N O X K S E W A S Y L X R H
S T M A R I A N N E C O P E I
M G J F W M S N K V O S X T L
O S Q O D A L Y R K T Y A R A
L G T U H B L L R P F H E O D
O S R V V N E A H A I S C F E
K E X O A M N I K L C M I M L
A N W X T G L E I E E U P O P
I L O T Z O L L U P T V S C H
X R K Q M M D F K M D O O E I
F S I E W Z P F E A A X H B A
Q P N P E N A C S I C N A R F
K A U L A P A P A O A G N H G
M G O K A A K A K A S S I S I