

# POPE BENEDICT XVI TO CANONIZE 7 SAINTS

**ST. PETER'S BASILICA-ROME, ITALY on OCTOBER 21, 2012**

## BLESSED SISTER MARIANNE COPE



Utica-native Mother Marianne Cope will be canonized a saint on October 21, in Rome, Italy. German-born Blessed Marianne Cope was a Sister of St. Francis in New York. She ministered as a teacher and hospital administrator and helped found two of the first hospitals in the central New York area. In 1883 an emissary from Hawaii came to visit, asking for Catholic sisters willing to provide healthcare on the island of Molokai. Blessed Marianne agreed to go and spent the last 30 years of her life ministering to people with leprosy, or Hansen's Disease in Molokai. In 1884 she met St. Damien de Veuster who was already ministering to lepers in Molokai. In 1889 she was chosen to be St. Damien's successor at the Boys Home in Kalawao. Blessed Marianne died in 1918 of natural causes. She once promised her Order that no sister who went to minister on the island would contract Leprosy. To this day no sister has contracted the disease.

## BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Kateri was born in what is today Auriesville, New York and died at Caughnawaga in Canada in 1680. Born to a Christian Algonquin Mother and a Mohawk Father, Blessed Kateri is known as "Lily of the Mohawks." In 1667, at the age of 11, she met Jesuit missionaries who had been sent to help make peace with the French. That was her first contact with Christianity. It wasn't until she was 18 that she asked to be baptized. She lived her faith in the face of a community that was increasingly hostile towards her faith. She died at the age of 24 in Caughnawaga where she had been living with a Christian native woman. A devotion to Kateri began to be manifested almost immediately by her people.

## BLESSED PEDRO CALUNGSOD



Pedro was born in 1654 in Molo, Philippines. Very few details exist about his early life prior to missionary work. He studied in the Jesuit town of Loboc in Bohol, before sailing to Guam. He was a 17 year old Roman Catholic Filipino, when a Chinese merchant spread rumors that the baptismal water used by the missionaries was poisonous. Following his death, Blessed Pope John Paul II beatified him on March 5th, 2000 at Saint Peter's Square, in Rome. His first alleged miracle was the healing of a man with bone cancer.

## BLESSED GIOVANNI BATTISTA PIAMARTAA



Giovanni, an Italian priest, born in Brescia in 1841, founded the "Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth for Men" and the "Humble Servants of the Lord for Women". He was always sensitive to the problems of young people and those of the working class. And through that, he gave birth to a new congregation of priests who devote themselves the care of children, especially those without families. He died in 1913, at the age of 72.

## BLESSED CARMEN SALLES Y BARANGUERAS



Carmen was Born on April 9th, 1848, The Spanish founder of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She worked with disadvantaged girls and prostitutes and saw that early education was essential for helping young women. She died in 1911.

## BLESSED ANA SCHAFFER



Anna was born on February 18, 1882 in Roman Catholic Bavaria, Germany. She was a strong and healthy girl and she was among the best in school. After her First Communion, she vowed to spend her life serving God. Following an injury at work, she was unable to walk or work anymore. Despite her physical accidents and disease, she accepted her infirmity as a way of sanctification. She received Holy Communion every day thanks to a nearby parish. She saw Saint Francis, who was ready to accept her sacrifices of reparation. From that time on, she bore the wounds of Christ. Her stigmata was however, unknown to many people as she preferred to conceal it to avoid any sensationalism. Her grave has been a pilgrimage site since her death in 1925. As a Blessed, she has been viewed as a Saint, but not entered in the roster of Canonized Saints.

## BLESSED JACQUES BERTHIEU



Jacques, A French Jesuit priest, born in 1838. He was a diocesan priest for nine years before he decided to enter the Society of Jesus at age 35. He was appointed to the Madagascar mission even before he finished novitiate. While the Jesuits were forced into exile by the French government, he spent his time gardening and growing food until he was allowed to exercise his priestly duties again. He had 18 mission stations to visit, but was interrupted numerous times because of warfare. On June 6th, he was advised to lead the people to the capital, Tananarive. They were attacked on the way, and took refuge in nearby villages. When he was caught, he was given the choice of becoming a counselor to the Menalamba, or they will not spare his life. He declared that he would never abandon his religion, and he was martyred in Madagascar in 1896.