



### ***Acknowledgements for *Preaching with Their Lives****

Steeped in our Dominican bones and heritage is the belief that Providence provides for all of our needs. Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, an Italian nineteenth century U.S. frontier missionary and founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, mused: **Divine Providence has done much more than I had dreamed of.** Samuel Mazzuchelli held complete trust in Providence, and for decades, the Sinsinawa sisters prayed and continue to pray: Providence can provide; Providence did provide; and Providence will provide.

The research, writing, editing, promoting and publication of *Preaching with Their Lives: Dominicans on Mission in the United States after 1850* testifies to the truth of Providence's presence and continuous work in our endeavors.

*Preaching with Their Lives* owes its existence to Mary Nona McGreal, OP who designed and launched Project OPUS (the history of the **Order of Preachers in the United States**) in 1990. In the following decade over forty Dominicans from all branches of the Order—the nuns, friars, laity and apostolic sisters—participated in the research and writing of Volume I: *Dominicans at Home in a Young Nation: 1786-1865, The Order of Preachers in the United States; A Family History*. Loretta Petit, OP served as associate editor for Volume I, as well as working as a researcher and writer. These two Dominican scholars and colleagues paved the way for this second volume of U.S. Dominican history.

In May 2014, ten distinguished scholars gathered at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois to establish the theme and blueprint for the next volume of U.S. Dominican history. We are grateful for the creative thinking and fruitful discernment of Jeffrey M. Burns; Mary Ewens, OP; Diane Kennedy, OP; Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Margaret McGuinness; Suzanne Noffke, OP; John Vidmar, OP; David Wright, OP; Claire Noonan, and Liesl Orenic.

Suzanne Noffke, OP, who attended the May meeting died before the final manuscript of *Preaching with Their Lives*. However, Suzanne was able to participate in the selection of essays and served as the major consultant for the book. Suzanne, a Dominican sister of Racine, was not only a brilliant scholar, but also a humble and holy woman with a gentle wit, good humor and the gift to ask probing questions. She wholeheartedly embraced the mission of the Mary Nona McGreal, OP Center for Dominican Historical Studies at Dominican University, and loved the work of Project OPUS. Everyone involved in Project OPUS was blest to experience the scholarship and friendship of Suzanne. We are so grateful for Suzanne and shall miss her dearly. We appreciate the ceaseless labors of our adept editors, Jeffrey M. Burns and Margaret McGuinness. They worked diligently with the essayists to ensure that each writer produced an excellent essay. Jeff and Maggie's fortitude and congeniality made the creation of this text a gratifying and enjoyable experience.

We are also grateful for the flexibility and dedication of each writer. The authors who researched their topics thoroughly observed deadlines and gracefully accepted editorial suggestions. We also



thank Heath Carter for his generous willingness to concede the original title for his essay to become the name of this book!

It is impossible to name all those who contributed to this work. Yet, I would be remiss in failing to express gratitude for all who in their preaching with their lives offered financial, emotional and spiritual support. The U.S. Dominican family of nuns, friars, laity, apostolic sisters and their associates never failed to provide the funding and prayer essential for this endeavor. We are particularly grateful for the amazing generosity of Ms. Anna Donnelly, OP, whose commitment to the work of Project OPUS spans over three decades. We offer thanks to Iris and Tim Mak whose financial gifts furthered our work. We appreciate the donations made in memory of the Dominican laity of the Central Province: Margo Bauer, Catherine Heinz, Karen F. Sabourin and Lois Tomaszewski, and the contribution from the family of Barbara Skypala, associate of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa and a McGreal Center volunteer.

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Gratefully,

Janet Welsh, OP