



Mazzuchelli

NEWSLETTER

CONNECTIONS

Every day brings “connections” into our lives. Sometimes these are expected—family reunions, phone calls from old friends, e-mails from associates. Others are surprises—out-of-the-blue happenings that sometimes amaze or delight us.

One set of delightful connections that keep occurring day after day, and year after year, is reflected in the myriad ways through which Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, and his influence or his intercession are shared with us, his Dominican Sisters—in correspondence, among people who visit the Mound, among those we meet at alumni functions, or in parishes where Father Samuel once ministered.



Many such deep connections were evident at the annual celebration of the feast of St. Augustine (Father Samuel’s church in New Diggings) in late August. This year, the celebration was held in Benton, at the beautiful stone church he designed there and where he spent the last years of his life.

FATHER MAZZUCHELLI CONNECTED TO THE GOSPEL

No one was more rooted in the Gospel than Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP. We see clear evidence of his love of Sacred Scripture in many records—in his own careful sermon records as well as in the details of his *Memoirs*. His life of unselfish ministry among Native Americans, French fur traders, and Irish and German immigrants bears striking witness to his dedication to preach the Word of God to every person in every place.

In the very first chapter of his *Memoirs*, Father Samuel describes his personal view of the vocation of the missionary—he hopes to inspire others to respond to the same call that he himself experienced. Within this short first chapter, Fr. Samuel includes nearly 30 references to or quotes from Scripture, most from the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ words. It is evident from this opening of his *Memoirs* that Fr. Samuel was rooted in the Gospel, inspired by it to bring the redemptive

message of Jesus to “any place where the work is great and difficult” (*Memoirs*, 8–9).

All who work to advance his Cause do so because we believe his “love and labors” for Christ should “become more widely known,” (as the prayer for his beatification says) inspiring many more who do not yet know about him. Many of you have assisted the Cause by your generous donations (and your names appear in an annual issue of *Sinsinawa Dominican Vision Annual Report* magazine). All of us who treasure Fr. Samuel’s memory, who pray for his beatification, and follow his example of preaching the good news of the Gospel by word and by deed—know that you are truly “connected” as Samuel’s sons and daughters.

Sister Mary Paynter, OP
Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Beatification
for Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli

RENEWING CONNECTIONS IN POTOSI SCHOOL

This fall, a renewed connection with Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, has been established in Potosi, WI, when a Sinsinawa Dominican, Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP, began serving as principal of the parish school. The school has a long history, with the BVM Sisters coming from Dubuque to serve as teachers in the 1840s.

Sister Elizabeth recently concluded five years of service as Councillor to the Prioress of the Sinsinawa Sisters. Before that time, she ministered as a teacher and administrator in various schools from New York City to Florida and places in between.

Her connections with Father Samuel began at home. She says, “My father’s family attended Edgewood High School in the early 1930s. He often bragged about taking Mother Samuel Coughlin, OP, to the train station after her visits at Edgewood. He would also share Mother Samuel’s stories with us children—especially recalling her great love of Father Samuel and the ‘connection’ through her own religious name.”

Her early memories of Father Samuel go back to her own school days in Madison, WI, at Queen of Peace School, Edgewood High School, and Edgewood College—and to the Sinsinawa Dominicans who taught her. She recalls often seeing the portrait of the young Dominican Samuel and hearing stories about him, beginning with the tale of his



Sr. Elizabeth Dunn teaching in Potosi

friendship with Michael, the young Menominee, in *Medicine for Wildcat*, a wonderful novel written for young people.

“Today,” she says, “I am privileged to be ministering as principal of SS. Andrew-Thomas School in Potosi. The spirit of Father Samuel is ever present as I continue the rich tradition of creating a Christian educational community here, where culture and knowledge enlivened by faith will be shared among teachers, students, families, parishioners, and others in the community.”

She adds, “As I journey these days on the country roads that Father Samuel once traveled between Potosi and Sinsinawa (though I am not on horseback!), I find new meanings in Robert Frost’s poem ‘The Road Not Taken.’ Long ago, Father Samuel left his native land and took the road ‘less traveled by,’ and that has made all the difference here for 175 years!”

CELEBRATING PARISH CONNECTIONS

In August, the parishioners and staff of Ss. Thomas and Andrew Parish in Potosi, WI, with Sisters from Sinsinawa and other visitors, celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of the local church community by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP. Back in his day, the community area was called Snake Diggings or Snake Hollow, and was a small “local church of less than 150 Catholics,” as he describes it in his *Memoirs*. He speaks of how poor the settlers were, but how he decided with them to build a “small wooden church.”

At the August celebration, Bishop Robert Morlino presided at the celebratory Mass, assisted by the pastor, Father Richard Leffler, and other priests of the Diocese of Madison. Back around the time when Father Samuel first traveled to

this area, however, it was not clear who had ecclesiastical jurisdiction in this part of the Midwest. Several sought to claim Mazzuchelli’s services in one way or another—the new bishops of Cincinnati and Detroit, as well as the bishop of St. Louis and the Dominican Provincial in Ohio. Subsequently, in 1839, Bishop Mathias Loras arrived in the new Diocese of Dubuque and quickly appointed Mazzuchelli as his vicar-general. Mazzuchelli would continue ministry responsibilities in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa until 1843.

Father Samuel writes in his *Memoirs* that he made “many visits” to Potosi in 1838 and 1839. In 1841, Bishop Loras appointed a French priest, Father James Causse, as resident pastor, and in 1847, Father Causse undertook the building of a large brick church which still serves the local community.

MAZZUCHELLI CAUSE DONATION FORM

First name: _____ Last name: _____

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Amount I can donate at this time: \$ _____

Please charge my credit card. Visa Mastercard Discover

Card # _____ 3-digit security code _____
(on back of card)

Expiration date ____ / ____ Signature _____

Please enclose this form with your check and mail to
THE MAZZUCHELLI CAUSE
 Sinsinawa Dominican Development Office
 585 County Road Z
 Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701



Donate from your smartphone by scanning this QR code.

OR donate via credit card online by going to www.sinsinawa.org and clicking on "Mazzuchelli" then clicking on "Donate to Cause."

WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION WITH FATHER SAMUEL MAZZUCHELLI?

Let us know, because the next issue of this newsletter will contain more shared "connection" stories, and our Archives Department will keep a record of all the information we receive. You may e-mail your reflections to marypaynterop@gmail.com

or send a note to
 Sister Mary Paynter, OP
 2011 Jefferson Street
 Madison, WI 53711

WHERE IS FATHER SAMUEL'S CAUSE TODAY?

In July 1993, Pope John Paul II approved the first step in the Cause leading to an official declaration of sainthood by declaring Father Samuel Mazzuchelli "Venerable." The second stage is beatification, or declaring him "Blessed." Many have been praying for this for years, even before the first official prayer seeking his beatification was written in 1938.

We are moving closer to that recognition. The Madison Diocesan investigation into a miracle attributed to Father Samuel's intercession was concluded on Aug. 23, 2008, in an event at Sinsinawa presided over by Madison Bishop Robert Morlino and his appointed Tribunal.

Documents from that official investigation were sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican for further study by doctors and theologians. When that study is completed a recommendation will be made by the Vatican Congregation to the Pope regarding Father Samuel's being declared "Blessed Samuel." We hear from our Postulator at Santa Sabina in Rome that all is "going well." Keep up the prayers!

ESTABLISHING CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE MAZZUCHELLI ARCHIVES

Just to give you an idea of the connections established through the work of the curators of the Mazzuchelli Exhibit and the Archives Department at the Mound, consider the following "connections" made during 2010:

- Groups touring the exhibit 102
- Signing of guest book in exhibit 1,845
- People praying with the chain and those accompanying them 157
- Distribution of beatification prayer cards 3,350
- Persons requesting listing in Novena prayer 540
- Mazzuchelli Newsletters (two mailings) 3,640

"All of one heart and one soul, loving one another, supporting one another . . . and walking hand in hand to heaven."
 Father Samuel Mazzuchelli

REMEMBERING FATHER SAMUEL AT ANNUAL MASS & DINNER

Each year, on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Augustine, the Mazzuchelli Assembly of the Knights of Columbus sponsors a celebration of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli's life and ministry in creating parish communities and building churches in southwestern Wisconsin. Originally, the festivities were held in New Diggings, at the church of St. Augustine and on the church grounds there. In recent years, because of the numbers of people attending the celebration, the venue was moved to Benton, to Father Samuel's St. Patrick's Church and Parish Hall.

This year, on Aug. 28, hundreds came to join Benton parishioners from many places connected with Father Samuel—Garryowen, Sinsinawa, Potosi, Fennimore, Shullsburg, Dubuque, Whitefish Bay, Madison, Janesville, Hazel Green, Lancaster, Rockford, and other communities in the tri-state area.

The priests who celebrated the Mass were Fathers Richard Leffler (Potosi-Tennyson), Jack Risley (Sinsinawa Mound), Lance Schneider (Hazel Green and Sinsinawa), William Seipp (Lancaster), Donald Lange and Francis Steffen (Academy Apartments, Sinsinawa), and Cy Weisensel (Madison). Nearly 30 Knights of Columbus were in attendance, including George Mowry from Rockford, formerly with the Freeport Mazzuchelli Assembly.

Before the Mass, the Knights of Columbus opened the beautifully restored St. Augustine Church in New Diggings, and nearly 50 tours were given to groups or individuals. In Benton, Sisters Mary Fox, OP, and Loretta McIlvenna, OP, offered tours of Father Samuel's restored little house. After Mass, many attended the dinner prepared and served in the parish hall. All proceeds from the dinner and raffle are dedicated to the funding of a visitors' center to be built



From left: Srs. Sarah Anne Kaminski, Roslyn Snyder, Angela Donovan, and Janette Wicker outside St. Augustine Church, New Diggings

on the grounds of the New Diggings church.

HELP US PROMOTE FATHER SAMUEL'S CAUSE

First of all, pray the prayer for his beatification often. Now that the study of the miraculous case is in Rome, we need to keep our prayers going that all moves smoothly!

Second, tell a friend, neighbor, or fellow parishioner about Father Samuel and his Beatification Cause, or you could invite Sister Mary Paynter to come and talk to your parish group or to a gathering of interested people. Call Sr. Mary at (608) 257-1064.

Third, contribute to the Cause! Our expenses include publication of this newsletter, printing of prayer cards—over 10,000 were recently reprinted due to high demand—costs related to Cause documentation, costs of Cause evaluations and reports, office materials, mailings, etc. Any amount is welcome!

SHARED GRATITUDE FOR FATHER SAMUEL'S INTERCESSION

Attending the August 28th Mass in Benton were two men whose paths had never crossed before, yet who shared something profound in common—a decade-long gratitude to Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, for his intercession when they were afflicted with cancer 10 years ago.

After the Mass, Mike Lynett of Whitefish Bay, WI, wrote the following to relatives and friends:

“On September 7, we will observe the 10-year anniversary of my survival from cancer. It is clear that the Divine Hand was at work, and, specifically, the intercession of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli. . . . Again we felt evidence of the Divine Hand when I read an entry in the archdiocesan newspaper announcing the annual memorial Mass honoring Father Mazzuchelli at St. Patrick in Benton, WI. We made the trip, arrived early, and visited the grave site behind the church. There I was in awe and deeply humbled to be in the presence of the man whose intercession saved me. . . .”



The Father Mazzuchelli Assembly of the Knights of Columbus and priests process out of St. Patrick Church, Benton, after the Aug. 28 Mass.



From left: Lori Lonergan, Sr. Mary Paynter, and Bob Uselmann at the Aug. 28 dinner in Benton

Also attending the Benton Mass were Bob Uselmann and his daughter, Lori Lonergan, of Madison, WI. Bob's cure followed a diagnosis of metastatic Stage-4 lung cancer in 2000, when his doctors indicated that he probably had but a short time to live. Other negative factors were the facts that his mother and three brothers had died of cancer. His and his family's prayers (and a visit to Sinsinawa early in 2001 to pray with Father Samuel's chain) asking Father Samuel's intercession were surely answered, as his presence at Benton 10 years later attests.

Bob Uselmann's cure is the focus of the beatification process now underway. The first stage—the Madison diocesan process—was completed in August 2008, and all the documentation (in Italian as well as English) regarding the cure was then sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican. The Dominican Postulator in Rome prepared a “positio,” or summary of the case, and since that time the case has been under study by the Congregation. While we await their conclusion, we continue to pray for a successful outcome and for Father Samuel's official beatification.

Undoubtedly many others besides Bob and Mike who were present at the Benton Mass last August shared prayers of gratitude for their experiences of Father Samuel's intercession in their lives. The laity and the Sisters who were at the Eucharistic celebration, the priests from parish communities founded long ago by Father Samuel, the Knights of Columbus of the Mazzuchelli Assembly—all were united in prayer and faith, in hope and in love, and in continuing devotion to the Cause.

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The Mazzuchelli Cause seeks to promote **the Beatification of Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP**, missionary builder of the Church in the Midwest and founder of the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters. Those who wish to ask prayers for their intentions and those who receive favors through the intercession of Venerable Mazzuchelli, please write to the following address:

Mazzuchelli Cause

585 County Road Z

Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701

mazzuchelli@sinsinawa.org

www.sinsinawa.org

(Click on Father Mazzuchelli link)

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NOVENA PRAYER

Four times a year, a novena to Father Samuel Mazzuchelli is prayed. If you wish a person to be prayed for during the novena, please complete this form and send it to Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sr. Christiane Althaus, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701, or e-mail your intention to *mazzuchelli@sinsinawa.org*.

I wish the following person to be prayed for:

_____ because of (name illness or special intention)

Can we list this person's name on our next novena?

Yes No

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Would you like us to e-mail you the novena list?

Yes No

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER SAMUEL MAZZUCHELLI, OP

LORD JESUS, you called your servant, Samuel, even in early youth, to leave home and all for a Dominican life of charity in preaching your holy gospel. You gave him abundant graces of Eucharistic love, devotion to your holy Mother of Sorrows, and a consuming zeal for souls. Grant, we beseech you, that his fervent love and labors for you may become more widely known, to a fruitful increase of your Mystical Body, to his exaltation and to our own constant growth in devoted love of you Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God, world without end. Amen.

