



Mazzuchelli

NEWSLETTER

YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRED BY FATHER SAMUEL

Each year, on a Sunday near Father Samuel Mazzuchelli's Nov 4th birthday, the students and faculty from Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School, Dubuque, IA, come to Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound for an annual Memorial Mass. On Nov. 7, 2010, the students, their relatives and friends, and the administration and staff of the Dubuque school filled the chapel. They listened attentively as Sister Priscilla Wood, OP, spoke to them about Father Samuel, and they participated in bringing the gifts to the altar in the offertory procession. Members of the school choir cantored and led the singing of hymns of that Sunday's liturgy. The Dubuque Catholic middle school was named in honor of Father Samuel by Archbishop Jerome Hanus in April 2006, and the students there are well aware of their school's namesake.

On Dec. 13, 2010, five University of Wisconsin students from St. Paul's Chapel community in Madison came to Sinsinawa for a day of reflection and to learn more about Father Samuel. Their pastor, Rev. Eric Sternberg, had loaned them his copy of the *Memoirs* so that they were familiar with Father Mazzuchelli's life and ministries, in the course of their pastoral internship program at St. Paul's. Father Sternberg was originally from Prairie du Chien, site of St. Gabriel's, a beautiful stone church designed by Father Samuel and constructed under his direction in the late 1830s, as we read in his *Memoirs*.

If you know of young people interested in learning more about the holy life and many ministries of Father Samuel, put them in contact with Sister Jeri Cashman, OP, at jericashman@gmail.com. For historical materials, contact Sister Lois Hoh, OP, or Sister Judy Miller, OP, at archives@sinsinawa.org.



Pictured here are four members of the pre-kindergarten class at St. Rose School, Cuba City, WI. Front row (from left): Leah Mergen, Simon Boebel, Logan Gallagher, and Eydith Cummins.

Back row: St. Rose of Lima Principal Sister Georgianna Dorsey, OP, and Vice Postulator for the Cause Sister Mary Paynter, OP, hold the large, beautiful copy of Father Samuel's portrait. This copy—obtained by Father Dave Flanagan, successor of Father Samuel as pastor in Benton and Cuba City—now hangs in Mazzuchelli Hall in the parish center of St. Rose Church. (Father Samuel built the first church of St. Rose in 1851.)

All the children in the school know Father Samuel's beatification prayer—in the picture, each child holds a prayer card. To celebrate his birthday last November, the school invited Sister Mary Paynter to speak to all the classes about Father Samuel, and the day concluded with the pastor, the staff, and all the students gathered in the school gym sharing birthday cake and ice cream, and singing "Happy birthday, Father Samuel, happy birthday to you!"

CHERISHED MEDAL FROM FATHER MAZZUCHELLI

by Sister Priscilla Wood, OP

Remember that thrill of winning a medal or a ribbon, whether at a science fair in school or a Scouting event, or the county fair—how it made you feel proud and maybe even embarrassed at the same time?

It's possible young Hannah Mulqueeny of Dubuque felt that same way on July 30, 1859, when, at the school commencement, Father Mazzuchelli awarded her a medal, "a reward of merit," from St. Clara Academy in Benton, Wisconsin (see images at right).

Miss Mulqueeny must have felt at home at the school in Benton and felt the acceptance and warmth of the young Sisters and Father Samuel who were her teachers. In October of that same year, she entered the young Congregation and at reception became known as Sister Regina. Six years later, in 1865, she was elected Prioress of the young commu-

nity upon the death of Mother Joanna Clark. In 1867, Mother Regina initiated the steps to return the community and academy to the Mound, but died before she saw that dream fulfilled.

We have the medal Hannah received from the hands of Father Samuel on that July day. It is another relic of that holy man—something we know he touched and passed on to this young pupil of his, just as he passed on to her and countless others his gift as an educator, his pioneering spirit, and deep-seated belief in the Providence of God.

The medal will be on display in the new permanent exhibit space at the Mound, *Telling Our Story*, opening in March. With other artifacts and photographs, it will help tell the stories of the early days of the Mound, the founding of the Dominican Sisters, and St. Clara Academy.



DOMINICAN BROTHER AND MUNDELEIN SEMINARIAN STUDY AND PROMOTE FATHER MAZZUCHELLI

Dominican Brother Paul Byrd studies at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis and recently wrote, "I admire Father Samuel greatly. I did a presentation on him in Albuquerque during my time at the University Student Center there. I am happy to say that a young man who subsequently joined my province requested and received the name Brother Samuel in Father Mazzuchelli's honor—which means, of course, that one more friar will be spreading the news about the

holy missionary. I learned about Father Mazzuchelli from Father Dave Wright, OP, who is now my student master here at Aquinas, and whose great admiration inspired my own." Father Wright, also the co-vice-postulator for the Cause, has long been one of Father Samuel's most ardent promoters. Check out Brother Paul's blog online at dominicancooperatorbrother.blogspot.com/.

From Mundelein Seminary in the Chicago Archdiocese comes a letter

from Mr. Joseph Ortega (originally from Bishop Baraga territory in northern Michigan). Joseph Ortega is studying for the priesthood and is writing a paper on the theology of Father Samuel, with particular interest in Mazzuchelli's ecumenical attitude and actions. He, too, in learning about Father Samuel, has become an admirer and "promoter." Bishop Baraga's Cause is also underway, and we remember his close association with Father Samuel when both were ministering in northern Michigan Territory.

MAZZUCHELLI CAUSE DONATION FORM

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*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

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

BY THE NUMBERS

*Jan. 1, 2010–Dec. 31, 2010***Novena to Father Samuel**

4 novenas totaling 540 people

**Veneration of Father Samuel's
Penance Chain**97 people with 268 relatives
and friends**Tours of Mazzuchelli Exhibit**28 conducted tours with 1,125
visitors**Guest Book for
Mazzuchelli Exhibit**

1,845 registered guests

'STEAM-ENGINE' OR 'ENERGIZER' IN 1844—45?

The epithet "Steam-Engine Missionary" once humorously but accurately described Father Samuel Mazzuchelli as the indefatigable minister on the American frontier. Today we might choose the "Energizer Bunny" as an apt metaphor to characterize his untiring efforts in building churches and schools and founding communities of Catholics during his lifetime—in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. His many accomplishments during the 30+ years of his ministry—from his ordination in Cincinnati in 1830 to his death in Benton in 1863—seem nearly impossible to have been accomplished by one priest traveling among his widespread ministries on the 19th century American frontier.

We marvel at the two dozen churches he designed or built, and other parish foundations he made during his lifetime. But consider just one year of his life—the year after his return from Italy in 1844. After the Bishop of Chicago denied his request to found a province and college in Galena, he moved a few miles north to Sinsinawa Mound, purchasing

it from Colonel George Wallace Jones, a Protestant friend. He bought the 800 acres for \$6,500 in September of 1844, paying \$2,400, and he gave four promissory notes, the last of which would be due in October of 1845. He worried about this huge expense, but he appealed to his friends and relatives in Milan and to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, and he was able to pay off the debt before June of 1845.

Meanwhile, he was moving and reassembling the Sinsinawa church of St. Augustine closer to the Mound and building other structures there for the new Dominican province and its future college. The new Bishop of Milwaukee had approved his plans for Sinsinawa Mound and also assigned the responsibility for the parishes of St. Augustine, Sinsinawa, and St. Matthew in Shullsburg, as well as for the Catholic communities in Benton, Hamilton Grove, and New Diggings—five parish communities in all! And along with all these responsibilities, he was developing major plans for the Mound itself, his foundation of the Dominican Province of St. Charles, and his initial concept of an American Sisterhood.

CHILDREN'S MEMORIES OF FATHER SAMUEL: 'THE BEST FUN OF ALL'

We have portraits of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli in the reminiscing of his contemporaries. For example, everyone knew of Father Samuel's love of children and how he always made time for them. The following are some musings about Father Samuel from those who knew him best.

John Gorman, a young student at Sinsinawa Mound College: "We all liked Father and we always tried to please him, because he was so good and kind to us. When we were out playing, Father enjoyed watching us from a window. He always had a good supply of marbles, and he would throw down handful after handful and laugh heartily to see us tumbling over one another to get them."

Julia O'Connor: "He was known to be very patient—for instance, when mothers came to church with babies in their arms, he would remark about their good efforts to hear Mass, and he always encouraged this and was never annoyed."

Mrs. Doyle: "He used to come to my grandmother's house in Galena. He would say Mass in the bedroom, using the high wooden chest, and the bed beside him would be full of little children, sleeping, or whimpering, or gurgling."

Mrs. Susan Earnest LeClerc: "My father and Father Samuel were very close friends, and frequently my father went over to Benton to see him. I remember when I was perhaps 5 or 6 years old—many a time I sat on Father Samuel's knee with my doll in my arms while he talked with my father."

Benton Academy students recalled the fun they had in winter with Father Samuel: "It was our special delight to be sent across the street to Father Samuel's house to tell him what he already knew—that it was supper time. Frequently, in the last winter of his life, we took with us our coasting sled, on which we would coax him to stand, so that seven or eight of us might have the supreme fun of hauling him over the street to the Academy door. We were usually tossed right and left into the snow banks then, but that was the best fun of all."

"The best fun of all"—what a wonderful memory those students had of their beloved Father Samuel—not so much as a great teacher nor even as a good and holy priest (though they had those memories, too), but as a kind, laughing, quick, and joyful friar who gave them "the best fun of all." Let us remember him that way today.

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 and with due speed!

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 translations of Cause documents, costs of Cause physicians' evaluations and reports, office materials, mailings, etc. Any amount is welcome!

NEW CHURCH IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA BUILT WITH FATHER SAMUEL'S ASSISTANCE

In mid-January, a folder arrived at the Mound from Jack and Mary Meissner of Sacramento, California, explaining the following: "Father Samuel worked through us to accomplish our project" of building a new church of Our Lady of the Snows at Lake Almanor, California. Mary and Jack began working on this project in 1992. Sister Ellen Claire Miller, OP, talked with them about Father Samuel, and they prayed daily for his beatification and his help in achieving their goals.

The goals of Jack and Mary Meissner were identical to those of Father Samuel who planned and built about two dozen churches in his lifetime. As they said, "A new church for our parish will bring new life where there has been a separation because of the demographics of the community. The new location in the heart of the area gives all of us a new beginning." Like Father Samuel, their aim was to provide a spiritual home for the local faith community, and the new building of Our Lady of the Snows made that a reality.



On Dec. 5, 2010, the new church was dedicated at a Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Sacramento, the Most Reverend Jaime Soto. How delighted Father Samuel must be to see the community there coming together in their beautiful new church!

PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION OF THE VENERABLE SAMUEL MAZZUCHELLI, OP

1. In July 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, "Venerable"—the first of three ecclesiastical steps leading to canonization.
2. In early July 2006, the Bishop of Madison (WI), the Most Reverend Robert Morlino, received the *supplex libellus*, an official document from Rome requesting the Bishop to open a diocesan process investigating a possible miracle cure attributed to the intercession of Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli.
3. Bishop Morlino appointed a Tribunal to carry out the diocesan process, and the Tribunal held its opening session on Feb. 20, 2007. This process, under the direction of the Bishop's delegate, Monsignor Kevin Holmes, continued throughout 2007 and 2008 until the closing session in August 2008. Subsequently, Vice-Postulator of the Cause Sister Mary Paynter, OP, delivered the sealed documents to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, DC, to be forwarded to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican.
4. The Dominican Postulator in Rome, Fra Francesco Ricci, OP, prepared the *Positio* regarding the case—a summary of all the documentation. That material was printed and bound and given to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.
5. The Congregation appointed consulting doctors to examine the case and report back regarding the evidence of a physical miracle. Then members of the Congregation study the reports and all documents. This process usually takes several years.
6. After concluding the study, the Congregation makes its recommendation regarding beatification to the Pope, who makes the final decision regarding the process. If he approves, then a formal declaration of beatification of Ven. Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, will be made, and Father Samuel will be "Blessed Samuel Mazzuchelli." The formal ceremony of beatification will be held in the Local Church, that is, in the Diocese of Madison.

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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)

Editor: Mary Paynter, OP

Vice-Postulator

marypaynterop@yahoo.com

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.

