

## Founder's Day Gathering in Holy Rosary Chapel 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2023

*As the community gathers, instrumental music is played softly*

Good morning,

As we gather in Holy Rosary Chapel, we might appreciate the back story to this space.

Sister Camilla Madden, seeing the need for the education of young women in Adrian and environs, petitioned Bishop John Samuel Foley for permission to open an academy. She had made a prayerful promise that if 15 girls sought admission to the envisioned academy, she would build a chapel, THIS chapel.

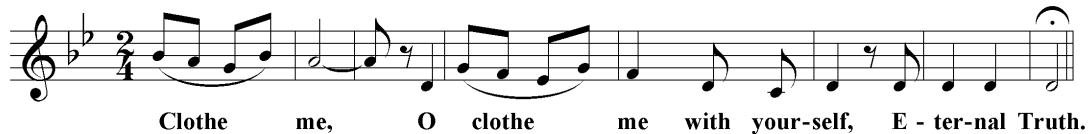
Bishop Foley was having none of it! He refused multiple times until, at last his priests spoke in favor of Mother Camilla's dreamed-of academy.

Finally, in 1896, the St. Joseph Academy was opened, and this chapel was dedicated in 1905. Bishop Foley did not attend!

### **Clothe Me with Yourself, Eternal Truth** *from The Dialogue of St. Catherine*

Nadine Foley, OP

Magdalena Ezoe, OP  
1994



#### **Invitation to Prayer**

*Christ candle is lit by a Co-worker*

Reader:

The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, are part of the worldwide Order of Preachers established in 1216 by Saint Dominic. Our foremothers came from Holy Cross Convent in Regensburg, Bavaria, a Dominican monastery established in 1233 with a lineage that traces back to the first monastery for women established by Dominic – in 1206 in southern France.

In 1923, with the Dominican community in Adrian numbering 440 women and staffing 52 schools as far away from their New York roots as Florida, Illinois, and New Mexico, the time was right for canonical separation from the Holy Cross Congregation in Newburgh, N.Y. A letter dated June 27, 1923, makes that the effective date.

The newly independent religious institute became the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, Adrian, with Mother Camilla Madden as its first Prioress. Mother Camilla had led the community as its Provincial

for 32 years. The Sisters came to be called Adrian Dominicans. By 1951 the Congregation had grown to 2,300 members.

After this time, the sisters branched out into many areas of ministry, but their focus was education and health care. And by 1968 there were 2,400 sisters not only in classrooms and hospitals but serving in many ways in response to the signs of the times. And today, Adrian Dominican Sisters continue to be engaged in diverse ministries – in 22 states and three other countries: the Dominican Republic, Norway, and the Philippines.

As one Adrian Dominican Sister said,

*This is the story of a group of ordinary women gifted with extraordinary courage and radiant faith as they traverse a still unfolding course passing from the Old World to the New. Into a beckoning future hinted at but hidden still they journey on, responsive to the call of their Dominican vocation: to contemplate and give to others the fruits of contemplation.*

– Noreen McKeough, OP

And we begin this day in prayer, gathering with this Congregation of valiant women, and we commit ourselves to continuing their work for truth-seeking, peace and justice, and we sign ourselves with the cross of Christ. +

### *Pause briefly*

Reader:

A reading from the *Gospel of Mark* (4:26-28)

*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The Earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.*

Reader:

*Looking back on the transformation to an independent congregation, it was more like the slow miracle of a seed planted in the ground, the Earth itself births the life, we know not how – first the blade, then the ear then the perfect grain in the ear. (Sister Noreen McKeough). And throughout this sacred time, we Co-workers and Partners in Mission have been part of this miracle. We, too, are seeds planted and nurtured to bring new life as we share the Dominican Charism with the world. On this sacred occasion we celebrate our own call to carry on the legacy, to continue planting seeds, as we go forth and bear fruit.*

### **A Preachers Psalm**

#### *Alternating sides*

“In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God.” (*John 1*)

As Christians and Dominicans of all stripes, we together are invited to preach the living Word, Who dwells among us.

As Dominican Sisters and Associates, Co-workers, and Partners, confirmed in our faith, we preach within the ordinary round of life.

We preach Good News under the burden of Integrity, fueled by the grace of shared Wisdom.

We preach with our conversations, not only when those communications are about Divinity, but also as we share the fruits of our learning and experience.

We preach the causes of Justice and Peace to form the reign of God, even when we are imperfect.

We preach through poetry and the arts and bring awareness of our precious and fragile Earth, our only home, even when we are misunderstood or ridiculed.

We preach kindness in silence and work, in looks and in actions—we are preachers of the Word made flesh, Who dwells in us and among us.

*Written by a Lay Dominican, adapted.*

### **Universal Prayers**

*Response: **God bless our work. The work is ours!***

We remember the many gifts shared by the Sisters, Associates, and those of us who have joined them in work at each of the sponsored ministries. May God lavishly bless all who have given themselves so tirelessly for this ministry. We pray... **God bless our work. The work is ours!**

We appreciate with gratitude those who minister today in the same spirit and vision of those who have gone before us. May we continue to serve with energy, commitment, and love. We pray... **God bless our work. The work is ours!**

We give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do in the life of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and the Dominican Family Worldwide. May God guide us into the future. We pray... **God bless our work. The work is ours!**

### **Closing**

Reader:

Good and gracious God, we thank you for this beloved Dominican Community and we thank you for your continual call to speak justice and work for peace. As members of the Dominican Family, we strive to carry on the legacy of St. Dominic as we go forward to plant the seeds of truth seeking, peacemaking, and reverence for all life. We make this prayer in your name. Amen!

*As Co-workers leave Holy Rosary Chapel, they are offered a small packet of seeds for planting.*