# HOPE for a Pathway to Sainthood

Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, OP, founder of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, was a man whose life was defined by deep faith, tireless service, and unwavering love for God and God's people. Today, you can help us take the next step toward recognizing what many already believe to be true: **Father Samuel is a saint.**

With heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, we invite you to join us once more—this time to shine a brighter light on Father Samuel's extraordinary life and legacy. With your assistance, we can raise greater awareness of his sanctity, encouraging devotion and prayers for his intercession. And perhaps, through those prayers, a miracle will come—one that leads to his official beatification and, God willing, his canonization.

# Why Does It Matter?

In today's world, celebrity culture often takes center stage. But our Church and our world need heroes of a different kind—people who live with compassion, humility, courage, and devotion to the common good. Father Samuel was one such soul. Canonization would do more than affirm his holiness. It would bring his story into the heart of the Church's liturgical life and offer Catholics today a model of virtue that speaks to the challenges of our time. His life of radical self-giving, faith-driven mission, and sacrificial love is a powerful witness the world needs to see.

**Let's make holiness visible.**
**Let's tell the world the story of a man we believe to be a saint.**

## Mission of Love

"Father Samuel reached out to all people of every race, ethnicity, and religious background. His radiant gentleness and deep love for Christ won the hearts of all who met him. . . . His life reminds us that we each have a purpose and a mission—to make Christ known and loved, to serve the Church, to become saints ourselves so that our lives give abundant witness to the love, grace, and power of God who created us and longs to have us with Him for all eternity in heaven."

*Bishop Donald J. Hying, Diocese of Madison*

*Photos above include (from left) 1. Srs. Laura Goedken and Priscilla Wood along with the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, servers, diocesan priests, and Bishop Donald J. Hying pray at the gravesite of Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli in Benton, WI; 2. Sr. Judith Schaefer receives a blessing from Bishop Hying as she holds Fr. Samuel's penance chain; 3. Fr. Samuel; and 4. Sr. Toni Harris updates parishioners and others on the Cause for Beatification of Fr. Samuel at St. Patrick Church, Benton.*

Summer Appeal 2025

Dominican Sisters
OF SINSINAWA
sinsinawa.org

# 'A Martyr in the Service of Souls'

In 1864, Father Samuel died as he lived—responding to the needs of others. Rushing to the bedside of a dying parishioner on a bitter winter's day, he caught a chill that became pneumonia. As he passed into eternal life, his final words were from Psalm 84: "How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts."

Archbishop John Ireland (1838–1918), writing decades later, described him as **"a martyr in the service of souls."** This title takes on new meaning today, thanks to Pope Francis' (1936–2025) Apostolic Letter *Maiorem Hac Dilectionem* in 2017, which introduced a new path to sainthood for those who "offer their lives" in acts of profound charity and sacrifice.

# Where the Cause Stands Today

The Church already recognizes Father Samuel as Venerable—a declaration of his heroic virtue. The next step is beatification, which requires a verified miracle attributed to his intercession.

Since 1970, at least **35 favors**—many involving unexplained healings—have been reported. One case, investigated in-depth, did not meet the Vatican's strict criteria due to modern medical factors, though belief in the healing remains strong.

**You can help.** By supporting our work, you allow us to continue gathering, documenting, and presenting new cases to the Vatican. If you or someone you know has experienced a presumed miracle through Father Samuel's intercession, please let us know.

# How You Can Walk with Us

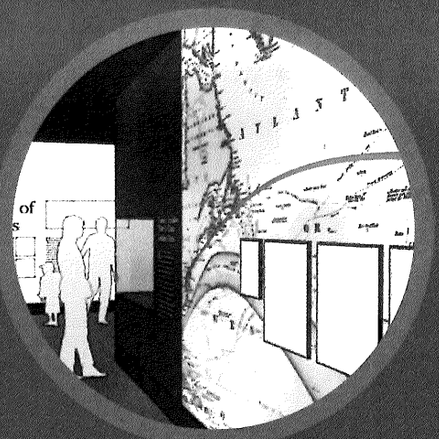
Your donation helps us share Father Samuel's story, foster devotion, and pursue the final steps toward sainthood. Let's continue this sacred journey—together.

- Donate online at *sinsinawa.org/donate*
- Call us at (608) 748-4411, ext. 292
- Use the enclosed envelope
- Scan a QR code on the envelope to contribute

**We pray for you every day—and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.**

## Father Samuel's Journey

- 1806 — Born and baptized in Milan, Italy Nov. 4
- 1828 — Arrived in New York from Milan Nov. 14
- 1829 — Ordained a deacon Nov. 29
- 1830 — Ordained a priest Sept. 4
- 1837 — Named first chaplain of Wisconsin Territory Oct. 22
- 1842 — Stated intention to become a U.S. citizen Nov. 24
- 1847 — Founded the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters Aug. 4
- 1864 — Died with Sisters surrounding him in prayer Feb. 23
- 1864 — Buried in St. Patrick Cemetery, Benton, WI March 1
- 1966 — Bishop of Madison inaugurated the process of the Cause to Canonize Fr. Samuel
- 1976 — Vatican approved that the Cause for Canonization of Fr. Samuel could begin
- 1993 — Pope John Paul II declared Fr. Samuel "Venerable" July 6
- 2025 — Sisters and faithful followers continue to promote his Cause in hopes of Canonization



# Coming Summer 2025!

We're thrilled to announce the opening of a new exhibit at Sinsinawa Mound Center celebrating the life and mission of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli and the work of the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. We hope you'll visit and be inspired by the story of a humble servant who gave his all for many.