

# PRELIMINARIES

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## Preface

On an April day in 1789, on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York, George Washington was inaugurated President of the new republic. Among those present on Broadway was a Dominican friar from Ireland, John O'Connell, who

## INITIAL PARTICIPANTS IN PROJECT OPUS

### **Dominicans**

Albrecht, Mary Louise  
Beyenka, Barbara  
Braun, Magdalen  
Coleman, Mary Frances  
Dickey, Susan Karina  
Donnelly, Anna  
Dougherty, Patricia  
Flood, Marie Walter  
Gerlach, John  
Hammersmith, Victorine  
Hettich, Mary Elizabeth  
Johnston, Thomas  
Kress, Justinia  
Langlois, John  
Liekweg, Lois  
Lopez, Alfred  
Masserano, Rose Marie  
Matthews, Mary Assumption  
McCaffrey, Mary  
McDonald, Mary Francis  
McGreal, Mary Nona  
McGuire, Joan Monica  
McMahon, Mary Agnes  
Mihm, Margaret  
Murray, Cecilia  
Noffke, Suzanne  
Noonan, Paschala  
Petit, Loretta  
Quinlan, Louise  
Ruthenberg, Michael  
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Tancrell, Luke  
Trutter, Carl  
Welsh, Janet  
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### **Affiliation**

St. Mary's, New Orleans  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
Newark Monastery  
Adrian Congregation  
Springfield Congregation  
Dominican Laity  
San Rafael Congregation  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
St. Albert Province  
Tacoma Congregation  
Summit Monastery  
St. Albert Province  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
St. Joseph Province  
Sparkill Congregation  
St. Albert Province  
Nashville Congregation  
W. Springfield Monastery  
Columbus Congregation  
Congregation of Hope  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
Kentucky Congregation  
Columbus Congregation  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
Congregation of Hope  
Racine Congregation  
Kentucky Congregation  
Akron Congregation  
Kentucky Congregation  
St. Albert Province  
Grand Rapids Congregation  
St. Joseph Province  
St. Martin de Porres Province  
Sinsinawa Congregation  
St. Albert Province

# PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING PROJECT OPUS

From the beginning the participants have agreed upon three principles as the basis for their research and writing:

## **1. The history should include all branches of the Order in a single integrated narrative**

Branches of the Dominican family have been founded in the United States in the following order: friars in 1805, sisters in 1822, laity before 1865 (date uncertain) and contemplative nuns in 1880. Each foundation has written its own history, recording, along with its growth and difficulties, its contribution to the mission of the Order and the life of the Church. OPUS researchers cannot replace those valuable histories, but only provide a broad, documented record of the Order on mission for two centuries in the United States. Our hope is that this history will strengthen the ties that have bound us from the beginning and contribute to the growing spirit of collaboration among us.

Before 1863, references to Lay Dominicans are very few, although Edward Fenwick sought information about how to establish chapters at the founding of the American province. Individual men and women were received as tertiaries in the 1850's, but no chapters were founded until 1863 at St. Dominic parish in San Francisco. The second chapter was formed in 1865 in the parish of St. Louis Bertrand in Louisville, Kentucky.

Cloistered nuns came to the United States near the end of this period, as shown in Chapters 13, 14 and 15. Their mission required adaptations that led to their becoming active congregations. In 1880 the first foundation of a monastery was made, to be followed soon by others. Their story will be told in Volume II.

## **2. The American Dominican story should be studied within the context of the nation and the Church.**

Dominicans arrived in the United States ten years after the Declaration of Independence. Only in the context of the nation's history, studied by regions, cultures and periods of time, can the story of the Order in the United States be fully understood.

### **3. Research and writing should be based on assiduous study of original documents**

The primary sources studied by OPUS researchers have included letters, annals and every other kind of record kept by, or relating to, Dominicans in the United States during the period being studied. Copies are kept in the central office of Project OPUS in Chicago, and sources are available for inquirers' further research. They include significant documents found in archives of the Order of Preachers and its American branches; in the Congregation of Propaganda Fide (now Evangelization of Peoples) and Catholic dioceses; and in the following archives.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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and his successors in the Archives of St. Joseph Province, who welcomed us to that bountiful source of American Dominican documents gathered originally by Victor O'Daniel, O.P.

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Archivist of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, for his early interest and prompt response to OPUS needs for historic documents in his care.

Inez Ringland,

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Sharon Sumpter

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CONTRIBUTORS TO VOLUME I  
DOMINICANS AT HOME  
IN A YOUNG NATION

Members of Project OPUS who have contributed to this volume of American Dominican history are listed here with the titles of chapters for which they have done major historical research, or writing, or both.

CHAPTERS

1. FRIARS FROM SPAIN PREACHING JUSTICE  
Mary Frances Coleman, Ph.D., Universidad de Santo Domingo
  2. PREACHERS IN THE SERVICE OF BISHOP JOHN CARROLL  
Mary Nona McGreal, Ph.D., Catholic University of America
  3. THREE CONTROVERSIAL FRIARS  
John Langlois, Ph.D., University of Fribourg  
Cecilia Murray, Ph.D., Drew University  
Thomas Johnston, MA., Aquinas Institute of Theology  
Mary Francis McDonald, Ph.D., Catholic University of America
- PROFILE: JOHN CONNOLLY, FIRST BISHOP OF NEW YORK  
Anna Donnelly, MA., New York University
4. OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO KENTUCKY



Loretta Petit

PROFILE: ANN HANLON

Rose Marie Masserano, Ph.D., University San Tommaso

10. FRIARS AT MID-CENTURY

Marie Joseph Ryan

11. SISTERS MOBILE AND UNITED

Mary Nona McGreal

12. ON TO CALIFORNIA!

Fabian Stan Parmisano, Ph.D., Cantabl..

Patricia Dougherty, Ph.D., Georgetown University

PROFILE: THE KELLY DIARY

Marie Joseph Ryan

13. A CALL HEARD IN BAVARIA

Cecilia Murray

14. FROM IRELAND TO THE SOUTHLAND

Loretta Petit

15. FROM REGENSBURG TO RACINE: AN ODYSSEY

Suzanne Noffke, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

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## FOREWORD

Four Dominican friars from Spain arrived in the Americas in 1510 to preach a Gospel of justice and love to the conquistadors, and one of hope to the natives. One of them was the eloquent Spaniard, Antonio de Montesinos, who with his community at Santo Domingo passionately defended the human rights of the natives and converted to their cause the priest Bartolome de las Casas. Their mission was prelude to that of the Order in the United States; and in fact, Montesinos was the first known friar to arrive on our Atlantic shore, as told in Chapter 1, "Friars from Spain Preaching Justice."

Montesinos and his confreres belonged to a religious order called the Order of Preachers, or Dominicans, whose members had been in existence for nearly three centuries.

serve them by preaching and teaching. They helped the Catholics to build the Church parish by parish in Ohio and Michigan, Wisconsin and Tennessee, and the Mississippi Valley. With equal vigor they followed the hardiest pioneers to California and the Pacific coast. Others went east to offer service in Washington, D.C., New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Wherever the first friars went

DOMINICAN FOUNDATIONS  
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