

## *Celebrating 200 Years!*

It gives me great pleasure, borne of a deep sense of gratitude and humility, to proclaim 2022 as a year of celebration marking the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the Dominican Sisterhood in the United States.

This Anniversary is especially dear to the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Peace. It is also joyfully marked by all members of the Dominican Family in the United States, and throughout the world. All join in celebration of this graced historical moment for the Order of Preachers.



In February 1822, Father Samuel Wilson, OP issued a call to the frontier women at Saint Rose Parish in Kentucky to become partners with the Friars in furthering the Dominican mission. Nine young women initially responded to the invitation to serve God's people in Washington County. On April 7, Angela Sansbury, Margaret Carrico, Magdalen McMahon and Columba Tarleton formalized their commitment by making first profession. Thus began the first American Dominican congregation of women in the United States. This small group planted seeds that strengthened the growth of the Church in Kentucky, and throughout the United States and beyond.

Over the years, thousands of Dominican Sisters, Nuns, Associates, Laity and Friars, from various ancestral roots, have faithfully ministered to God's people by preaching the truth, proclaiming the joy of the Gospel, and following the example of our itinerant founder Saint Dominic. We all have so much of which to be proud and for which to be grateful.

Today, I issue this call to recognize what happened in 1822, and to shine a spotlight on the bountiful life and mission of all Dominicans that flowered after this momentous beginning, especially in the United States. This letter invites a year of celebration of all that has been accomplished in the past, all that Dominicans are called to in the present, and all that God desires for us into the future.

Our motto for this special year—*"Pioneering Women of the Past—Innovators Shaping the Future"* aptly reflects the rich heritage we as Dominican women have inherited, and it also captures our hopes and dreams. Trusting in our Provident God, we are confident that our efforts to praise, to bless and to preach Christ's Gospel of Peace, will be transformative for our world so in need of this Good News.

We pray that this celebration will be a source of joy, unity, reflection, and thanksgiving. We pray that our courageous founders continue to intercede for us. We pray that the legacy begun in 1822 continues far into the future!

In joy and gratitude,

*Patricia A. Twohill, OP*

Sister Patricia A. Twohill, OP  
Prioress  
Dominican Sisters of Peace