

The Adrian Dominican Sisters Fact Sheet

In 1947, the Adrian Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, purchased a small hospital from the United States Government in the industrial town of Henderson, Nevada, for \$1 a year for 25 years. Today, the hospital system consists of three campuses – Rose de Lima, San Martín and Siena – and is known as Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican, the only not-for-profit, religiously sponsored hospital system in southern Nevada.

An enduring presence to this day at Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican, the Adrian Dominican Sisters have been the sponsors of the hospital system for more than 65 years. This extraordinary group of women still serve in various roles at St. Rose – from hospital executives to volunteers. It was their dedication to improving the health status of the community with a commitment to those with special needs that created the unique environment of quality, compassionate care that embodies the Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican approach to health care today.

The origins of the Dominican Sisters date back to the 13th century when Dominic Guzman, a Canon Regular in Osma, a city on the Christian frontier of Moorish-held Spain, called together a group of 11 women to form the St. Mary Convent in Prouille, France, and founded the Order of Preachers. Through the years, most Dominican Convents for women were cloistered. In 1853, four women were sent from Europe to teach in the New World and these women became the foundation of 11 Dominican congregations in the United States. In 1884, six sisters opened the St. Joseph Hospital and Home for the Aged in Adrian, Michigan, which began the Adrian Dominican legacy of service for the poor, sick and oppressed.

In the evolutionary spirit of St. Dominic, the Adrian Dominican Congregation became distinctly American in character, retaining, however, the legacy of its founder and his descendants. This legacy is recognized by the initials “OP” used after each sister’s family name, connoting the Order of Preachers.

The Sisters minister in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and in seven countries: Canada, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, and Taiwan. Responsive to the “signs of the times,” they strive to address the needs of the world, to serve where they are called to go.

Ministries have been developed from the traditional works of education, health care and social work. Sisters serve in such ministries as education, administration, law, social work, health care, pastoral ministry, music, art, and office work. Together, they continue the Dominican tradition of preaching through our prayer, study, ministry, and common life.

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