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**A Forgotten Hero Who Shaped Early America
With His Genius, Character and Courage**

THE MISSIONARY

*An Italian Priest's Remarkable Journey of
Faith on the Frontiers of the New World*

by Samuel Mazzuchelli

It is a picture, in absolute faithfulness, of Father Mazzuchelli and of his work; consequently a picture of entrancing beauty. No other pen than his own could have traced, in their every lineament, his personality and his work; none other could have known him so well as he was known to himself — Archbishop John Ireland

How does an idealistic young man from a wealthy Italian family transform himself into a missionary working in the rough, lawless West of Early America? How does he persevere in charity work and bringing the Gospel to men, while still maintaining his civility, dignity and composure? These intriguing questions are answered brilliantly by Samuel Mazzuchelli in his memoir, **THE MISSIONARY** (Tarxien Press). He was a complex individual, an unknown “Renaissance man”, who combined the skills of theologian, explorer, linguist, writer, social organizer and architect. But he also had tremendous faith and conviction, an audacious courage that led him to many unique and exciting encounters. His memoir, originally published more than a century ago, is a most clearly written and engaging work that will give readers remarkable and unique details about the process of building an entire religious organization from the ground up.

As one would expect, the chief theme of **THE MISSIONARY** is the Catholic missionary's work — the hardships it imposed, the hopes it engendered. However, as an historical document, **THE MISSIONARY** is also of exceptional value. It covers a wide span of territory—from the waters of the Huron to those of the Mississippi and the Des Moines—exactly as it was in the days of its wilderness and of its first entrance into civilization. Mazzuchelli was a keen observer of incidents of every nature, and a faithful narrator of what he saw and heard. The reader is brought into immediate touch with the inhabitants of these regions, made to mingle in their daily doings and manner of life. But larger social factors and dynamics are not overlooked. His analyses of the organizational activities of pioneers and native Americans are invaluable. The priest also ably discusses what we today would call a “culture clash”, his immersion in a very difficult environment, almost all alone to face strange customs, unknown languages, unstable affiliations, marauders, and a harsh climate. Mazzuchelli, no doubt emboldened by a long and profitable contact with the people and places of the New World, completes

his memoir by making optimistic predictions about America's future. This perspective, however, is tempered by warnings that greatness would become elusive should the nation fall into moral and religious decay.

Samuel Mazzuchelli (1806-1864) was born in Milan, Italy, into a family of reputable bankers who moved in the financial circles of the Lombard capital. Instead of going into the traditional family business, he joined the Dominican order in 1823. It was not long before he left for the American missions in 1828, and he was ordained to the priesthood in the Cincinnati Cathedral by the Dominican bishop, Edward Fenwick. Mazzuchelli's talents were extensive. Not only was he a theologian and evangelist, but a very competent architect, who designed the county courthouse at Galena and the first capitol of Iowa. He died at the age of 58 from exposure received while traveling through a blizzard to minister to a dying parishioner.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **THE MISSIONARY**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform_at_anzapublishing.com. The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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