Adventure and Authority in Gold Rush California: Mary Goemaere and the Foundation of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

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Document Type
Podium Presentation

Publication Date
1994

Sponsorship/Conference/Institution
American Catholic Historical Association

Location
San Francisco, CA

Department
History

Abstract/Presentation Excerpt
In 1874, the Dominican priest Francis Sadoc Vilarrasa, aged 60, recorded the missionary activities of Dominicans in California over the previous twenty-four years. He concluded his chronicle: "This is a concise history of the [Dominican] Order in California from its beginnings to this day. The Order has progressed slowly up to now, but if it be recalled that only one Father [Sadoc Vilarrasa] was sent here in the beginning, . . . then it will seem wonderful that there are now found in California two houses of Brethren with 17 priests."1 Sadoc Vilarrasa's chronicle is only partially accurate because it omits discussion of the progress and contribution of Dominican women in California whose growth was more than double that of the Dominican men.

Recommended Citation
Dougherty, M. Patricia, "Adventure and Authority in Gold Rush California: Mary Goemaere and the Foundation of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael" (1994). History / Faculty Conference Presentations. 1.
https://scholar.dominican.edu/history-faculty-conference-presentations/1

50th Anniversary - California's oldest independent school: San Domenico offers K-12 coed Day, and Boarding 9-12; More than just great students, we develop great people. In recognition of how the Dominican Sisters traveled in 1850, a donkey and a miniature horse also greeted the students. In the assembly, students, faculty and staff played the roles of some especially significant figures in Dominican and San Domenico history: Sister Mary Goemaere, Bishop Alemany, Sister Mercedes, Mother Louisa, and Sister Maurice dressed in historical costumes and reenacted moments of history and tradition from each of the four campus sites. Thank you to our graceful, San Domenico students for their moving portrayal of the Nativity, in Friday night’s production of Tableaux.