



## ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS

1257 East Siena Heights Drive  
Adrian, Michigan 49221-1793  
[www.adriandominicans.org](http://www.adriandominicans.org)

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Barbara Kelley, OP  
Office of Communications  
517-442-1625  
[bkelly@adriandominicans.org](mailto:bkelly@adriandominicans.org)

## General Council of Adrian Dominican Sisters Stands by Gospel Work of Catholic Charities USA

**February 17, 2022, Adrian, Michigan** – *The General Council of the Adrian Dominican Sisters issued the following statement in defense of Catholic Charities USA and its humanitarian, Gospel-based ministry with immigrants at the Southern border.*

We are deeply troubled by the vitriolic attacks on Catholic Charities USA and its Rio Grande Valley agency in Brownsville, Texas, renowned for their outstanding humanitarian work in fidelity to the Gospel, supporting migrants and refugees as well as Americans in need. The attacks, coming through hateful phone calls and vicious commentary, have been spurred by false media reports that Catholic Charities is aiding illegal immigration and engaged in human smuggling and profit-making.

Nothing could be further from the truth – nor more hurtful.

Catholic Charities aids 15 million people each year suffering from poverty, homelessness, natural disasters, mental illness, as well as migrants and asylum seekers. Among those subjected to harsh attacks are our Adrian Dominican Sister Donna Markham, OP, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, and Missionaries of Jesus Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and its Humanitarian Respite Center.

We are honored to stand in solidarity with our Sisters Donna and Norma and all the people with whom and to whom they minister with such compassionate care out of faithfulness to our Catholic faith and Judeo-Christian tradition. We pray for an end to the mean spiritedness that seems to have gripped so many in our nation and for a softening of hearts that will permit us all to enter into honest encounters, as sisters and brothers created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), seeking understanding and respectful engagement with one another.

**(More)**

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*Members of the Adrian Dominican Sisters' General Council are Sisters Patricia Siemen, OP, Prioress; Mary Margaret Pachucki, OP, Vicaress and General Councilor; Frances Nadolny, OP, Administrator and General Councilor; and Patricia Harvat, OP, and Elise D. García, OP, General Councilors.*

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*The Dominican Sisters of Adrian, a Congregation of about 460 vowed women religious and more than 200 Associates, traces its roots back to St. Dominic in the 13th century. The Sisters minister in 22 states and in the Dominican Republic, Norway, and the Philippines. The Congregation's Vision is to "seek truth, make peace, reverence life."*