

# Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

*Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America*

REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.  
V. Postulator for the Cause  
Emmitsburg, Md.



ST. JOSEPH, EMMITSBURG  
MARILLAC SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS  
MT. ST. VINCENT-ON-THE-HUDSON



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## FOREWORD

The first issue of the Bulletin, issued on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, was greeted very friendly by the many friends of Mother Seton to whom it was sent. More than a thousand copies were sent to the members of the Hierarchy, to the many houses of the Communities who acknowledge Mother Seton as their foundress and to a number of others who have written in and requested that they be mailed copies and that their names be placed on the list of subscribers. We feel sure that we shall hear from a great many more patrons of our Cause during the coming weeks.

We were particularly pleased to receive letters of appreciation and commendation from those at the head of the American Hierarchy; from His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, always intensely interested in whatever concerns the Cause of Mother Seton; from the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, who has on many occasions shown an intense interest in our Cause and to whom our Holy Father gave spe-

## FOREWORD (CONT'D)

cial instructions concerning Mother Seton when he was in Rome shortly after the election of the Supreme Pontiff; from Archbishop Michael J. Curley, the ecclesiastical authority into whose direct care the Cause has been given.

From the Sisters and from members of the Clergy we have received expressions of encouragement and support. These letters have come not merely from nearby places, but from the Far West and from points in Canada where, we are told, Mother Seton's life and works are little known.

It is the intention at the present time to publish four issues of the Bulletin yearly. These issues will be sent out the fifteenth of September, the first of December, the fifteenth of February and the first of May. For obvious reasons there will be no publications during the summer months.

## HISTORICAL POINTS

One of the most interesting

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points of discussion concerning Mother Seton and her Cause was the question of her Baptism. No record of such an event could be found after diligent search of the archives of the various churches where it was hoped such record would be found. The search was carried out not merely in New York but also in London where it was thought the baptismal records of the Episcopal Church in which Mother Seton was baptized might have been sent.

It seems morally certain that the Episcopal baptism of Mother Seton was regarded as valid and, therefore, the Catholic ceremony was not carried out. The presumption has been that Mother Seton realizing the necessity of the sacrament would never have left in doubt the question of the validity of her own baptism.

Recently, there was found among the old library books of the Sisters of Charity at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, a copy of an "Imitation of Christ" which Mother Seton herself had used. In this book in her own handwriting we have these words of Mother Seton: "Was I not signed with the cross of salvation in Baptism with the unction of the Holy Ghost in Confirmation. Do I not eat the bread of the strong in the Holy Eucharist. Am I not washed in His Blood in the Sacrament of Penance and do I not hope to die prepared by the sacred unction which opens heaven to us as we quit the earth."

HISTORICAL POINTS (CONT'D)

A photostatic copy of this page of the Imitation was recently carried to Rome by the Most Reverend Archbishop Curley and presented to Cardinal Salotti. The Holy Father was very much interested in the document which he regarded as sufficient to substantiate the fact of Mother Seton's baptism and remove whatever doubt may have been in the minds of some concerning this important question. The photostatic copy of this evidence is placed in the archives of the Mother Seton Guild and copies of it may be obtained by anyone interested in this particular question.

SPRING PILGRIMAGES

Already a number of letters have been received by the Guild asking for dates for the pilgrimages during the coming spring. The inquiries have come especially from the surrounding dioceses: Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and New York.

Application blanks have been prepared for those who wish to bring sizable groups of pilgrims to the Shrine. In this way the proper preparations can be made and the inconvenience of conflicts can be avoided.

MOTHER SETON SOUVENIRS

During the holidays a large number of souvenirs of

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Mother Seton were purchased by the members of the Guild and others interested in the Cause. The Guild has on hand a variety of souvenirs: medals, books, photostatic letters of Mother Seton which should prove most attractive to her clients. These souvenirs will be on display in the Souvenir Shoppe which is open to all pilgrims to the Shrine.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE GUILD OFFICE

After the busy season of the holiday, the office of the Guild has settled back to the regular order of the business day.

The daily mail brings its quota of requests for information and its appeal for prayers. The office staff answers all questions about Mother Seton according to its ability and sends out requests for prayers to the Sisters, the Clergy and various Communities of men and women. The office is a sort of clearance house for many things pertaining to the Cause.

The task of spreading devotion to Mother Seton and making her known and esteemed by as many as possible is the real work of the Guild office. To this end thousands of letters are sent to every part of our land.

One of the most important problems of the office is the increasing of the membership of the Guild. An examination of the files shows that many who

contribute to the Cause once fail to renew their subscriptions. This is doubtless due to their failure to understand that the progress of the work for Mother Seton depends to a very great extent on the continued help that is given the Guild.

In the daily routine of its work the Guild handles a number of letters from the laity. The volume of letters from the non-religious is comparatively large compared with that which comes from religious. We have been greatly surprised and edified by the faith shown by the great number of the laity.

At the present time the Guild office is getting out several new publications of pamphlets and articles which will be distributed during the next few months.

The office appeals to the Sisters especially to send in any news items concerning activities relative to Mother Seton in their schools. We would like to know of any efforts made to spread and increase devotion to Mother Seton.

Several letters have come to the office asking for information about plays and material for plays. This information has been sent as soon as possible. The files of the Guild have been developed with the view of being of assistance to all seeking information about Mother Seton.

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NEWS BRIEFS

There has been no word from Rome recently in reference to the progress of Mother Seton's Cause. The disturbed conditions of the world make it very difficult for the office to carry on the usual correspondence with the ecclesiastical authorities in charge of affairs in the Holy City.

Several plays and articles on Mother Seton as well as term papers and theses for higher degrees have been sent to the office for review and approbation.

A very well written piece of dramatic work was sent us by Mr. Ordis North, a seminarian at the Vincentian Seminary in Perryville, Missouri. This play which was found to be very adaptable to almost any group of players is highly recommended to any dramatic society in high school or college that would wish to present the incidents in Mother Seton's life in a way that is sure to create a very favorable impression.

From Boys Town we have news that the nationally known and admired Father Flanagan has taken a keen interest in the Cause of Mother Seton, and has added to the regular prayers recited by his boys special prayers asking Almighty God to bring about soon the Canonization of our beloved Mother Seton.

A very interesting article on Mother Seton entitled "Storm Clouds Fade Away" was sent to

the Guild by the Reverend Robert T. Bulman of St. Mary's Church, New Monmouth, New Jersey. We regret that we are not able to publish this work at the present time.

From Williamsport, Pa., came a request from a farm journal with a circulation of more than 600,000 reaching into 10,000 communities for an article on the life and works of Mother Seton. The editor of the paper wrote us that several readers of his paper, non-Catholics no doubt, had written in asking for information about Mother Seton. The article of about one thousand words will appear in the issue of this paper about February the twenty-second.

From Bay City, Michigan, we have received a request for a copy of the play: "Young Mistress Bayley". The December issue of the Bulletin carried an item telling that this delightful little sketch was written by a Sister of Charity of Halifax. We refer those seeking copies of this play to Sister Jean de Chantal at St. Peter's Convent, Lowell, Mass.

This request from Bay City came from Miss Mary Catherine Young, President of the Mother Seton League Unit of St. James' School. This school is taught by the Cincinnati Sisters who have shown very great interest in the progress of Mother Seton's Cause.

From Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pa., we have received for review an interesting little term paper entitled: "Mother Seton and Her Contribution to Modern Education".

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From Wellesley Hills, a few miles outside Boston, Mass., came a thesis on Mother Seton entitled "Virgin Soil". This thesis written to fulfill part of the requirements for a Master's degree at Boston College is now off the press. Sister Mary Regis of the Assumption Academy is the author.

NEW MEMBERS

We appeal to all the members of the Mother Seton Guild, especially to the Sisters of Charity of the various Communities, to send us the names of their friends and acquaintances who would like to be enrolled in the Mother Seton Guild.

We hope to be able to make a special announcement to you soon as regards added spiritual favors which are extended to all members of the Guild.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

During the past two months we have requested special prayers for cures in the cases of two very worthy clients of Mother Seton. A remarkably large number of letters were received in the office in answer to our appeal. Though we did not obtain the favors we asked, yet we are heartily grateful to all the good Sisters, Priests and members of the laity who offered their prayers and Masses for our intention.