

# Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Approved by  
The Holy See



Official Publication  
Of the Vice Postulator

NUMBER 3

EMMITSBURG, MD.

MAY, 1942

## Foreword

With the publication of the third issue we are changing the general appearance of the Bulletin. We have decided for many good reasons to print the subsequent issues instead of keeping to the mimeograph copy. We feel sure that our readers will heartily approve of the change and see in it a sign of healthy progress.

We have been in the main very much gratified by the reception accorded the previous issues and the results which they have achieved. Especially have we been encouraged by the numerous letters that have come from the teaching Sisters of Mother Seton's several communities. We make bold to express our special appreciation of the cooperation received from the schools of the Middle West. Certainly there seems to be a very great deal of interest in Mother Seton's Cause in the States of the great Middle West.

We shall gladly welcome any comments and suggestions relative to this Bulletin. We shall appreciate the sentiments of the Sisters concerning this publication.

The Guild office had the honor to receive as its distinguished guest His Excellency the Most Reverend Eugene McGinness, Bishop of Raleigh. He was accompanied by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John L. Sheridan, the President of Mt. St. Mary's College.

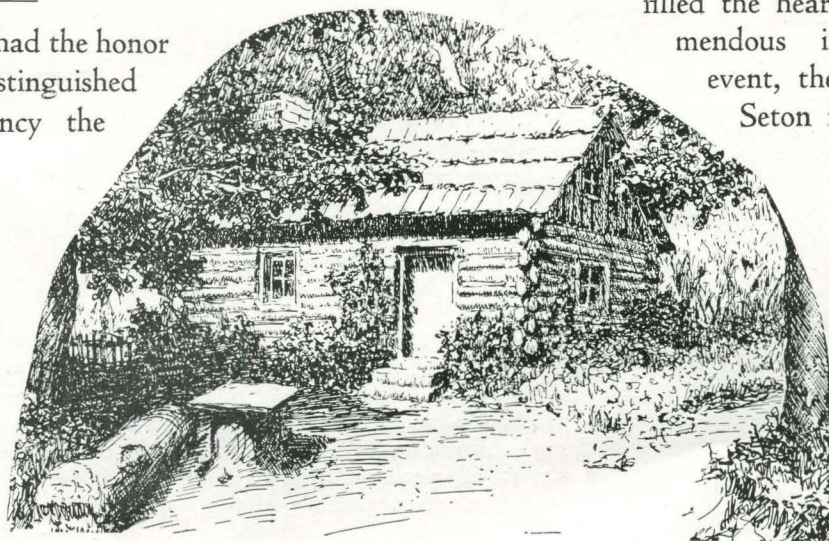
## A Sacred Memory

When Mother Seton arrived at the Valley on the memorable June afternoon of 1809, the famous Stone House, which was to be her first home was as yet unfinished. Father DuBois, the founder and president of Mt. St. Mary's, vacated his own crude little dwelling. "The Cot" offered its shelter to the valiant pioneer band: Mother Seton; her daughter, Annina; her two sisters-in-law, Cecilia, the invalid; and Harriet, the first flower that the good Lord was to pluck for His garden in Emmitsburg to grace the splendor of His eternal court.

It was a holiday for the students of Mt. St. Mary's, when news was brought that the covered wagon carrying its precious burden was sighted wending its way along the dusty road known as the Baltimore turnpike. No broad highway was it then as now but merely a dirt, country highway; however, one that was destined to play a prominent part in the development of the Middle West. The bells of Mt. St. Mary's rung joyously to welcome the travel-stained women who were completing their arduous journey and the festive spirit filled the hearts of all. The tremendous importance of the event, the arrival of Mother

Seton in the Valley, seems to have been intuitively recognized by the good people of Emmitsburg, the students of the Mount and especially by Father DuBois and his companions.

For six weeks  
(Continued on Page 3)



"THE COT"—Father DuBois' Log Cabin



## Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg, Md.



REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.  
V. Postulator for the Cause of  
Mother Seton

THE MOTHER SETON GUILD, as the Apostolic Postulation for the Cause of Canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America, is part of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome.

The Guild is, moreover, an organization established in 1939, with the approval of the Holy See, to promote the Canonization of Mother Seton in every way possible, by means of literature, religious articles, etc.

*The Bulletin is issued quarterly.*  
Yearly Subscription 25c

Central Office of the  
**Mother Seton Guild**  
Knights of Columbus Building  
Emmitsburg, Md.

### Communities of the Sisters of Charity:

St. Joseph's College	Emmitsburg
Marillac Seminary	St. Louis
Mt. St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson	N. Y.
Mt. St. Vincent	Halifax
Mt. St. Joseph-on-the-Ohio	Cincinnati
Convent Station	N. J.
Seton Hill	Greensburg

The expenses involved in the Cause are met by the donations of the clients of Mother Seton, and by the membership subscriptions to the Guild.

Yearly Subscription -----\$ 1.00  
Perpetual Membership -----\$10.00

## Attention Please!

There have been in the past, as well as in the present, many activities carried on in the interest of Mother Seton's Cause, which are unknown to us here in the Guild office. In our first issue we urged the Sisters to send in any item of information which they considered of general interest. We were much pleased to receive not a few letters from the School Sisters of the several Communities, giving an account of their classroom and school projects. Such letters were welcomed indeed!

We breathe an earnest prayer that in the future we may receive an ever increasing number of communications telling us of activities not merely in schools but in all the various fields in which the Communities carry on their labors. Sisters in sending us such information are manifesting a real, practical interest in Mother Seton and are doing much to advance the Cause which claims so much of our devotion.

## Spring Pilgrimages

The season for the pilgrimages for 1942 opened very auspiciously when on the afternoon of Sunday, April 12th, the representatives of the Western Maryland Section of the Holy Name Society with the members of their families came to Mother Seton's Shrine. Each respective parish was accompanied by the Reverend Spiritual Director and the occasion was graced by the presence of the Right Rev. Msgr. Harry A. Quinn, Archdiocesan Spiritual Director of the Holy Name Society.

On the same day, the Ladies of Charity of the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington concluded their Annual Convention with a Pilgrimage. At the Convention His Excellency, the Most Rev. John McNamara paid an excellent tribute to Mother Seton, and the Rev. Elbert Gay, C.M., accompanied the pilgrimage to the various shrines and delivered an address at the Tomb of Mother Seton.

"Oh, the virtues of Mary—the constant delight of the blessed Trinity—she alone giving more glory than all heaven together. Mother of God! Mary! Oh, the purity of Mary! The humility, patience, love of Mary! To imitate at humblest distance."—*Mother Seton.*

"It is vain to wear the outward sign of Mary's children on the heart, without the virtues of meekness, purity, and charity so dear to her, within."—*Mother Seton.*

## News Briefs

The Register, the Catholic national weekly of Denver, carried as its special article the account appearing in our last issue concerning the data on Mother Seton's baptism. Other Catholic and secular papers also featured this article.

The June number of the Extension Magazine will carry a specially prepared article giving an account of the development of Mother Seton's Cause. The article reviews the various steps taken in the process up to the present time.

We have received a number of inquiries about the play, "Young Mistress Bayley" written by Sister de Chantal, a Sister of the Halifax Community. We wish to announce that the play has been published since our last publication date and may now be procured from the Catholic Dramatic Movement, 325 E. Kilbourne Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From the Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital in Darby, Pa., near Philadelphia, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, Mother Lioba who has succeeded to the office of superior held by the late Mother Edmonda, sent a very encouraging letter to the Guild, together with a generous donation to the Cause. A few words in reference to Mother Edmonda will be found in another column of our Bulletin.

From Havana, Cuba, a very interesting news item came to the Guild office. On the occasion of his consecration as Archbishop of Havana, His Excellency, Most Reverend Manuel Arteaga, in his first official act, established the Mother Seton Guild in his Archdiocese, and appointed as the spiritual director, the Reverend Hilario Chaurrondo, C.M. Among the most prominent figures in the initial activities of the Guild in Havana will be the well known socially prominent Mrs. Alicia Parraga da Mendoza, an active worker in all Catholic affairs of the Archdiocese.

The great interest manifested by Cuba for the Cause of Mother Seton is due to the efforts of the late Rev. Ramon Subiron, C.M., of the Western Province, who while there published many articles in Spanish on the life and virtues of Mother Seton.

"But first, the battle must be won, the thorny road passed over. Look up! He is ever a witness to your struggles. Put all your trust in Him."—*Mother Seton.*



## Activities Of The Guild Office

Besides the regular daily routine, several special activities were carried on by the office.

The February, March and April mail brought a large number of renewals of old subscriptions and new additions to our Guild membership.

A great deal of photostatic work has been done in keeping the archives up to date and in the reproduction of letters, pictures and articles referring to Mother Seton.

The manuscripts of Mother Catherine, Mother Seton's fourth child, and the religious superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Tarrytown, are in the process of being photostated. These copies will be filed in our archives for future reference. The manuscripts are made up of her diaries, records and letters with a not infrequent reference to her saintly mother for whom she had the profoundest respect.

Some special publications were prepared for printing, namely; a new pamphlet, an expectant mother's prayer, pilgrimage folder, and several magazine articles.

A number of appeals was sent out for prayers in answer to petitions sent to the office.

## A Sacred Memory

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Mother Seton and her companions lived in "The Cot" amid the happiest, though with very primitive surroundings. The sacred memory of these forty days have come down through the many decades that have passed; and the indissoluble bond of friendship which Mother Seton established between Mt. St. Mary's and St. Joseph's still remains in undiminished strength, defying the passing of time. To recall and preserve unimpaired the holy association between these two historic establishments, the brother and sister schools, each year on St. Joseph's Day, the priests and the seminarians from the Mount pay a formal visit to St. Joseph's across the Valley. The priests of the Mount celebrate the Solemn Mass and the seminarians participate in the ceremonies, their choir sings the Gregorian chant and makes the Sisters' chapel ring with the sacred and jubilant melody. Solemn Vespers with cope bearers always accompanies this celebration which annually recalls the sacred bonds that have united Mt. St. Mary's and St. Joseph's since that beautiful June day in 1809 when Father DuBois

## In Memoriam

REVEREND MOTHER  
M. VINCENTIA'

Among the devoted friends of Mother Seton's Cause none manifested greater interest in the progress of the Cause than the Reverend Mother M. Vincentia, the late Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of Mt. St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson. Mother Vincentia passed to her eternal reward on the sixth of last December. We are taking the liberty to quote from one of her last letters to the Guild:

*"We are continuing the work in behalf of Mother Seton with energy and zeal which, I hope, will prove pleasing to God. It is the sincere expression of our own veneration for our Foundress, and therefore, it is a labor of love."*

MOTHER M. EDMONDA

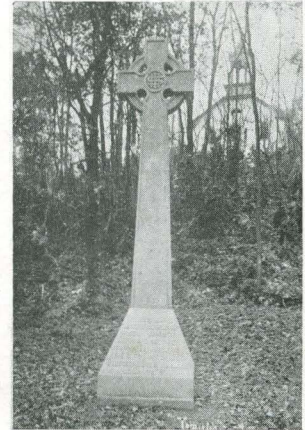
We wish to pay tribute also to the late Mother Edmonda, Sister of Mercy of the Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital, Darby, Pa. From the very beginning of the Mother Seton Guild, she was most interested in and manifested her devotion to Mother Seton by many works of zeal in her behalf. On many occasions in the past she wrote to the office for leaflets, books, statues and other articles which she sent broadcast in spreading devotion to Mother Seton to whom she seemed particularly attached. The Guild holds her memory in benediction.

BALTIMORE. After an address by the Vice Postulator, the girls of Seton High School inaugurated a unit of the Mother Seton Guild. Their enthusiasm promises great activities in the interests of the Cause.

*The Guild offers the Life of Mother Seton by Mary Coyle O'Neil at the special reduced price of one dollar.*

welcomed Mother Seton and her companions to the beautiful valley watered by the Monocacy river.

## Inscription On Cross



*"This cross marks the site of Father DuBois' house where Mother Seton and her first associates lived from June 22 to July 31, 1809."*

## Special Petitions

In answer to requests for prayers special form letters numbering almost ten thousand were sent out to religious houses and individuals, both of the clergy and laity asking that the intercession of Mother Seton be invoked to obtain, if such be the Divine Will, the favor of restoration to health.

We have received a large number of encouraging letters from all parts of the country in answer to our appeals, and we are grateful for the splendid cooperation manifested by so many religious convents, chiefly the Carmelites, Sisters of Mercy, Franciscan Order, Visitation Nuns, Dominicans, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Poor Clares, etc.

All petitions are daily remembered at the Altar and especially in the Perpetual Novena made by the Novices of the Sisters of Charity.

## Mt. St. Mary's Church



Built by Father DuBois in 1805

*Here the first Sisters worshiped and Mother Seton acted as organist and sacristan.*



## School Activities

We have heard from a comparatively large number of school Sisters since the last issue of the Bulletin. They have written in to tell us what they are doing in their classrooms to further the Cause of Mother Seton by fostering devotion among their pupils. Not a few of these schools have sent in donations to the Guild.

### Bay City, Michigan . . .

From St. James Parochial School, Bay City, Michigan, we have received communications telling of the work done among the pupils of that school in the interest of Mother Seton.

### Springfield, Ohio . . .

From Catholic Central High in Springfield, Ohio, Sister Jane Francis tells us of their plan to place all the former students now in service under the protection of Mother Seton whom they have chosen as their war-time protectoress. A list of former students will be compiled and a letter with prayer leaflets will be sent to the home of each former student acquainting the family with the plan and thus spreading the knowledge and devotion that we regard so important. Letters will also be sent to the boys in service.

### Cincinnati, Ohio . . .

From the parochial school of the parish of the Resurrection in Cincinnati, Ohio, Miss Carol Mueller, the president of the Mother Seton League of the school, tells us of the plan to organize an Adult Guild to supplement the Pupil Guild. The pupils of this school sponsored a skating party to raise funds to further the project of the Cause. A very striking and praise-worthy activity of the pupils of the Resurrection Unit is the Hour of Adoration and other daily prayers for the progress of Mother Seton's Cause. Miss Mueller tells us that the plan has been enthusiastically received by the pupils.

### Jersey City, N. Y. . . .

From Our Lady of Victory Parochial School in Jersey City, Sister Frances Genevieve informs us of the interest of her class in Mother Seton and of the very interesting report read in class by one of her younger (6th Grade) pupils.

### Cincinnati . . .

Through Father Gauche of Mount St. Mary's of the West, the Archdiocesan Director of the Mother Seton Guild in Cincinnati, we have received news and donations from St. James, Bay City,

## Of Special Interest

The following letter which we are printing in its entirety seemed to us to be both beautiful in thought, and inspiring in its message of encouragement to all clients of Mother Seton. The writer, a non-Catholic, is a member of the First M. E. Church in Knoxville, Tenn. She writes to Sister M. Remegius of St. Ann's Asylum, St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sister:

*I have closed my door and asked not to be disturbed while I write to you, but words are inadequate to express my gratitude for your kindness in sending so splendid a gift to me as Mrs. O'Neil's glimpses into the singularly beautiful and heroic life of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton.*

*I began the recital on New Year's eve and reverently closed it on New Year's night. Her inborn love and understanding of children is so like your own, that in several chapters I found myself making comparisons of your pure, unselfish lives.*

*The childhood, motherhood and widowhood were all so touching and more than once I felt the sting of tears. But God's Providence in bringing her to the Catholic home of the Filicchis, the pious gentle souls with such DEEP understanding of her heart struggles, was so very remarkable.*

*Her conversion, her first Communion and her triumph over the flesh, so*

*spiritually expressed, moved me profoundly, and some of the chapters I shall read again and again for courage and inspiration.*

*The adjustments of her life after giving up her loved children—the latter so hard to bear, she bore like a true soldier, and Sister Remigius, all the battles are not fought on battle fields, but "deep in the hearts of the Mothers of Men."*

*And lastly, God's Providence led her again, so remarkably to carry on her ministrations and these to the poor, and the education of their children—tho' difficulties beset her way—as she called them "fires of tribulations to consume her imperfections."*

*And how confidently she awaited death—counting her blessings—the chief one her happiness of being led into the Catholic Church, and her eternal sleep therein.*

*It is so beautifully written, and there is so much to remember and profit by of rich friendships, desperate struggles, devotion, faith and works that will live long after her in the many Institutions where she taught the works of Christ.*

*Thank you, dear Sister for this priceless gift.*

MRS. LILLIAN DAILY  
First M. E. Church  
Knoxville, Tenn.

Written: Jan. 4, 1942

## Favors

Reverend and dear Father:

My wife who was to have her third child was afflicted with streptococcus infection. Being a physician, and knowing the high mortality rate, I gave up all hope for her life. As soon as the medal of Mother Seton was placed on my wife she began to show signs of improvement and was completely cured. I am sending a donation to the Cause

Mich.; Catholic Central High, Chillicothe, Ohio; Holy Family, Springfield, Ohio; Catholic Central High, Springfield, Ohio, and the Resurrection of Cincinnati.

Greensboro, N. C. . . .

From the Southland, Greensboro, N. C., Sister Margaret sent a letter telling of the organization of the Mother Seton Guild for pupils in St. Benedict's School. We were particularly grateful for Sister's cooperation because of the difficulties under which she is struggling.

in gratitude to Mother Seton for this favor.

Reverend and dear Father:

We are deeply grateful to you for the appeals sent out in my brother's behalf. The doctor remarked that my brother is afflicted with an incurable cancer, but since the Novenas began, he has been working steadily and has gained thirty pounds. The doctor is amazed at the recovery, and only time can tell the permanency of the cure. We hope that this favor granted us through Mother Seton's intercession will awaken confidence in others who implore her aid.

A letter from the chaplain of a Catholic Hospital expresses his thanks for the recovery of his health through the intercession of Mother Seton.

We shall deeply appreciate reports of all favors granted through the intercession of Mother Seton.

"The reward of sacrifice is peace."—*Mother Seton.*