

Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Approved by
The Holy See



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Of the Vice Postulator

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Foreword

With the publication of this number of the *Bulletin* we start a new and promising year of Guild activities. Perhaps it is because Mother Seton's Daughters have devoted so much of their time and energy to educational endeavor that we have always regarded the opening of the school year as the beginning of fresh activity in the interest of Mother Seton's Cause.

Then again, because of the fact that the overwhelming majority of Mother Seton's Daughters are in parochial schools and in other institutions of child care and training, we, who are entrusted with the duty of making Mother Seton known and loved by as many millions as we can possibly reach, look to the school Sisters and the thousands and thousands of children under their care to lend us the necessary assistance to accomplish our holy purpose. We depend upon the prayers of the children and we look to the co-operation of the school Sisters for a very large amount of the spiritual and material help of which we stand in need.

Though the summer months are not generally given to such activities as are sponsored by the Guild, yet we have been very much encouraged by the fine display of interest that was manifested in Mother Seton's Cause by so many during the days that have passed since the closing of the school year. From all parts of the United States and from many places in Canada, letters of requests for information and for prayers, pamphlets and other literature have come to the office. We trust that this is a happy omen of what the coming months of activity will bring. We face the future with high hopes, and we feel confident that the year 1942-1943 will bring great progress towards the goal of our fond desire, the Canonization of Mother Seton. Placing our confidence in God, we shall strive unceasingly to accomplish our noble task.

Venerable Katherine Tekakwitha

The announcement from Vatican City that Katherine Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, had been declared Venerable by the decree of the Holy See filled the hearts of all American Catholics with holy joy.

To Reverend John Wynne, S.J., the Vice-Postulator of her Cause, goes the thanks and congratulations of the Church in the United States.



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM SETON, U.S.N.

A Patriotic Mother

Recently, the Guild office has printed a very attractive little folder entitled: "A Patriotic Mother." The inspiration of that artistically designed presentation of a few facts from Mother Seton's life, and an appeal for prayers for our service men, was a rather recent correspondence which the Guild carried on with the Navy Department in reference to the time and quality of service given to the United States Navy by Mother Seton's two sons, William and Richard.

Though the records of the Navy Department are of events happening more than a century ago, one is surprised and delighted by the completeness of the detailed information that the Navy was able to give about occurrences that we would be inclined to think were common and of little or no consequence. Especially true is this of the information sent concerning the career of William, who as a commissioned officer, spent over fifteen years in the service of his country.

William Seton was appointed Midshipman on the Fourth of July, 1817. In February of the following year he reported to Commodore Bainbridge for duty on the U.S.S. Independence, at that time used as a guard ship in Boston Harbor. In July of the same year, 1818, he was assigned to the U.S.S. Macedonian which sailed from Boston later in the year on a cruise around Cape Horn to Valparaiso to protect American shipping and other interests endangered by the Chilean revolution. The Macedonian cruised the Pacific for many months, and was the second United States man-of-war to touch the North American continent on the Pacific side. It was while he was on this voyage in line of duty that his dear mother was called to her eternal reward. The Macedonian arrived back in Boston about the middle of June in 1821.

For almost a year after returning from the Pacific, William Seton was assigned to naval duty in Baltimore. In May, 1822, he received orders to report to Captain Evans for duty on the U.S.S. Cyane which was then berthed in New York. This ship under Captain Creighton was sent on an extended cruise of duty in the Mediterranean and along the coast of Africa. This voyage lasted more than three years. The Cyane returned to New York in October of 1825.

During the next few months William Seton remained in New York on duty and then visited Baltimore. Late in February, 1826, he was given his commission as Lieutenant in the United States Navy. In November he was ordered to report to Captain Sinclair for duty (Continued on Page 2)

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

Membership in the Guild includes the privilege of receiving copies of the *Bulletin* gratis.

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

"The Holy See has shown itself exceptionally interested in the Cause of the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, Mother Seton; not only because she was so prominently connected with Catholic education and Christian charity in the United States, and was a shining example of a noble convert to Catholicity, but also because it would be a special glory to our country if she, a native born American, be raised to the honors of the Altar."

✠ D. CARDINAL DOUGHERTY,
Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Special Acknowledgment

With the gracious permission of His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, collections were taken up in several of the Churches. We are deeply grateful to the pastors of the following Churches in Philadelphia for their generous cooperation and to the parishioners for the magnificent contributions which have been most encouraging.

V. REV. EDWARD A. SELLMAN, C.M.

—St. Vincent's Seminary Chapel

RT. REV. MSGR. BERNARD A. MCKENNA,
S.T.D. —Holy Angel's Church

REV. PHILIP E. DONAHUE,

—Nativity of the B.V.M. Church

REV. JAMES HALLIGAN, C.M.

—St. Vincent's Church

Favors Acknowledged

A great number of favors received through devotion to Mother Seton were acknowledged by Mother Seton's clients in many edifying letters at the Guild office during the summer months. Space prevents us from publishing more than a very, very small number.

The following tells of a cure that seems much out of the ordinary: "I had an internal condition and the doctors gave me up as beyond hope. I started a novena to Mother Seton and when I went to the hospital for another examination the cause of my ailment had disappeared much to the surprise of the doctor."

The following letter tells of a remarkable conversion: "Miss A . . . , a nurse who was in attendance on Mr. C . . . who had lived outside the Church for 65 years, knew that the aged patient had very little chance to recover from pneumonia, following an accident which resulted in a broken hip. The man was not only indifferent as to the fact that he would die without righting himself with God, but he was definitely averse to seeing a priest. A

A Patriotic Mother

(Continued from Page 1)

on board the Sloop-of-War Hornet which was sent from Norfolk, Virginia, to cruise the West Indian waters in search of pirates and slaves.

After this trip which ended in late June, 1827, Lieutenant Seton spent a year in service around Baltimore and then was granted a leave of absence to care for his invalid sister, Catherine. For several years he travelled with her in Europe, spending no little time visiting the Filicchi family in Italy. His active life with the Navy seems to have ended. Though he was assigned to several ships during the remaining years of his commission, he was on no extended cruise. He resigned his office as Lieutenant on July 5, 1834, seventeen years almost to the day since he was appointed midshipman.

Richard, the second son, was not a commissioned officer, but was Captain's Clerk on the U.S.S. Cyane. The Navy had very little official information to give relative to Richard Seton. For almost a year, June 1822 to April 1823 he was on duty with his ship on the coast of Africa where the United States Government was supporting the American Colonizing Society in its efforts to found a free negro colony in Liberia. While doing excellent work among the negroes of the Kru coast, Richard Seton contracted a fever from which he afterwards died at sea on June 26, 1823. However, from the account of Richard's death given in a letter to Catherine Josephine Seton by the Reverend Jehudi Ashmun, an Episcopalian clergyman, we learned that Richard actually contracted the fever while nursing him back to life. The younger son of Mother Seton had combined a work of patriotism with a worthy charity, and had died a victim to his devotion to duty, a death most befitting a child of Mother Seton.

Mothers of today who have sons in the armed service of our great country may well look to Mother Seton in their time of trial for the inspiration necessary to carry on in their patriotic duty to our nation.

novena to Mother Seton plus the wearing of her relic resulted in the dying man's almost miraculous request to confess his sins and to receive the last Sacraments."

Many financial favors were reported. We quote the following:

My father was out of work for a long time. We were badly off. I made a novena to Mother Seton and before its close my father secured a good position. God Bless Mother Seton!

Summer Pilgrimages

Due to many factors the number of pilgrims visiting the Tomb of Mother Seton was sharply reduced during the summer months. Transportation difficulties were acute and discouraged many who doubtless would have visited Emmitsburg during the vacation season.

From St. Callistus' Church in Philadelphia over a hundred pilgrims came to Mother Seton's Tomb on May 17. The group represented the Blessed Virgin Mary's Sodality, and was under the direction of the officers of the Society. Rev. Eugene F. Maier, Pastor; and the Reverend Anthony L. McCarron, Director of the Sodality, accompanied the pilgrimage.

During the war emergency there will of necessity be a great falling off in the number of pilgrimages, but the Guild hopes to offset this disadvantage to the Cause by increasing its activities in bringing to more and more of the faithful of our land the knowledge of the life and labors of Mother Seton.

News Briefs

During the summer months the Vice Postulator, Father Burgio, spoke at the following gatherings: The Avon Players of Philadelphia; National Convention of the Catholic War Veterans in Philadelphia; State Convention of N.C.C.W. at Mt. Carmel, Pa.; Sisters of the Holy Child, Rosemont College, Rosemont, Pa.; National Convention of I.F.C.A., Newark, N. J.

The Commencement Address delivered at St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, by Miss Sarah Christie, an Alumna of St. Joseph's and now a member of the Board of Education in New Jersey, was highly praised by His Excellency, Archbishop Curley. The subject of Miss Christie's address was "Mother Seton, the Model for Catholic Women."

At the State Convention of the N.C.C.W. at Mt. Carmel, Pa., in June, Mrs. Robert A. Angelo, the State President and now the National President, spoke very feelingly about Mother Seton and her relation to the times in which we live. Mrs. Angelo's activities may be very encouraging news for the clients of Mother Seton in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

His Excellency, Bishop Leech, spoke eloquently of Mother Seton on the occasion of this Convention.

The broadcast of the Ave Maria Hour on August second was given over to a presentation of Mother Seton to the radio audience. Those who were fortunate enough to hear this program were no doubt greatly thrilled by the beauty of the subject and the charming presentation. We trust that the demand for a re-broadcast will be strong enough to justify the Ave Maria to repeat its performance.

The Vincentian Magazine, published by the Vincentian Fathers of the Western Province, has given a great deal of space in its columns to news items, articles and notices concerning Mother Seton.

In a coming issue of "The St. Augustine's Messenger" a very informative article on Mother Seton entitled: "The Colored For My Share" by Mr. Stephen Ganel, C.M., of St. Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Mo., will appear.

In the May edition of the magazine, "Catholic Women" Mother Seton's life by Mr. Stephen Ganel, C.M., was very happily presented to the many Catholic women readers of this cultured publication.

On Sunday, August 21, Father Burgio celebrated the annual Mass for the Mother Seton Assembly of Baltimore at St. Andrew's Church, Baltimore, Md. For twenty years this organization under the care of the late Monsignor Cunnane has made annual visits to Mother Seton's Tomb. This year the officers of the Assembly will make a special trip to Emmitsburg to keep unbroken their long series of pilgrimages to the Valley.

At the National Convention of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae held in Newark, N. J., August 28-30, great interest was manifested in the Cause of Mother Seton. The V. Postulator addressed the members. For many years the Federation has furthered the Canonization of Mother Seton, and has a special Mother Seton Committee whose activities are guided by the Chairman, Mrs. James J. Sheeran, LL.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sister Mary from Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson accompanied by Sister Miriam Estelle made a special trip to Emmitsburg to visit the Guild office and to study its activities. Both were deeply impressed and were gratified with all they saw.

We were pleased to welcome to the office several Sisters from Convent Station, N. J.

School Activities

Since the last edition of the *Bulletin* was published in May, we have had a large number of letters informing us of the various school activities in the schools under the direction of the spiritual Daughters of Mother Seton. We feel that there are many, many more activities carried on which never come to our notice. If, therefore, some of the Sisters are of the opinion that their activities are not given publication, our only answer is that they have not been brought to our attention. We are most anxious to make known to all the activities that are carried on in the various schools and classrooms of these schools. Please, Sister, tell us what you personally are doing in your school or classroom for Mother Seton!

From far away St. Patrick's Convent in Quebec we received a letter some weeks ago telling of the activities of the Sisters in this recently established mission of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax. We would like to quote a few lines from the letter: "A short while ago I organized a small literary club among our high school girls and towards the end of the year I succeeded in salvaging a few pennies from the general fund as a contribution to your Guild Fund. The girls were most enthusiastic about it, particularly when I assured them that you would be told that the members of the 'Think and Write Club' of the Leonard High School are the donors of this magnificent sum." Far more valuable to us than even the generous donation they sent was the interest of the Sisters and the enthusiasm of the girls.

A letter from the Sisters of Convent Station from Holy Rosary Convent, Elizabeth, N. J., brings us this message: "We are trying to help spread devotion to Mother Seton and to interest the children by giving them a knowledge of her saintly life and by encouraging them to seek her help in their spiritual and temporal needs."

We welcome the many new members to the Mother Seton Guild sent into us by the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mt. Saint Vincent-on-the-Hudson. A magnificent contribution indeed!

The true spirit of cooperation was fully expressed by Rev. Mother Josephine, Mother General of the New York Community, to Father Burgio in his recent visit.

"Father, Mother Seton's Cause is most dear to us. We shall do all in our power to cooperate. Command, and we shall obey."

School Activities (Cont.)

From Poughkeepsie, N. Y., St. Peter's Convent, Sister Agnes Marie writes:

"Your latest Bulletin for the Mother Seton Guild gives all Setonians reason to rejoice. We want to participate in the publicity accorded our heroine by recounting what we have done for the Cause."

Sister enclosed a copy of the program followed at the weekly meetings of the Mother Seton League. The following is the program: (1) Prayer for Mother Seton's Beatification; (2) Singing of hymn for her Beatification; (3) Recitation of pledge to labor and sacrifice for the Cause; (4) Business meeting; (5) Reading of chapter from the life of Mother Seton; (6) Discussion; (7) Entertainment. A copy of a report of a younger member was enclosed by Sister. It has the charm, simplicity and innocence of childhood. We feel constrained to present it as it came to us:

"Week of April 2nd: Report: I went to Mass and Holy Communion; Good Deed: I dusted for my mother instead of going to a movie; Sacrifice: I gave up eating dessert for a week; I made nine visits to the Blessed Sacrament and said Mother Seton's prayer nine times: I said the Rosary five times and 500 aspirations; I wore my pin and medal every day."

This report is in accordance with the pledge made by the members of the Mother Seton League of St. Peter's School. We wish that space would permit us to publish the Pledge and the Constitution of the League. The members call themselves the Betty Bayley Brigadiers. We thank Sister for this delightful and inspiring little account of activities.

A number of letters have come to the Guild office from the schools under the direction of the Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph-on-the-Ohio. Sister Rose Anthony sent a very interesting letter telling us of an all-boys unit in the Mother Seton League. This Unit is established at St. Aloysius Military Academy, Fayetteville, Ohio. The boys of this Unit, St. Aloysius Unit, are very proud of their devotion and zeal for all things pertaining to Mother Seton. Knowing Mother Seton's deep affection for her two sons who served in our armed forces over a hundred years ago, we feel that she would be particularly proud of this Unit. We wish that space would permit the publication of many other activities that Sister Rose Anthony described in her letter. We would like

to comment upon the copy of "Lotus Leaves" in which the notes of the League appear, and on the contests which were held in various classrooms to stimulate interest in the Cause. Sister has organized a Minims League in the Resurrection parish in Hamilton, Ohio, and already the parish can boast of an Adult League and an Active School League. The pastor and the assistants of this fine parish have been most active in the Cause of Mother Seton. Sister tells us of a splendid, illustrated lecture given at the Mount by Father Ansbury of Corpus Christi parish, and sends us a very edifying letter from Father Diller who has recently been sent by the Archbishop to take charge of the colored mission at Our Lady Queen of Angels. Father Diller has placed his new mission under the protection of Mother Seton. What a happy thought considering the zeal Mother Seton had for the education of the colored people of Emmitsburg more than a hundred years ago when to favor this oppressed race was far less popular than at the present time!

Sister Jane Francis from Springfield, Ohio, sent us a picture of the "Mother Seton Honor Roll" which has a hundred and ten stars on its service flag. The Mother Seton Unit of this school, the Catholic Central High, continues to send relics and prayer leaflets of Mother Seton to the boys in service and to their parents.

Miss Ruth Schlotman from Seton High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, reported some of the activities of their unit of the Mother Seton League.

St. Dennis' School, Yonkers, N. Y., staged a very successful play entitled: "The Life of Mother Seton"; and St. Gabriel's School in Riverdale, New York City, presented a very attractive drama, "A Little Girl of Old New York," featuring the girlhood of Mother Seton.

The Officers of Seton High School Unit of the Mother Seton Guild in Baltimore, Md., visited the Guild office as the guests of Father Burgio. They gave

"Of the past, nothing should remain but sorrow for sin; of the future, nothing anticipated but the hope of Heaven; of the present, one sole and only aim to fulfill in every moment His adorable will."

—MOTHER SETON

an enthusiastic account of Guild activities in their school which has a registration upwards of sixteen hundred.

From the Western Province we received an account of plays that were staged by St. Vincent's Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., and St. Patrick's High School, Chicago, Ill. Both these plays were presented to a highly appreciative audience among whom Mother Seton booklets, pictures and prayer leaflets were distributed.

The Reverend James J. Cashman, C.M., of St. Louis, gave an interesting talk to the Ladies of Charity at St. Ann's Asylum, St. Louis, Mo., on the life and virtues of Mother Seton.

We are grateful to the Sisters of the Western Province for the goodly number of membership subscriptions received.

The Sisters of the Greensburg Community have stimulated much interest in the Cause through their various activities in all their institutions. They have given wholehearted cooperation in every movement, both spiritually and financially.

Sister Francis Genevieve, from our Lady of Victories School, Jersey City, N. J., in sending the office forty new memberships, wrote that she will be very much pleased to receive for distribution relics, prayer leaflets and other literature concerning Mother Seton.

Again, we urge the Sisters of the various Communities to send in the account of their activities. If your Community is not mentioned, if your school or class is not among the number written up in the columns of the *Bulletin*, it is because we have not heard from you.

We have been pleased to learn that in some schools the *Bulletin* is read to the children of each grade.

Every class in all the schools of the Sisters of Charity should have a copy of the *Bulletin*.

Every issue of "La Milagrosa," the Spanish magazine published monthly by the Vincentian Fathers and the Sisters of Charity in Havana, carries instructive and interesting articles on Mother Seton.

We are gratified with the constant promotion of the Cause in Cuba.

The activities of the Mother Seton Guild in Havana are under the leadership of Mrs. Alicia de Mendoza. Rev. Hilario Chaurrondo, C.M., is the spiritual director. Both have been appointed by His Excellency, Most Rev. Manuel Arteaga, Archbishop of Havana.