

# Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Approved by  
The Holy See



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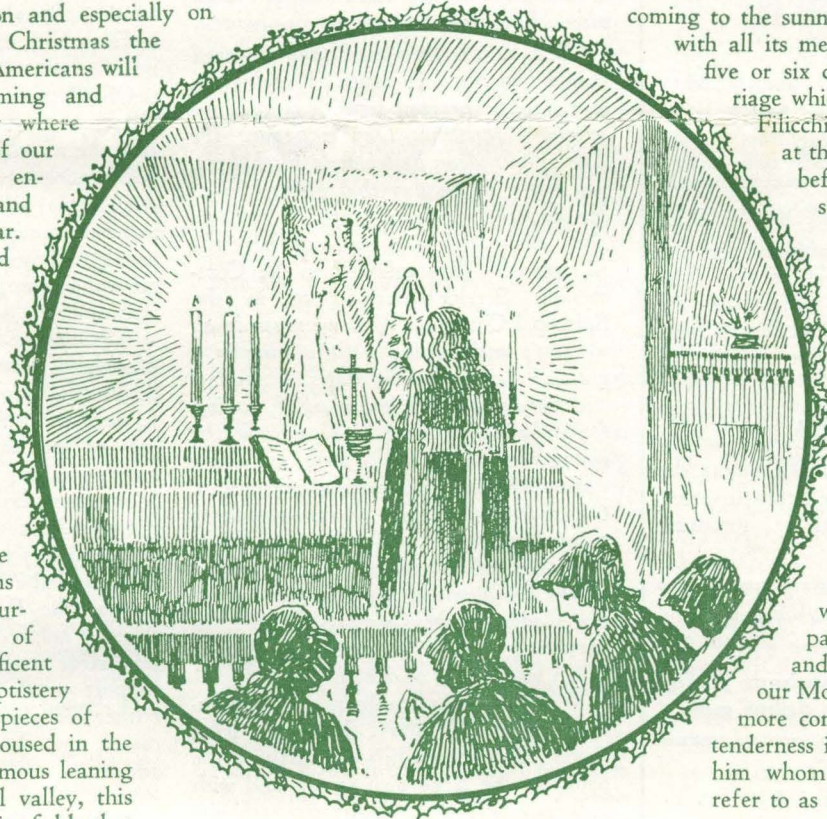


## Christmas on the Arno



During this holy season and especially on the beautiful feast of Christmas the thoughts of millions of Americans will turn toward the charming and romantic land of Italy where hundreds of thousands of our boys in service will be engaged in the terrible and deadly struggle of war. There will be sorrow and longing in those hearts over here and over there, and many a prayer will be sent to the Prince of Peace to bring back into this war-torn land that peace which the world cannot give. Perhaps some of our boys will spend Christmas not far from the picturesque river *Arno* which drains the fertile plain that surrounds the historic city of Pisa noted for its magnificent cathedral, its classic baptistery and the splendid masterpieces of religious arts that are housed in the museum of the world famous leaning tower. It is a beautiful valley, this valley of the *Arno* with its fields that give an abundant harvest, with its herds of cattle, its flocks of sheep, its vineyards, its varied colored trees and flowers all bounded by the rugged hills of the Apennine mountains, rich in natural beauty and enriching the people with great mineral wealth of alabaster, copper and other precious deposits.

Into this charming setting one hundred and forty years ago (1803) came Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Seton, her ailing husband now in the last stages of his fatal illness and also Mrs. Seton's eldest daughter, Anna, affectionately called Annina. In a vain and hopeless search for health Mr. William Seton came to Pisa from Leghorn where he had spent in the cold, damp dungeon of the Lazaretto the gloomy month that had elapsed since his



FIRST CHRISTMAS MASS IN THE VALLEY



### A Christmas Wish

*May Bethlehem's star, with rays so bright,  
Illumine your path with its holy light,  
And guide your steps through desert wild  
To the Eternal Court of Mary's Child!*

coming to the sunny land of Italy. Christmas with all its memories of home was only five or six days away, when the carriage which their good friends, the Filicchi, had so generously placed at their service, rolled to a stop before the pleasant three story apartment house that still stands in its quaint beauty overlooking the quiet and restful little river, the *Arno*. The patient was exhausted after his ride of fifteen long miles from Leghorn whose prison-like Lazaretto had been so cruelly inhospitable to his delicate frame. Soon, he was placed in the luxurious surroundings of the apartment which his friends had prepared with loving kindness and which his devoted wife, our Mother Seton, had made even more comfortable by her exquisite tenderness in everything that affected him whom she always delighted to refer to as her dear William.

As the days before Christmas passed slowly the ailing Mr. Seton failed rapidly. The end was fast approaching to the trying illness. Christmas eve dawned and for the first full day the patient was confined to his bed. The shadow of death darkened the joy and happiness of the great feast. There in a strange land among strange people the little Seton family awaited the dawning of Christmas with heavy hearts. Their thoughts fled across the wide Atlantic to the town on the Hudson which has since become the great metropolis of the New World. There with relatives Mrs. Seton had left her two boys, William and Richard and her two girls, Catherine and Rebecca. The separation caused the sensitive mother's heart acute pain, especially be-

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## 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.

*Address all communications to  
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

## Christmas on the Arno

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cause Elizabeth Ann Seton was blessed with a very affectionate nature. No doubt many a tear of lonesomeness and longing was wiped from the eyes of this brave and noble woman as alone she watched the failing breath of her dear husband. There was none to comfort her in her sorrow. Then, she turned for consolation to Him Who was always her Friend, and her intense spiritual nature prompted her to the most sublime manifestation of her devotion that she then knew. The following are her own words:

*"Dec. 24: He then awoke and observed that I had not lain down. I said: 'No, love, for the sweetest reflections keep me awake. Christmas Day is begun; the day of our dear Redeemer's birth here, you know is the day that opened to us the door of everlasting life.' 'Yes,' he said, 'and how I wish we could have the sacrament.' (He referred to the Communion Service carried out in the Episcopal Church.) 'Well we must do all we can'; and putting a little wine in a glass, I said different parts of psalms and prayers which I had marked, hoping for a happy moment, and we took the cup of thanksgiving, setting aside the sorrow of time in the view of eternity. Oh, so happy to find its joys so strongly painted to him!"*

Thus did Mrs. Seton in the simplicity of her devotion endeavor to renew again the pledge of her eternal salvation in partaking of the Communion Service which was always so dear to her.

With her dying husband and her beloved daughter, Anna, the heroic Mrs. Seton passed that Christmas Day on the banks of the Arno with sorrow and with sadness. She watched the strength ebb slowly from the emaciated frame of her dear husband to whom she was so strongly devoted. But her loving trust in God's kind providence did not desert her, and the day was spent in prayer and pious memories that kindled still brighter the ardent flame of her devotion. She heard the bells of the Pisa cathedral and parish churches as they carolled the tidings of the angels. In her soul despite her heavy sorrow and poignant grief she felt the consolation of Christmas, the peace that the Christ-Child had come to bring to all of good will. Christmas night settled over Pisa and the Christmas stars looked down upon this valiant woman as with sleepless eyes she knelt by the bedside of her restless, suffering husband, as with parched lips she whispered in his ear the consolations of her strong faith, while she moistened with cool and re-

## NEWS BRIEFS

At a meeting of the Mother Seton section of the District of Columbia Federation of the Catholic Alumnae, Mrs. Florence Scalessa gave a brief report of general activities relative to the Cause of Mother Seton. This meeting was held the third week of October.

On Sunday, October 31st, Rev. William F. Sheehan of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, South Orange, N. J., broadcasted over the local station, WAAT, a discussion of the life and labors of Mother Seton in a round table talk sponsored by the CYO.

On October 10th Father Burgio, the Vice Postulator, delivered an address before the members of the Central Verein in Philadelphia, a Society that pioneered in parochial school education. The talk was very well received by the members present, many of whom have shown great interest in the progress of the Cause.

Wednesday evening, October 13th, Monsignor James Kelley, President of Seton Hall College, South Orange, N. J., gave an inspiring address to the members of the Bayley Seton League at a meeting in the Seton Hall Auditorium. Monsignor expressed the necessity of bringing back once more into the pages of our history books the story of Mother Seton and the important part she played in Catholic Education and Charity in this our beloved country. The audience was large and enthusiastically pledged support to the activities of the Guild. Father Burgio was present on this occasion and also delivered an interesting address.

In St. Louis, Mo., Father Burgio visited the Central House of the Sisters of Charity where he addressed the Sisters  
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freshing water the feverish brow of her loved one. Thus, one hundred and forty years ago Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Seton spent Christmas Day on the banks of the beautiful Arno that flows so majestically through the plain of Pisa from the Apennines to the blue waters north of the great Tyrrhenian Sea.

A brighter and more glorious Christmas was to dawn in the future when here in the valley of Emmitsburg Mother Seton was to kneel with her little spiritual family in the tiny chapel of the Stone House and receive from the consecrated hands of her spiritual father the true Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of her Divine Master into her pure and joyous heart.

## OUR LETTER

As a powerful means to further the Cause we made bold to address a respectful letter to the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the country asking their approval and blessing to introduce into the parochial schools our CRUSADE OF PRAYER for the Beatification and Canonization of Mother Seton. The reply was immediate and the cooperation promised was enthusiastic. From every part of the country came the encouraging messages sent by the heads of the various Archdioceses and Dioceses.

The Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops stressed the same idea. They expressed themselves as greatly pleased with the opportunity of aiding the Cause in a way that would surely bring great blessings upon the children, upon the schools, upon the country as a whole. They expressed the hope that in the not too distant future our beloved country would be honored by having one of our very own raised to the honors of the Altar. Several of the ecclesiastical leaders took immediate steps to realize the program for the schools which was outlined in the previous issue of the BULLETIN.

We hope to give a full report of the responses in the next issue.

## OFFICE ACTIVITIES

During the past several weeks the routine of the office has been greatly interrupted by the unpleasant task of moving, a task which every householder dreads and with good reason.

The new quarters of the Guild are situated on the ground floor of the same building and offer many advantages over the accommodations in the old quarters. The pressure of growing activities made necessary the change and fortunately the new premises were vacated just in time to permit the Guild to move in.

The present issue of the BULLETIN has been published from the new surroundings which facilitated somewhat the addressing and mailing of this large edition.

The task of moving interfered to some extent with the regular routine of answering the mail and organizing certain projects. We beg the indulgence of those who have perhaps felt themselves slighted by our apparent neglect. We hope that during the weeks preceding Christmas that we shall be completely caught up with all our work.

If possible, a picture of the new quarters of the Guild will soon appear on the pages of the BULLETIN.

## NEWS BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 2)

Servant who were then finishing their annual retreat.

In Louisiana Father Burgio visited the Leper Colony at Carville. There, he found surprising interest in the works of the Cause. Constant prayers are offered for the Canonization of Mother Seton and all literature pertaining to her is read with great appreciation. One young lady, a leper, was most eager to obtain a special favor through Mother Seton and begged Father Burgio to recommend the favor to the prayers of the members of the Guild.

In New Orleans, Father Burgio gathered further data on the Cure of Sister Gertrude Korzendorfer. His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, D.D., Archbishop of New Orleans, delegated Doctor Walter Siebert, an eminent Pathologist of St. Louis, to make a scientific report of this cure for the Holy See.

Father Burgio had the opportunity of addressing the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of New Orleans at their annual Convention. To this Assembly, His Excellency, Archbishop Rummel stressed the importance of Mother Seton's Canonization as an incentive for the conversion of those outside the faith, and the inspiration she will be in the restoration of homes built on Christian principles.

In response to the directions of His Eminence, D. Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, to have the schools enroll in the CRUSADE OF PRAYER to further the Canonization of Mother Seton, the Rev. Dr. Francis Furey, D.D., President of Immaculata College, Immaculata, Pa., with a group of College Students made a pilgrimage to the Tomb of Mother Seton. Father Burgio personally conducted them through the Guild Office and explained to them the various works of the Mother Seton Guild.

## Special Acknowledgment

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati, for the magnificent donation to the Cause of Mother Seton from his Archdiocese.

We extend our sincere thanks also to the Pennsylvania State Court of the Catholic Daughters of America, Philadelphia, Pa., for their most generous contribution.

## Favors Acknowledged

We wish to impress strongly on the minds of all devoted to the Cause of Mother Seton, that they can be a real help in promoting the Beatification and Canonization by sending in an acknowledgment of the favors received through prayer. We have learned that the number of these favors is astonishingly large. Only a fraction of this large number is sent into the office, that they may be published in the BULLETIN for the edification of others and for the permanent record of our files. Many write in to the office and mention merely that a favor was received. It would be far better for the Cause were the writer to tell the nature of the favor granted.

The following favors were received at the Guild office principally during October and the first few days of November.

CHICAGO, ILL.: "My young son, only two years old, met with a serious accident by suffering an injury in a fall. Two doctors who were called on the case said an operation was necessary. I prayed to Mother Seton that my boy might be spared the operation. My prayers were answered and the little one is well again. I will continue to pray for good health and God's blessing on my family."

BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY: "I injured my finger at work and prayed to Mother Seton for its cure. I was very much surprised to see two days later that the injury had healed so quickly. It seems to me like a miracle. Thanks to Mother Seton!"

WILLIAMANSETT, MASS.: "I wish that you have five Masses of thanksgiving said in honor of Mother Seton's Cause. I suffered much from an internal affliction and I prayed to her for help. In a short time I was cured and I thank Mother Seton for my recovery."

ORLANDO, FLORIDA: A patient at the tubercular sanatorium writes to acknowledge the help given through prayers to Mother Seton. After a relapse she recovered in a remarkably short time and is now awaiting her discharge from the institution.

We have come to the end of the space allotted for the acknowledging of favors in this issue. We have in addition to the above received acknowledgments from the following places: Hanover, Pa., Philadelphia, Pa., Germantown, Pa., New Rochelle, N. Y., North Tonawanda, N. Y., Chicago, Ill., Bridgeport, Conn., East Orange, N. J., Jersey City, N. J., Caldwell, N. J., Rutland, Vt., and New Bedford, Pa.

# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The spotlight is still strong upon the plan of the Crusade of Prayer which has in recent weeks been introduced into so many of the parochial and private schools throughout the country. The response to the appeal made in the last issue of the BULLETIN has been prompt and

activity in furthering the interests of the Cause and all the classrooms are organized as distinct units. A surprisingly large number of leaflets, cards, prayer slips and other Mother Seton articles have been distributed by the Sisters and pupils. Great interest has been aroused in the BULLETIN and many subscriptions have been obtained.



OFFICERS  
OF MOTHER SETON GUILD UNIT  
ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL,  
LAWRENCE, MASS.

generous. Many of our schools have been as yet unable to establish the simple organization necessary, but with the lessening of pressure occasioned by the activities of opening school, we hope to hear from very many more schools during the next few weeks.

A splendid plan which can be suggested to all has been adopted by some of the Sisters with marked success. One of the Sisters has been chosen as the Mother Seton representative for the school and she keeps in close touch with all the activities of the pupils. From the communications of such Sister promoters for Mother Seton we have received great encouragement and inspiration. We would be delighted if many more Sisters could be inspired to take on the duties of such a promising position in furthering the Cause. This is a practical suggestion and a challenge to those zealous Sisters who have been such devoted clients of Mother Seton. May we present this plan to the careful consideration of the Sisters Servant and the Sisters.

EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND: St. Euphemia's School (Emmitsburg Community) has shown a great burst of

ALTOONA, PA.: From St. Leo Convent (Greensburg Community): "We are enclosing two snapshots of the officers of the St. Leo Mother Seton Club of Catholic Action for publication in the BULLETIN. (For this we give special thanks.) These officers represent the seventh and eighth grades of St. Leo School. They are enthusiastic leaders who hope to hasten the day when Mother Seton will be canonized and in the meantime they strive to make her known and loved by all. At our meetings which are held twice a month the life and virtues of Mother Seton are discussed together with many other topics of religious nature. Catholic projects are planned. These projects contribute to the support of missionary, parish, local and foreign charitable activities. Stamps and tin foil are collected for the missions. Catholic literature is collected and distributed to the soldiers on the troop trains which stop at the station. . . . Once a year we send representatives to the general assembly which meets at Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., which reports on the work of the previous year and discusses plans for the coming year. We hope from this unit the knowledge and love of Mother Seton will spread throughout this locality, and, by their prayers and efforts that the Cause of Mother Seton will be advanced." Patricia McHugh, Secretary.

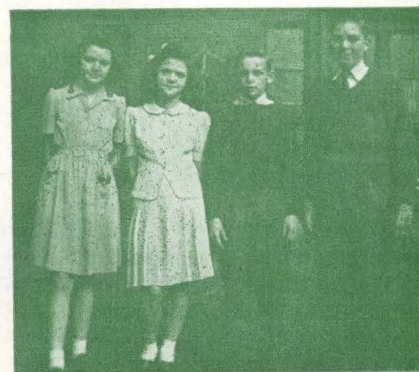
LAWRENCE, MASS.: The splendid work of St. Patrick's School (Halifax Community) deserves particular praise. The following is a sample of the co-operation given. We are pleased to be able to include in this issue a group picture of the leaders among the pupils. "After three weeks of school classes are finally adjusted to the new environments and teachers. Today, we elected Class Officers for the year and were introduced to Mother Seton in greater detail. As a result the girls of Grade Seven wish to do a little for Mother Seton's Cause and join their older friends of Grade Eight and all the other members of the Guild. Here is our little request for today: Grade Eight Girls: Membership in the

Guild and 42 subscriptions to the BULLETIN; Grade Seven Girls: Membership in the Guild and 44 subscriptions to the BULLETIN, that is, 86 subscriptions in all. Please send patriotic leaflets and other literature, pamphlets, etc., that you may have at hand." (Sister M. C.)

N.B. We wish to acknowledge a very edifying letter from Miss Joyce Dugan, Secretary of the Seventh Grade of St. Patrick's School. We wish that we had space to print the letter in its entirety because of the inspiring and edifying thoughts contained therein. We were particularly impressed by the intentions which the class sent to be remembered in our Novena of Masses for the Cause. They are as follows: Boys in Service (38), For Peace (44), Success in Studies (44), Parents (88), Missions (44), Sick (16), Deceased (6), Return to the Faith (10). Our congratulations to the Seventh Grade and to its Sister.

DETROIT, MICH.: The Deo Duce (With God as our Leader) Group of St. Leo School has already fully organized its activities for the coming year and under the capable and persistent leadership of its Sister Director it is striving to outdo its great work in Catholic Action during previous years.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.: We wish to quote in part a letter received from St. Peter's Convent. "Another school year has commenced and the B.B.B.'s (Betty Bayley Brigadiers) are buzzing again, not one whit the less zealous after their long summer furlough. . . . At our meeting today the members voted to use the weekly dues for enrolling the service men in the Guild. . . . Enclosed are money orders to cover the cost of seventy-two pins and three subscriptions to the BULLETIN. In time I trust that the number of subscriptions will be multiplied, squared and raised to the n'th power."



OFFICERS  
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ST. LEO SCHOOL,  
ALTOONA, PA.