

Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Approved by
The Holy See



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EMMITSBURG, MD.

FEBRUARY, 1944

Mother Seton and the Early American Bishops

IT IS one of the most interesting and significant facts of Mother Seton's life after she entered the Church that she was held in the highest esteem and admiration by so many ecclesiastics who, in the designs of Providence, were sent to the young American Church to guide its destiny during the first and precarious years of its existence. There were Bishop Carroll, the first American Bishop and Archbishop of Baltimore, and Bishop John Cheverus, missionary Bishop of New England, first Bishop of Boston and afterwards the saintly Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux. There were four other Bishops, all natives of France and all associated at one time or other with the illustrious community of St. Sulpice. Bishop Dubourg, Bishop of New Orleans and Besancon in France; Bishop Dubois, the founder of Mount St. Mary's at Emmitsburg and afterwards the Bishop of New York; Bishop David, who for a few years following the term of office of Father Dubourg was the devoted second superior of Mother Seton's young Community until he was sent by his superiors to be assistant to his close friend Bishop Flaget in the newly established diocese of Bardstown. Last, but by no means least, we must mention Mother Seton's closest friend and devoted spiritual director, priest of extraordinary piety and knowledge, Father Simon Bruté, the zealous Bishop of Vincennes and himself a candidate for Beatification.

The Ever-Faithful Filicchi

It was through the faithful Filicchi family that Mother Seton first came into contact with the members of the American Hierarchy which in Mother Seton's time was but in its infancy. For many years the business firm of the elder Mr. Seton had carried on relations with the Italian firm of the Filicchi. The Setons and the Filicchis were far more than business friends. Many a cordial invitation had been extended by the noble Italian merchants to their American friends to visit with them under the sunny skies of romantic Italy. It was the Filicchi that met Mrs. Seton, her ailing husband and her little daughter, Anna, when they landed at Leghorn and were sentenced to pass these terrible thirty days in the Lazaretto. It was the Filicchi who befriended Mrs. Seton during those dark days of trial. It was the Filicchi who received Mrs. Seton into the palatial home after the untimely

death of her husband. It was the Filicchi whose lives of extraordinary devotion to the spiritual practices of the Church turned Mrs. Seton's mind towards the true faith. It was the Filicchi who sent to Bishop Carroll and also to Father John Cheverus letters of introduction exhorting them to interest themselves in the spiritual life of her whose short stay among them had so deeply impressed upon their minds the nobility of her character.

Through the Filicchi, then, Mrs. Seton came to know the Bishops of the young hierarchy of America.

Archbishop Carroll's Friendship

Before Mother Seton's entrance into the Church, she had written letters to Bishop Carroll and Father Cheverus of Boston. Both these great souls had seen in her the sanctity that was soon to blossom in the Church. Neither doubted from the very beginning that one day Elizabeth Ann Seton would be received into the true fold. To both these distinguished clergymen the prospective convert was a soul blessed with extraordinary graces and destined by God to play an important part in the history of the young Church in America. Neither Bishop Carroll nor Father Cheverus was destined to see Mrs. Seton until after her conversion but their letters and other contacts, especially through Mr. Anthony Filicchi, had made them familiar with the sterling qualities of her soul. The occasion of her meeting with Bishop Carroll was her coming to Baltimore at the invitation of Father Dubourg to establish a school for the Catholic children of that city. His care of Mrs. Seton and her little family was that of the kindest of Bishops for his little flock. He encouraged her to form a religious Community, he blessed her effort towards this end and, when finally she was ready to accept the heavy responsibility, it was he who in formal ceremony accepted her holy vows and bestowed upon her the title of Mother, a title she so worthily carried until her edifying death. To all those nearest to her she was always Mother Seton and, though for many years she was physically incapable of carrying on directly the duties of her exacting office, her Sisters, nevertheless, would have none other for their reverend and dear Mother. When Mrs. Seton, now Mother Seton, left Baltimore for Emmitsburg, the care and (Continued on Page 2)



MOTHER SETON

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.

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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
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Mother Seton and the Early American Bishops

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solicitude of Bishop Carroll followed her. He was no stranger in the Valley and, for a while, when Father David was sent as helper to Bishop Flaget at Bardstown, Bishop Carroll, with all the grave responsibilities of his high office, took upon himself the duties of local superior of the struggling Community at Emmitsburg. During the years that elapsed from the coming of Mother Seton to Emmitsburg until the death of Archbishop Carroll he showed by his letters, by his visits and by all his decisions the great esteem, admiration and affection that he had for his illustrious spiritual daughter.

Bishop Cheverus—Spiritual Father

Hardly less striking was the esteem and continued paternal interest manifested by that other great ecclesiastical leader of these early days, Father John Cheverus, truly one of God's noblemen. When Elizabeth Ann Seton first wrote to him, he was a struggling missionary priest in Boston, but the light of his greatness was beginning to shine. Archbishop Carroll wished to make him his successor in the primatial see of Baltimore but the humble, saintly Cheverus begged the Holy See to permit him to live and die as Bishop of his poor Catholics of the Boston diocese. From the very beginning he had the highest esteem for Mrs. Seton. She looked upon him as an angel sent from heaven to direct her footsteps. They corresponded much during those dark days when Mrs. Seton was struggling towards the light of the true faith. Their meeting was dramatic. The Holy See had selected Father John Cheverus to be first Bishop of the new diocese of Boston. For his consecration he was obliged to come to Baltimore. Before returning to his diocese, he decided that unannounced he would visit Mother Seton at Emmitsburg, about fifty miles distant. When called to the parlor Mother Seton did not recognize her visitor. She could only shake her head slowly as she said "No" to his question: "Do you know who I am?" When the good Bishop replied simply: "I am Mr. Cheverus" (the title given to priests then was Mister), Mother Seton was so overcome by joyful emotion that she was made utterly speechless and fell to her knees weeping tears of happiness much to the embarrassment of the humble Bishop. Later on Bishop Cheverus was called back to France and made a Prince of the Church and though he died as

Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux and was one of the most beloved prelates of that great country, Mother Seton was always the object of his continued admiration.

Sulpician Bishops as Directors

More closely associated with Mother Seton than either the first Archbishop of Baltimore or the future Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux were the four Sulpician Bishops, Bishops Dubourg, Dubois, David and Bruté. No brief article such as this could more than outline the history of the close associations of these eminent ecclesiastics with Mother Seton and her Sisters. It was Father Dubourg who suggested to Mrs. Seton that she come to Baltimore to start her school. To the care of his own sister he entrusted the lonely, heroic Mrs. Seton when she finally arrived in the strange city. Under his immediate supervision she took every step forward until she left Baltimore for her permanent home in the Valley near Emmitsburg. For a brief time after her arrival he was the superior general of the Sisters and only when he was called to be the Bishop of New Orleans did he reluctantly hand over the spiritual care of these holy women to his close friend, Father David. For only two years was Father David destined to fill that office before he was sent as assistant to Bishop Flaget at Bardstown. For many years Father David remained a simple assistant to the saintly Flaget until, against all his protestations of unworthiness, he was elevated to the episcopal dignity by mandate of the Holy See. To the end of his days, and he lived into the eighties, Mother Seton and her spiritual daughters were the object of his esteem and affection.

Emmitsburg and Bishop Dubois

None of the Bishops had a longer and more determining influence on Mother Seton than Father John Dubois, the Bishop of New York. He guarded the authority of his position as Mother Seton's great friend and religious superior during all but two years of her life in Emmitsburg. It was he who welcomed Mother Seton to Emmitsburg and provided shelter for the little band during the "Six weeks on the Mountain." He took care of the spirituals and also the temporals during the first years of the struggling Community when its very life was hanging in the balance. Mother Seton looked to him for assistance constantly and he was always ready with a helping hand.

Bruté—Sanctity Directs Sanctity

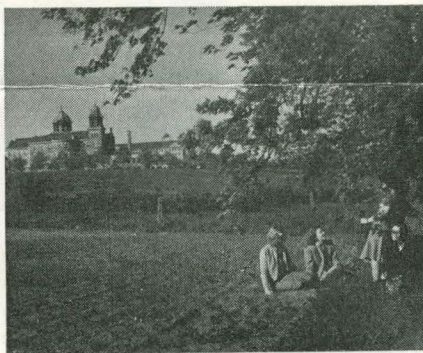
Between Father Simon Bruté, the future Bishop of Vincennes, and Mother

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COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

TWO of the leading Catholic Colleges for Women in Pennsylvania have forwarded to the Guild office an account of their activities in the furthering of Mother Seton's Cause for Beatification. We are pleased to be able to publish in this issue several pictures of the beautiful buildings that adorn the attractive campuses of these institutions of learning. We regret that space does not permit us to present more than a glimpse of the beauty of these two colleges.

IMMACULATA COLLEGE



Conducted by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Immaculata, Pa.

We can not better describe the activities at beautiful Immaculata College than by presenting in as complete form as space will allow the letter of the special committee selected to supervise the Mother Seton activities in the College. The picture of these young ladies, Misses Mary Quinn, Ruth Guerin and Claire Siedle appears on this page. The letter sent by the Committee contains many interesting details of their program.

"Dear Father Burgio:

"It will interest you to learn that Immaculata has approved the plan to establish a permanent organization on the campus to further Mother Seton's Cause.



Sponsors of the Mother Seton Movement at Immaculata College. Left to right—Ruth Guerin, Claire Siedle, and Mary Quinn.

This organization, an activity of the Sodality, will function under the title of the Mother Seton Guild.

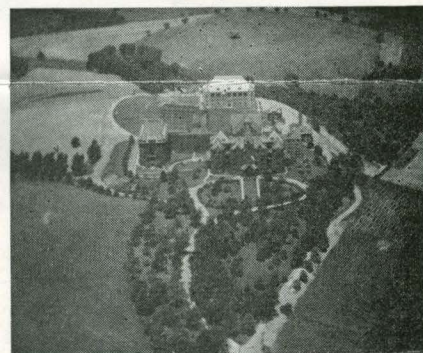
"Our initial interest in the Cause was aroused by the trip to Emmitsburg with Father Furey, our esteemed president of Immaculata. We visited among other places the tomb of Mother Seton and the office of the Guild. After our return the girls who were privileged to make the trip initiated the movement within the student body, through the Sodality of Our Blessed Mother. The literary Committee conducted a program which consisted chiefly in reviewing best known biographies of Mother Seton: *White Noon, As The Morning Rising, An American Woman.* We had a display of books, pamphlets, pictures, etc., based on the life of Mother Seton.

"The next Sodality period was devoted to talks on various phases of the Cause of Mother Seton conducted by the girls who had visited Emmitsburg. At this meeting a three-fold plan was adopted: (1) the spiritual aspect, prayers, Mass, Communion for the Cause; (2) the financial aspect, subscriptions for the BULLETIN and paid memberships in the Guild; (3) the advertising program, the spread of knowledge and interest in the Cause especially among relatives and friends. At the close of the meeting the Mother Seton Novena prayers and informative literature were distributed. Subscriptions to the BULLETIN were accepted and a final report on the activities was drawn up.

"The response of the girls to the movement has been very encouraging. One of the students, Miss Catherine Fean is particularly enthusiastic and has introduced the Cause of Mother Seton as a project to her parish Sodality in which she is a very active prefect."

The Guild salutes the student body of Immaculata and rejoices in the fact that such zealous workers are allied to noble undertaking of the work of Mother Seton's Beatification. We trust their number will increase a thousandfold!

SETON HILL COLLEGE



Conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Greensburg, Greensburg, Pa.

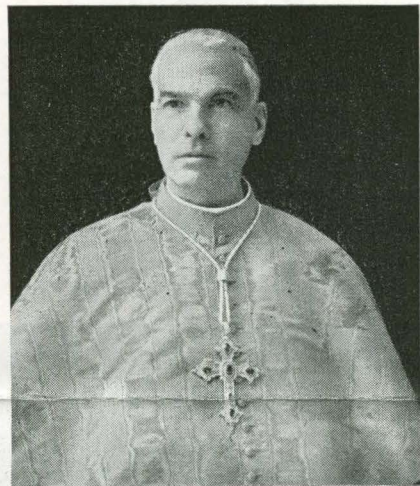
Favored by the name of her whom they so love and admire, the students of picturesque Seton Hill College have an added reason for engaging in the activities of the Guild. After this great American woman is their Alma Mater named, to her in a special way it is dedicated. Their student body is large and representative of the finest Catholic families over the East and South with not a few students registering from other parts of the country. We would like to publish more pictures of the buildings and natural beauties of Seton Hill. As

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Officers of Mother Seton Unit at Seton Hill College. Left to right—Mary Catherine Speer, Delphine Force, Virginia Steel. Center—Mary Jansen.

Encouraging Pledges of Cooperation



HIS EMINENCE, CARLO CARDINAL SALOTTI

CARDINAL BISHOP OF PALESTRINA

Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites

WE ARE pleased to present the picture of Cardinal Salotti into whose care the Holy Father has given the Cause of Mother Seton with the instruction to do all in his power to advance the time for her Beatification. It is due to the devotion of this estimable Prince of the Church that the Cause has made such rapid progress during the last few years. Cardinal Salotti has been in constant touch with the Guild office and has given invaluable advice in the direction of its activities. In his recent communication to Father Burgio, His Eminence expressed his delight in the increased devotion to Mother Seton throughout the Country and remarked: "This is a good sign."

IN ANSWER to a letter respectfully asking the members of the Hierarchy for their cooperation in establishing among the schools in their various dioceses the School Program of Prayer for the advancement of the Cause of Mother Seton, the Guild received a number of very encouraging replies. From every part of the country, from the Cardinals, the Archbishops and Bishops of the largest and from the smaller dioceses came the same message of encouragement. It is needless to say that we of the Guild are grateful beyond measure for the valuable assistance given by these ecclesiastical leaders to whom the Lord in His wisdom has entrusted the care of His flock in America.

Obviously, it would be impossible to print word for word the letters received from all the members of the Hierarchy who were kind enough to write. We shall, as space permits, present to the readers the typical replies that were sent to the Guild.

From the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal O'Connell, came the following words through the secretary to His Eminence: "His Eminence, the Cardinal, to whom your communication of October has been referred, directs me to say that he is very happy to give his blessing to the Crusade of Prayer being inaugurated for the Cause of Mother Seton. His Eminence further directs me to say that he is instructing our Diocesan organ, *The Pilot*, to give all due publicity to this crusade."

His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, Cardinal Archbishop of Philadelphia, always deeply interested in whatever

concerns the Cause of Mother Seton, through Monsignor Bonner, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, sent the following directions to the parochial schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia: "At the direction of His Eminence, the Most Reverend Archbishop, we are asking you to call to the attention of all the pupils in your school the Cause of the Canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton of the Sisters of Charity. It is the desire of His Eminence that the pupils of the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese pray daily for the furtherance of Mother Seton's Cause, and that once a month they offer a Mass and Holy Communion for this intention."

His Excellency, Most Reverend Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore and Washington, has ever proved a staunch friend of the Cause. His letter to Father Burgio was brief and to the point: "I am in receipt of yours of October the eighth. Of course, I approve of your arranging with our Schools everywhere in the two Archdioceses to unite with the Sisters of Charity in the Crusade of Prayer for the furtherance of the Cause of Mother Seton."

Through his Chancellor, His Excellency, Most Reverend J. Francis McIntyre, the Most Reverend Archbishop Spellman presumed that the Crusade of Prayer was already well established in his Archdiocese through the efforts of the Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson. He expressed the fervent hope that the efforts of the Guild would be crowned with great success.

His Excellency, Archbishop Stritch of

Chicago, sent a short and forceful note of approbation: "In answer to your letter of the 8th instant, let me assure you that we are most anxious to cooperate in urging our school children to pray that God will deign to work miracles through the intercession of Mother Seton." His Excellency has always been most outspoken in his admiration for Mother Seton and her Sisters of Charity.

The letter that came to the Guild from the Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans was particularly warm and cordial. We would like to present the entire letter but space will not permit. We give you only the first paragraph: "Gladly do I bless and approve your request that we solicit the cooperation of school children towards the promotion of the Cause of Mother Seton. I am referring the matter to Father Bezou, the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools, who will canvass the willingness of the Sisters and transmit the result to you. I have no doubt that at least the schools in which the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul are doing the teaching will be interested." The Most Reverend Archbishop suggests an amplification of the program to include nurses' training schools and other similar groups. This we hope will come later.

Across the country, from far away California came a whole-hearted endorsement from His Excellency, Archbishop Cantwell of Los Angeles. Through his secretary, Monsignor Manning, he sent this message: "His Excellency, the Most Reverend Archbishop, has directed me to acknowledge your letter of Oc-

From the Members of Our Hierarchy

tober 8th, and to assure you that he will be glad to forward in every way possible the Cause of Mother Seton in the schools of the Archdiocese. He, himself, has visited her tomb, and desires to see the work of her Beatification progress apace."



His Eminence
WILLIAM CARDINAL O'CONNELL
of Boston

In New Jersey where Mother Seton's name has always been highly honored, whose only seminary was long connected with Seton College and whose first Bishop was not merely the nephew of Mother Seton but actually brought into the Church from Episcopalianism by the direct influence of her heroic virtue, there has always been great activity in the interest of the Cause of her Beatification. Archbishop Walsh of Newark, over which See Archbishop Bayley first presided, never misses an opportunity to impress upon his people the great debt of gratitude they owe to Mother Seton.

Some of the Archdioceses like that of Cincinnati and Dubuque have already developed their plans for participation. Their Excellencies, Archbishop McNicholas and Archbishop Beckman have written to the Guild office expressing their strong approval of the Crusade and pledging their continued cooperation in all the activities of the Cause.

From a large number of the Bishops of the country came the same encouraging replies. His Excellency, Most Reverend Thomas E. Molloy, Bishop of Brooklyn, expressed fully the fond hopes of the Guild in the following words: "Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of October 8th and to assure you that we shall be only too readily disposed to join in the Crusade of Prayer for the purpose of obtaining miracles in connection with the Cause of Mother Seton. We shall endeavor to promote and foster this holy undertaking particularly among our school

children and thus prepare the minds and hearts of young and old throughout our Diocese to receive Mother Seton with whole-hearted devotion when she is raised to the honors of the Altar by Holy Mother Church." The pledge given by Bishop Molloy was immediately redeemed by the activities of Monsignor McClancy, the Superintendent of Diocesan Schools.

When in Pittsburgh, Father Burgio called on His Excellency, the Most Reverend Hugh C. Boyle. The Bishop has been keenly interested in the Cause, and it was he who composed the prayer for Mother Seton's Canonization, published by the Sisters of Charity in Greensburg, Pa. The Bishop was very enthusiastic over the Crusade of Prayer and has sent out a special letter to other religious congregations to join the Sisters of Charity in this worthy movement.

From the newly established diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, the Most Reverend Thomas H. McLaughlin writes: "Replying to your letter of October the eleventh,



His Eminence
DENNIS CARDINAL DOUGHERTY
of Philadelphia

I wish to advise that we recommend most heartily the efforts to secure prayers to the end that miracles may be obtained to promote the Cause of Mother Seton. With this in view, I am sending a circular letter to all the schools of our diocese, a copy of which I am herewith enclosing."

It is to be expected that everywhere in the State of New York and New Jersey there should be special devotion to the Cause of Mother Seton. In his letter to the Guild, His Excellency, the Most Reverend John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo, gives full and inspiring expression to this devotion: "The proposed Crusade of Prayer directed to the end that miracles be obtained through the intercession of Mother Seton meets with my hearty approval. As a former mem-

ber of the clergy of the Diocese of Newark, and for many years a teacher at Seton Hall, the name of Mother Seton is close to my heart. Our Sisters of Charity have long been identified with the life and works of Mother Seton and many of our institutions have been named after her. It will be a cause of deep satisfaction to me to promote within this area an interest in the Cause and to add my poor prayers in the hope that many miracles attributable to Mother Seton may redound to the glory of God and the promotion of the Cause of her Canonization."

From some of the more distant dioceses letters pledging cooperation have come in surprisingly large numbers. The Guild was, indeed, grateful for the words of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Willging, Bishop of Pueblo: "I have taken definite action on your request to have all our children pray for the advancement of the Cause. This opportunity came last Friday when our teaching Sisters gathered here for their fall Institute. There were many of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul present. I know that these and all the others will be happy to join in the children's Crusade of Prayer for the Canonization of Mother Seton."

Far, indeed, from Emmitsburg, "deep in the heart of Texas," is the Diocese of Galveston, whose Most Reverend Bishop Christopher E. Byrne writes these words to the Guild: "I shall bring the matter of your letter of the eighth to the notice of some of our schools. The foundation of Mother Seton has done so much for our schools and our hospitals, that we ought to pray that her name might be given by the Holy Father to our Altars. I think that I shall try to have her Cause taken up by the students in our Nursing Schools. There are some very saintly young women in that group."

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MOST REV. MICHAEL J. CURLEY
of Baltimore and Washington

College Activities

(Continued from Page 3)

in the case of Immaculata we must content ourselves with publishing the letter, at least in substance, of the energetic president of the Seton Hill Chapter of the Mother Seton Guild, Miss Mary Jansen.

"Dear Father Burgio:

"We have received the copies of the prayer for soldiers and of the Mother Seton Guild BULLETIN. Thank you very much! Shortly after your visit, the other officers of our unit were chosen and the initial meeting was held to organize our program. The Sodality now says the prayer for Mother Seton's Canonization daily after the recitation of the rosary. A large number of pamphlets and prayer slips, given to us by Mother Claudia, have been distributed among the students. A small exhibit was held for a week in the main library. Publicity was given it throughout the College, especially on our bulletin board. We published an article on Mother Seton on the front page of our latest issue of the *Setonian*.

"Since our group was organized only two weeks before Christmas, we have not had the opportunity to carry on much of our program. The many Christmas activities and the Christmas vacations made impossible any carrying out of our planned program in support of the Cause. Next week when the normal conditions return after our delightful holidays we shall continue the work of our organization.

"We have many activities planned for the coming months and among these are: We have arranged for a very much larger library display which will include much that is related to Mother Seton and her Cause. We have books, pamphlets, pictures and not a few souvenirs of Mother Seton which the Sisters of the Faculty treasure highly.

"The next sodality meeting which will be held in a few days will be given up to a discussion of the life and virtues of Mother Seton. This meeting will be conducted by the members of our Mother Seton Unit. We are happy, indeed, to offer to you, Father, the cooperation of our student body in furthering the Beatification and Canonization of her in whom we should be and truly are deeply interested."

We are most grateful for the interest of the Student body of Seton Hill in the activities of the Guild and we look forward to a rapid growth in the number

NEWS BRIEFS

The items under this heading must be very few in this issue due to the many calls for space for the other features. However, we present the following:

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA: Most Reverend Mother of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax has instructed the local Superiors of her Community to give full cooperation to the efforts of the Guild to introduce among the school children the Program of Prayer.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.: Reverend James J. Cashman, C.M., has organized a Mother Seton Promoters Unit to further the Cause of Mother Seton especially throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Father Cashman has been a zealous laborer for the Guild for a number of years. The Guild is very grateful for his great assistance while he was writing for the *Vincentine Magazine*. We are pleased to be able to present a picture of Father Cashman taken with the officers of his organization.

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J.: The Bayley Seton League, organized under the auspices of Archbishop Walsh of Newark has been very active in obtaining members for the Guild. Recently, the League made a strong appeal to all its members and hopes for splendid results. Mrs. Fred D. Biehuse is the president of the Bayley Seton League.

On his second tour to the Middle

of students taking active part in their program of events. The Sisters of Seton Hill, as spiritual daughters of Mother Seton, can be depended upon to devote their every energy to making the Mother Seton Unit an outstanding success among the extracurricular activities of the College.



Mother Seton Promoters Unit, St. Louis, Mo.

The Encouraging Response

(Continued from Page 5)

There are many other letters from the members of the Hierarchy endorsing with enthusiasm the Crusade of Prayer for the Parochial School children but the space of the BULLETIN does not permit more than the mere mention of them. With grateful hearts we wish to thank all the esteemed members of the Hierarchy for their encouraging responses. Among the Bishops who wrote to the Guild in appreciation of our plan to further the Cause of Mother Seton were: Bishop Leech of Harrisburg; Bishop Kearney of Rochester; Bishop Ritter of Indianapolis; Bishop O'Hara of Savannah-Atlanta; Bishop Griffin of Springfield, Ill.; Bishop Althoff of Belleville; Bishop Heelan of Sioux City; Bishop Hurley of St. Augustine; Bishop Thill of Concordia; Bishop Griffin of Toledo; Bishop McGuinness of Raleigh and Bishop Buddy of San Diego.

West Father Burgio spoke at several houses of the Sisters of Charity.

DAYTON, OHIO: The children of Corpus Christi School gave Father Burgio a hearty reception. At the assembly the heads of the various groups of the Mother Seton League gave their reports, most gratifying accounts of their activities. Father Ansbury, the energetic pastor, gave a glowing tribute to Mother Seton. Father Burgio expressed his personal thanks to all for their splendid cooperation to the Cause, and remarked that, "Under the leadership of Father Ansbury, the Corpus Christi Parish shows Catholic Action in ACTION."

In Dayton, too, Father Burgio addressed the Sisters and nurses of the Good Samaritan Hospital. The Sisters of Charity from the other houses of the city were also present.

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

It was the intention to publish, as usual, about four or five favors from among those that we have received lately. However, the following favor seemed so extraordinary and so interesting that it was judged proper to give as many details as possible. We shall present the letter of the grandmother of the attractive child whose picture we are presenting with this acknowledgment of what seems the direct answer to boundless faith and unceasing prayer. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Father Burgio:

"I would like to acknowledge what I believe is a beautiful miracle. I hesitated to write because I did not know just what to do. Today I went to see Father at our parish church and asked his advice. He told me by all means to write to you.

"I cannot go into the details and at the same time write a brief letter. This is what happened. My little granddaughter, age seven, became the victim of encephalitis after an attack of measles. She was rushed to the hospital soon after she had been found unconscious by her parents in the early morning hours. At the hospital she was declared a hopeless case and, after a few days during which she was kept in an oxygen tent and given several blood transfusions, she was returned to her home in an ambulance. Nothing further could be done. Her mind was blank, her brain had been damaged. Her arms, hands and fingers were paralyzed. Her mind was completely gone.

"Father, I was given a medal of Mother Seton and three novena pamphlets and a picture of Mother Seton by a Sister of Mercy at the hospital. I had never even heard of Mother Seton but I put the medal, a sterling silver one, around the neck of our dear little child. I was told to have the child try to say, 'Mother Seton, Servant of God, pray for me.' I was surprised to hear the poor little one not only pronounce the words but also keep on repeating them.

"After wearing the medal four days, she told her father that she thought that she could walk, if he would assist her. And, indeed, she did walk up and down her bed several times with the support of her father. She continued to improve each day, not rapidly but decidedly and her mental condition cleared. The doctors were astounded. After wearing the medal for three weeks while we made a novena to Mother Seton, the little one got up and walked by herself

before her parents who stood breathless. She continued to improve. Her little playmates came to see her from school. She now knew them and everybody else. She could receive Holy Communion at this time but with great difficulty.

"There were lots and lots of prayers said by the children, Sisters and priests but we attribute her cure to the little medal and Mother Seton's intercession with God. The attending physician had said that if she ever recovered she would not be able to return to school for two or three years. He doubted that she would ever be able to write again.

"The medal, of sterling silver, turned black on the child and the mother re-



MARGARET DOWNEY
Philadelphia, Pa.

moved it and hung it on the statue of the Infant of Prague. As soon as the medal was removed, the child's health failed rapidly and her mental condition deteriorated to the same sad state as before. The child's father did not know that the medal had been taken off but when he discovered this he questioned the mother who said that because the medal had turned black she had removed it.

"The father immediately polished the medal to its former brightness and placed it again around the neck of the child. Instantly the little one's condition changed for the better and the improvement continued. Father, that was last February when the child was stricken. Now it is November. In September the child returned to school a normal, healthy, happy little girl and she is as far advanced as if she had not missed a day. The Sisters are proud of her.

"She has been the admiration of the doctors and particularly the specialists who are acquainted with her case. On several occasions she has been to the University of Pennsylvania for examination by brain specialists who have given her special tests. Her condition remains normal and doctors express their amazement at her cure."

We are submitting this letter to the readers of the BULLETIN without comment. Appropriate steps are being taken by ecclesiastical authorities to determine the nature of the recovery of this favored little client of Mother Seton. We hope to have further facts in future issues of the BULLETIN.

Mother Seton and the Early American Bishops

(Continued from Page 2)

Seton there was a bond and esteem and holy affection that we find it impossible to describe. They were kindred spirits. Both were gifted with rare sanctity and their delightfully sensitive natures were so much alike that Mother Seton considered the saintly and learned Bruté as a special gift from heaven to her troubled soul struggling ever towards greater and greater spiritual perfection. For years Father Bruté was her spiritual adviser. He watched over the progress of her beautiful soul and saw the seeds of her virtue develop to full flowering. He knew the inmost secrets of her heart and encouraged her always in her hours of trial. It was Father Bruté that was privileged to preside over those last precious moments that ushered her precious soul into eternity. It was he who gave the first expression to the hope that one day this heroic woman whom he knew better than anyone else would be raised to the honors of the altar. "Gather up these fragments lest they be lost," he said of her writings, because he knew full well that in future years these writings would be precious, indeed, and would mean much in the Cause of her Canonization.

Much might be written about Mother Seton and the early American Bishops but the pages of the BULLETIN are few and the space offered scant. The members of the present American Hierarchy from the Princes of the Church in Boston and Philadelphia to the most recently consecrated Bishop in our beloved country have, as their letters to the Guild eloquently testify, the same admiration and esteem for this heroic pioneer in Catholic charities and educational works as had their illustrious brothers in the episcopacy during the early days of the Hierarchy in the United States.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

From the Archdiocese of Philadelphia we have received since our last issue a very gratifying response to the appeal of His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, to the Superioresses of the many schools of the Diocese. We shall select a few of the schools whose programs have already gotten underway. No doubt we shall hear from many more schools during the coming weeks. With the approach of Lent the Mother Seton project should be very attractive and give a practical answer to the question: What shall I do for Lent? All the children can redouble their prayers and be more faithful to their obligations of confession, Mass and Holy Communion. We send this as a suggestion to all the Sisters.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.: The outstanding report comes from St. Francis de Sales School of which Sister Angelina is the Principal. From the Sister Principal we received a copy of the school paper, admirably edited for any high school not to say grade school. The paper contained an account of a panel discussion on Mother Seton. Sister Angelina sent us also copies of the essays written by the eighth grade pupils. The essays showed the effect of very careful preparation on the part of the students. The following words are taken from Sister's letter to Father Burgio: "We held the panel discussion on November the thirtieth on Mother Seton. The priests and Sisters seemed to enjoy it very much. Interest was sustained throughout by the many questions asked from the floor. It was an eighth grade project and very informative . . . it gave all an incentive to pray for the Beatification and Canonization of Mother Seton." In preparation for their part in the discussion the Guild received well written requests for material from the following students: Mary Jane McEntee, Roseanne Murray, Robert J. McKeown. The program followed by Sister Angelina could serve as a model for all schools seeking to aid in furthering the Cause.

NEW YORK CITY: From Miss Angelina Bartolotta of St. Stephen's School we have the following interesting little let-

ter: "We had the 'Paca Street' play on December 10th and our pastor came to see it. He thought it was very fine. We hired the costumes and some of the girls brought in the other things that we needed. Our Mother Seton Club is going to close until after the examinations. We'll re-open in February, until then we shall be very busy with our examinations. I close begging God to bless you abundantly."

PITTSBURGH, PA.: From Sister Regina Clare of the Elizabeth Seton High School we received a very detailed letter

of thanks to the Sister in charge of the Mother Seton activities!

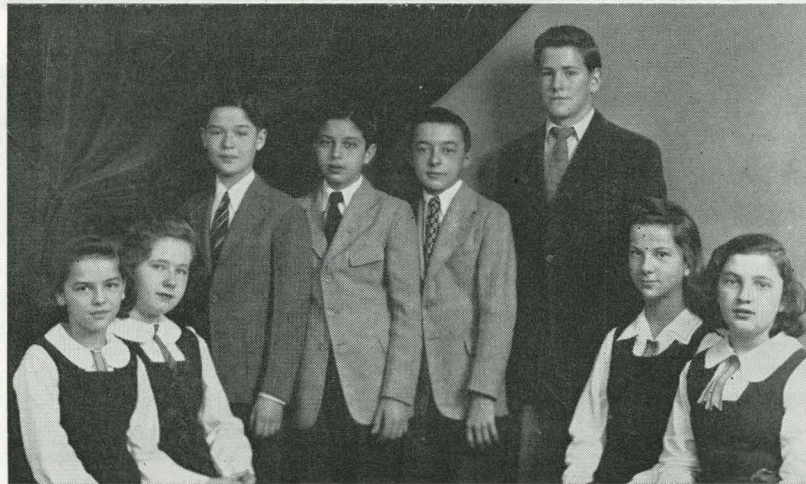
UTICA, N. Y.: From Sister Mary at the Utica Catholic Academy we received the following letter: "Regarding the BULLETIN, I am getting more subscribers. Those among the pupils who are trying to increase the number I am calling promoters. If they happen to be from the grades they are called Junior Promoters . . . I told the promoters that you would include their intentions in your Masses to be said in the White House." We thank Sister Mary for her continued cooperation and we approve heartily of her plan for the Junior and Senior Promoters. May many others follow her example!

LAWRENCE, MASS.: Sister Camillus of St. Patrick's School who has always been a zealous promoter of the activities of the Cause, has sent us a number of new members for the ever growing list of Mother Seton's clients. Sister also sent in her order for various articles that assist in furthering the Cause, pamphlets, medals, prayer leaflets, etc.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.: The B.B.B.'s, the Betty Bayley Brigadiers of St. Peter's School continue their activities for the Cause. Sister Agnes Marie writes: "The B.B.B.'s have taken up arms again for Mother Seton. They have responded very well to our appeal for entrants to the composition contest. Each has chosen some phase of Mother Seton's life and they have done very well. I am sending the compositions to the Sister in charge of the Mother Seton League at St. Mary's, Rosebank, Staten Island. Her little leaguers will determine the winners."

I returned home, light of heart and cool of head, the first time these many long months, but not without begging Our Lord to wrap my heart deep in that opened side so well represented in the beautiful crucifixion, or lock it up in His little tabernacle, where I shall now rest forever.

March 14, 1805, the day Mother Seton was received into the Church.



Contestants of the Panel Discussion on Mother Seton, St. Francis de Sales School, Philadelphia, Pa.

about the plans of the students to dramatize the social and political times centering around Elizabeth Ann Seton when she was about fifteen years of age. This will be followed by other dramatizations of Mother Seton's life, e.g., her marriage to William Seton and her arrival at Emmitsburg. Because of the "flu" epidemic these projects had to be postponed until February. Following a special high Mass on January fourth there was a formal beginning of activities for the coming term. Pictures of Mother Seton will be presented to each classroom and appropriate speeches will be given.

MARTINSBURG, W. VA.: A surprisingly large number of memberships have been obtained from the children of St. Joseph's School and their parents. These memberships have included many subscriptions to the BULLETIN. The recent subscriptions boost to an incredibly high number the total obtained from this comparatively small school. A special note