

Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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OCTOBER, 1944

Mother Seton's Welcome to Baltimore

THE last farewells were over. Elizabeth Ann Seton stood on the deck of the packet ship, Grand Sachem, and wistfully looked back at the slowly receding shore of little old New York. She gathered closely around her Anna, Catherine and Rebecca, her three darling daughters who seemed to be all that she possessed of the treasures that she once had in abundance. It was Thursday, June 9, 1808, when in a light breeze the Grand Sachem cast off from her wharf and slowly drifted with the tide of the North River towards the open sea. There was no deep regret in leaving New York which had treated her so unkindly since the days of her entrance into the Church. Only a few ties bound her to the city of her birth—Cecilia Seton, recently converted to the Faith, her soul's sister, as she delighted to call her; and Harriet who, though not yet a member of the true Church, was destined before two years had passed to breathe forth her saintly soul amid the humble surroundings of the historic "Stone House," the first building occupied by the Community at St. Joseph's, Emmitsburg. The Barrys, too, were thought of by Mrs. Seton as she watched the little boat draw away from the land. Out of the goodness of their hearts, this well-to-do Irish family, close friends of her beloved husband, William Seton, had sought her out after her conversion and made her a member of their family circle. "As for the rest," writes Mrs. Seton, "they so mistrust and suspect me, because they are persuaded, and they are not wrong, that my religious principles are the only source of my actions, and they will be relieved when I disappear from among them, no matter where I go, nor in what position I am."

A HAPPY VOYAGE

Fortunately, we have Mother Seton's own words to describe for us her feelings during that rather uneventful trip down the Atlantic coast, past Cape Charles and Cape Henry and up the protected waters of Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore. The

deep and fervent faith of Mother Seton, her confidence in God, her affectionate heart, her indomitable courage and particularly her sublime optimism are all made manifest in her letters to Cecilia Seton in the form of a diary. Scarcely had the house tops of New York disappeared over the skyline than she was able to write: "All the fatigue and weariness of mind and body are past; the firmament of heaven so bright; the cheering sea breeze and merry sailors would drive old care away indeed. . . . Everyone is so kind." On Tuesday,

five days after leaving New York, she expressed in words the feelings of exultation that filled her heart; words that seem so characteristic of her noble soul: "Here we are flying up the Chesapeake. A fairer wind and lighter hearts never went through it, I believe. The sun is setting gloriously. . . . My soul flies up with the Miserere. . . . Tomorrow do I go among strangers? No! Has any anxious thought or fears passed my mind? No! Can I be disappointed? No! . . . Doubt and fear fly from the breast inhabited by Him. There can be no disappointment where the soul's only desire and expectation is to meet His Adored will and fulfill it. . . . Hope is on the wing, expecting tomorrow (Thursday) morning."

CORPUS CHRISTI IN BALTIMORE

One of the happiest days in Mother Seton's life, and she had her share of thrilling moments, was Thursday, June 16, 1808. It was the great Feast of Corpus

Christi. In her own words to Cecilia she tells of the happiness that flooded her soul. Here is her glorious welcome to Baltimore as described in her letter to Cecilia Seton:

"Thursday Morning, nine o'clock: Since eleven last night we are at the wharf, but can not quit the vessel until our things are entered at the custom house. It rains very hard. How poor mother's heart beats, the hand trembles, too! In one hour we will be at St. Mary's. How often has the soul visited His sacred presence on the altar, (Continued on Page 2)



Mother Seton's Farewell to New York

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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Address all communications to
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Mother Seton Guild

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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.
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Mother Seton's Welcome To Baltimore

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not one solitary altar, but the many we soon will see. . . ."*

"Thursday evening—Corpus Christi: My dear, dear, dear, dear all! I can tell you that the carriage conveyed us to the Seminary. The organ's solemn peal first, then the bursting of the choir. This was the moment of the consecration of Mr. DuBourg's chapel. We entered without a word, prostrate in an instant. St. Mary's voice resounded the Kyrie Eleison. Human nature could scarcely bear it. Your imagination can never conceive the splendor, the glory of the scene! All I have told you of Florence is a shadow. After Mass I was in the arms of the loveliest woman you ever beheld, Mr. DuBourg's sister. Surrounded by so many caresses and blessings. All my wonder is how I got through it; the darlings were confounded with wonder and delight."

EVENING WITH THE DUBOURGS

The evening of that eventful day was spent at the home of Father DuBourg's mother and sister. There, Mrs. Seton was entertained by the overwhelming hospitality of these cultured and refined French women who took her to their affectionate hearts.

"My life is so different," Mother Seton wrote, "so different from what it was that I can scarcely realize that it is the same life. All the little welcome attentions of which I have been deprived for some time have been lavished on me by the family of Mr. DuBourg. His mother and sister are unwearied in the cares they bestow on us; what we can not procure for ourselves they send us each day as if we formed a portion of the family."

When the evening meal was over in the DuBourg home the DuBourgs gathered with Mrs. Seton and her daughters in the living room where Aglae, Father DuBourg's sister's little daughter, who was about six years old, welcomed her new found playmates by reciting in French a little poem expressing her happiness. If the words were lost on little Josephine and Rebecca Seton, who knew only English, certainly the sentiments found their way to their simple hearts. It was not late when this little party was brought to a close. The day had been filled with excitement for Mrs. Seton and her little girls. They had entered a new world that promised so much happiness. It was a rapturously happy Mrs. Seton who closed her eyes that night after thanking the good Lord for the

blessings that He had showered upon her in a strange land.

THE HOME ON PACA STREET

In anticipation of her coming to Baltimore Father DuBourg had rented a house near St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street. It was a small brick building that could be rented for about twenty dollars a month. Yet, it was complete enough to take care of Mother Seton's little family and ten boarders. Only a fence stood between it and the chapel attached to St. Mary's and, while in her new home, Mrs. Seton could hear the Mass bell that announced the progress of the Holy Sacrifice. That the arrangements made for her in Baltimore were more than she ever anticipated may be judged from these words which Mrs. Seton wrote to Cecilia Seton:

"So much, all combined, turns my brain! Mass from daylight to eight. My dwelling the most complete, almost joining the chapel. Vespers and Benediction every evening. Every heart caressing us; the look of love and peace on every countenance."

FATHER OF THE FAMILY

During the year that Mrs. Seton spent in Baltimore, Father DuBourg was her constant support and protector. His influence as President of St. Mary's and Superior of the Sulpicians was, indeed, very great among the faithful of the diocese. In all her doubts Mrs. Seton turned to him for direction. He appointed the saintly Father Babade as her confessor and the spiritual director of her continually growing community, but he was the father of the family and to him she could go on all occasions for assistance. Under his care had been placed William and Richard Seton, her two sons, and the fatherly interest which the good priest showed in the development of their character was of the greatest consolation to their devoted mother. In order that the Seton family might be united he had brought the two boys from Georgetown College near Washington to St. Mary's in Baltimore. This kindness and thoughtfulness on the part of Father DuBourg was deeply appreciated by the devoted mother. Later on, when Mother Seton established her Community in Emmitsburg, Father DuBourg arranged with Father DuBois, the president of Mount St. Mary's, to have the Seton brothers placed in the Emmitsburg college, just about two miles from their mother and sisters at St. Joseph's.

ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERIOR

As the ecclesiastical superior of the institution on Paca Street, Father Du-

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Bourg acted as intermediary with the Bishop in all the affairs that came under the jurisdiction of the head of the diocese. All the details of the Community that was slowly forming around Mrs. Seton were made known to Bishop Carroll by the learned and saintly superior of St. Mary's. It was through him, under God's guidance, that Mother Seton had come to Baltimore and never once did he fail to discharge with utmost care every duty that his sacred office placed upon him. In the success of Mother Seton's undertaking he was as much concerned as Mother Seton herself. It was at his suggestion and under his inspiration that she left New York to come into the strange surroundings of Baltimore. When the time came for the official recognition of Mother Seton and her companions as a regular religious community, Bishop Carroll immediately named Father DuBourg as its ecclesiastical superior. Surely, the choice was both happy and most fitting; happy because of the pleasant and sympathetic relations that existed between Father DuBourg and the members of the new Community; and most fitting because to Father DuBourg more than to anyone else should go the credit for inspiring and fostering the beginnings of this organization that was destined to play such an important part in the early history of the Church in America.

ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Not for long was Father DuBourg to remain as superior of the newly founded Community. Shortly after Mrs. Seton was given the ecclesiastical title "Mother" by Bishop Carroll, the institution on Paca Street was moved to Emmitsburg. Father DuBourg still remained superior, was still the guiding hand but his contacts were not so frequent because, as superior of St. Mary's Seminary, he remained in Baltimore, and Emmitsburg is fifty miles distant. Transportation was slow and the mails were uncertain. However, he kept in such close touch as circumstances would permit. Hardly six months had passed after Mother Seton left Baltimore before Father DuBourg himself was given a distant assignment. The Holy See, recognizing his value, appointed him Administrator of the Diocese of New Orleans, a position he held until 1815 when he was named Bishop of that far-off and undeveloped vineyard of the Lord. His appointment brought mingled joy and sorrow to Emmitsburg and especially to Mother Seton who had relied so completely on his advice. But

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Special News Announcement

The Vice Postulator, Father Burgio, has just received from the Holy See through the Apostolic Delegation in Washington the Remissorial Letters which authorize Archbishop Rummel of New Orleans to examine with full canonical procedure the historic facts of the extraordinary cure of Sister Gertrude Korzendorfer, Daughter of Charity of the Western Province of the United States.

A detailed description of Sister Gertrude's remarkable recovery appeared in the March 1943 issue of the BULLETIN.

All clients of Mother Seton, especially the school children, are urged most earnestly to redouble their prayers during the session of the Apostolic Court that this investigation may have a successful conclusion and bring the Beatification and Canonization of Mother Seton closer to accomplishment.

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

We have received a very large number of letters acknowledging favors received during the past few months. We regret that many of these letters merely mentioned that the favor was received without explaining the nature of the favor. We urgently request all who have been so blessed to send us a complete account of the nature of the answer to their prayers. Many of the readers of the BULLETIN are interested particularly in knowing just what kind of favor was granted.

Jersey City, N. J.

"My dear Father: Some time ago I prayed for a special favor. I started a special Novena to Mother Seton and on the second or third day I received part of what I asked for. I'm still praying for the rest of it. In the meantime I had promised that if I did get part of it I would make it known. . . . Father, would you be so kind as to have your Guild members pray real hard for a friend of mine who has a serious heart condition. Pray that she be cured, if it be God's will."

Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Since mother's enrollment in the Mother Seton Guild her health has been improved and we all have received many blessings. I am very grateful to Mother Seton and we have tried to spread her devotion. We pray daily for her Canonization." (A. D.)

Brooklyn, N. Y.

"Reverend and dear Father: Last August I underwent a very serious operation and for three weeks was very ill. Before going to the hospital I had been saying the prayer that I received from you.

The morning of the operation I put Mother Seton's medal around my neck and asked her help. Although I was very ill for three weeks, everybody, including the doctors, were delighted that I got along so well. I feel that my rapid recovery was due to Mother Seton's help." (M. M.)

Batavia, Ohio

"I have found relief and comfort from arthritis obtained through a Novena to Mother Seton. Many thanks to her for her favor." (Mrs. C. E. S.)

New Orleans, La.

"Dear Father: Some time ago my sister had a very serious operation and, while the operation was successful, she did not regain her strength and remained in a very critical condition. Later, my sister developed a bad case of neuritis. The doctors gave us no hope. I made two Novenas to Mother Seton and my sister has had a miraculous recovery. I am convinced that her restoration to health was due to Mother Seton and I have promised to do everything I can to spread devotion to her and further the Cause of her Canonization." (B. McC.)

North Hollywood, Calif.

"Dear Father: Two weeks ago my youngest daughter met with a terrible automobile accident. I prayed to Mother Seton for her recovery. That my daughter was saved from instantaneous death seems almost miraculous even to the doctor. Now, thanks be to God, she is recovering slowly. I wish also as a spiritual favor that my daughter turn to God because she was living a good Catholic life before the accident."

(Mrs. M. S. M.)

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

It is anticipated that the school year 1944-45 will be a banner year for the Cause of Mother Seton. Each year has been progressively better than the preceding twelve months; therefore, we confidently expect the coming school term to outdistance all that have gone before.

We are very anxious to have as many pictures of student groups as possible so that the pages of the BULLETIN will be more attractive than ever. We ask the Sisters in charge of the various programs to send in group pictures with their reports. We ask the student leaders of the Seton Clubs and other organizations to give the Sisters full cooperation in obtaining complete reports of all projects.

Because of the limited space that the BULLETIN can offer for each picture sent in, we must insist on group pictures of no more than five or six persons. We would be pleased, also, to publish the picture of the individual leaders of the various Mother Seton groups. Kindly send the negatives whenever possible. Glossy finished pictures are more acceptable than dull finished photographs. Newspaper pictures are practically worthless because of the impossibility of obtaining clear reproductions.

During the summer months school activities must be necessarily curtailed; in fact they are non-existent. However, we have been able to keep in touch with several of the schools which continued to send in accounts of their programs.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

We are pleased to present to our readers a group of Mother Seton League officers from St. Vincent's Academy, taught by the Cincinnati Sisters of Charity. Left to right in the picture are: Louise Redding, President; Margaret Geddes, Secretary; Janet McCanna, Vice-President, and Mary Teresa Fallen, Treasurer. Among the activities fostered by this bustling unit during the spring term was a drive to purchase a war bond for the local St. Anthony's Orphanage, a candy sale to support the Cause, and a Rosary drive which enlisted the support of all the pastors in the vicinity. The unit also promoted a special novena to St. Joseph during the month of March.

Detroit, Michigan

St. Leo's High School has always been in the vanguard of schools supporting the Cause of Mother Seton. In almost every issue of the BULLETIN attention has been called to the varied programs of this splendid school. On Mother's Day they presented Mother Seton with



Officers of the
Mother Seton Guild Unit
St. Vincent Academy
Albuquerque, New Mexico

the following spiritual bouquet: "Prayers offered for your Canonization: High Mass; Low Masses, 3,925; Holy Communions, 3,726; Aspirations, 3,399,827; Prayers for Canonization, 71,194."

Martinsburg, W. Va.

St. Joseph's School has done wonders considering the comparatively small enrollment in its classes. During the summer we were pleased to hear from Sister Hilda that the Mother Seton Club had raised the cost of two war bonds for the Cause and also had two Masses said for the advancement of the Canonization. The Guild wishes to express its gratitude for such splendid assistance.

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never did his interest in Mother Seton and her spiritual family diminish. All during her life she was in touch with the holy priest who had been sent by the Most High to inspire her with her great vocation as the foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America and a pioneer in Catholic education in the early Church.

Have confidence! Never let comparison of time and eternity slip an instant from your mind. I find this cures all sorrow.

—MOTHER SETON

NEWS BRIEFS

In the Guild office we were delighted to hear from the Junior Seton Club of Youngstown, Ohio. This splendid organization of Catholic women are successfully carrying on Catholic Action through the activities of their officers and members. Under the auspices of Mother Seton, the inspiration of their devotion to what is noble and good, they carry on a cultural social program from September to May. In a daintily gotten up little handbook they have published the complete schedule for the whole year in advance. To arrange such a delightful program required much time and great ingenuity. The Mother Seton Guild wishes to congratulate the Junior Seton Club.

The next edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, which goes to press as soon as possible after the war restrictions are removed, will carry an article on Mother Seton especially written for that famous publication. The editor of the Britannica, Mr. Walter Yust, has been very generous in allotting space to information about Mother Seton.

Professor Thompson, head of the department of chemistry in St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, addressed the county meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Abington, Mass. He chose as his topic: "The Life of Mother Seton." After his address the society voted a donation to the Cause and expressed the desire to be kept informed of all future developments.

The Secretary of the Seton Charity Club of Philadelphia, Helen Heffernan, sent to the Guild, in the name of the Club, the generous donation of one hundred dollars for the purpose of furthering the Cause. This splendid organization, made up of ladies of Philadelphia interested in St. Joseph's Home for girls, the first foundation established by Mother Seton, has been most zealous in their devotion to the patroness of their club.

A beautiful stained glass window presenting full length likeness of Mother Seton in her religious habit has been installed recently in St. Bridget's Church in Philadelphia. Father Kortekamp, the administrator of the parish, has long been a devotee of Mother Seton. The many blessings and favors that have come to St. Bridget's lately are attributed by Father Kortekamp to the enthusiastic participation by his parishioners in the activities connected with the Cause of Mother Seton.