

Mother Seton Guild Bulletin

ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE CANONIZATION OF MOTHER ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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Mother Seton At Emmitsburg: Part Three

FEBRUARY twentieth, almost seven months after Mother Seton had come from her six weeks' stay over at Mount Saint Mary's to take possession of the Stone House, was the blessed day when the Sisters were at last able to take possession of the almost completed White House, the first of the many buildings which Mother Seton and her future daughters were to build from coast to coast and from northern Canada to the tropics. Mother Seton herself did little building because the Community was not yet financially able to carry on even a modest construction program. The first large building at St. Joseph's, Emmitsburg, the Bruté Building, was erected by Mother Rose White a few years after Mother Seton's death in 1821.

PROCESSION TO NEW HOME


Mother Rose's Journal gives us this brief account of the simple ceremonies that marked the entrance of the Sisters into their new home. "On February 20th, we moved to the new building; the Blessed Sacrament was brought in procession, Sister Veronica walking before with the bell and the cross, Father DuBois, carrying the Blessed Sacrament next, Mother and the Sisters following; Sister Sally carrying Sister Cecelia in her arms as she was still very sick." The chapel proper was not yet finished so the choir was used by the Sisters for at least several weeks after the Community had moved from the Stone House. So anxious were the Sisters to move into the new building that they had come long before the workmen had finished their task. They lived in unfinished and unplastered rooms; they slept on the

bare floor because of the crowded conditions and they experienced almost as many hardships during the late winter and early spring as they had in the almost intolerable conditions they obtained at the Stone House.

ARRIVAL OF PUPILS

It was about this time that the number of students for the day school and the academy increased very substantially. Even before the Community had moved from the Stone House, pupils were received by the Sisters to begin the great work of education for which Mother Seton had formed her little band of pioneers. An entrance in the Journal under the date of February tenth makes record of the coming of three new scholars. Mother Seton wrote to Father David shortly after she had taken possession of the new building: "The school has increased to thirty-five, and so far all goes well. . . . The Sisters observe the Rule to the utmost of their power, except that of silence which cannot be very readily established after so

long a scene of confusion; even now the Sisters are driven from room to room, surrounded by workmen, and called upon in every direction. . . . I do not know that in any instance their mutual peace and charity has been interrupted, but, on the contrary, they seem always carefully bent on preserving it." Almost a month after the Sisters had come to their new home the Journal relates: "The plastering of the first story was begun (March 15, 1810); we moved from room to room, and at one time lived in the hall. Our school increased in numbers, both boarders and day (Continued on Page 2)



To our faithful friends
and devoted readers we wish
a Blessed Christmas
filled with
Heaven's choicest favors

"This is the day of sweetest reflections...
Christmas Day has dawned again...the day
of our Redeemer's birth."

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.

The Bulletin is issued quarterly.

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 At Emmitsburg

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scholars; we had great difficulty in accommodating the boarders; the Sisters slept on the floor in the garret."

SOURCES OF REVENUE

The increase in the enrollment, especially in the academy where the boarders were, was, indeed, most welcome, because it was on the income from the tuition and board of these students that the Sisters principally depended in order to pay their rapidly increasing expenses. However, they did not depend entirely on this source of revenue as the Journal informs us: "At this time we began to take in sewing from the Mountain to pay off a debt; we made mattresses, quilted comforters, made and repaired the students' clothing; we also made corporals, surplices and albs for the Mountain church; continued to do our washing at the creek, never hiring a woman for this work until the year 1816; the health of our Sisters beginning to fail, it became a necessity to procure help."

ECONOMY OF SPACE

The present day observer marvels at the wonderful economy of space that the Sisters managed in their new building which because of its color was called the "White House" from the very beginning. It was not pretentious, merely a log building finished off rather crudely. In length it was hardly more than seventy feet and in depth about forty feet. It was two stories in height with a slanting roof that formed a fairly spacious attic. Facing almost directly south towards the creek it was pleasantly situated near the present main entrance to the Sisters' chapel in the northeast corner of the carefully cultivated triangle that is known today as Mother's Garden. At the east end of the building a small kitchen was added and on the west end the chapel was placed with the sanctuary making a sort of addition not unlike a large bay window. The altar of the first days was exceedingly plain. The only picture was an old print brought from New York by Mother Seton but the devotion of the Sisters to the Blessed Sacrament prompted them to beautify the altar of their chapel with an abundance of wild flowers, especially the mountain laurel that grew nearby in profusion. How all the Sisters and the ever increasing number of boarders were able to find adequate accommodation in such limited quarters is to us of the present time inexplicable.

INTIMATE LETTER: TRIALS

A letter written by Mother Seton and dated March 1, 1810, gives us an insight into the spiritual beauty of her soul. Written to her spiritual director at the time she lays bare the sacred precinct of her soul:

"The month of February past, and my tottering frame still stands; but whence this change? With a cheerful heart I feel myself every day get weaker, and I feel happy in the idea that a few weeks must end it all. What now is all the world to me? It vanishes like smoke. Night or day, sunshine or rain, 'tis all one to me. My eyes are fixed on eternal day; pain has become my rest, and my nights never more sweetly passed than when restless and uneasy. Dearest Lord! how good you are to me; you have indeed heard my prayer, always to let me suffer for you, that so I may expiate my offenses; and when the hour of death shall come I may pass immediately from this world into Thy arms of mercy. Oh, how precious now is every hour of my time! Not an instant shall be lost. Every thought, word, and action, shall tend to the one point. And how ungrateful should I be to my merciful Creator did I not devote to Him, to the utmost of my power the short remainder of my life, which most probably will be but a few weeks longer.

PEACE AMID SUFFERINGS

"Since the last accounts to my dearest father, the soul has tasted more peace than it has since our darling Harriet has gone. Death has no longer a frightful appearance. I can now meditate upon it with the greatest composure. My daily pains I feel hourly more precious though sometimes I get wearier, and even wish to be released; yet I find in my severest pains that I fervently pray our Lord to give me still more, and purify and prepare me for Himself. I cannot help thinking, from the nature of my complaint, that I am fast approaching toward the end of my exile; the pilgrimage has been wearisome, the mountain very hard to climb these few months past, which only make me long more ardently for a haven of rest. But shall I ever reach that port? May there not be some sins yet unexpiated? If so, I trust our Jesus will shed a ray of His divine light in my unworthy bosom. Before the arrival of that hour doubts and fears will

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His Eminence Carlo Cardinal Salotti

From the Eternal City on Saturday, October the 25th, came the sad news of the passing of Cardinal Salotti from the scene of his many years of devoted labor as a member and later as the head of the Sacred Congregation of Rites to his eternal reward. Rome lost one of its most prominent figures; the Church, an eminent ecclesiastic and the Cause of Mother Seton, one of its most able and influential friends. For thirty years Cardinal Salotti acted as promoter of Causes and "Devil's Advocate" with such outstanding ability that he was everywhere known in Rome as the "Saint Maker."

IMPORTANT VISIT

His special interest in Mother Seton's Cause dates back to the year 1939. Shortly after the election of Pope Pius XII, His Eminence Cardinal Dougherty accompanied by Father Salvator Burgio, a conclavist at the Papal election, recently appointed to his position as Vice Postulator of Mother Seton's Cause, paid a friendly visit to Cardinal Salotti in his private study. Cardinal Dougherty, who for many years had fostered devotion to Mother Seton, spoke to the eminent Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites of his great interest in her Cause and urged Cardinal Salotti to do what he could to further the progress of Beatification. The genial Cardinal Prefect in his kind and generous way assured Cardinal Dougherty that whatever could be done would be done. "Your Eminence" said he slowly and deliberately, "because of our intimate friendship extending over many, many years, I am going to take the Cause of Mother Seton and give it special priority. I'll give it first place among the Causes. I'll make it my own." Then with a kindly smile lighting up his expressive countenance he continued: "I assure that what Cardinal Salotti says will be done, will be done." To understand the full meaning of the favor granted by Cardinal Salotti in giving Mother Seton's Cause such preference, it is necessary to realize that at the time of this meeting in 1939 there were nine hundred and twenty Causes before the Sacred Congregation of Rites, while at the present writing there are more than a thousand awaiting the action of the Sacred Congregation.

INTRODUCTION OF CAUSE

From that day new life came into the process of Beatification of Mother Seton. Special directions were issued by Cardinal Salotti to his many assistants in the Sacred Congregation of Rites whose duty

it is to examine into the details pertaining to the Beatifications and Canonizations of the Servants of God. On February 28, 1940, the Decree of Introduction of the Cause of the Beatification of Mother Seton was published by the Sacred Congregation. It is a remarkable fact that this document was the first official document to be published in English by the Vatican. The beautifully worded translation comes from the pen of His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty.

MONTE CASSINO

The next step taken by Cardinal Salotti was to speed up the work of the historical section of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. It was the duty of the



CARLO CARDINAL SALOTTI

scholars of this department to examine into the documents which give proof of the heroic virtues practiced by Mother Seton to make sure that everything is in order and prepared for the meticulous examination of the learned judges of the Congregation. All these documents were sent to the Benedictine monks at Monte Cassino whose labors were so rudely interrupted by the events of the recent war. It was only a few days before the destruction of most of Monte Cassino by the American Air Force that these priceless documents were once more carried back to Rome for their safekeeping. This unhappy incident of the attack on Monte Cassino has set back the progress of the Cause for several years. However, with renewed vigor, due to the ever insistent influence of Cardinal Salotti, the new commission on documentation is now hard at work in Rome itself.

APOSTOLIC COURT

Probably the most striking example of the continued interest of Cardinal Salotti in Mother Seton was the establishing of the Apostolic Court in New Orleans to investigate the details connected with the remarkable cure of Sister Gertrude Korzendorfer, a Daughter of Charity of the Western Province of the United States. This was an unprecedented procedure in the present status of the Cause. If, as we fondly hope, this remarkable cure is considered a miracle by the members of the Congregation of Rites to whom it goes for judgment, under divine Providence the glory will belong to Cardinal Salotti. So timely was this Apostolic Court called that had there been a delay of three months, the proceedings of the court would have been futile, because within three months after its sessions were concluded, Doctor Nix, the principal and indispensable witness, was called out of life. Without Doctor Nix's testimony the sessions would have been held in vain.

PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP

The bond of friendship between Cardinal Salotti and Father Burgio during these last seven or eight years has been ever closer and closer. Every important step taken by the Vice Postulator was with the advice and under the direction of the paternal Cardinal. Whatever difficulties or problems came in the way were soon resolved by His Eminence. Even the slightest details were given his sympathetic attention. By letters of instruction he laid down all the rules and regulations governing the Postulation. The last letter that came from the late Cardinal was dated as recently as May 31, 1947. Since then the health of this great man has failed continually.

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE

To Carlo Cardinal Salotti, therefore, all the friends and clients of Mother Seton owe a debt of gratitude which no one can truly estimate. In the prayers and Masses of the spiritual daughters of Mother Seton the good Cardinal deserves a remembrance that will never cease. No doubt this great and good man who has brought about the Canonization of so many Servants of God is now enjoying that happiness which his many years in the service of the Divine Master has merited for him, but the gratitude that each and everyone of Mother Seton's friends should feel for the heroic efforts he made on her behalf should prompt us all to pray fervently for the peaceful repose of his noble soul.

Father DuBois' Christmas Visit

Christmas Day in the year 1809 must have dawned beautifully over the Valley at Emmitsburg. We do not mean merely that a gorgeous sun rose in a cloudless sky to usher in a day of mild and delightful temperature, but rather a dawn that was beautiful in the spiritual sense. We mean that Christmas Day, "the blessed day of our dear Redeemer's birth," brought spiritual joy and exaltation to Mother Seton and her devoted daughters at St. Joseph's. Like the prophets of old they had sighed for the coming of the Messiah; through the weeks of Advent they had sent up their prayers to heaven, begging the Eternal Father to send down upon the earth, the sinful earth, His Only Begotten Son. The words of Isaias were as a song in their hearts, a canticle upon their lips: "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened, and bud forth the Savior."

A FERTILE VALLEY

Since the coming of the little band from Baltimore, the summer season had passed into autumn and now autumn had passed into winter. The mountains had been a riot of color as the leaves turned to beautiful reds and golds and browns with the coming of the chilly days, but now they were cold and grey. The harvest had been gathered on neighboring farms and the hunting season, no doubt, brought both pleasure and provisions for the winter to the settlers in the Valley. The Susquehanna Indians, reputedly a warlike tribe, noted, too, for its skill in hunting, had long roamed the woodlands and fields of Frederick County, but these braves had departed a full generation before the coming of Mother Seton and only an occasional Indian was now seen far from the abode of the settlers. They had departed towards the setting sun before the powerful weapons of the white man. But, they left behind them one of the most fertile counties in this great, broad country of ours, a land blessed with a great variety of wild life of wood and stream that the newcomers had not yet driven from their native haunts. Therefore, food was never lacking in the Valley and even Mother Seton's daughters were well supplied by the bounty of the land.

RECENT DISCOVERY

Recent research among the old records of Mount St. Mary's College have brought to light information about some of the business transactions between the Mount and the Sisters at St. Joseph's. In the light of present high prices for the

ordinary necessities of life, it is interesting to note the purchasing power of money at the time of Mother Seton's coming to Emmitsburg one hundred and forty years ago, though money was not so plentiful then as now. The Sisters bought large supplies of beef at four and five cents a pound, though hams were fifteen cents a pound. Chickens sold for twelve cents a piece and eggs were about twelve cents a dozen. Among the items recorded on the bill is a barrel of flour that cost seven dollars and a half. Sugar sold at eleven cents a pound and coffee at twenty-five cents. Such items as shad, herrings and codfish appear in the bill showing a surprising variety of seafood that was enjoyed by the ordinary people at that time.

CHRISTMAS EVE ENTRY

It was quite interesting to come across an entry dated the twenty-fourth of December, Christmas Eve. There is no cost set down for this item, therefore, it might be presumed that it was a gift from the College, perhaps a gift from Father Dubois to the Sisters. Two turkeys and one goose, according to the written account, were sent to the Sisters for their Christmas dinner. We can well imagine that the Sisters were able to prepare out of their carefully husbanded store the necessary dishes to accompany the main dishes of turkey and goose. There must have been the usual vegetables and puddings and pastry that the people of that time were able to enjoy at Christmas. The other days of the year may have been lean, indeed, but Christmas was a special day and even the poorest were able to enjoy something of the bounteous riches that the fertile soil and the rich woodlands had to offer.

FATHER DUBOIS' VISIT

A delightful picture comes before us as we imagine Father Dubois, the kindly and generous neighbor from the other side of the Valley, coming across the fields accompanied by some of the workmen from the Mount who carried with them a present of Christmas provisions from their abundant store. No record exists of this visit of the warm-hearted Father Dubois, but it is not difficult for the imagination to draw a vivid picture of his coming. The item set down in the bill that is on file in the archives of Mount St. Mary's College tells us that on Christmas Eve the Sisters received from the College two turkeys and one goose. The imagination must supply the details. No doubt the Sisters on the first Christmas Day in the Valley enjoyed

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

Since the last issue of the BULLETIN the following favors have been reported to the office of the Guild. Though many request that their favors be published in the columns of the BULLETIN, yet we are unable to grant these many requests because of lack of space. In sending in favors care should be taken to limit the number of words to about a hundred or a hundred and fifty. The important details of the favor should be mentioned, not merely the fact that a favor was granted. We wish to thank all those who take the time and trouble to send their letters to the Guild.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.: "I suffered from recurring fever for a period of two years and I was unable to obtain relief. I then sought through prayer the aid of Mother Seton. Immediately the fever vanished and I recovered my health. I promised Mother Seton that I would report the favor received." (L. C. R.)

DETROIT, MICH.: "About two years ago I started to raise blood while at work. I hurried home and had several rather copious hemorrhages during the night. The doctor was called and I was rushed to the sanatorium as a critical tubercular patient. My brother who had received some literature describing some seemingly miraculous cure through prayer and the intercession of Mother Seton came to visit me. He suggested that our whole family start a novena to Mother Seton. That is how I started to pray using our own form of devotion. After three days the hemorrhages ceased. X-ray examinations and the fluoroscope failed to show the cause of the hemorrhages. After about the ninth day, I think, I was told that I could leave the sanatorium because 'there was nothing wrong with me.' I remained at home a week to rest and pray, then I returned to work and I have not missed a day since. I visited Mother Seton's tomb on July first of this year." (Jos. W.)

Note: It is remarkable that a number of clients suffering from tuberculosis have asked the help of Mother Seton in their illness and their petitions have been answered. It was probably this dread disease that brought about her husband's death, her own death and the death of several other members of her family.

their well-cooked dinner of Maryland wild turkey and native goose, thanks to Father Dubois' Christmas visit.

First Conference of Mother Seton's Daughters

On October twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth there was held at St. Joseph's Central House in Emmitsburg a Conference attended by the major Superiors of the Communities of American Sisters of Charity who have as their foundress, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton. Present were: Mother May Josephine of Mount St. Vincent-on-Hudson, New York; Mother Mary Evaristus of Mount St. Vincent, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Mother Mary Benedict, Seton Hill, Greensburg, Pennsylvania; Sister Gertrude, representing Mother Mary Benita of Convent Station, New Jersey; Sister Estelle, representing Sister Caroline, Visitatrix of the Western Province of the Sisters of Charity and Sister Isabel, the Visitatrix of the Emmitsburg Sisters of Charity, who was the delighted hostess to the Reverend Mothers, their representatives and their Sisters' companions. Mother Mary Zoe, Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Joseph-on-Ohio, wrote to Sister Isabel from the hospital where she was under the doctor's observation expressing her deep regret at being unable to attend the meetings, adding: "My illness has added a greater fervor to my willingness to cooperate in every way for the Cause so dear to the heart of every Sister of Charity." The meetings of the Conference were presided over as Moderator by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John M. McNamara, D.D., Administrator of the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington.

IMPORTANCE OF CONFERENCE

In the history of Mother Seton's Cause there are few, if any, events of greater importance than this meeting of the major Superiors of the different Communities that look to Mother Seton as their revered foundress. The inspiration for the meeting came from no less a source than the Apostolic Delegate himself, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, the personal representative in the United States of our beloved Holy Father, Pius the Twelfth. His suggestion to call the conference of the Mother Superiors of the several Communities of Sisters was eagerly taken up by His Excellency, Bishop McNamara, whose devotion to the Cause is unsurpassed by the most zealous of Mother Seton's clients and whose warmhearted personality was responsible more than anything else for the gratifying success of every feature of the Conference. The gratitude that the Spiritual Daughters

of Mother Seton feel towards the Apostolic Delegate and Bishop McNamara was simply and beautifully expressed by the Sisters themselves in a special resolution framed at its close:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, at the suggestion of His distinguished prelate, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, to call and assemble the representatives of the Communities of the Sisters of Charity in the United States and Canada which claim Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton as their common Mother for the purpose of conferring together on the means of advancing the Cause of her Canonization; and

Whereas, the representatives of the several Communities with His Excellency, Most Reverend John M. McNamara, as Moderator of the Conference, have been mutually edified and strengthened in their sacred purpose,

FATHER SLATTERY Superior General

It was with a great deal of pleasure that we heard of the election of Father Slattery as Superior General of the Priests of the Congregation of the Mission and also of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Father Slattery has always been most interested and a most sympathetic champion of the Cause of Mother Seton. Receiving his primary education from the Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg, he early learned to hold in highest veneration and esteem the heroic foundress of the American Sisters of Charity. In his new and influential position we are certain that Father Slattery will continue to be a great help to the progress of the Cause.

Be it resolved, that the members of the First Conference of Mother Seton's Daughters record in the minutes of its closing session, their filial, heartfelt gratitude to Archbishop Cicognani for the external interest and untiring zeal he has manifested in the Cause of Mother Seton, and that a letter expressing the members' appreciation and esteem be addressed to him; and be it further resolved:

That His Excellency, Bishop McNamara be presented with a spiritual bouquet, representing the members' united prayers and good works offered

in the names of their respective Communities.

LETTERS AND CABLES

To the Conference the following communications were addressed: first, the blessing and approval of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, sent through the Apostolic Delegate; a letter from His Excellency, the Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati and one of the outstanding champions of Mother Seton's Cause among the American Hierarchy; a cable from Very Reverend William M. Slattery, C.M., formerly Visitor of the Eastern Province of the Priests of the Congregation of the Missions in the United States, and recently elected Superior General of the Priests of the Congregation of the Missions and also Superior General of the Sisters of Charity throughout the world; a cable from the Most Honored Mother Marie Antoinette Blanchot, Mother General of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris, France; and a letter from Mother Mary Zoe, Mother General of the Sisters of Charity, Mount St. Joseph-on-Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio. These cables and letters expressed the sender's approval of the Conference and promised both material and spiritual cooperation in every work taken up by the Conference.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was clearly set forth by His Excellency, Bishop McNamara at the end of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with which the Conference opened. After extending a most cordial welcome to the Mothers Superior and the delegates and companions, Bishop McNamara emphasized the fact that the Sisters were gathered together to further interest in the Cause of the Beatification of their foundress and he pointed out that this would be effected through a unity of charity in the spirit of Christ. He pointed out that during the formal meetings that would follow the members of the Conference would strive to discover and adopt the most suitable means to further the Cause of Mother Seton's Beatification and Canonization which their respective Communities could put into effect during the coming year.

PLANS AGREED UPON

In the subsequent meetings the Conference agreed on several practical means to further the Cause. Many prayers for daily recitation were examined and the one used at the Motherhouse of Mount

St. Vincent-on-Hudson was adopted as the most suitable for use by all the Sisters of Charity in their houses. It was agreed also that, with proper ecclesiastical permission, there would be an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays at which special prayers would be said begging God's blessing on the Cause. After the consideration of prayer other means were discussed by which the laity and especially the school children under the direction of Mother Seton's Daughters could be interested in their saintly foundress. The members considered plans to establish guilds in their schools, to issue and distribute pamphlets and to use the various forms of dramatization that would make Mother Seton better known and loved. One of the decisions of the Conference had to do with the choice of a picture of Mother Seton which would be regarded by the several Communities as their official likeness of their saintly foundress. An original photograph of Elizabeth Ann Seton possessed by the Filicchi family at Pisa was considered the most acceptable. A fine bust statue of Mother Seton which is admired greatly at the Motherhouse of the Cincinnati Sisters was mentioned by Sister Isabel, Visitatrix of the Emmitsburg Sisters, as being the most pleasing statue that she had seen. In this work of art the members of the Conference were greatly interested. The Sisters also agreed to use the columns of the BULLETIN, the publication of the Mother Seton Guild at Emmitsburg, as the official medium for their communications.

FINAL SESSION

The final meeting was held on the afternoon of October the twenty-ninth. Present at this gathering were the Mothers of the several Communities, their delegates, several officers of the Sisters' Council of St. Joseph's Central House in Emmitsburg and the companions of the members of the Conference. The words of Bishop McNamara on that occasion are indeed memorable: "I wish to congratulate you," said His Excellency, "and to thank you for the Christ-like spirit of cooperation which has characterized this Conference. . . . I want to thank you for the edification that you have given me. The memory of this Conference is a treasure which I shall always cherish and which I shall regard as a challenge to make my own the spirit of charity and good will that I have seen manifested in you. In the course of the years I have presided at many meetings but never have I attended a Conference which has given me so much pleasure and satisfaction. If in any way I have contributed to the

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arise: but Jesus speaks peace and comfort."

SOUL'S LONGING

A few days after she had penned the above letter, she wrote again to Father David, her spiritual director and superior of her Community. The following expresses her intense desire for a more frequent reception of Holy Communion and a longing for the hour when she would be united with her dear Savior for all eternity.

"I cannot express to my soul's father my longing for Holy Communion. I receive it as often as the Sisters but I seem to desire still more; and the days that I do not receive Him I am not the same creature. I have much more comfort in my Communions than formerly. According to our necessities He gives. Death and eternity ever before me! Why is it so? Because Thou, dearest Lord, givest me some pain, some bodily uneasiness, to remind me of the slightness of that thread which holds my existence. Was it always so? Once you saw my weakness and pitied it. You have made me see, dear Lord, the vanity of all human things. I now truly feel this life a weary pilgrimage, and long for the hour when my mortal part shall be dissolved and I shall be at rest. Cut and crucify this sinful body here; here let it pay the penalty that is due; but oh, my Jesus, spare me hereafter! At the hour of death, comfort and receive me!"

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

Though February the twenty-second, the day we now celebrate as Washington's Birthday is considered as the day when the Sisters formally opened their school, yet the joy and celebration that accompanied this memorable day was far surpassed by the gladness that attended the celebration of the great feast of March nineteenth, St. Joseph's Day. Under the protection of the spouse of the Blessed Mother and the Foster-Father of the Infant Savior Mother Seton had placed herself and the Sisters of her Community. In fact, the Community in Emmitsburg was known as the Sisters of St. Joseph, the same title that was theirs while they resided in Baltimore. And now as the day approached for the cele-

success of the Conference, I am glad indeed."

The next meeting will be held in April at Mount St. Vincent-on-Hudson where Mother Mary Josephine will be a most gracious hostess.

bration of the first feast of their patron since their coming to Emmitsburg, the fervor of the Sisters increased with the passing hours. Under the heavenly protection of him whom the Church has since made the Patron of the Universal Church, they had passed through the trials and sufferings of a very hard winter. Spring was at hand: "jam hiems abiit et recessit et flores apparuerunt in terra," the winter had, indeed, passed and the flowers were appearing in the Valley. So the dawn of the nineteenth of March in eighteen hundred and ten brought unsurpassed spiritual joy to the hearts of Mother Seton and her devoted daughters.

FIRST HIGH MASS

The day was blessed by the celebration of the first High Mass that was sung in the Valley. All the Sisters, all the children and all the people who worked at St. Joseph's gathered together for the Mass which was celebrated in the simple but tastily decorated chapel of the White House. Father DuBois came from the Mount to offer up the Holy Sacrifice as a prayer of thanksgiving for all the graces and favors received by the Sisters especially since their coming to Emmitsburg. Present at the Mass, the last time she was to visit her Sacramental Savior was little Cecelia Seton now wasted away in the last stages of the dreaded sickness which had attacked her lungs. With indomitable fortitude and courage she had begged to be taken to the chapel to be present on this joyous occasion and, perhaps, to offer her young life as a sacrifice to her beloved Savior in behalf of the great work which was then in its infancy. She had not left her bed for several weeks and she knew full well that the call to her eternal destiny was soon to be answered. Harriet, her sister, had been laid away under her chosen tree in the newly blessed graveyard and soon Cecelia was to sleep by her side in her last eternal sleep. But the brave little soul was present at that first High Mass in the valley and united her soul if not her voice to the heavenly harmony that filled the simple chapel in the White House. Many High Masses, many Solemn High Masses and many Pontifical Masses have been celebrated in St. Joseph's during the hundred and thirty years and more that have passed into eternity since that great feast of St. Joseph in the year eighteen hundred and ten, but it is to be doubted that any celebration was more joyous and more pleasing in the sight of our Divine Master.