



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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## A Cardinal Is Inspired

BY MARY LOUISE CALLAHAN

**N**EARLY seventy-five years ago an American Cardinal was inspired to set in motion the Process for Mother Seton's Canonization while saying Mass in her tomb chapel in Emmitsburg.

As a result, the Rev. Dr. George Glaab, brilliant theologian and accomplished linguist was appointed first Vice Postulator of the Cause.

It was his Eminence, the late James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, who lit the torch of the Cause while offering the Holy Sacrifice at St. Joseph's in August, 1882. After the Mass he spoke to the Sisters and told them of his desire to initiate the Process.

The Prelate made official advances to the Superior General of the Congregation of Missions and to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, urging them to action in behalf of Mother Seton's glorification.

In 1898 the Very Rev. Robert Lennon, C.M., of happy memory, at that time director of the Sisters of Charity in the United States, was commissioned by the Superior General to secure full instructions from Rome to perform the necessary steps.

The Holy See delegated Cardinal Gibbons to appoint a Vice Postulator. His Eminence selected the zealous young clergyman, Dr. Glaab. In presenting the first Vice Postulator the writer's intent is to furnish a record rather than to outline a treatise of the history of the Cause which will be done in a future article.

Father Glaab, who was pastor of St. Mary's Church, Washington, D. C., from 1889 to 1900, was born in Baltimore April 12, 1863. His father died when he was eleven and his mother went to her eternal reward six years later.

Young Glaab, who rose to the circumstances, learned early in life to take care of himself. He supported himself working

by day while he studied with a tutor at night. He was a student at Calvert Hall, Baltimore, for a while, where he received excellent instruction under the Christian Brothers.

Blessed with a vocation to the priesthood he entered St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained by His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, December 17, 1887, at the age of 24.

Following his ordination, young Father Glaab continued with his studies, specializing in theology. His brilliant mind finally led him to Rome where he received the degree of Doctor of Theology in 1897. A linguist of unusual ability, the young priest came in time to master seven languages.

Father Glaab's priestly attainments and profound knowledge brought him recognition from his superiors. So it came to pass when Cardinal Gibbons was looking about for a vice postulator to promote Mother Seton's Cause, his eyes fell on young Father Glaab.

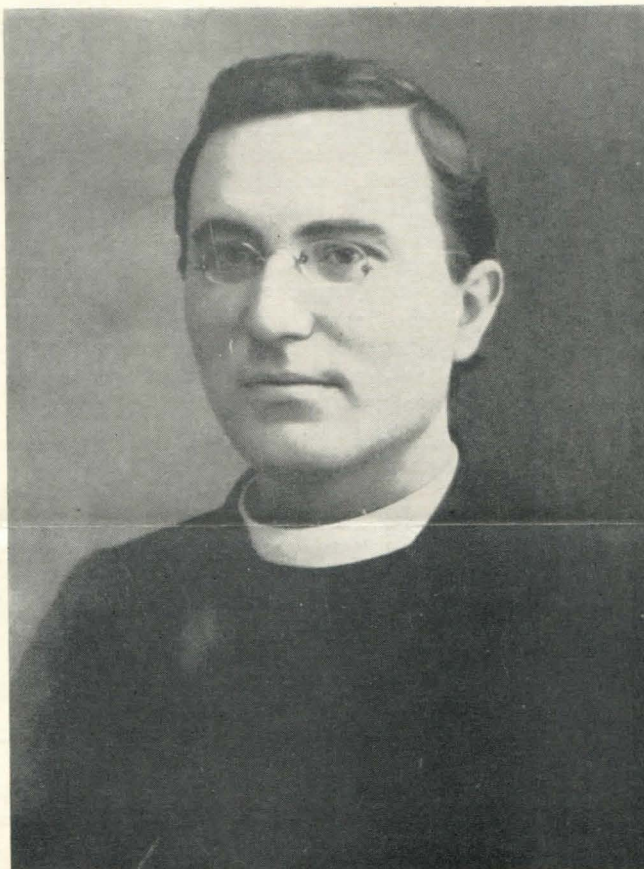
Called by his friends a "Christly priest," it was he who set fire to the spark enkindled by the Cardinal at Emmitsburg in 1882. While in Rome he conducted the preliminaries of the Cause of the American Foundress of the Sisters of Charity who died at Emmitsburg in 1821.

Dr. Glaab's career at St. Mary's was filled with love of his parish and deep devotion to the spiritual needs of his flock. In return his people loved their pastor. He was especially

kind to the poor, the sick and the indigent.

It is believed his last illness was brought about by exposure when he was suffering with rheumatism. A story is told of how he left his sick bed to go to a dying parishioner six times one wintry day in an attempt to find the sick person conscious enough to make a confession. It was a typical example of his Christ-like administrations.

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Rev. Dr. George Glaab, First Vice Postulator



**Apostolic Postulation**

FOR THE CAUSE OF  
CANONIZATION  
OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

**Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Foundress of the  
SISTERS OF CHARITY  
IN AMERICA

HIS EMINENCE

GAETANO CARDINAL CIOGNANI  
Prefect of the  
Sacred Congregation of Rites

HIS EMINENCE

CLEMENTE CARDINAL MICARA  
Cardinal Relator of the Cause

HIS EXCELLENCY

MOST REV. FRANCIS P. KEOUGH, D.D.  
Archbishop of Baltimore

VERY REV. LUIGI BISOGGIO, C.M.  
Postulator General (Rome)

REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.  
Vice Postulator

**Mother Seton's Daughters**

Communities of the Sisters of Charity

- St. Joseph 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



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**Friendship, the Blossom of Love**

BY MARY LOUISE CALLAHAN

WITH warmest gratitude we acknowledge the constant and inspiring accounts of activities in behalf of Mother Seton's Cause which come to us each day from various parts of the country. They are all healthy signs of interest showing that love for the Cause has been put into action. Good wishes alone will no more win Mother Seton's glorification than mere desire for holiness made her a candidate for sainthood on earth. Action measures our love.

Love is the moving force of human actions and the source of human effort. Before love becomes the driving force in the interest of Mother Seton, it is necessary that we become her friend.

Love springs from knowledge. Its growth depends on a better acquaintance with her life and virtues. Her ideals become ours.

Our love for the saints develops in the same way in which it does for living persons. We cannot love anyone we do not know. Obviously this is the reason the Mother Seton Guild exerts so much effort to make Mother Seton better known and loved through pamphlets, literature, prayer cards, etc.

People who become acquainted with Mother Seton eventually become her friends. Nothing less is expected if miracles are anticipated through her intercession with God. And what is a friend? The word is often lightly used. Yet it represents the highest peak of human relationship. Friendship is really the blossom of love.

An actual case, perhaps, will show how a casual acquaintance with Mother Seton turned into warmest friendship. One day a certain man was in need of heavenly aid. He happened to read an article about Mother Seton. The fragment of knowledge inspired him to pray seven times a day to her for help. Mother Seton rewarded his confidence in her by begging God to grant him the favor. His prayer was answered.

The man soon became a devotee of the Servant of God. He wanted to learn more about her. His gratitude evolved into love and his love soon blossomed into friendship.

We can no more inflame the world with love of Mother Seton by a mere acquaintance with her than we can kindle a fire with a damp match. We can study her life and virtues through



Winning posters are displayed at the close of the art and literature contest sponsored by the Mother Seton Club of St. Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, Md., to promote interest in Mother Seton.

biographies and literature to learn how she accepted the joys of life with a grateful heart and how she faced its sorrows with resignation to God's will. She becomes an example for us. We are touched by her spirit which becomes as our own.

Friendship unites our hearts with the heart of Mother Seton. It is the greatest tribute we can offer her. It makes us want to tell others about her and to make sacrifices for her.

Knowledge of Mother Seton comes through promotion which includes activities designed to teach others about

**A Cardinal Is Inspired**

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The first vice postulator died August 16, 1900. It was said in a publication of the day that Father Glaab's "young and saintly career has been cut short by the untimely hand of death." He is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Washington.

With the death of the first vice postulator, who was reverently dropped like a pebble in the great pool of the Cause, the ripples of prayer and devotion to Mother Seton have widened and widened until someday, it is hoped, they will reach the "far distant shores" of eternity for which she sighed when she walked the earth.

her and to interest people in the Cause.

Some of the best promotion is done by the Sisters and the school children. A wonderful tribute to the activities of the Mother Seton League at Holy Name High School, Cleveland, is the documentary film, "Seeing Christ in Everyone," presented by the students New Year's Day over the weekly TV series, "Inside the Catholic Schools." Sister Robert, moderator of the League, wrote the script.

The film showed students delivering baskets to the poor, making scrapbooks for the veterans at Crile, teaching catechism to an invalid, entertaining folks at the Jennings Home, helping the crippled children at Rosemary Home and fashioning dolls from socks.

The students of Holy Name are interested in the needy because they are members of the Mother Seton League which was organized to do good for others, especially the poor whom Mother Seton loved.

League members, who give their free time to these services, eventually come to know the real meaning of "seeing Christ in our fellow men." And they help to make new friends for Mother Seton.

A heartening message reached us recently from faculty members and students of the Elizabeth Seton High School in Pittsburgh who honored their patroness, Mother Seton, on the anniversary of the day of her death, January 4.

An excerpt from "The Seton Clipper," the school publication, says that "The fire of hope still burns strong in the hearts of all Setonians as they frequently recite the familiar prayer to speed along the blessed day when she will be enrolled canonically as a member of the Communion of Saints."

Setonians celebrated the 134th anniversary of Mother Seton's death by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion at Resurrection Church January 6 where the Rev. John A. Dompka preached the sermon. Afterwards they returned to school for a program presented by the Mother Seton Club under the direction of Sister Mary Robert.

From Sister Xavier Mary, Mount Saint Vincent-on-Hudson, New York, comes the message that "In so many of our schools the Junior Mother Seton Guild keeps up its normal life in the upper grades with meetings once a month, prayers, discussions

of some particular virtue to be practiced, etc." The Junior Guild was organized over a decade ago.

News of a composition project in far-off Nova Scotia was inspiring. This special activity is carried on yearly at St. Joseph's School, Halifax, where the students were introduced to Mother Seton through a film strip and records purchased by the school in 1952.

"The story gripped the hearts of the students and fittingly served as a topic for the week's composition," says Sister Ellen Francis of Mt. St. Vincent College, Halifax. There were 460 compositions turned in that first year.

Sister Mary Stephanie, of beloved memory, superior at the time, was so impressed that she wrote "... even the Wee Folk knew our dear Foundress and had something to tell us. Our good principal gave me the task of correcting and judging these compositions from each grade. There were only 460! But my dear Sister, how much I learned from these dear children." The winner for that year was Dorothy Jeffrey, a pupil in grade seven.

"The enthusiasm has increased each year," says Sister Ellen Francis in her letter. The 1954 report was given by Sister John Hugh, principal of St. Joseph's School, who writes "This year our main project was an essay contest on the 'Life and Virtues of Mother Seton.' The Sisters spent a great deal of time telling the children the story of the life of our Foundress, stressing her virtues and developing the essays." There were 530 essays submitted. Again Miss Jeffrey was a winner in her class.

"In order to instill interest in the younger generation in the vicinity of Emmitsburg in the canonization of Mother Seton," said Sister Leo,

faculty member of St. Joseph's High School, Emmitsburg, "the Mother Seton Club of the high school decided to hold a contest in which grade school students from St. Joseph's, Taneytown, St. Anthony's and St. Euphemia's, Emmitsburg, and St. Andrew's, Waynesboro, would be eligible for competition. The contest was divided into two sections, art and literature . . . depicting some phase of Mother Seton's life."

Over 100 students participated in the contest which was divided into two groups, grades three to five and six to eight. The contest, which opened January 31, closed March 1.



*In the top picture pupils of St. Mary's School, Nutley, N. J., receive instructions on the membership drive from Sister Frances Genevieve. Below, pupils of grade five watch the chart anxiously as grades eight and two try to "beat" them.*

1-3-5-6

"It is felt," said Sister Leo, "that the participants have gained a deeper insight into the hardships which were undertaken by Mother Seton and of the great virtues and kindly deeds of the young woman who, we pray, will one day be numbered among the Saints in heaven."

Judges for the contest were the Rev. Hugh J. Phillips, faculty member of Mount St. Mary's College, Sister John Mary, of St. Joseph Central House, both of Emmitsburg, and Miss Mary Louise Callahan, Gettysburg, Pa., archivist to the Mother Seton Guild.

A most excellent form of promotion in the Cause is the gaining of new members for the Mother Seton Guild. The recent membership drive sponsored by the New Jersey schools under the inspiration of the Mother General, Sister Ellen Marie, and the dynamic leadership of Sister Frances Genevieve, has enriched the Guild with many new members.

Membership in the Guild is important because it brings the MOTHER SETON GUILD BULLETIN into the homes four times a year. The quarterly publication keeps alive interest in the Cause, contains interesting stories about the life and times of Mother Seton, relates activities of the schools in behalf of the Foundress and serves as a source of inspiration to those interested in promotion.

It is interesting to note the manner in which the membership drives are organized. After the Sister-Directors have been inspired at a general assembly at Convent Station, presided over by the Mother General, they return to their various schools where they appoint committees of boys and girls. The committee members talk to the different classes on motives and means in connection with the drive. The spark of interest struck in each school soon brightens into a flame.

When we think about all these activities . . . television pro-

### Account of the Mother Seton Drive

The Mother Seton Drive was held for two weeks in St. Mary's. Directors were appointed from the eighth grade to give talks on Mother Seton. Mother Seton books, medals, crucifixes, book marks were sold in the school. Shorts were put up around the school to show who was leading in the Drive. During the Drive there was very much excitement. Up until Friday morning our class was leading in the drive. On Friday Sister Tracy came in first with the sum of \$22.75 - two dollars and Sister Ford came in second. Even though our class did not come in first we are very proud of the amount we collected.

Marie La Morte

Marie La Morte, a pupil of St. Mary's School, Nutley, N. J., gives an enthusiastic account of the membership drive in her school.

last day she had four convulsions I pinned a medal of Mother Seton on her. She was then fourteen months. She is now five years of age and, thank God and Mother Seton, she has never had a convulsion since the day I pinned the medal on her.

On another occasion I prayed to Mother Seton to cure an infected leg. He gave me a drug to take and put me to bed. If this did not cure the leg I would have to go to the hospital for three months. This was a terrible thought as I have four children. So I pinned Mother Seton's medal on me and used her relic. The doctor was amazed at the appearance of my leg. He said, "You may stay home." I kept on praying to Mother Seton.—N. M.

\* \* \*

Flushing, L. I., N. Y.—Enclosed is an offering for favors granted through the intercession of Mother Seton.—D. M.

grams . . . poster and essay contests . . . membership drives . . . prayers . . . all seeking to make Mother Seton better known and loved . . . we know that love for the Cause is still alive. And this love, which is based on friendship, we do not measure.

### Favors Acknowledged

Orange, N. J.—I am writing this letter to state on two occasions Mother Seton answered my prayers. I am enclosing a donation for the Cause of Mother Seton.

My baby began suffering with convulsions at the age of five months. She often had four in one week. A baby specialist placed her in a hospital for observation when she was ten months. They gave her all types of tests and X rays but could find nothing wrong with her. The convulsions continued.

The specialist told me all I had left to do "was pray." The

## Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg  
Maryland

The Mother Seton Guild, as the Apostolic Postulation, is the official organization for the Cause under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, Rome.

Guild members not only share in the noble work of making Mother Seton better known and loved by means of literature, etc., but their membership subscriptions and donations make possible this promotion.

The MOTHER SETON GUILD BULLETIN is issued quarterly to Guild members.