



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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St. Joseph and the Spanish Bell

By MARY LOUISE CALLAHAN

SOMEWHERE in Spain in the year 1809 a bell was cast, the tones of which were so musical they touched the heart of the most indifferent Spaniard.

There is no record of the person who ordered the bell. He may have been a nobleman of Castilian descent or a country priest somewhere in the provinces. An engraving on the masterpiece, however, showed that it was dedicated to St. Joseph.

But the lovely bell was cast at a most unfortunate time in history. Spain and Portugal were feeling the results of Napoleonic rule, personified in Joseph Bonaparte, who had been made King of Spain by his brother. The same year the bell was struck saw the beginning of the Peninsular War fought by the English under the Duke of Wellington. The war lasted until 1814. It was a long time, though, until the fighting had any effect on Napoleon's power, probably at its height during these years.

After the expulsion of Joseph Bonaparte, Ferdinand II became King of Spain (1812-1833). However, the effects of the Revolution took a long time to disappear from Spanish politics. After Ferdinand's death, when the extreme Liberals under Espartero were in power, about 1841, the papal nunciature was closed. All relations with the Holy See came to an end.

Where the bell hung in the stormy years between 1809 and 1841 is unknown. Church properties were confiscated during Espartero's reign and, sooner or later, it must have fallen into the hands of spoliators. Eventually, however, it found its way to Baltimore.

While Spain was having her troubles in the Old World

a young community of Sisters in the New World was busy building a chapel. Mother Seton had founded St. Joseph's in Emmitsburg the very year the bell was wrought in Spain. Both were, strangely enough, dedicated to St. Joseph. And now in 1841 the Sisters were ready to have their convent chapel dedicated. But they needed a bell for the steeple.

Rev. Thomas R. Butler was commissioned to purchase a bell for them. Hearing that several were for sale in Baltimore, the

priest went down to look them over. After examining various types he finally came to one which struck his fancy. Looking at the bell was not enough; the priest wanted to hear the tone. When he heard it he was as enchanted by its music as were the people in Spain.

But his pleasure was intensified when, upon closer examination, he discovered the engraved dedication to St. Joseph on the side of the bell. His quest was over.

At the very time when the community was commencing in Emmitsburg, a bell was being prepared for it half a world away. Thirty-two years later it was hung in the steeple of the church which had been ready to receive it. The chapel was dedicated by Archbishop Eccleston May 6, 1841.

Perhaps the bell was a beautiful coincidence, but one can be sure that St. Joseph protected the convent from the very beginning. It was Mother Seton, herself, who placed the young community under his protection. She had read many lives of the saints and had a long list from which to choose. Her friends had given her good biogra-

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Statue of St. Joseph as it appears on the campus of St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, Md. "Time-stained and ageless, it faces the west where the blue hills fade into the distant horizon."



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 CICOGNANI
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

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Communities of the Sisters of Charity

- St. Joseph College _____ Emmitsburg, Md.
- Marillac Seminary _____ St. Louis, Mo.
- Mt. St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson,
New York, N. Y.
- Mt. St. Vincent _____ Halifax, N. S.
- Mt. St. Joseph _____ Cincinnati, Ohio
- St. Elizabeth's _____ Convent, N. J.
- Seton Hill _____ Greensburg, Pa.



Central Office
Mother Seton Guild

EMMITSBURG, MD.

Guild Membership

- Yearly _____ \$1.00
- Perpetual _____ \$10.00
- Deceased May Be Enrolled

Address all communications to
REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.
Vice Postulator

Favors Acknowledged

Long Branch, N. J.—Through Mother Seton's most powerful intercession a devoted wife's prayers were answered. After eighteen years her husband made a good confession and received our dear Blessed Lord in Holy Communion. This woman's joy knew no bounds the day her husband was received back into the arms of Holy Mother Church. This happy couple are doing much to spread the devotion to Mother Seton—F. B.

* * *

Long Branch, N. J.—Mother Seton must indeed have worked hard for a man who is a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He had to undergo a very serious operation. A large section of his stomach had to be removed. The operation lasted for three hours. It was extremely successful. There were tubes placed in his nose after the operation. For three days this man was in constant pain.

His family prayed night and day to Mother Seton to alleviate his pain. On the fourth day a relic of Mother Seton was brought to the hospital. The patient held the precious relic and prayed with all his heart. In less than an hour his doctor telephoned the hospital and instructed those in charge to remove the tubes. His pain ceased the moment they were removed.

The patient left the hospital in a week's time and has been steadily improving since. His recovery has been so speedy that his family will always be indebted to Mother Seton.—T. C.

* * *

Long Branch, N. J.—A very good Catholic mother had been ill for quite a while. The doctor's report stated that she had a deteriorated disc in her spine. She was ordered to the hospital for an operation which she feared. A friend of hers enrolled the patient in the Mother Seton Guild. They prayed that the operation would not be necessary. A very precious relic of Mother Seton was obtained for her. Shortly after receiving it the doctor decided an operation was not needed.

The treatment she received in the hospital helped her and she was allowed to return home. The operation has definitely been cancelled.—M. V.

* * *

Long Branch, N. J.—Mother Seton showed her great love for an expectant mother just recently here in my home town. She has two children and each time she became pregnant she suffered. She had to spend several months in bed

with her first child. Then she became pregnant for the third time. Again this poor mother suffered. She was ordered by her doctor to remain in bed.

Her older sister enrolled her in the Mother Seton Guild and she began her daily Novena to Mother Seton for her unborn child. Since then she has been able to resume her daily life as though nothing had ever happened. She is so grateful to Mother Seton for such a wonderful favor that she, too, is trying to spread devotion to her.—C. S.

* * *

Cincinnati, Ohio.—An infant, cyanotic from birth, was getting progressively worse for several days. Ordinary treatment of oxygen and stimulants were used. Even in oxygen the baby was blue. The pediatrician recorded on the progress notes that the baby would die. Prayers to Mother Seton stormed heaven for the life of this little one. Slowly the baby showed improvement until finally in good health was taken home, and has been apparently normal since. The doctor admitted it took more than medical care to cure the baby.

Another baby showed cyanosis and respiratory difficulty after delivery. It became progressively worse during the next several hours at which time a heart murmur was detected, indicative of a congenital heart anomaly in a baby.

The family was given prayers to Mother Seton, and both they and the nurses begged Mother Seton to intercede for the life of this baby. The baby showed improvement and the doctor could no longer detect a heart murmur. The baby has been apparently normal up to the present time. The mother is so grateful that she has promised as long as she is able, that her boy will never be without a medal of Mother Seton.

Another infant, born prematurely, had
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It's Encouraging to Hear

from Sister Xavier Mary of the Mother Seton Guild, Mount St. Vincent-on-Hudson, New York, that membership rose to 3,381 during the 1954-55 period. Schools accounted for 3,300 members and 81 were miscellaneous.

Area memberships from New York are as follows: Manhattan, 937; Bronx, 864; Brooklyn, 348; Staten Island, 243; Yonkers, 232; and counties, 676.

New Seton Biography for Children Is Published

By REV. THOMAS J. KILCULLEN, J.C.D., LL.M.



Mary Louise Callahan

The Lane Studio

FOR a girl who grew up between two historic Emmitsburg campuses, "St. Joe's" and "The Mount," writing a book like "Little Birds and Lilies" came about quite naturally. Especially if she liked to write in the first place.

It is said by literary critics that one should write only about that which one knows, the familiar, everyday thing which one has encountered and understands.

Mary Louise Callahan, who will soon publish her first book, chose Mother Seton as her subject, a name familiar to and venerated by the writer since childhood.

The book, simply written for teen-agers, is colorful and reflects the writer's devotion to the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America.

Born in Emmitsburg, Md., Miss Callahan grew up near the blue hills bordering the valley where Mother Seton founded St. Joseph's in 1809. It is a section of Maryland so historic that even the tall, dark cedars on the hill and the waving yellow wheat in the valley speak of the great past.

The writer, who daily walked the lanes once familiar to Mother Seton and Simon Brute, perceived early in life the part played by the young American church in Emmitsburg. In the lonely grotto at Mount St. Mary's . . . on the banks of Tom's Creek . . . in the flower-laced meadows . . . she listened to the story of the past . . . when the Sisters came to the valley.

At high school age she read her first biography of Elizabeth Seton. It was enough to establish a life-long affection for the Foundress of St. Joseph's where the writer was a student. From then on the campus buildings and shrines took on a new meaning . . . the Stone House . . . the spring . . . the White House . . . the chapel . . . the Gothic tomb where Mother Seton sleeps.

The writer received her A.B. degree from St. Joseph College. She received a certificate in Journalism from the same school where she was an associate editor of *The Valley Echo*, the college publication.

During the war years she worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington where she was an associate editor of *FBI THIS WEEK*, a publication of the Bureau.

In 1949, she became archivist to the Mother Seton Guild in Emmitsburg, marking the beginning of serious research on the life of the Foundress. She is presently the editor of the *MOTHER SETON GUILD BULLETIN*, a quarterly publication to promote Mother Seton's Cause for Canonization.

Miss Callahan moved from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg in 1947 where she is society editor of *The Gettysburg Times*, a daily newspaper. Besides her work on the social page she contributes features from time to time.

"Little Birds and Lilies" was written in Gettysburg, only ten miles from Emmitsburg. The writer was equally at home in writing about Mother Seton's life in New York and Maryland as she is the daughter of a New York father and a Maryland mother. It was easy enough to switch from St. Peter's Church, Barclay Street, where Mother Seton was received into the Church, to the little chapel in the Stone House where the Sisters spent their first days in the quiet Emmitsburg valley.

The book, beautifully illustrated by Vincent Colabella, of Yonkers, N. Y., contains twelve chapters. Young people, and even adults, will find it easy reading. Philosophical comments have been avoided as well as long explanations of Mother Seton's reasons for becoming a Catholic. Legends, often dangerous in a biography because they are misleading, have been conscientiously avoided. The writer has tried to present an interesting, factual and colorful picture of Mother Seton. She presents a heroine especially appealing to young people.

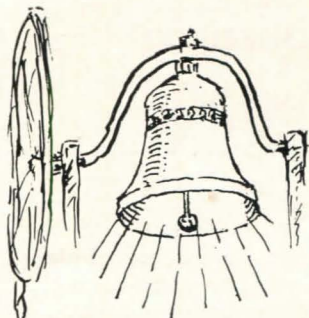
Miss Callahan has wistfully portrayed the half-sad, half-happy childhood of Mother Seton who lost her mother at the age of three. Her romance with the young Scotchman, William Magee Seton, will interest teen-agers. The intimate sketches of young Mrs. Seton surrounded by five lively children are gay and natural. Girls will enjoy reading about Annina's first love affair and the boys will enjoy tramping in spirit through the woods behind the Mount looking for possums with the Seton boys. The rugged days of Community life in Emmitsburg in the early 19th century are realistically described. Mother Seton's death is delicately and reverently pictured by Miss Callahan in the final chapter.

In "Little Birds and Lilies," the writer offers to the youth of America, an ideal, a symbol, a picture of a truly-American woman who was everything a woman can be. She was a daughter, sweetheart, wife, widow and nun. Surely in her young people will find adequate inspiration, a woman who was almost the embodiment of all vocations.

Born in 1774 when a new nation was suffering its own birth pangs, Mother Seton reflects the very spirit of America. Some day in God's own time, she may grace the altars of the Catholic Church.

Not in a masterpiece but in a little miniature, Miss Callahan has painted Mother Seton's life for youth in all the lovely shades and mysterious shadows of a truly great woman.

Orders for "LITTLE BIRDS AND LILIES" will be accepted at the Mother Seton Guild, Emmitsburg, Md. Price \$1.50



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phies to study during the days when she was trying to make up her mind to become a Catholic.

She chose the name for her community in Baltimore. After Mother Seton and her small group of novices appeared in their black habits for the first time in St. Mary's Chapel in that city, various names were suggested for the new order.

As the Sisters had no permanent religious rules as yet, the matter caused some deliberation. But Mother Seton came forward with the request that the community be called "Sisters of St. Joseph." She desired to place herself, the society, Sisters and children under the protecting care of St. Joseph, "faithful Guardian of the Son of God on earth." She was devoted all her life to the Holy Family. Those who have read her biography will remember that her last words on earth were, "Jesus, Mary, Joseph."

It was fitting that Elizabeth Seton chose St. Joseph as guardian of the valley. She knew he is the "guardian of virgins . . . mirror of patience . . . lover of poverty . . . model of all who labor . . . solace of the afflicted . . . hope of the sick . . . patron of the dying. . . . For the women at Emmitsburg, he would be

more than a guardian; he would be a model.

Dangers were to come again and again. Sometimes there was not enough money to carry on; at other times illness threatened to disrupt the community life.

In 1863 war came very close to the sheltered valley. General de Trobriand, with his Union Army, marched up the Old Frederick Road one day en route to Gettysburg. As he drew near the school he spotted the lookout tower on one of the buildings. Commanding his men to halt, the General rode briskly to the front door and asked one of the Sisters if he could climb to the lookout tower. After giving him permission the Sisters had only one thing left to do—pray! One feels certain they asked the guardian of the valley to protect the school and to inspire the General to move on with his men. When the Sisters saw the dust of the highway closing in on the heels of the retreating soldiers they knew that, once more, St. Joseph had come to their aid.

Some years ago a statue of St. Joseph was erected in front of the chapel at the head of the maple-lined avenue. Time-stained and ageless, it faces the west where the blue hills fade into the distant horizon.

When a young woman comes to St. Joseph's as a student, it is the rugged yet gentle face of the saint which greets her. He seems to say, "See, I am here. I have been here for many years. I shall watch over you and all the others. That's the way Mother Seton wanted it."

Of the prayers placed at his feet St. Joseph keeps his own counsel. Silently he stands during the night watch with only the stars for company. The fragrance of summer comes to him on

soft winds and his brow has been wet with the tears of April. Snowflakes have kissed his fatherly cheek and, at his feet, the crisp little leaves of autumn have curled.

A bell cast in Spain in 1809 and a statue erected many years later in Emmitsburg are but symbols of Mother Seton's wish that St. Joseph should watch over her community. They seem to say that the saint's great spirit is hovering over the valley—ever en garde.

Favors Acknowledged

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severe atelectasis. The baby was placed in the premature nursery, which is under the protection of Mother Seton. The infant had very severe chest retractions which are often fatal. The pediatrician after examining the baby on the third day stated that the breathing was so poor the infant would not be living when the nurses went off duty in several hours.

However, the baby survived, to the amazement of the doctor, and the grateful and humble nursing staff, thanks to the intercession of Mother Seton.—Sister C.

A Tribute to Sister Ann Martina

Sister Ann Martina of the Sacred Heart Convent, Bloomfield, N. J., recently secured 820 new members for the Mother Seton Guild. She was assisted in the drive by the school children under the plan of classroom competition.

After the drive a party was given to the students of the winning class.

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.

“LITTLE BIRDS AND LILIES” by Mary Louise Callahan . . . A Christmas Gift Suggestion