



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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National Director Named for Pius IX Cause

BY MARY LOUISE CALLAHAN

THE announcement from Rome of the appointment of the Rev. Salvator M. Burgio, C.M., as National Director for the promotion of the Cause of Canonization of Pope Pius IX in America was received here recently with great joy.

Father Burgio, well-known authority on canonizations, who has been Vice Postulator for the Cause of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America, since 1939, has covered himself with distinction in promoting her glorification.

The selection of the distinguished Vincentian to further the Cause of the saintly Pope who proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, is the natural outcome of many years of devotion to the study of liturgical and canonization procedures. Long before he became associated intimately with the actual Causes of Canonization Father Burgio had participated as an assistant to the Papal Master of Ceremonies in more than ten canonizations of various saints in Rome and many beatifications. In this manner he was able to study at first hand the elaborate and detailed ceremonies.

GUIDED BY JESUIT

Realizing that Causes of Canonization in the United States are still in their pioneer stage, Father Burgio sought the tutelage of no less an authority on the subject than the late Father John Wynne, S.J., who was Vice Postulator of the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha. The Jesuit, who was a homo Dei and truly Catholic in his interest in the candidates for sainthood in this country, is considered the father of Vice Postulators in the United States.

Father Wynne, who had a wide experience in promoting Causes of Canonization and who helped to raise the Jesuit Martyrs to the honors of the altar, guided Father Burgio in setting up effective promotion for the Cause of Mother Seton. The Jesuit worked upon the theory that Causes in each country should be promoted in accordance with the ideologies and tem-

peraments of the peoples and so it follows that Causes in the United States are to be promoted in a manner particularly suited to Americans.

Father Burgio has been singularly blessed, moreover, in having had as a counselor His Eminence, Carlo Salotti, the late Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites and an eminent authority on canonizations. The late churchman has to his eternal credit the glory of advocating scores of Saints who have been crowned by his efforts. Father Burgio admits that at the "small dining table of His Eminence (Cardinal Salotti) I learned more about canonizations that I could have from a library of books."

By his friendship with many officials of the Sacred Congregation of Rites Father Burgio has been able to master the technicalities of the Process of Canonization with its elaborate details and solemn formalities, the most solid, fool-proof process of investigation possible. He stated that "In the Process of Canonization, lies and collusions are absolutely ruled out and minor exaggerations are masterly screened out." Vatican officials have commended the work and organization of the Mother Seton Guild, Emmitsburg, and the Postulation for the Cause of Mother Seton which reflect Father Burgio's privileged background.

With such training and experience it is not surprising that many persons interested in

Causes of their own have consulted him from time to time and have profited from his wisdom and counsel. It was to be expected that Rome would appoint him to further the Cause of Pope Pius IX.

FIRST AMERICAN CARDINAL

The Church in America is greatly indebted to Pope Pius IX, for the great Pontiff established in the United States no less than 50 dioceses. He created the first American Cardinal, John McCloskey, at one time a student at Mount St. Mary's Col-



His Holiness, the late Pope Pius IX, whose Cause of Canonization will be promoted in America by the Rev. Salvator M. Burgio, C.M.



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

Mother Seton's Daughters

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.

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

lege, Emmitsburg, and Archbishop of New York. He founded the North American College in Rome. Under his reign the Vatican Council, in 1870, defined the ever constant teaching of the Church that the Roman Pontiffs were infallible in matters of faith and morals.

The Servant of God was born May 13, 1792, at Sinigaglia, Italy, an ancient town located half on a gentle slope overhanging the Adriatic and partly on the sloping shore at its foot. The child, baptized Giovanni-Maria Giovanni-Battista Pietro Isidoro Mastai-Ferretti, was destined to fill the papal chair many years longer than any of his 261 predecessors.

Giovanni was the youngest of seven children of Count Girolamo Mastai, mayor of Sinigaglia, and Caterina Solazzi, daughter of Count Solazzi. The countryside in which the little boy grew up is in the most eastern part of classic Umbria. It was considered highly favorable to the cultivation of good health, intellectual culture and personal sanctity. From the snow-topped Apennines to the sandy shores of the Adriatic . . . through the uplands fertile with groves of olive and mulberry trees . . . in fields and gardens colorful with the rarest flowers from the north and south . . . the little boy who was destined for greatness could be found playing with his best friend, Guido, the farmer's son. The future Pope never forgot Guido who saved him from drowning one day on a fishing trip near the Mastai palace.

Giovanni attended the College of Volterra from 1803-1809 where he was under the direction of the Fathers of the Pious Schools, an order founded by St. Joseph Casalan. A great favorite with the college students, Giovanni seemed wholly unaware of his charm and comeliness, which, along with his noble birth, made him everywhere an object of attention. It is written by his biographer, Bernard O'Reilly, that "He was truly the light of the college-hall, his face ever beaming with unalloyed happiness, and his laugh the merriest, and his wit the readiest with joke and pun."

Boy as he was the echoes of political changes reached his college retreat near Florence. He heard about the passage of Pius VII through Tuscany in the fall of 1804 as he went to crown Bonaparte emperor in Paris. He heard of the Italian Republic, transformed by the conjuror into the Kingdom of Italy, and of Napoleon's coming to Milan to be crowned "King of Italy."

SUFFERS PHYSICAL AFFLICTION

At the age of 17, when Giovanni seemed destined for service in the Church, he was suddenly afflicted with

epilepsy, much to the dismay of his parents and all who loved him. It was believed, at the time, that his condition came about as a result of an overtaxed mind and his too rapid growth. Moreover, the youth, who had a sensitive personality, had been subjected to distressing and continual scenes of military violence in Sinigaglia.

However, he never lost hope of recovering his health and it is believed he made a pilgrimage to Loretto to implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin to restore his health. Giovanni did recover as the days passed and soon returned to Volterra where he received the first ecclesiastical tonsure at the hands of his Bishop.

A few days later, in October, 1809, Giovanni and his mother set out for Rome where the Countess Mastai-Ferretti entrusted her son to her brother-in-law, Canon Mastai, who had an honorable position in the Chapter of the Vatican Basilica. As long as he could, Giovanni studied philosophy in Rome then under the governorship of a military ruler appointed by Napoleon. At

PLEASE NOTE

Any donations for the Cause of Pope Pius IX must be so designated.

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REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.
Mother Seton Guild
Emmitsburg, Maryland

length his uncle was called upon to choose between his conscience and the offers of a sacrilegious promotion, so the two men returned to Sinigaglia. About this time the handsome youth was offered a position in the Noble Guard. Giovanni, who quickly refused the honor, said "My name, without my knowledge, was put among the rest. But as soon as I was informed of it, I took care to have my name struck out. Napoleon's plans were such as could not be executed."

It was May, 1814, that Pius VII was restored to his throne in Rome and in that same month, Napoleon became a prisoner on the island of Elba. Young Giovanni was overjoyed to meet the Pontiff who stopped off in Sinigaglia en route to Rome. The younger man felt a healing grace go out from the Pope who had suffered so much for Christ and he was inspired to follow in the path of the Pontiff.

GIOVANNI IS ORDAINED

The years passed and on December 18, 1818, Giovanni was ordained sub-deacon and at his own earnest request to the Holy Father, admitted succes-

sively to deaconship and priest's orders during Lent, 1819.

From 1819 to 1827 the young priest worked with the orphan boys in Rome, assisted the Apostolic Delegate in Chile and labored in the industrial schools of Rome.

He was made a domestic prelate by Pope Leo XII in 1825 and, on May 21, 1827, Monsignor Mastai became Archbishop of Spoleto. It was believed at this time that Giovanni Mastai was "the man most fitted to restore confidence, peace, piety and prosperity where the French rule had destroyed them utterly." For about seven years the excellent Archbishop fought political problems, French revolutionists and an earthquake which desolated Central Italy. Worst of all he had to combat the rising of Giovine Italia (Young Italy), a formidable organization pledged to fight the Church. When he was transferred to Imola it was a bitter pang in the hearts of the people, and his own. The Spoletans never forgot him.

At Imola it was amazing to find him equally loved by his bitterest political foes and by the most submissive of his flock. It was inevitable that he who had given such brilliant and loyal service to the church and state should receive even higher honors. The Archbishop became Cardinal Mastai on December 14, 1840.

The years between 1841 and June, 1846, flew by for the Cardinal-Archbishop at Imola. He applied himself to perfecting the schools of theology and Biblical literature and other institutions he had established. He was startled to learn of the death of Pope Gregory XVI on June 1, 1846, and was called to Rome to assist in electing a successor to the deceased Pontiff.

After a number of unsuccessful ballots by the Cardinals, the expectant crowd outside the Vatican saw a thin white smoke spiral escaping from a flue at a well-known spot. They knew the Pope had been elected.

BECOMES PIUS IX

Inside Giovanni Mastai wept as he knelt before the altar. He had been chosen as Pius IX. He said to the Cardinals gathered about him: "There are others more worthy than I am for the high office to which your Sacred College has called me; but as I have been long accustomed in Christ's service to yield up my will, so now I accept that of God."

When Giovanni accepted the cup and the cross kneeling before the Divine Presence that day, little did he realize how bitter the one would be and how heavy the other. Gregory XVI died just as a new rebellion was about to break out in the Papal States leaving to his eminent successor, Pius IX, a task almost too difficult even for such a man to cope with success-

fully. Immediately after his succession he proceeded to meet the wishes of the people. A general amnesty was proclaimed; Rome received a civil municipal government; a Council of State was appointed to which laymen were admitted, and in 1848 a very liberal constitution was granted to the Papal States.

The Pontiff was seriously planning a confederation of all the Italian States under his presidency, when a violent revolution broke out in Rome. Count Rossi, the Papal minister, was stabbed to death in broad daylight; Monsignor Palma, the Pope's private secretary, was shot, and the Pope, himself, was besieged in the Quirinal Palace.

On November 24, 1818, Pius fled in disguise to Gaeta. In answer to his appeal to the Catholic powers, French and Spanish troops landed in Italy and took Rome. In the summer of 1849 Pius returned to his capital and a few French regiments were quartered in the city to maintain order. From 1849 to 1870 Pius governed Rome in comparative security in spite of occasional revolutionary outbreaks and in kindness if not always in wisdom.

HAS LONGEST REIGN

The Pontificate of Pius IX was the longest in the history of the Church. He exceeded by seven years the traditional 25 years' reign of St. Peter. It was not only a long reign but a violent one, for under the Servant of God, the Temporal Power fell. However, the moral prestige of Pius was enhanced that year by the definition of Papal Infallibility.

The Pope restored the English hierarchy in 1850 which gradually strengthened the Church in that country. The entire Catholic world was thrilled on December 8, 1854, when Pius IX proclaimed the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin a dogma of the Church.

The greatest spiritual triumph of Pius IX was the Vatican Council, the first General Council held since the Council of Trent. Two

months later the temporal sovereignty of the Pope came to an end, marking an epoch in the history of the Papacy. The Italian King took up his quarters in the Papal Palace of the Quirinal and permitted the Pope to retain possession of the Vatican, the Lateran Palaces and Castel Gandolfo on the Alban Lake. Pius spurned the monies offered him by the government, remained a voluntary prisoner in the Vatican and depended for his support mainly on the contributions of his children all over the world known today as "Peter's Pence."

SAINTLY PONTIFF DIES

Pius IX died in the odor of sanctity February 7, 1878. His remains were carried through a rioting mob, screaming that his ashes be thrown into the Tiber, to the basilica of San Lo-



Rev. Salvator M. Burgio, C.M., who was recently appointed National Director of the Cause of Canonization of Pius IX, is shown at his desk in Emmitsburg. Father Burgio, who has been Vice Postulator of the Cause of Mother Seton since 1939, is an honorary member of the Academy of Sacred Liturgy in Rome. He served as Conclavist to His Eminence, the late Cardinal Dougherty, at the election of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, in February, 1939.

renzo. There he sleeps in a chapel which the whole Catholic world united to decorate.

The Cause of his Beatification has made rapid progress. The process of exhumation took place last year (October 25 to November 23). To the amazement of the officials gathered around the coffin, his body was found incorrupt even though the Pontifical vestments had disintegrated. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, asked that his own personal vestments be used to clothe the precious remains of the saintly Pontiff.

IN GOD'S PLAN

It seems to be part of God's plan to herald events and then to confirm them. Certainly, the event of proclaiming the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was one of them. In 1830 it was heralded by the apparition of our Blessed Mother to St. Catherine Labouré in Paris instructing her to have a medal struck and engraved with the words, "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." After the proclamation of the dogma, in 1854, the event was confirmed by the Blessed Virgin who appeared many times to the young peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, in the grotto at Massabielle, near Lourdes, France, saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

In May, 1958, Lourdes will celebrate the centenary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Massabielle. The happy occasion may have an added joy in seeing Pope Pius IX declared "Blessed" through the powerful intercession of the Mother of God whom he proclaimed "Immaculate in her Conception."

Favors Acknowledged

To Whom It May Concern:

Mrs. John C. Hieber was operated on for a gall bladder condition on February 16, 1956, at Memorial Hospital, Utica, N. Y.

On February 24, 1956, X-rays were taken and what appeared to be two stones showed in the common duct. On February 27, 1956, pictures were taken again and it was definitely established that stones were in the duct. The patient was sent home to gain strength in preparation for a second operation. On March 11, 1956, the patient was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance in critical condition and was anointed for death March 12, 1956.

On March 13, 1956, patient began to show marked improvement. X-rays were taken again on March 14, 1956, and, to the doctor's amazement, the stones had disappeared.

A. V. Johnston, M.D.

April 2, 1956

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this statement hoping to give credit to Mother Seton for a miracle which has completely amazed medical science.

On February 16, 1956, I was operated on for a gall bladder condition at Memorial Hospital, Utica, N. Y. On February 22 the Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes School and St. John's School visited me. They pinned a Green Scapular and Mother Seton relic on me. The children of Lourdes and the Sisters prayed constantly for my recovery. My condition did not improve as was expected and X-rays were taken. Stones

appeared in the common duct and a second operation was needed.

I was sent home to gain strength for the second operation. On March 4 the Sisters of Lourdes again visited me at my home. The Sisters again prayed. By 11 p.m. that night I was rushed back to the hospital in a critical condition. I was anointed for death March 5. The Sisters again visited me on March 7 and again prayed over me. In some miraculous way I was beginning to recover. X-rays were taken again and, to the doctor's amazement, the stones disappeared. I sincerely feel it was the prayers of all the good Sisters that performed a miracle making my recovery possible without a second operation.

Mrs. John C. Hieber

Norfolk, Va.—I prayed to Mother Seton to help my baby when he became ill with diabetes. Shortly after I made the novena prayers the hospital called me and told me I could take my baby home. When I saw him he was much stronger and hasn't had to take any insulin.

I feel that Mother Seton has helped him and I shall continue to pray for her beatification. I am enclosing a donation to help this wonderful Cause and I shall send more whenever I can to show my gratitude for Mother Seton's help.—Mrs. H. E. W.

TREASURE CHEST
Catholic periodical publication
will feature Mother Seton
in the
April 25 issue

Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg, Maryland

Form 3547 Requested

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.