



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

NUMBER 68

EMMITSBURG, Md.

FEBRUARY, 1959

## As a Mother Encompassed by Many Children

By ANNABELLE M. MELVILLE

The week before Christmas, 1958, the secular press of the nation carried a story from Vatican City that the Cause of Elizabeth Ann Seton was officially proposed to Pope John XXIII. "The Cause was read to the Pontiff, seated on his throne, at the consistory for the new cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church." All Catholics reading the item knew that this consistory included new cardinals from all over the Christian world; and all those who knew Mother Seton found it singularly appropriate that her cause should have been presented before so cosmopolitan an assembly. For, although the news item went on to say, "If beatified, Mother Seton will be the first native-born American to attain this high honor," her influence has long since spread beyond the boundaries of the land which gave her birth.

In far-off Australia the news must have given joy to the Apostolic Delegate, the Most Reverend Romolo Carboni, who for so many years has proved the devoted friend of the Emmitsburg Central House. In France, now wrestling with the problem of the Fifth Republic, the news could not have gone unheralded. Ninety years

had passed since the first great French biography of Elizabeth Seton was published in Paris; a century had elapsed since the Abbé Babade had translated the first American biography for French readers in 1857. Only twenty years before, Jeanne Danemarie had published *Anne-Elizabeth Seton, Une Fille Americaine de Monsieur Vincent*. And at Rue de Bac, of course, the memory of the American foundress is perennially kept green.



North of Rome, in Leghorn, descendants of the Filicchi family still loyal to the interests of Mother Seton had every reason to feel happiness at the news. Not only had they surrendered precious documents in Mother Seton's own hand to her daughters in the New World, but one of their circle had visited the tomb of Mother Seton in Emmitsburg, and had taken part in the dedication of a statue of the American foundress on the campus of St. Joseph College. In the distant East, in spite of the rigors of life under the rearranged Communist regime of Mao-tse Tung, it is even possible the news may have penetrated; for Sisters had gone out to China in 1922, and wherever Emmitsburg women are found the name of Mother Seton is hallowed.

One need not speculate over the profound emotions felt in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where scarcely a year goes by without

some fresh literary work devoted to Elizabeth Seton. In the steaming tropics of South America, too, there is certain elation. And all over the United States, in the Western Province as well as the Eastern, in schools, hospitals, orphanages, leprosariums, and chapels prayers of thanksgiving, and renewed petition, rise in a veritable cloud to the Mediatrix and her Divine Child as the new year progresses. (Cont'd on Page 4)



**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 BISOGLIO, 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.

*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**

**ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE, EMMITSBURG**

Mr. S. . . . , a non-Catholic and apparently strong in his own religious beliefs, entered his daughter at St. Joseph College as a Freshman in September, 1957. Mr. S. . . . accompanied her to the College and was in perfect health at the time. In December he became ill and the doctors diagnosed his case as cancer with no hope of recovery.

In January, the Freshman class began the recitation of the rosary each evening for the cure of their classmate's father and for his conversion. After the rosary the prayer for the Beatification of Mother Seton was recited for these intentions.

Within about six weeks the father most unexpectedly called a priest and asked to be instructed in the Catholic faith. He was received into the Church and died about April, 1958.

The students felt that although their prayers for the recovery of Mr. S. . . . was not granted, the gift of faith was obtained through the intercession of Mother Seton, to whom they, as a class numbering about ninety, had recourse each evening.

**TROY, NEW YORK**

A year ago this fall a Sister was told by the father of a three-year-old girl that after seeing many doctors and specialists it was concluded that the child was deaf and could not be helped.

The father was distressed as he would have to send her to a special school for the deaf in Rochester, New York. He said he was going to have her tested once more and asked for prayers. The forty-three children of the fourth grade of Saint Mary's School began a novena in honor of Mother Seton. The rosary was recited for the little one.

Not many days later the father informed Sister that much to the surprise of everyone, the three-year-old child showed a slight reaction to what a normal person would consider a deafening sound. She was to return for further tests which seemed to show a slight improvement each time.

Now, a year later, she is attending a school for children of poor hearing in Albany and to the great joy of her family is beginning to speak. Although a year ago specialists declared a hearing aid would be of no avail, she now listens to the radio by means of a special microphone.

The child's improvement has been attributed to Mother Seton's intercession.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL,  
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK**

We would like to report a favor in which we feel sure Mother Seton has shown her power with God by bringing about the improvement and we hope a complete cure of Patricia G., a young girl, fifteen years old who was admitted to our Hospital several months ago with the diagnosis of ulcerative colitis. Patricia lost a great deal of blood and had to have a number of transfusions.

The doctors felt that Patricia should have an ileostomy performed as her condition was getting worse. As Patricia was so young her parents refused to have the operation performed and plans were made to take her to Boston to a Medical Center for consultation.

On the morning Patricia was to leave Sister Mary Alice, Nursing Supervisor, gave Patricia a relic of Mother Seton and the prayer for her Beatification, telling her we would begin a novena to Mother Seton for her recovery.

Patricia's many X-rays were sent with her to Boston. After about one week's stay at the Hospital in Boston another X-ray was taken of Patricia's intestinal tract and to the surprise of the doctor such a remarkable change had occurred since the last X-ray at Lourdes Hospital that she was permitted to return home without further thought of surgery.

Patricia has gained sixteen pounds in the past few weeks. She looks wonderful and says from the first time the relic of Mother Seton was put on her, she began to feel better.

We shall continue our prayers for Patricia.

Patricia wrote: "After being sick for a long time, I felt so tired and depressed that I didn't realize or care what was going on around me. I didn't want anyone but my mother and father to come to see me.

"The very day Sister Mary Alice gave me the relic of Mother Seton I noticed that I felt a little better. Then my appetite improved and I started eating everything I could get. About two days later the cramps that I had for so long gradually left and I didn't need any more medication for the pain. I felt stronger and started asking for company.

"I feel good now and I'm looking forward to seeing my friends and going to school. I wear my relic daily and will continue praying for the Beatification of Mother Seton."

(Signed) PAT G.

# Pope John XXIII Honors the Cause of Mother Seton

BY REV. SALVATOR M. BURGIO, C.M.

His Holiness Pope John XXIII has proven to be a man of action. Action speaks louder than words. He made no prediction about increasing the number of cardinals; he simply raised the College of Cardinals to seventy-four, and will perhaps increase it further in the future. Unusual are some of His other activities: visiting the prison, delivering spontaneous speeches and interviews, frequenting all areas of the Vatican unannounced, and, most recently, deciding to convene a general council of the Church.

## Rare Honor

It has been the custom on rare occasions when the Pope desired to show his esteem for a Cause of Canonization to select a fitting opportunity to proclaim his predilection. Truly then, his desire for the Canonization of Mother Seton must be most ardent. To proclaim his love for the Cause, he chose the greatest event possible, the con-



*Mother Seton's Cause being presented to Holy Father.*

sistory held on December 18. This brought to the attention of the new Cardinals, and to the world at large, the heroic life of Mother Seton. This action surprised even the new American Cardinals, who are deeply devoted to Mother Seton, and His Eminence Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, our former Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who has always been a Crusader for her Glorification.

## Call for Action

This act of the Pontiff is a call for action on the part of the Sacred Congregation of Rites to forge ahead with all possible speed toward the declaration of Venerable. It also calls for action on the part of those who are interested in the Cause of Mother Seton to do all in their power to raise her to the honors of the Altar, by procuring the requisite Miracles. Miracles can only come through our heroic efforts by our prayers and sacrifices.

## *The Plea for Mother Seton Was Presented Before the Hat Ceremony*

The Advocate Consistoriale or canon lawyer who pleaded Mother Seton's Cause before the Pope at the consistory in St. Peter's is a courtly, gray-bearded, married layman, Francesco Svaerio Parisi, who lives in Rome.

With two other Avvocati Consistoriali, Signor Parisi walked in the papal procession in his legal robes and was seated in the choir of St. Peter's near the papal throne. He voiced his plea, couched in Latin, before the ceremony in which the Pope bestowed red hats on the new cardinals.

The plea was addressed to the "Most Holy Father" who listened closely to what the lawyer said:

"A most agreeable task comes to me, entrusted to plead the cause of the servant of God, Elizabeth Ann Seton, who

in her long life combined the duties of virgin, wife, founder of a religious house, and in every one of these various duties exercised all the Christian virtues in an exemplary fashion.

"This is something more admirable when one remembers that this servant of God had been born into a family professing the Anglican religion, and that in her infancy and youth she was brought up in this religion, its beliefs and its ways.

"Married to a young Anglican like herself, she showed herself most diligent in the fulfillment of all duties pertinent to the married state.

"She had five children for whose spiritual welfare she was as concerned as for their bodily care.

"And after the premature death of

her husband she took upon her shoulders all the responsibilities for their education, showing herself to be truly a strong woman.

"And at this time, as the result of her youthful inclinations, came her formal adjuration (of the Protestant faith) on March 14, 1805, at the hands of the Rev. Matthew O'Brien in the church of St. Peter in New York, with her first thought, as always, that her children should follow her example and embrace the Catholic religion.

"Widowed, she devoted all her excellent works of charity to young girls, orphans, the poor and neglected, founding with the approval of the Most Rev. Carroll, Archbishop of Baltimore, a congregation of sisters under the patronage of St. Joseph. . . ."

1-3-5-6

CLASS OF SERVICE  
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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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 BLESSING PLEDGE COMFORTING DIVINE GRACE ABUNDANT  
 HEAVENLY CONSOLIATION YOUR ILLNESS=  
 CARDINAL TARDINI=  
*Received Christmas Eve*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

## As a Mother Encompassed

(Continued from Page 1)

The story of the marvelous triumph of an ideal, from those tentative beginnings in Paca Street, Baltimore, one hundred and fifty years ago to the world-wide successes of our time does not need retelling. Monsignor Joseph B. Code in 1926 presented an admirable sketch of the history of Mother Seton's daughters from 1821 to 1927. The Seton Guild BULLETIN has kept its readers up to date in more recent decades. The numerous institutions directed by the Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg, St. Louis, Mount Saint Vincent, Mount St. Joseph, Saint Elizabeth and Seton Hill daily spread devotion and knowledge among the thousands who come under their benign influence.

But the story from Rome of December 18, 1958, will fail to achieve its fullest significance unless the little woman who described herself as "a mother en-

compassed by many children" can rely upon those children in 1959 for renewed fervor. It is sometimes suggested that a prophet has no honor in his own country. How melancholy is the thought that, perhaps, the foundress whose little candle sheds its light throughout the world should be neglected in her own land.

One of the most consoling corollaries of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints is suggested in the lovely "Prayer for Peace" in the Mass, where we plead with our Lord to regard not our sins, but the faith of His church. The virtues and examples of all faithful Christians create a vast reservoir of refreshment from which we may each draw in those hours of discouragement as we traverse the barren wastes which recur in our earthly journeys. How much more consoling is the certainty that we have in the example and virtues of Mother Seton a woman so precisely suited to our needs. Surely only folly would prompt a tired and dusty wayfarer to circle around the

## Message from Fr. Burgio

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to all, for the messages of good wishes and Spiritual Bouquets, for my welfare. Truly, all the prayers and sacrifices offered to God through the intercession of Mother Seton for my speedy recovery will not go unanswered. For my part I have offered much of my sufferings for the good of the Cause. The greatest element of prayer is the fulfillment of God's Holy Will. If God does not grant us the Graces we ask for, He will bless us in the manner that will be most beneficial for our soul.

Only a miracle can bless me with good health. I shall deeply appreciate your continuance of prayers and sacrifices, especially that I may accept my trials with full resignation to God's Holy Will.

place of cooling shade and quenching water!

In belated resolve, let us pledge ourselves this year of 1959 not only to a renewed interest in the career of Mother Seton and her successors, but to the salutary constancy which she deserves. Let her name not only be revered throughout the world, as it truly is; but let her name accompany our petitions in full confidence in every exigency. May she be, in the profoundest meaning of the phrase, a "mother encompassed by many children" and surrounded by their love.

A most interesting work has been written by Sister Rose Marie Lavery, S.C., of Mt. St. Vincent. This book is titled "Loom of Many Threads." This book is printed but not published and those desiring a copy of same may obtain it from Mt. St. Vincent-on-Hudson, New York. Subscription is \$3.

## 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.