



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

## Mount St. Vincent Commemorates Sesquicentennial

The Sisters of Charity marked the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their founding on April 18 in St. Patrick's Cathedral where over a thousand Religious, eighty Monsignori and fourteen Bishops and Archbishops were present while His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman celebrated a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving.

The sermon was preached by the Most Rev. Joseph F. Flannelly, Auxiliary Bishop of New York and Administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Bishop Flannelly took as his text the lines from the Book of Proverbs: "She hath opened her mouth to wisdom and hath stretched out her hands to the poor. Her children rose up and called her blessed."

He pointed out that Elizabeth Bayley Seton had, throughout her lifetime, fulfilled the roles of mother, teacher, and nurse and "because Elizabeth Bayley Seton was a daughter of New York and because the Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Vincent are an integral part of the archdiocese, they have invited our Cardinal, bishops,

priests, Brothers and Sisters to share their joy on this day. We are proud to tell Mother Mary and the other Sisters of Charity that many of us are indebted to Mother Seton and her daughters of Mount St. Vincent in so many ways.

### *Gave Aid to Priests*

"Thousands of men and women have praised what the Sisters of Charity have done in this archdiocese since 1817. Beginning with the first Sisters in Prince Street, in St. Vincent's Hospital, the first hospital to give free nursing care to the poor, in the New York Foundling Hospital, in the Catholic protectory, and in their home for the aged, they have stretched out their hands to the poor.

"Mother Seton's greatest pride was the free schools in which children might learn to love God. For 150 years Elizabeth Seton

has opened her mouth unto wisdom in the work which her Sisters have done in their parochial schools and academies, and later in their high schools and in the College of Mount St. Vincent.

"The archdiocese of New York is particularly indebted to the Sisters of Charity for what they have done for the priests of the archdiocese. It began in Emmitsburg, 150 years ago. In 1818 a poor young laborer, not physically strong, called on Mother Seton to ask for employment. He told her that he hoped to enter Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Mother Seton gave him a letter of introduction to the rector of the seminary, Father Dubois, later Bishop of New York.

"The young man entered the seminary in 1819, was ordained in 1826, and consecrated Coadjutor to Bishop Dubois in 1838. In 1853 he was chosen as first Archbishop of New York. Our eternal thanks must go to Mother Seton for thus aiding Archbishop Hughes in his vocation to the priesthood.

"Today as His Eminence offers this Mass of Thanksgiving

for the services of the Sisters of Charity, may we pray in particular that Mother Seton may send many a John Hughes to this archdiocese and many a Betty Bayley for Mother Seton's family. Let us pray to St. Paul that, through Mother Seton's intercession, there will be the working of miracles needed for her beatification. Then shall her daughters be able to rise up and call her blessed."

### *Luncheon Follows*

The foundation, development and significance of the work of the Sisters of Charity since their establishment 150 years ago were presented in scholarly and eloquent fashion at the sesquicentennial luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria after the Cathedral Mass by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John S. Middleton, P.A., pastor of old St. Peter's Church where Mother Seton was baptized in 1804.

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*His Eminence Cardinal Spellman and members of the American Hierarchy who attended the Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving are shown above after the ceremony at St. Patrick's.*



**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)

**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  
MOTHER SETON GUILD  
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

A SOLILOQUY  
with our  
BELOVED MOTHER SETON



How could you know?  
How ever guessed in those now so far  
off days?

Crowded, but loving, oh, so much,  
The tiny house on Paca Street.

Heaven, it almost seemed,  
Safe as it was, from sneers and stones  
And all the dreary, weary days  
Of those three heart breaking years,  
Since you had entered God's true fold,  
And lost all else,  
In your once loved happy New York  
home.

You looked not further than the twilight  
Of each busy day:  
Each moment consecrated, dedicated  
To the all your Beloved Lord might ask.

And ask He did:  
Unceasing labors, problems ever new,  
And hunger, but not the hunger of the  
heart  
Since He was close;  
Your heart's Beloved, Who made all  
labors light.

How could you know?  
How even guessed, one hundred fifty  
years

From that far distant day—  
Your daughters dear, ten thousand lov-  
ing ones,

Following the pattern of your ever gen-  
erous heart,  
Would be giving, day by day, devoted  
service

To babes abandoned, the ill, the desti-  
tute,  
Bright, ever hopeful youth, the aged  
and infirm?

There is no single human need of body,  
mind or heart,  
Their loving hands do not reach out  
to serve.

How could you know, how guessed?  
The Church you loved and served so  
well,

Would, in these later years  
Gather together every word you wrote?  
And learned, holy Priests in Rome

Would sit in prayerful Council,  
Studying all, lest error from the teach-  
ings

And beliefs of your younger years  
Might mar the whole.

Now, from your lovely throne on high,  
Where our deep love envisions you;

Smile on each devoted one  
Who, loving you, has learned to love  
God more,

And better serve  
By sacrifice of self to HIM,  
All who come, by day, by night,  
Needing the sweet charity your daugh-  
ters,

Following in your footsteps  
Give, in work and prayer, to win  
Countless souls to Heaven's lasting joys  
In God's eternal day.

Smile, too, on our devoted Cardinal,  
Dear and blessed by God,  
With hearts like unto Carroll's, Du-  
Bourg's,  
And all the holy ones who helped you  
In those far off dear, dear days.

Now it is his joy and ours,  
To celebrate the memories of those care-  
filled days,

And Prelates, Priests, and Daughters  
dear

From far and near,  
Unite their praise with him  
Whose lips speak ever of God's dear  
love

For souls, the countless ones  
Entrusted to his apostolic zeal,  
The lambs, the sheep, his shepherd  
heart

E'er prays to save.

Yes, smile on us all, this hallowed,  
lovely day,  
Plead with Love Divine

Ever to bless each loving one  
With strength to do the deeds of love  
Your dedicated daughters give;  
Grateful, happy, to be like you,  
God's servants dear,  
His own loved Sisters of Charity.

SISTER XAVIER MARY, S.C.  
Mount St. Vincent

# Tower of Loyalty and Love

BY ANNABELLE M. MELVILLE

The diocesan press publications for the week ending September 18, 1959, carried news emanating from Washington that "one can foresee before the end of the year the official declaration of the heroic nature of virtues of the venerable servant of God, Elizabeth Seton." Of all the general rejoicing, perhaps none is more intense than that at Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson, where for nearly a century the tower of the mother house has been not only a landmark but a symbol as well. For the Sisters of Charity of New York in carrying on their charitable and educational work, since the days when the first Sisters left Emmitsburg for that northern diocese in 1817, have undeviatingly exemplified the principles learned in a direct line of succession from the little pioneer whose virtues seem soon to be officially confirmed as "heroic."

I remember, with the vividness that deep emotion insures, my own first visit to Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson. For more than two years I had been immersed in the past, trying to re-create with words the years when Mother Seton had lived and died. That serene Sunday afternoon of a decade ago, coming down from the archives where Sister Mary had showed me precious documents in Mother's own hand, for a fleeting moment I had the sensation of seeing Mother Seton herself. Something so familiar about the habit of a Sister down the corridor, in the growing dusk, together with my own readings of the hours earlier, caused the momentary confusion, no doubt. But the truth is, although ten years have passed since I completed those researches, and there is a blazing July sun when I pass them on the Catholic University Campus, the sight of Sisters of Charity of New York still reminds me as forcibly as ever of their beloved foundress and her works. The tower rising above the majestic Hudson is far removed—in time, in distance, and in architecture—from the simple tomb in the Valley; but no one would be rash enough to question the similarity of devotion each symbolizes.

It is sometimes a bit puzzling to those who do not concern themselves with the histories of religious communities to understand how Mother Seton's "daughters" may be seen in so many different habits and take their directives from as many different mother houses. One might ask how Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson came to be the mother house of some of these daughters, how the tall tower can be called a symbol of their filial devotion.

The answer is simply and affectionately told in Sister Marie de Lourdes Walsh's life of *Mother Elizabeth Boyle, Mother of Charity*, a biography of the Sister who was the link between the original foundation in Emmitsburg and the subsequent founding of the Sisters of Charity of New York. In Chapter VII we learn that the opening of a New York mother house came as the result of two impulses; the one, a decision on the part of the Emmitsburg mother house to withdraw Sisters from the care of boys; the other, the decision of Bishop John Hughes that religious women within his diocese should be diocesan under the control of the bishop. As a result of a conference between

Father Deluol, the superior of the Emmitsburg community, and Bishop Hughes in Baltimore, a circular letter was sent to the Sisters stationed in New York notifying them that those who chose to remain in that diocese as diocesan Sisters of Charity had full permission to do so. Those who preferred to return to Emmitsburg might follow their hearts as well.

It was unquestionably a difficult decision for the sixty-two Sisters within Bishop Hughes's jurisdiction. Twenty-nine returned to Maryland; thirty-three stayed in New York. Those who departed suffered the pangs of parting from the Sisters and orphans with whom they had worked with such selfless heroism; those who remained suffered even more from the severing of ties from the Emmitsburg mother house. Mother Elizabeth Boyle felt the separation most keenly, having been that Sister whom Mother Seton had lovingly called "Partner of my cares." In 1846 she was the oldest of the New York Sisters; she was the direct link between Mother Seton and the reorganized band of thirty-three. It was Elizabeth Boyle, naturally, who was chosen to

assume the title of Mother by the women who were determined that no matter what changes might come in matters of organization nothing must ever threaten the spirit and rule which they had brought with them from the Valley.

After the initial and soul-racking change in 1846 other outward changes followed in swift succession. From a temporary novitiate at 35 East Broadway a more permanent mother house was opened at McGown's Pass (in what is now Central Park) and named Mount St. Vincent. By the time Mother Boyle died in 1861 Mount St. Vincent's had moved to the present location on the Hudson, and leaven from the New York community had been instrumental in the

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Reproduction of an original painting located at Mount St. Vincent showing the early Sisters of Charity caring for orphans in the Fifth Avenue Asylum in New York City.

## Apostolic Delegate Pontificates at Emmitsburg Observance

His Excellency, Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, presided at a Solemn Pontifical Mass commemorating the Sesquicentennial of St. Joseph's Convent and College, Emmitsburg, on July 31. More than 700 Sisters of Charity attended the Mass held on the historic campus.

Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, Professor of Church History, the Catholic University of America, voiced an eloquent plea that Pope John XXIII "may see through to fulfillment" a petition for the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Bailey Seton.

After the Mass a special luncheon was presented for members of the Advisory Board's professional staffs and auxiliary leaders from the many institutions conducted by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in the Eastern Prov-

ince. Members of the hierarchy of the Catholic dioceses in which the Sisters of Charity are active were among the guests to attend the anniversary celebration.

Auxiliary Bishop John M. McNamara, of Washington, for many years a leader in promoting the cause of Mother Seton, closed the day's festivities, which included a pageant by students, with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The following day, the Apostolic Delegate traveled to Philadelphia to pay his respects to Father Burgio, who was then nearing the end of his long illness. Although Father Burgio was greatly weakened by that time, he was deeply touched by this consideration and expressed appreciation of His Excellency's kindness in a message to the staff of Mother Seton Guild.

## Celebrates Sesquicentennial

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"The talents of a trained Church historian are required to interpret and appreciate the significance of the 150 years of Elizabeth Seton's daughters in the religious life," Monsignor Middleton said in his address. He then went on to enumerate the branches of the community founded by Mother Seton, and he cited the institutions served by the Sisters of Charity in 1846 when the New York Community became independent from Emmitsburg.

"All of this proclaims the glorious mission of Mother Seton in the American Church. The wonder of it all, in a person who lived only 46 years! A neglected phase of Mother Seton's character is her warm humanity. Don't you like to think of Elizabeth Seton, a charming New York girl, enamored of music, the dance and pretty hats? I like to think of Mother Seton, who spent so many hours in Old St. Peter's Church, also enjoying 'beefsteak and claret' on Barclay Street. A tradition worthy of emulation!"

Msgr. Middleton presented several other examples illustrating the warmth of Elizabeth Seton and of her love of Mary, the Mother of God, "that only a poet and mystic can appreciate."

"We priests shall now pray more for the progress of the cause of Elizabeth Seton. If and when Mother Seton becomes a canonized Saint, it will be justly recorded that a most zealous, effective promoter of her cause was His Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of New York. Surely from a better world, Mother Elizabeth Seton and Mother Elizabeth Boyle, first Superior of the New York Community, will ever be near Cardinal Spellman to give him of their maternal strength and comforts."

## Tower of Loyalty and Love

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foundation of two other communities of Sisters of Charity. Mother Mary Xavier had founded the Sisters of Charity of New Jersey and Mother Mary Rose had headed the Sisters of Charity of Halifax.

But did these outward, physical, organizational changes lessen the inner, spiritual affiliation with Mother Seton's intentions when founding her small group 150 years ago? No Sisters have worked more consistently to promote Mother Seton's cause, as readers of this BULLETIN must know. The graduate of Mount St. Vincent's College is as well-grounded in Seton lore as is the graduate of St. Joseph's in the Emmitsburg Valley. The two primary labors of the New York Sisters remain those of all

daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, charity and education. With identical zeal the women in black and the women in blue carry on in the mid-twentieth century the traditions which their mutual Mother has bequeathed to them. When they meet together on the rolling green lawns of the Valley, or the high bank of the Hudson, the word "Sister" has a special connotation. For they share not only a glorious heritage but a thrilling hope: that Elizabeth Bayley Seton will one day soon be raised to the high altars of this land where her countless daughters—of whatever definition—remain grateful for her legacy.

Surely it may be said, the Black Caps of New York have raised a tower of loyalty and love.

## 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.