



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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Vincentian Named Vice Postulator

The Rev. John P. McGowan, C.M., S.T.D., of St. Vincent's Seminary, in Germantown, has been named the new vice postulator of the Cause of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Father McGowan received his appointment from the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome acting through the Very Rev.

Luigi Bisoglio, C.M., procurator general of the Cause. It was announced by the Very Rev. Sylvester A. Taggart, C.M., provincial of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian Fathers).

Father McGowan succeeds the Rev. Salvator M. Burgio, C.M., who died on August 28. Father Burgio had held the post of vice pos-

Pope John Sees Early Mother Seton Beatification

The Cause of Mother Elizabeth Seton who will likely become the first native-born U. S. citizen saint, was strengthened when Pope John XXIII indicated that it may soon "be brought to a happy conclusion."

The Pope's reference to Mother Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the U. S., was made in an address he delivered in English at ceremonies commemorating the 100th anniversary of Rome's North American College.

His Holiness's speech, his first given in the English language, was heard by three U. S. cardinals and 60 U. S. bishops who attended the college's centenary ceremonies. The Pope's reference to Mother Seton came at the end of his speech.

He said: ". . . We have pleasure in communicating a news item which—we are aware—will bring much consolation to all our children in America. It concerns that flower of American piety, Mother Elizabeth Seton.

"As a gesture toward the American hierarchy visiting Rome for the college centennial, as a result of our special interest and the good will of the competent commission at the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the Cause of Mother Elizabeth Seton has already passed the antepreparatory stage, and consequently there is reason to hope that in a relatively short time the Cause may pass through the remaining stages and be brought to a happy conclusion."

Favorable to Cause

Pope John had indicated earlier that he was favorable to the beatification

cause of Mother Seton. In December, 1958, at the first public consistory of cardinals called by him, he gave formal consent to proceedings for her beatification.

Although her Cause of beatification was started in Rome in 1911, it was held up because of the war and was not officially introduced again until 1940.

Near Beatification

Members of the Sacred Congregation of Rites told the N.C.W.C. News Service bureau in Rome last October that "one can foresee before the end of the year the official declaration of the heroic nature of the virtues of . . . Elizabeth Seton."

With the declaration of the heroic nature of her virtues the only remaining step before the actual beatification of Mother Seton can take place is the certification of two miracles, required by the Congregation of Rites.

Two meetings are necessary for this purpose: the antepreparatory one which Pope John said has already been completed, and a preparatory one in November.

Meeting of Unit

Usually, years pass before these two meetings and the meeting in the Pope's presence take place. But in Mother Seton's case the congregation is able to act more quickly because all of its officials, having studied her Cause step by step, are thoroughly familiar with her life.

Thus, it is very possible that by Christmas Mother Seton will be on the verge of beatification.



REV. JOHN P. MCGOWAN, C.M.

tulator of Mother Seton's Cause since 1938. He also founded the Mother Seton Guild to help the Cause. The Guild will continue its work under the direction of the new vice postulator at Emmitsburg, Md.

Provincial Consultor

Father McGowan is first provincial consultor and director of retreats for religious in the Vincentians' Eastern U. S. Province. Born in New York City on January 25, 1905, he received his early education in the parochial schools of Brooklyn, and at St. John's Preparatory School there. His seminary studies were made at St. Joseph's College, the Vincentian minor seminary at Princeton, N. J., and at St. Vincent's Seminary. He was ordained by His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty on May 21, 1932. (Continued 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)

VERY REV. JOHN P. MCGOWAN, 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
MOTHER SETON GUILD
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY—On April 26, my husband was admitted to St. Clare's Hospital in New York for a series of neurological tests to determine the location of a brain tumor. When the location was established, I was told that it would be a miracle if my husband's health were restored. My brother, Dr. Bertram Moore, suggested that I offer very special prayers to Mother Seton in whom he has very sincere devotion.

I, together with my entire family, prayed to Mother Seton and after a required two operations, the brain tumor was successfully removed and my husband is slowly returning to business. After having undergone about sixteen hours of surgery for such a large and infiltrating tumor, the doctor who performed the operations is himself amazed at the complete recovery. I feel very sure that the intercession of Mother Seton was responsible for bringing my husband to his present state of good health.

(Signed) MRS. E. C.

VERONA, PENNSYLVANIA—In October, 1958, I began losing my voice. After several months, I went to our family doctor, who referred me to a throat specialist. He sent me to the hospital where they took a specimen of tissue and sent it away for diagnosis. The diagnosis was Cancer of the voice box.

I am a non-Catholic but a friend of mine who is Catholic gave me a relic of Mother Seton, which I wore next to my throat.

In two weeks I went back for another examination. The doctor said that they would have to take more tissue from the other side of my throat. It also came back—Cancer. They discussed removing my voice box.

I returned several weeks later and two specialists were amazed to discover that my throat had healed beautifully. My voice is returning, and I feel very grateful to the Relic of Mother Seton.

(Signed) R. C. M.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT—Recently, my father was ill with lymphosarcoma of the throat. I promised that I would send money to the Mother Seton Guild for the promotion of devotion to Mother Seton, if she would assist us during my father's illness.

The Sisters of Charity at St. Vincent's Hospital and at St. Ann's School also began a novena that my father's health be restored. My father responded to Deep X-ray Therapy and the tumor disappeared from his throat.

(Signed) A. K.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA—I'd like to acknowledge two miracles granted to me by Mother Seton. When my boy was born prematurely six years ago, he had no heart beat. The doctors gave us little hope that he would live. Through Mother Seton's prayers he did, and developed normally.

Now, six years later, he was having his tonsils and adenoids removed. He stopped breathing twice and started to hemorrhage two times. The doctor couldn't locate the source of the bleeding, so he told us that there was nothing to do but pray.

I prayed to Mother Seton, and promised to write this letter, and ask that it would be published. The doctor said that it was nothing but prayers that he is living today.

(Signed) MRS. H. M.

LODI, NEW JERSEY—Mother Seton has always been a friend of ours. I have eight children, and my husband has been out of work for more than a year because of an injury. Recently we received a large check from the state—unemployment compensation—that we used to pay all our bills. In addition, we won a new car, which was sold so that we have money for several months to come. My prayers are for a job for my husband.

(Signed) MRS. J. I.

WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA—Although the name Mother Seton meant little to me before you enrolled me as a member of the Mother Seton Guild, I am now personally grateful to her for several favors granted through her intercession.

A few weeks ago, I discovered a lump on my breast, and my doctor advised me to apply heat for two weeks. Even before applying heat, I placed a small relic of Mother Seton on this lump, and prayed that she would help me. She didn't fail me! The doctor noticed enough change to assure me that it was probably scar tissue. I am now praying that it will disappear completely.

(Signed) MRS. D. DE C.



"Eternity—In what light shall we view it? What shall we think of the trials, cares, pains and sorrows we once had upon earth? Oh! what a mere nothing! Let then they who weep be as though they wept not; they who rejoice as though they rejoiced not. This world passes away."

—ELIZABETH ANN SETON



Cincinnati Sisters Celebrate

On October 27, 1959, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati celebrated the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Sisters of Charity in America and the 130th anniversary of their coming to Cincinnati. Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati, pontificated at a High Mass in the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, first mission of the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati, and preached an eloquent sermon. Three hundred Sisters of Charity sang the Missa Solemnis, by Sister Marie Concetta, S.C.

Following the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving a luncheon was served at Seton High School, site of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati from 1867 to 1869. Rev. Urban Stang, Asst. Chaplain at Mount St. Joseph was the Toastmaster, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. R. Marcellus Wagner, Vicar General, was the Speaker. That evening a Pageant in Ballet was presented depicting the life-work of the Daughters of Mother Seton, entitled "A Song of Charity."

Arrived in 1829

Four of Mother Seton's daughters from Emmitsburg with Sister Francis Xavier in charge came to Cincinnati to open St. Peter's Orphan Asylum and Free School near the old cathedral in 1829. Little did they realize that from this small beginning would rise an independent community, which 130 years later would number 1,500 members.

Became Autonomous

When Mother Seton's community in Emmitsburg affiliated with the French Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, the Cincinnati group were encouraged by the Most Reverend John Baptist Purcell, second Bishop of Cincinnati, to remain as they were. They became an autonomous community in 1852 with Archbishop Purcell as their ecclesiastical Superior and Mother Cecelia George as their first mother.

Mother Margaret Cecelia and five Sisters professed their vows under Archbishop Purcell on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1852, forming the nucleus of a community that has given more than a century of service in the United States, China and Italy.

Early Days

When the original band of four Sisters came to Cincinnati, they took up their residence in a two-story frame building across from the old cathedral, which was given them rent free by

Mr. P. M. Cassilly for use as an orphanage. Following a precedent set by Mother Seton, they opened also a select school for girls, the income from which would help defray expenses of the orphanage and free school.

During the first year they had only five or six orphans contrasted with 146 day pupils. Four years later the number of orphans had increased to 32, necessitating their removal to a larger house. Lack of a playground here was a major disadvantage, so, when the Ruffner mansion was for sale in 1836, Bishop Purcell bought it and transferred St. Peter Academy, Free School, and Orphanage there.

Caring for the Sick

The hospital opened by the Sisters in 1852 was the outgrowth of another need of the Cincinnati diocese unsupplied by the middle of the last century. When the old Hotel for Invalids was put up for sale, Archbishop Purcell purchased it and gave it to the Sisters. It was renamed St. John in honor of the archbishop.

It was from St. John Hospital that the Sisters of Charity went forth to the battlefields of the Civil War, and it was on those battlefields that Sister Anthony O'Connell won undying fame. She was so revered by Blue and Gray, by Protestant and Catholic, that the soldiers aptly named her "The Angel of the Battlefield."

Sister Anthony's kindness to the poor inspired Joseph C. Butler and Louis Worthington to extend her works of charity. These two great-souled non-Catholics purchased the Government Marine Hospital and gave the deed to

Sister Anthony on August 15, 1866. Their only request was that the hospital be called the Good Samaritan to perpetuate the occasion and the spirit of the offering.

In 1916 the old Good Samaritan closed with a record of almost 50 years of service to 64,457 people. The new Good Samaritan, with the additions of 1927 and 1958, is carrying on the tradition established in the original institution: Charity toward the sick, and an interest in, and concern for those who must be prepared to carry on the medical services of the future.

Helped in Opening the West

Hospital work of the Sisters of Charity has not been confined to Cincinnati. The nursing Sisters, too, had a part in the opening of the West. As early as 1865 St. Vincent Hospital and Sanitarium was opened in Santa Fe. (Continued on Page 4)



Cincinnati Sisters Celebrate

(Continued from Page 3)

This was the scene of Sister Blandina Segale's labors. In after years the directors of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad acknowledged that it would have been impossible to build the road if the Sisters' Hospital in Santa Fe had not been there to give medical and surgical care to the laborers. A second institution in New Mexico—St. Joseph Hospital, Albuquerque, dates back to 1902.

Sisters of Charity staff three hospitals in Colorado. These hospitals, rebuilt and remodeled, rank among the outstanding institutions of the country. In the East, San Antonio Hospital, Kenton, Ohio, serves Hardin County; St. Joseph, Mount Clemens, Michigan, has emerged from a sanitarium to a hospital; and the Good Samaritan, Dayton, carries on in the tradition of its Cincinnati counterpart.

The Work of Education

More than 900 of the 1,500 Sisters that form the community today are engaged in the work of education. Under their supervision, 50,700 students daily receive the training that will fit them for life.

To Mother Seton goes the credit for pioneering the parochial school system in America; to her Cincinnati daughters goes the credit for establishing the oldest parochial grade and high school in the United States—St. James School, Bay City, Michigan, opened in September, 1873.

Shrine of the Little Flower, Detroit, has the highest enrollment of the schools in which the Sisters of Charity teach. Registration in the elementary school reached 1,620 last school term, and high school enrollment stood at 625.

Other grade schools that carry registrations higher than a thousand are St. William's and St. Saviour's, Cincinnati; St. Albert the Great, Dayton; St. John Baptist de La Salle Chillum; Holy Redeemer, Kensington, Maryland; Guardian Angels, Detroit.

Seton High School, Cincinnati, has the names of 1,000 girls on its roster this term. Other major high schools conducted by the Sisters of Charity in Ohio are Catholic Central, Lima; and Holy Name, Cleveland. Large high schools in the West are St. Mary's, Albuquerque, and Cathedral, Denver.

Sisters preparing for teaching assignments may expect to work in the East, or West or even in Italy. Since 1870 the Sisters have manned schools in Colorado and New Mexico; they have gone northward to upper Ohio and Michigan by 1873; they opened a school in Chicago in 1913; since 1951 they have been back in Maryland. In Rome they conduct a grade and high school in conjunction with Villa Nazareth, a boys' orphanage. St. Joseph's School in Wuchang, China, converted from an orphanage in 1947 when the Sisters returned from internment in Shanghai, is continuing under the direction of lay help.

Growth of Community

In 1852 the work of the Sisters of Charity was concentrated in three institutions—an orphanage, a free school, and a hospital in Cincinnati. Today their program of service to humanity extends to Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas in the United States, and to Rome, Italy. The Sisters conduct a college, an academy, 22 diocesan or parochial high schools, 71 grade schools, a grade and high school for the deaf, a school for retarded chil-

dren, three orphanages, two day nurseries, an infant and maternity home, a social service center, a retreat house for women, nine general hospitals—two with sanitariums, and seven training schools for nurses.

A far cry, certainly, from the little band of four that heeded the call from Bishop Edward D. Fenwick in 1829. But their courageous and self-sacrificing trek westward was the seed that brought forth these many fruits. Trained under Mother Seton's loving care, and filled with her exhortations to be generous without reservation, these four holy women became the spiritual mothers of the 1,500 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati who serve God and the Church in America today.

Vincentian Postulator Named

(Continued from Page 1)
Former Seminary Rector

In 1933 Father McGowan entered the graduate school of theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., from which he received the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1936. For the next nine years he taught theology to Vincentian scholastics. From 1945 to 1951 he was rector of Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton, Pa.

In 1951 Father McGowan founded and built St. Lazare Retreat House at Spring Lake, Mich., in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Since 1954 he has been engaged in the work of the Provincial Curia of the Vincentian Fathers.

At the invitation of Fr. Bisoglio, Father McGowan sailed for Rome November 20 to pay his respects to the Procurator General and to be present, if possible, at the reading of the decree which will declare Mother Seton to be Venerable.

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.