



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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Vice Postulator Reports on Progress of Seton Cause

Father McGowan Writes Circular Letter to Communities

In a recent circular letter addressed to the Superiors of the six communities which stem from Mother Elizabeth Seton's first foundation, Very Rev. John P. McGowan, C.M., Vice Postulator for the Cause of Mother Seton, reported on the progress of the Cause.

"The Decree of Validity of the Process was granted evidently soon after our meeting at Greensburg (detailed in the last issue of the MOTHER SETON GUILD BULLETIN)," Father McGowan began. The Decree of Validity is an official approval by the Sacred Congregation of Rites of the two Apostolic Tribunals convened in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Diocese of Buffalo respectively, to obtain testimony concerning the alleged miraculous cures of Anne Theresa O'Neill and Patrick Sole through the intercession of the Venerable Mother Seton.

The findings of the American Tribunals, Father McGowan continued, were transmitted for study and decision to four medical specialists on December 20. Should the opinion of these specialists be favorable to the Cause, the alleged miraculous cures will be submitted to a conference of all the doctors serving on the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

If a majority of these doctors cast affirmative votes, Father McGowan said, the Process for Beatification will move into its final stages.

The first of these stages will be the convening of an Ante-Preparatory Congregation, a meeting of all the consultors of the Sacred Congregation of Rites who are not cardinals. In rendering their decision these consultors will consider chiefly whether the alleged miraculous cures approved by the medical staff were worked through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God.

Upon a favorable decision of this body, the Vice Postulator explained, the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, His Eminence, Arcadio Cardinal Larraona, C.M.F., will convoke a Preparatory Congregation, a meeting of all the consultors of the Sacred Congregation, including the cardinals.

Following a favorable decision of this Preparatory Congregation, the way is open for the final meeting of the Sacred Congregation, a Plenary Congregation, which is presided over by His Holiness, Pope John XXIII.

"When this stage has been reached," Father McGowan concluded, "it is just a formality. The Pope commands that the Decree *De Tuto* be issued. This means that the alleged miracles are accepted and, at a time convenient to the Holy Father the ceremony of Beatification will be carried out."

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Major Changes in Daughters of Charity American Provinces

Sisters Eleanor, Mary Rose and Mary Clare Appointed

Both the Eastern and Western Provinces of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul have received a new Visitatrix or Provincial Superior in recent months.

Sister Eleanor McNabb became Visitatrix of the Eastern Province, and Sister Mary Rose McPhee, Visitatrix of the Western Province. Sister Eleanor succeeded Sister Isabel Toohey, whose tenure of office had expired after she had served seventeen years. Both Sisters are natives of Boston, Mass.

Sister Mary Rose succeeded Sister Catherine Sullivan.

Each of the new Superiors will head more than 1,200 Sisters.

In the Eastern Province, Sister Mary Clare Hughes was appointed Assistant of the Province to replace Sister Eleanor, who had held the post since September, 1961.

The three appointments were made by Very Rev. William M. Slattery, C.M., Superior General of the Vincentian Fathers and the Daughters of Charity.

Sister Eleanor has been connected with hospital work throughout her religious life, except for her first appointment, which was to St. Mary's School, Greensboro, N. C. She was sent to St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, Md., to train for nursing, and then served successively at Providence Hospital, Washington, D. C., and The Seton Institute, Baltimore, Md., before entering The Catholic University of America to study for a master's degree in Nursing Education.

While attending the University she lived at Providence Hospital, and remained in residence there after receiving her degree, to serve as Coordinator of Catholic University's Basic Program in (Continued on Page 4)

Easter Greetings



IT IS MY EARNEST PRAYER
AND WISH THAT THE
BLESSING OF THE RISEN CHRIST
MAY REST ON EVERY MEMBER
OF THE
MOTHER SETON GUILD
THIS EASTERTIDE, AND
REMAIN FOREVER

V. Rev.

John P. McGowan, C.M.
VICE POSTULATOR



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

ARCADIO CARDINAL LARRAONA, C.M.F.

Prefect of the
Sacred Congregation of Rites

HIS EMINENCE

CLEMENTE CARDINAL MICARA
Cardinal Relator of the Cause

HIS EXCELLENCY

MOST REV. LAWRENCE J. SHEHAN, D.D.
Archbishop of Baltimore

VERY REV. LUIGI BISOGGIO, 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.

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Perpetual \$10.00

Deceased May Be Enrolled

Address all communications to
MOTHER SETON GUILD
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

WATERBURY, CONN.—After prayer to Mother Seton for an elderly gentleman who had been away from the Church and the sacraments for years—strongly anticlerical—he received the priest, made his confession, and went to Holy Communion.

M. J. R.

BRONX, N. Y.—My mother had been married out of the Church, and remained away from the sacraments for almost thirty years. I had been praying to Mother Seton that mother would be reunited with God. Mother had a heart attack, and less than two hours before she died, she received the last Rites of the Church and was buried in a Catholic cemetery after a beautiful High Mass was offered for the repose of her soul.

C. S.

WATERBURY, CONN.—I made a novena to Mother Seton, asking that my husband be called back to work in a shop, and we would have some security. He was recalled and I feel confident we were helped through her intercession.

M. D.

DAYTON, OHIO—My husband lost his wedding ring. I promised to thank Mother Seton publicly if we found it. We found it this morning. I have been saying the Novena prayer to Mother Seton for months.

M. D.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—I retired from the government in 1954 and about three months later I was informed I would not receive my retirement under the "Hiss Act" which denied such retirement to persons guilty of treason or a felony. By obtaining a Presidential Pardon one could be restored those rights; a rather long, tedious and involved process. I sought and obtained the pardon after two years; and about that time legislation was introduced to amend the legislation to cover treasonable acts only. I sought the help of the Blessed Mother and Mother Seton that the bill in Congress would pass. It did last spring. I now enclose \$25.00 for use in the promotion of Mother Seton's Cause.

E. C. W.

NUTLEY, N. J.—When my son was 10 years old he was enrolled for summer camp, and I had to get a doctor's certificate. To my sorrow I couldn't get it. The doctor found he had a heart murmur and suggested I take him to a

specialist for a thorough checkup. This doctor found he had an enlargement and after hospitalizing him for a week, a consultation was held and it was decided that in the fall he would be operated on. Somewhere and somehow at that time I came upon a leaflet about the Mother Seton Guild. I put my son immediately under Mother Seton's care, that if it be God's will an operation would not be necessary. After waiting some time, a report came from the specialist that after further study of my son's tests, they decided an operation was not necessary. I feel Mother Seton has been so good to me, that I would like to do what I can to spread devotion to her.

M. E. K.

NUTLEY, N. J.—Over two years ago a non-Catholic friend of mine broke her arm, and it failed to heal properly, even after having a bone graft. Then hepatitis further slowed her progress. After the latter set in, I had her enrolled in the Mother Seton Guild and loaned her my touched relic. About two months ago, her doctor told her he thought she would have to have another operation, which would shorten her arm two inches. On her next visit to the doctor her arm was X-rayed and the doctor said the operation was necessary. A week later she went to the hospital and her arm was again X-rayed. After the doctor read the X-ray, he told her "she could go home" and then added, "It's a miracle, your arm has started to knit." I know that God has heard our prayers through Mother Seton's intercession.

M. J. K.

SMITHTOWN, N. Y.—For some time I had been trying to obtain a job, but without success. I then started to pray to Mother Seton and in a short time got a job with convenient hours and close to home. I became interested in Mother Seton through literature my son brought home from high school. I shall continue to pray for her beatification.

M. J. M.

JEFFERSON, S. D.—My eight-month-old baby girl had a large tumor and her right kidney removed. After six months she is coming along fine and although the doctors did find malignant elements in the tumor, all checkups since the operation have proven negative. We feel sure our prayers to Mother Seton have brought this remarkable recovery of our baby.

M. E. S.

Mrs. Seton and Penance

Elizabeth Seton never did things by halves. As a Protestant she was not satisfied with attending church just once in a while, but went as often as she possibly could. When the communion service was over at Trinity Church, so much was her hunger for this symbolic union with Christ that she would rush to St. Paul's Chapel or St. George's Chapel to partake of the Anglican sacrament there; and this failing, she would ask the sexton to give her the wine left from the service, that she might enjoy a private communion service of her own.

Her few leisure hours were spent in spiritual reading taken from the popular Protestant divines of the day, or, in committing her spiritual hopes and yearnings to paper.

She found nothing too hard to perform for God, and literally made a fool of herself in the eyes of friends and neighbors, who raised their eyebrows and suppressed knowing smiles at her out-of-the-ordinary pious practices.

The lengths she went to for God she expected the friends who joined her in her religious practices to go to, also. Thus, Mrs. Catherine Dupleix, her dear "Doux," accompanied her on her rounds of the chapels seeking a second or a third communion. She roundly berated her sister-in-law Rebecca Seton for failing to go to church on a Sacrament Sunday. She urged truly advanced lessons in holiness on her sister-in-law Cecilia, at the time a child of scarcely twelve years.

Her wholeheartedness in religion served to prepare her well for the Catholic Faith. It was the very wholeheartedness of Catholicism that first attracted her to it. She wrote to Rebecca Seton in amazement over the Catholic churches in Italy being open all day:

"How often you and I used to give the sigh, and you would press your arm in mine of a Sunday evening and say, 'No more until next Sunday,' as we turned from the church door which closed on us (unless a prayer day was given out in the week).

"Well, here they go to church at four every morning, if they please. And you know how we were laughed at for running from one church to the other, *Sacrament Sundays*, that we might receive as often as we could. Well, here people that love God and live a good, regular life, can go (though many do not do it), yet they *can go every day*."

Elizabeth was especially impressed by the penitential practices of the first Catholics she came to know—the Filicchi family in Leghorn, Italy. She had always had a deep sense of her sins and a great sorrow for them, and when she found these same qualities in her new-found Catholic friends, she was profoundly impressed. She hastened to tell her "soul's sister" and confidante, Rebecca, about it:

"Why, Rebecca, they believe all we do and suffer—if we offer it for our sins—serves to expiate them. You may remember when I asked Mr. Hobart (her minister) what was meant by fasting in our prayer book—as I found myself on Ash Wednesday morning saying so foolishly to God: 'I turn to you in fasting, weeping and mourning,' and I had come to church with a hearty breakfast of buckwheat cakes and coffee, and full of life and spirits, with little thought of my sins—you may remember what he said about its being *old customs*, etc.

"Well, the dear Mrs. Filicchi who I am with, never eats, this season of Lent, till after the clock strikes three. Then the family assembles. And she says she offers her weakness and pain of fasting for her sins, united with Our Savior's sufferings. I like that very much."

The following Ash Wednesday, February 27, 1805, after a year of terrible indecision, she was writing happily to the same Mrs. Filicchi:

"A day of days for me, Amabilia. I have been where?—to the Church of St. Peter with the cross on the top instead of a weathercock! That is mischievous—but I mean I have been to what is called here among so many churches *the Catholic Church*. . . ."

New Biography

(Continued from Page 4)

was scarcely any famous man she did not meet: George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, General Knox, John Jay, George Clinton, Bishop Provoost, John Henry Hobart, John Morin Scott, Gouverneur Morris.

"In her short span of 47 years, Elizabeth Bayley Seton was a society belle and matron, a wife, a mother (five children), and a religious foundress.

"She was a good Protestant and, following her husband's death while they were traveling in Italy, she became an exceptionally holy Roman Catholic. Her supreme characteristics were a deep capacity for friendship, which stemmed from her warm, emotional and affectionate nature; a profound love of the Blessed Sacrament, and an intense grasp of the concept of eternity.

"As Mother Seton she is one of the keystones of the American Church. Foundress of the American Sisters of Charity, she knew and worked intimately with the great ecclesiastical personages

of the day: Archbishop John Carroll of Baltimore; John DuBois, later Bishop of New York; John Cheverus, Bishop of Boston and later Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux; Simon Gabriel Bruté, later Bishop of Vincennes; William Louis Dubourg, later Bishop of New Orleans; Benedict Flaget, Bishop of Bardstown (now Louisville), and his coadjutor, John David.

"She founded the first native community of religious women; established the first free Catholic day school, from which the parochial schools of the country sprang; and established the first Catholic orphanage. Her cause for beatification and canonization is in process at Rome. In December 1959 her virtues were pronounced heroic and she was given the title of 'Venerable.'

"The present biography is written from original sources and is completely authoritative. It presents a portrait in depth of an American woman who overcame the temptations, faults and frailties common to humanity; who suffered incredible trials of sickness and contradiction—the betrayal of friends, the death

of loved ones; who performed mighty and lasting works for God and mankind; and who, in doing all this, attained to a high degree of sanctity, and may well be the first American-born saint.

"Father Dirvin has given special attention to the development of Elizabeth Seton's spiritual life, tracing it from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity by describing her devotions and religious practices, quoting from her meditations and spiritual thoughts, discussing the spiritual direction given to her and her reactions to it—both as a Protestant and as a Catholic.

"This is Mrs. Seton in her day-to-day life, in the scenes and among the people that influenced her and that she influenced. Special care was taken, therefore, to "flesh out" as much as possible the many characters who played parts, more or less important, in her inspiring life story."

The Sacred Congregation of Rites, which is considering the Cause for Beatification and Canonization of the Venerable Servant of God, recently approved *Mrs. Seton* for publication.

1-3-5-6

Vice Postulator Reports

(Continued from Page 1)

The Vice Postulator concluded his circular letter by thanking the Sisters for their "kind cooperation and support in all that is being done for the Cause," and calling upon them to redouble their prayers that the final stages of the Cause may be gone through smoothly and favorably.

Major Changes

(Continued from Page 1)

Nursing Education.

Sister Eleanor also served on the Committee for the erection of the new Providence Hospital adjacent to the University campus and, after the hospital's completion, became its Administrator.

Last September she was appointed Assistant of the Province, and in January of the present year Visitatrix.

Sister Mary Clare entered the Daughters of Charity after graduation from Seton High School, Baltimore, Md.

Her first assignment was to St. Joseph's School, Martinsburg, Va., where she taught primary grades.

She then entered the Providence Hospital Division of The Catholic University of America to train for nursing, and remained through the graduate program.

Sister Mary Clare next went to St. Vincent's Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla., as Director of Nursing, and two years later became Administrator of the hospital. After finishing a term of six and a half years at St. Vincent's, which is in the southeast corner of the Province, she was named Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw, Mich., which is in the extreme northwest corner of the Province.

In February, 1962, Sister Mary Clare was named Assistant of the Province.

Like Sister Eleanor, Sister Mary Rose's life in religion has been largely devoted to hospital work.

She was graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Chicago, Ill., and has a bachelor's degree in nursing education from DePaul University and a master's degree in psychiatry from The Catholic University of America.

Sister Mary Rose has been successively administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chicago, Ill.; St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.; and Mary's Help Hospital, San Francisco, Calif. She was serving as administrator of DePaul Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., when called to her new post.

She is a past president of the Northern California and Nevada Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association.

Perhaps Sister Catherine's greatest single achievement as Visitatrix of the Western Province was the establishment of Sister Formation, an educational program aimed at the spiritual and intellectual formation of Sisters of all religious communities. As part of this program Sister Catherine founded Marillac College at Normandy, Mo., which is staffed by twenty-eight Daughters of Charity and fifteen Sisters of other religious communities, and has an enrollment of nearly 300 Sisters.

During Sister Isabel's term of office the Eastern Province saw great growth both in numbers and buildings, especially a new Carney Hospital in Boston, the new Providence Hospital in Washington, and a new St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. In the closing months of her administration plans were concluded for a new Central House at Emmitsburg, which is already under construction.

New Biography Of Mother Seton To Be Published

The new biography of the Venerable Elizabeth Ann Seton by Rev. Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M., mentioned in a recent issue of the MOTHER SETON GUILD BULLETIN, will be brought out in the summer or early fall.

The full-length life of the Venerable Servant of God is entitled *Mrs. Seton: Foundress of the American Sisters of Charity*, and will be published by Farrar, Straus and Cudahy of New York. The book carries a Foreword by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and a Preface by His Eminence, Amleto Giovanni Cardinal Cicognani, Papal Secretary of State and former Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

Besides a detailed index the book contains twelve full pages of illustrations, and a complete list of sources.

In a pre-publication flyer sent out to book stores and libraries throughout the United States and Canada the publishers have described the book in the following terms:

"Elizabeth Bayley Seton (1774-1821) was a true daughter of the early American Republic. She was intimately connected with the society and events of the times. By birth and marriage she was related to the first families of New York—the Bayleys, Setons, Roosevelts, Barclays, DeLanceys, Pells, DePeysters.

"She was a woman of beauty, charm, wit, intelligence. In her own home, at her father's, at her father-in-law's there

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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.

PRAY FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER SETON