



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

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NOVEMBER, 1964

## STRIKING CURE STUDIED IN ROME

### BLESSED ELIZABETH ANN SETON WAS INVOKED IN RARE BRAIN DISEASE

A REMARKABLE RECOVERY which took place at St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, N. Y., last fall is being intensely studied in Rome as a possible miracle worked through the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The cure involves Carl Kolin, a Protestant, who was admitted to the hospital on October 9, 1963, with a disease of the brain so rare that only five other cases are on medical record. All five died.

Mr. Kolin was placed on the critical list upon admission. His wife, informed by the Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Vincent-on-the-Hudson, who conduct the hospital, of their foundress, Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton, accepted a touched relic of the Blessed and pinned it on her husband's hospital gown.

At 6:45 p.m. the patient's condition took a turn for the worse, and the Sister in charge of the hall, Sister Dominic Rosaire, sent for the administrator to comfort Mrs. Kolin.

When the Sister Administrator arrived, the doctors were working feverishly over the patient. His face had turned a purplish black color. Sister led his wife into an adjoining room, and together they began to recite the novena prayers to Blessed Mother Seton for his complete recovery. Shortly afterward, the attending physician, Dr. Frank Flood, interrupted their prayers with the grave news that Mr. Kolin might not live until midnight.

Sister Dominic Rosaire excused herself and went to telephone the Assistant Mother at Mount St. Vincent, to ask for the prayers of the professed Sisters and the novices at the motherhouse. Both groups immediately began to pray to Blessed Elizabeth Ann for Mr. Kolin's full recovery.

Sister then procured a first-class relic of the Blessed, had it placed on his

head, then fastened to the wall above his bed.

He remained in coma. After a while he began to suffer convulsions which increased in frequency until they became practically continuous. A neurologist and anesthesiologist were summoned for a consultation. After a thorough examination of the patient, they both agreed that, in view of the massive infection of the brain and generally poor clinical picture, death must shortly intervene.

However, Mr. Kolin lived on through the next two days, although his condition remained extremely critical. The novena to Blessed Elizabeth Ann, begun by the Sisters and Mrs. Kolin on the evening of the 9th, continued.

Finally, during the night of the 11th, the special duty night nurse again applied the first-class relic of Blessed Mother Seton to Mr. Kolin's head and chest. The convulsions stopped immediately, and the patient's high temperature took a dramatic drop; before morning it dropped again, to normal.

On that morning, October 12, Mr. Kolin came out of coma for the first time. However, he did not recognize anyone, nor where he was, nor had he any concept of time. He lay for the next three days in a wakened condition, without the relief of sleep.

Finally, on the 15th, he fell into a natural sleep, from which he did not rouse until noon on the 16th. He awakened fully alert, recognized his wife and everyone else, and talked in a coherent manner.

On October 17, the last day of the novena to Blessed Elizabeth Ann, he was up and around, fully alert and eager to catch up on the news of the outside world. He remembered nothing, of course, of the terrible days he had just passed through.

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### IFCA in Convention Visit to Emmitsburg

A HIGHLIGHT of the 1964 National Convention of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae—held in Washington, D. C., August 18-23—was a pilgrimage to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton's shrine at Emmitsburg on Wednesday, August 19.

Mass was celebrated at noon on the altar where the Blessed's relics are enshrined by His Excellency, Most Rev. John S. Spence, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington; 350 members of the Federation attended, led by Mrs. John F. Hennessy, retiring president.

Following the Mass, a luncheon was held in the dining room of St. Joseph College, at which the Federation presented a check of \$5,000 toward the permanent tomb of Blessed Mother Seton in the basilica to be erected in her honor. Very Rev. Charles J. O'Connor, C.M., Director of the Daughters of Charity of the United States Eastern Province, accepted the check in the name of Very Rev. John P. McGowan, C.M., Vice Postulator of the Cause of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton; Father McGowan was unable to be present. The Federation hopes to present a matching check next year.

The luncheon speaker was Rev. Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M., author of the biography *Mrs. Seton*. Taking his cue from President Johnson's recent call for a war on poverty, Father Dirvin urged the assembled women to answer this call by striving to increase their social and educational aid to the needy; he held up to them the example of Blessed Mother Seton's untiring charity as a model to follow.

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, founded by alumnae of St. Joseph College, was the first organized group to petition Rome for Mother Seton's beatification and canonization.



**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's Provincial House,  
Emmitsburg, Md.
- Marillac Provincial House - 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

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Address all communications to  
MOTHER SETON GUILD  
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND 21727

**FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED**

FLUSHING, N. Y.—While in the hospital after suffering a heart attack, I was given a touched relic of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. Since that time I have carried the relic with me, and prayed to her daily; and I firmly believe she has helped me. One of the favors I asked of her was the will to stop smoking (my doctor had ordered me to, because of my heart condition), even though I had been a heavy smoker for forty years. I have no desire for tobacco now. She obtained a much greater favor than that for me, however. I have gone to Confession and Holy Communion after twenty-five years away from church and the sacraments.

H. P.

BOSTON, MASS.—I asked the help of Blessed Mother Seton in securing a position. My request was granted: I now have a good position, satisfactory in every way.

R. S.

JACKSON HEIGHTS, N. Y.—I prayed to Blessed Mother Seton that my son would pass all his subjects, in order to graduate from high school, and that he would be accepted by the college of his choice. Thanks to her intercession, he successfully completed his high school studies and was accepted by the desired college. Even more, he was notified recently that he had been awarded a partial tuition scholarship! I am most grateful to our dear Blessed!

M. D.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Because of a recent illness, I am temporarily unable to work and must accept welfare relief. I was told that the welfare checks would be sufficient to cover food and rent for two weeks; but when the first one arrived, it did not cover the second week's rent. At Mass on Sunday morning I prayed to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton to help me get the money I needed, when I visited the welfare office next day. On Monday morning I found in my mailbox a check from the welfare agency, covering the rent with a little extra for food.

P. P.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—I have obtained two great favors from God, through the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. My only daughter was expecting her first baby, and I prayed that she and the baby would be all right. She had a safe delivery and a healthy

baby. I also asked that my daughter and her husband might obtain a loan to buy a trailer, for they desperately needed a place to live. As newcomers to this area, we knew no one who could be of help to us. Most unexpectedly, a bank we had no previous knowledge of loaned them the money. I thank Blessed Mother Seton from the bottom of my heart.

M. A. L.

BALTIMORE, MD.—Through the intercession of Blessed Mother Seton I have received two notable favors: financial help and relief from severe abdominal pain.

M. L.

WATERBURY, CONN.—I made a novena to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton, asking her intercession for the restoration of my health and the settlement of some family problems. She has obtained wonderful help for me in both matters, and I am deeply grateful.

M. D. S.

LINDENHURST, N. Y.—I have been praying to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton since last May for three intentions. Two have been answered favorably. The first intention involved my daughter, who was keeping company with a boy neither my husband nor I approved of. No matter how much we talked to her, she just couldn't or wouldn't understand the reasons for our disapproval. The boy entered the Navy, and now my daughter has broken off with him. The second intention was for my younger daughter, who was about to take a test to enter a Catholic high school. I was doubtful whether she would pass. We were so happy when she received word that she had passed, and was eligible to enter the school! My third intention is for a house, because we find apartment living unsatisfactory. I know this intention will be answered, too, because of my great faith in Blessed Mother Seton.

M. J. T.

**Striking Cure**

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On November 2, 1963, he left the hospital for home. He is working full time, and bears no trace of his virulent illness.

And Carl Kolin, a Protestant, wears around his neck a medal of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton in a continuous act of gratitude to her for his recovery.

# Beatification Cause of Bishop Cheverus, Mother Seton's Friend, Begun in France

THE CAUSE for the beatification and canonization of one of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton's dearest friends has been inaugurated at Bordeaux, France. He is John Cheverus, first Bishop of Boston, who died in 1836 as Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux. Cardinal Cheverus was instrumental in Elizabeth Seton's conversion and remained one of her closest confidants, in matters temporal as well as spiritual, until her death in 1821.

The introduction of his Cause for beatification and canonization was announced by His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, in the pages of *The Pilot*, Boston's archdiocesan weekly. Cardinal Cushing reported in the pages of the paper a conversation he had at the third session of Vatican Council II in Rome with another successor of Cardinal Cheverus—His Eminence, Paul Cardinal Richaud, Archbishop of Bordeaux. Cardinal Richaud told Cardinal Cushing that he had "inaugurated the long process for the beatification of the first Bishop of Boston."

Cardinal Cushing asked his readers to "pray that we may live to see the day when the first Bishop of Boston will be beatified and later canonized."

A native of Mayenne, France, Jean Louis Lefebvre de Cheverus was born on January 28, 1768. He served as a priest in his native diocese for six years, until the French Revolution drove him from France. He went first to London, and then, in 1796, to Boston. Here he served with Dr. Francis Matignon, Boston's first priest and pastor of Holy Cross Church, until Matignon's death in 1818, joined in the closest and most devoted friendship with him.

Cheverus worked as a missionary for twenty-seven years, making Boston his headquarters. He mastered several Indian dialects, served heroically in two epidemics of yellow fever, and helped greatly to improve the relations between Catholics and Protestants in New England.

Dr. William Ellery Channing, famous Unitarian divine, said concerning him:

"Who among our religious leaders would solicit a comparison between himself and the devoted Cheverus? . . . How can we shut our hearts against this proof of the Catholic religion's ability to form good and great men? . . . It is time that

great justice were done to this ancient and widespread community."

And when Cheverus began the building of his cathedral, one of the first contributors was his personal friend, John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States.

Cheverus was named first Bishop of Boston in 1808. He was consecrated in St. Peter's pro-cathedral, Baltimore, on November 1, 1810, by Archbishop John Carroll. The long interval between his appointment and his consecration was due to the delay of the Papal bull in reaching America. Three days later Bishop Cheverus preached at the consecration of Benedict Joseph Flaget as first Bishop of Bardstown (now Louisville), Ky., in St. Patrick's Church, Fells Point, Md. On this occasion Cheverus hailed Archbishop Carroll, first metropolitan in the United States, as the "Elias of the New Law, the father of the clergy, the conductor of the car of Israel in the New World: *Pater mi, Pater mi, currus Israel et auriga ejus.*"

In 1823 Cheverus was removed from the American scene when he was named Bishop of Montauban in France. In 1826 he was elevated to the archbishopric of Bordeaux; and in 1835 was created cardinal. Shortly before his death on July 7, 1836, King Charles X made him a Peer of France. An old friend from America, Father Samuel Sutherland Cooper—who provided the funds for the establishment of Mother Seton's Sisterhood at Emmitsburg—had the happiness of assisting Cardinal Cheverus on the prelate's deathbed.

Mother Seton's relationship with John Cheverus began in 1805, through the instrumentality of Antonio Filicchi, who recommended the priest to her as "learned and eloquent." In the last crucial weeks, when she was on the point of entering the Catholic Church, she suggested to Filicchi that recourse to Cheverus might "cast the balance" for her. They wrote Cheverus a joint letter, seeking his comfort and advice, that he might have "the merit of determining and perfecting the work" of her conversion. He did not fail her.

"Your conscience whispers sometimes," he wrote, "that you are too partial to the Catholic side, and unwilling to pass to the other side when your ideas seem to lead you to it.

"But it appears to me, that if at times you have doubts, anxieties, you are never for a moment a strong Protestant, although you are often—you say—a good Catholic; and I believe you are always a good Catholic. The doubts which arise in your mind do not destroy your faith; they only disturb your mind.

"Who in this life, my dear Madam, is perfectly free from such troubles? 'We see as through a glass in an obscure manner,' we stand like Israelites at the foot of the holy mountain, but in spite of dark clouds and the noise of thunder, we perceive some rays of the glory of the Lord and we hear His divine Voice.

"I would, therefore, advise your joining the Catholic Church as soon as possible, and when doubts arise, say only: 'I believe, O Lord, help Thou my unbelief.'"

Upon receipt of this historic letter, Elizabeth Seton immediately made her submission to the Catholic Church; and ever after he was to her "the dear Cheverus," "the beloved Cheverus."

All of America, and not just Boston, owes a deep debt of gratitude to John Cheverus; for, in 1806, when Mrs. Seton began to consider moving from New York and debated within herself whether to go to Montreal or to Baltimore, it was Cheverus who saved this great apostle of charity for the United States by throwing the weight of his influence, from the first, to the choice of Baltimore. He told her firmly that, in his opinion, Baltimore would be better for her children and for the progress of the Church in America. In this he was truly prophetic. And when Mrs. Seton approached Archbishop Carroll for his all-important decision, the prelate merely commented: "It is enough for me to know that it (the decision for Baltimore) has the concurrence of Dr. Matignon and Mr. Cheverus."

Despite their frequent correspondence, Blessed Elizabeth Seton and John Cheverus never met face to face until November 21, 1810, three weeks after his consecration as bishop. On that auspicious day, Mother Seton was called to the parlor to meet two visiting clergymen. She looked at them inquiringly, until the one said simply: "I am Cheverus." At the words, she fell to her knees, kissed his ring fervently, and remained kneeling, weeping and clinging

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## Bishop Cheverus

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to his hand for fully five minutes. Only then did she compose herself to greet Cheverus' companion, Bishop Michael Egan, O.F.M., first Bishop of Philadelphia.

Mother Seton's glad meeting with Cheverus on that November day completely scouted the warning he had given her in 1808 that "whenever you see me, one of the heroes of your evening stories will shrink into a little, ordinary man." She found him everything she had imagined, and more. When he departed from Emmitsburg, she made him promise to visit her dear Protestant friend, Mrs. Eliza Sadler, in New York. The letter of introduction he carried was ecstatic:

"It will please you to see our blessed Cheverus," she exclaimed to Mrs. Sadler, "because he carries your *friend* and the darlings in his very heart, and we love him with a sentiment not easily described. . . . Look at his purple ring and remember how often we kissed it."

Mrs. Sadler was indeed impressed. "I was above stairs when the Bishop called," she told Mother Seton. "He sent up the letter, and as soon as I cast my eye on the name, I ran down without opening it. Yet, the *ring* excited something of the sensation you wished, for it is too beautiful not to attract the eye; and in looking on it, the idea that it had fixed yours, or at least the dear young ones, was present while I conversed with your *revered friend*. There is all that ease and simplicity I so much admire in so dignified a character." Mrs. Sadler was so taken with Cheverus that she went with a

Catholic friend to St. Peter's on Barclay Street to see the Bishop administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to hear him preach in English and French.

Cheverus, in his turn, had been so impressed with the piety and fervor of the new community at Emmitsburg that he wrote Elizabeth: "I almost envy their (the Sisters') happiness and yours. I hope their pious example has not been lost upon me." And he reported to Archbishop Carroll that he had visited the "holy mountain" and been "very much edified."

Cheverus visited Mother Seton and her Sisters again six years later, in December 1816, shortly after Rebecca Seton's death. He was upset at the time, because Archbishop Carroll was pressing him to accept the post of Coadjutor Archbishop of Baltimore, with the right of succession. Others joined Carroll in urging Cheverus to accept, but the humble Bishop of Boston steadfastly refused, and asked Mother Seton to join him in praying "Our Lord to look down on this Diocese and to preserve it and myself from what is intended. The very idea is more than I can bear."

Whether by the force of his arguments or the power of prayer, he was spared the dreaded honor; he little knew then, however, that one day he would be forced to accept a more prestigious diocese and the honors of the cardinalate.

In 1818, when Mother Seton lay desperately ill and her son William was about to sail on a two years' voyage, the faithful Cheverus was able to relieve her of her anxiety concerning his material preparation. He supplied William with money to buy clothing, and arranged for a seamstress to get it ready. Blessed

Elizabeth Ann was very grateful, but she had an even more urgent favor to ask.

William had written to say that, if she were not yet recovered from her illness, he would endeavor to travel to Emmitsburg to see her before he left. The thought terrified her, for she was sure she must die soon (actually she lived two more years), and did not want her son to see her in her pitiful condition. She sent a letter to Cheverus, asking him to keep the truth about her extremity from William. The kindly prelate, of course, agreed.

"Dear child!" he wrote in answer. "He is then to see you no more in this world. But I have confidence that he will one day be with you in heaven. 'The child of so many tears and prayers cannot perish.'"

For Elizabeth's own comfort, he continued:

"I do not pity you. I envy your situation, running now to the embrace of Him who is love. . . . You are most frequently remembered at the Altar, and will be as long as I shall celebrate the Holy Mysteries. Pray for me here and in heaven."

This, then, in a few brief and revealing scenes, is the man who has been recently proposed for beatification and canonization. John Cheverus is a worthy candidate for such honors, indeed. And we can be sure that his dear friend Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton ardently desires the honors of the altar for him who was such a loyal and trusted friend to her.

All her devoted clients should pray to her that, through her intercession, God may glorify His servant and hers—John Cheverus!

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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.

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**PRAY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED ELIZABETH ANN SETON**