



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

NUMBER 101

EMMITSBURG, MD.

NOVEMBER, 1967

FOUNDER'S DAYS HONORS

Medals Awarded in Academic Convocations At St. Joseph and Elizabeth Seton Colleges

ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE

St. Joseph College at Emmitsburg held its first Founder's Day Convocation on Monday evening, July 31, 1967, and marked the event with the presentation of Founder's Medals to three persons whose lives manifest the spirit and interests of Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, founder of the college.

In her welcome address, Sister Rosemary, President of St. Joseph College, stated that it has long been the desire of the college to honor its founder in a special way, and the first medalists were chosen for their familial ties to Mrs. Seton, whose primary concern had always been the welfare of her family.

Chosen as the first recipients of the newly struck bronze Founder's Medal were Mother Seton's sole surviving descendant, Ferdinand T. R. Jevons, of Huntington, Long Island, her great-grandson; Mrs. Helen Lee Peabody, New York City, related to the Setons through marriage; and Sister Isabel Toohey, former Provincial Superior of the Emmitsburg province of the Daughters of Charity.

Rev. Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M., Assistant to the President of St. John's University, New York, and author of *Mrs. Seton, Foundress of the American Sisters of Charity*, was the principal speaker at the Convocation held in DePaul Auditorium.

Because of illness, Mr. Jevons and Mrs. Peabody received their medals *in absentia*. Mrs. Frances Seay Verme, an alumna of St. Joseph College and close friend of Mr. Jevons, accepted the medal for him. Miss Gertrude Lee, of Baltimore, cousin of Mrs. Peabody, accepted for her.

Mr. Jevons was cited for "his familial ties to Blessed Elizabeth Seton and his

generous assistance in furthering her cause." Mrs. Peabody's citation noted that because of her "appreciation for tradition, many family mementos and much correspondence of William Seton, IV, her uncle by marriage, have been preserved."

Sister Isabel's citation noted, "One of the many significant acts of Sister Isabel's administration was the organization of the Mother Seton Conference in 1947." Under the guidance of Bishop McNamara, of Washington, D. C., the six communities of Sisters of Charity which trace their origin to Mother Seton, established the Federation of Daughters of Blessed Elizabeth Seton in 1965.

The Founder's Medal was awarded Sister Isabel "for her contribution to the apostolic works initiated by Elizabeth Seton, and for her efforts in uniting the religious communities."

The Right Rev. Msgr. Robert Kline, President of Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, presided at the Convocation.

ELIZABETH SETON COLLEGE

The Elizabeth Seton College Award for 1967 was presented Saturday, September 30, to Mrs. Amedeo Giordano, President of the Ladies of Charity of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, on the occasion of the college's Founder's Day. Auxiliary Bishop Terence J. Cooke, Episcopal Vicar of Manhattan and the Bronx, presided over the ceremonies and presented Mrs. Giordano with her award.

It was the fourth such award to be made by the college since its founding six years ago. It was instituted as a special tribute to an outstanding woman

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE
CAUSE OF MOTHER SETON:

The Apostolic Process which was done in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York on the alleged miraculous cure of Karl Kalin through the intercession of Blessed Mother Seton, was completed at the end of September, 1966. I brought the documents to Rome, but unfortunately soon after that the Postulator General, Father Luigi Bisoglio, C.M., became seriously ill. He died in February. Within six weeks the Cardinal Relator, His Eminence Enrico Cardinal Dante, was fatally stricken. This meant that the two principal proponents of the Cause were not alive. New people had to be appointed, and they had to study and prepare documents. Not only did these sad events delay the case, but the Chancellor of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, Msgr. Orazio Cocchetti, wished me to obtain some additional information. This I have already done, and I am hopeful that we will hear a verdict from the Sacred Congregation in the not too distant future.

At this time, I ask the prayers of all that our case will be accepted. If it is, we will need only one more miracle for canonization.

VERY REV. JOHN P. MCGOWAN, C.M.
VICE POSTULATOR

who exemplifies in her life the virtues of Mother Seton.

Sister Dolores Mary Kelly, President of Elizabeth Seton College, in introducing Mrs. Giordano, spoke of her as "equally at home with clergy and laity, with the ignorant and the intellectuals, the poor as well as the rich, she has borne the lion's share of the often frustrating burdens involved in serving her neighbor. Her resemblance to our venerated Mother Seton lies not merely in the fact that the best work of each was done in the dark period of her widow-

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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
ENRICO CARDINAL DANTE
Cardinal Relator of the Cause

HIS EMINENCE
LAWRENCE CARDINAL SHEHAN
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.



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Mother Seton Guild

EMMITSBURG, MD.

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EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND 21727

FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.—I thank Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton for three favors received through her intercession: two relatives passed difficult examinations very successfully, while a third was hospitalized only one night instead of the long period expected.

Sr. M. M.

BRONX, N. Y.—I promised Blessed Mother Seton that I would write to the Guild to report that she has answered many requests of mine which, while they were everyday things that might seem small to others, were very important to me.

P. D.

CARLSTADT, N. J.—I wish to acknowledge the favor I received through prayers to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. My prayers were for a happy and peaceful death for my mother, who had suffered from cancer since 1963. Her last three days in this world were so peaceful that I feel in my heart they were given her through the intercession I had prayed for.

D. S.

CANTON, OHIO—Four years ago my son was found to have a melanotic cancer. He underwent an operation on August 28, Mother Seton's birthday, after the surgeon had tried unsuccessfully to schedule the operating room for three days earlier. The operation was a success, and the surgeon hoped that he had gotten all the cancer. Two weeks after the operation, my son returned to work. Everything was fine for two and a half years, when he began to suffer severe headaches. Hospital tests showed a new growth in the abdomen and a mass in the head. Chemotherapy treatments made him violently ill, and he had to be given morphine every two hours, to lessen the pain. Four doctors were called in for consultation. There was disagreement among them: the neuro-surgeon feared that my son could not survive an operation; the cancer specialist said that, without surgery, my son would lapse into a coma within 72 hours. I placed a first class relic of Blessed Mother Seton on my son's head, and all our family prayed for her intercession. The pain lessened, and my son decided to take his chances with cobalt treatments. He began to wear the relic constantly around his neck. The treatments were started, and six days later my son was released from the hospital; at present he is continuing the treat-

ments as an out-patient. His appetite has returned, he is up most of the day, and finds the energy to play with his five children. God knows how grateful we all are, and I am sure Blessed Mother Seton knows, too. Every mother should make her her friend.

M. C.

NORWOOD, N. J.—A six-year-old boy developed a calcified brain tumor, a bone growth so extensive that the doctors were pessimistic, holding out no hope even with an operation. A first class relic of Mother Seton was placed on the child, and prayers were offered for his recovery. An immediate change took place. He has no more severe headaches and, to the amazement of the doctors, X-ray treatments seem to be doing their work; nothing would help before.

T. I.

Convocations

(Continued from Page 1)

hood, but rather in the burning ambition each has evidenced to excel in love for others."

Mrs. Giordano, a member of the lay advisory board of Seton, is a member of the board of directors of the National Social Welfare Assembly, Social Work Recruiting Center, Association of Ladies of Charity of the United States, Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., Home, and McMahon Memorial Center. She is a member of the executive committee of the National Catholic Community Service and is a member of the board of governors of the United Service Organization. She is recipient of the Papal Cross and Woman of Achievement Award, among other honors, and is a resident of New York City.

Principal speaker on the occasion was the Very Rev. Msgr. James Searson, Director of the Catholic Center of New York University. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph T. O'Keefe, Associate Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York, offered the invocation.

The Honorable James F. X. O'Rourke, Mayor of Yonkers, presented Sister Mary Dolores with a proclamation which officially designated the day as Elizabeth Seton College Day in the city.

Also included as part of the Founder's Day Program was the investiture of 208 freshmen, who were presented their freshman caps by Sister Mary Ellen Brosnan, Academic Dean, and Sister Eileen Farley, Dean of Students.

The Foundation at Emmitsburg

A condensation of *The Foundation at Emmitsburg* by Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton—July 31, 1809, historical paper delivered by Rev. Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M., Assistant to the President, St. John's University, New York, at the Premier Founder's Day Convocation of St. Joseph College at Emmitsburg, July 31, 1967.

CERTAINLY, when Elizabeth Seton arrived home from Leghorn on June 4, 1804, she had no thought of July 31, 1809. She had come home, and home for her was New York City.

Mrs. Seton did everything possible to stay in New York as housewife and mother. She squeezed herself and children into one room of her little house on Moore Street, so that she could rent the other rooms for income; she acquiesced in an ill-starred plan to take in boarders; she entered into a disastrous partnership with a Mr. White to establish a school; she grudgingly accepted the hospitality of her sister, Mary Post—and, incidentally, in the midst of her outrage at certain suggestions for her future, she voiced a prophecy that has bearing on what we commemorate tonight: "In short . . . they do not know what to do with me, *but God does*; and when His blessed time is come, we shall know."

It was almost as if she sensed the faint stirrings of God's ultimate design, for it was at this time that she threw out the first tentative strands that would draw her to Maryland. Antonio Filicchi offered to send her boys away to school, and she gratefully accepted. There was a great to-do about whether they should go to Georgetown, or St. Mary's, Baltimore, or the Sulpician College at Montreal. Filicchi himself preferred Montreal, but Elizabeth turned almost instinctively from the thought: "your idea of the Canada seminary frightens me," she wrote to Filicchi on October 11, 1805; and then came an historic, a memorable sentence: "I have a little secret to communicate to you when we meet (a sweet dream of imagination) which, if you meet my opinion and views, could render the Baltimore plan every way most preferable."

By Christmas, Elizabeth had embarked on a new project, conducting a boarding house for students of the Episcopal school attached to Saint-Mark's-

in-the-Bouwerie; but by the following summer (1806), the conversion of her sister-in-law Cecilia Seton and her own part in it had set the whole town against her—and she saw clearly for the first time that she must, for the peace and faith of her children, get out of New York.

In November, 1806, Mrs. Seton met Father William Valentine Dubourg in New York—and now we find that the sails that had been set for Baltimore had now shifted. Elizabeth confided to this man who would eventually bring her to God's port in God's land for her, her "dreams for some form of convent life in Montreal, where she might teach, when her boys should be finished at Georgetown." And, surprisingly enough, Dubourg concurred in her wishes. He "would have sent me to Montreal in a moment," she wrote delightedly to Antonio Filicchi.

But, no, it was all a diversion, an illusion. God knew what He was about. Dubourg went on to Boston, where Elizabeth's trusted counselors, Father Cheverus and Dr. Matignon, turned the tide for America. They wrote her at once, Cheverus urging Baltimore as better for her family and for the progress of religion in the United States, and Matignon prophesying specifically: "You are destined, I think, for some great good in the United States, and here you should remain in preference to any location." Six months later Bishop John Carroll himself, Christ's voice in America, assured Elizabeth of his approval: without knowing any particulars, he said, "it is enough for me to know that it has the concurrence of Dr. Matignon and Mr. Cheverus." Everyone was now thinking definite thoughts of Baltimore, except unaccountably Elizabeth herself who began once more to dream of Montreal.

The bigoted attacks on her grew worse, and her boarders dwindled steadily until, not wishing to embarrass her Episcopalian schoolmaster further, she offered to withdraw from the project; but he would have none of it.

Elizabeth was not to suffer much longer, for now God moved swiftly. She wrote gladly to Julia Scott, in April, 1808: ". . . at this very moment of solicitude for our destination when the present means fails, Mr. Dubourg . . . has offered to give me a formal grant of a lot of ground situated close to the College (St. Mary's) . . . and procure me immediately the charge of a half

dozen girls, and as many more as I can manage." She herself now moved as swiftly as God wanted her to. She had stopped thinking about Montreal the autumn previous when Filippo Filicchi joined his voice from across the sea with the voices of Cheverus, Matignon and Dubourg, urging her to stay in America. In a matter of days she had the approval of her brother-in-law Wright Post, her friend John Wilkes, and her director, Father Sibourd, for her plans. Thus armed with all the voices of God speaking in one certain voice, she set sail for Baltimore on June 9, 1809.

Elizabeth had scarcely arrived in Baltimore when she met the last personal obstacle to the fulfillment of her dream, an obstacle that could have, at this eleventh hour, wrecked everything. The obstacle was presented in the person of a man, the very man destined by God not only to finance the foundation we commemorate tonight, but to locate it at Emmitsburg rather than Baltimore—Samuel Sutherland Cooper. Elizabeth and Samuel Cooper were strongly attracted to each other from their first meeting. He could have given her love, riches and security for her children—all good things in themselves. But, they determined without hesitation to lavish their good love, their good talents, the good they could do for a family, for a few, on God and all the people of America.

Mrs. Seton's first school began quietly enough, with seven pupils, four boarders and her own three girls.

From the beginning it was intended to insure its permanence by the institution of a religious community with Elizabeth at its head. Thus, less than a month after her arrival in Baltimore, Elizabeth was writing, on July 8, 1808, to Antonio Filicchi: "It is proposed to . . . begin on a small plan admitting of enlargement if necessary, in the hope and expectation that there will not be wanting ladies to join in forming a permanent institution"; and on October 6 she was confiding to Cecilia Seton: "It is expected that I shall be the mother of many daughters." On December 7, 1808, Mother Seton's first religious daughter, Cecilia O'Conway, of Philadelphia, joined her in the little house on Paca Street; and on January 16, 1809, Elizabeth could inform Antonio Filicchi that other young women had expressed their intention of coming to her. (Continued on Page 4)

Emmitsburg Foundation

(Continued from Page 3)

Money was badly needed for the ultimate establishment, and Elizabeth's thoughts naturally turned to the Filicchi brothers. From July, 1808, to February, 1809, she bombarded them with pleas for help. She met with dead silence. The Napoleonic Blockade and the American Embargo Act prevented their replies until October, 1809, when all was done; for God wanted Samuel Cooper to have the honor of supplying the necessary funds. As Father Dubourg recalled in 1828, ". . . *Our Lord, in a clear and intelligible voice, said to her (Mrs. Seton) after Communion: 'Go . . . address yourself to Mr. Cooper; he will give you what is necessary to commence the establishment.'*"

As for Cooper, he wanted, besides the proposed school, "to extend the plan to the reception of the aged, and also uneducated persons, who may be employed in spinning, knitting, etc., so as to found a manufactory on a small scale which may be beneficial to the poor." But God decided that a school was sufficient for the present, and left the service of the aged and the poor to a later time.

Finally, Father Dubourg had brought Elizabeth to Baltimore to establish her work there. He himself, writing in the third person, relates how things actually turned out: "Sir (said Cooper to Dubourg), this establishment will be made at Emmitsburg . . . and thence it will extend throughout the United States."

". . . in fact, the prediction was verified some time after, contrary to all the former convictions of this ecclesiastic (himself) and those of the foundress; and what is still more astonishing, in spite of the strongest opposition of the

venerable Archbishop Carroll, who yielded at last to the force of circumstances. You know how God has blessed and propagated it throughout the land."

The trek to what had become, by prophecy and "force of circumstances," an almost biblical promised land began on Wednesday, June 21, 1809. Elizabeth, now Mother Seton, superioress of an organized sisterhood, led the way, accompanied by Sister Maria Murphy, and by the Setons, Cecilia, Harriet and Annina. On Saturday, the 24th, the little band arrived at Father Dubois' house on the lower slope of St. Mary's Mountain, which he had vacated in their favor and where they lived for the next month—the other Seton girls, Catherine and Rebecca, and the first recruit from Emmitsburg, Sister Sally Thompson, joined them in a few days—until the Stone House on their new property should be finished, and those left behind in Baltimore should join them there. This second group left for Emmitsburg at the end of July. Led by Sister Rose White, it included Sister Susan Clossy, Sister Cecilia O'Conway, Sister Mary Ann Butler, and Sister Kitty Mullen; the two Seton boys, William and Richard; and two boarding pupils, Julia La-Britton and Isabella O'Conway.

Mother Seton's daughters have traditionally observed July 31 as the anniversary of their permanent establishment at Emmitsburg.

A chronology compiled by Father Bruté lists the date of the removal of Mother Seton and her companions from the Mount to the Stone House as July 28, which was a Friday.

The travelers from Baltimore, according to Mother Rose White's *Journal*, did not arrive until Saturday, the 29th, at 4 P.M., and were welcomed by

Mother Seton, who was waiting to greet them.

The record of Mt. St. Mary's College lists the Seton boys as entering on July 28; but this does not present much of a problem. Since we know from Mother Rose's *Journal* that they did not arrive in Emmitsburg until July 29, it is probable that they were pre-registered in anticipation of their coming.

Before assembling the foregoing facts into a workable timetable, it is necessary to note that Mother Seton and Father Dubourg had done their homework during the month of July and were ready with temporary rules, an order of day, and a list of community officers. The timetable then falls into place as follows:

Mother Seton and her companions moved from Dubois' cottage to the Stone House on Friday, July 28—as Bruté recorded in his chronology—or sometime before 4 P.M. on Saturday, the 29th. The other Sisters, led by Rose White, arrived on Saturday afternoon, Sunday, the 30th, would have been so taken up with church and with getting settled and putting things in order, that it would have been impractical to follow a regular order of day. It is understandable, therefore, why Mother Seton and her Sisters, and consequently tradition, would date the permanent foundation at Emmitsburg from Monday, July 31, as the day on which they began to live there the full community life.

We are gathered here for the Premier Founder's Day Convocation, 158 years later to the very hour when ten happy Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's were preparing for bed after the first full day of the fruition of their "plan," or "scheme," or "establishment"—as Blessed Mother Seton had called it.

Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg, Maryland

Return 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