



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

NUMBER 102

EMMITSBURG, MD.

DECEMBER, 1967

New York Sisters of Charity Celebrate Sesquicentennial



Cardinal Spellman in one of his last photographs, following the Sesquicentennial Mass. Left to right: Mother Evelyn, Mother General; Auxiliary Bishop Edwin Broderick; the late Cardinal; and Coadjutor Archbishop John Maguire.

"WHO CAN estimate the influence that you, daughters of Blessed Elizabeth Seton, have had on the myriad students, the uncounted patients, the countless helpless and homeless children whom you have cared for and protected," Bishop Edwin B. Broderick, Auxiliary of New York and Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, told more than a thousand Sisters of Charity and their many friends who filled St. Patrick's Cathedral to capacity at a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on November 4. The Mass commemorated the 150th anniversary of the coming of the Sisters of Charity to New York.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spell-

man presided at the Mass in one of his last appearances in the Cathedral. Archbishop John J. Maguire, Coadjutor of New York, was the principal concelebrant. The other concelebrants were Auxiliary Bishops Terence J. Cooke, Joseph M. Pernicone and Philip J. Furlong of New York, Auxiliary Bishop Charles R. Mulrooney of Brooklyn, Bishop Paul Leonard Hagarty of Nassau, Bahama Islands, and Monsignor Leonard J. Hunt, Episcopal Vicar of Lower Manhattan.

Nine bishops, more than 100 priests and monsignori, major superiors and members of religious congregations of the New York area assisted at the Mass.



May the Infant Savior
bless you
at Christmas
and throughout
the New Year

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

The Federation of the Daughters of Blessed Elizabeth Seton was represented by Mother Maria Gertrude, Sisters of Charity of Halifax; Mother Josephine Marie, Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N. J.; Mother Mary Romana, former Mother General, Sisters of Charity, Mount St. Joseph, Ohio; Sister Isabel, former Visitatrix, Eastern Province, and Sister Elise, representing Sister Mary Rose, Visitatrix, Western Province, Daughters of Charity.

The Sisters of Charity conduct 114 institutions devoted to education, health and welfare in the Archdiocese of New York, and the Dioceses of Brooklyn, Rockville Centre, Harrisburg and Nassau, Bahama Islands. Best known of these institutions are St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, the New York Foundling Hospital, the College of Mount Saint Vincent and Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers, N. Y.

In his homily Bishop Broderick pointed out that, for 150 years, the Sisters of Charity have been intimately linked with every facet of education, health care and social welfare in the New

(Continued on Page 3)



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 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'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.

Guild Membership

- Yearly \$1.00
- Perpetual \$10.00

Deceased May Be Enrolled

Address all communications to

MOTHER SETON GUILD
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND 21727

CARDINAL SPELLMAN

THE CAUSE of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton has lost a great friend and champion in the death of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

His love for her came easy to him because, like himself, she deeply loved God's Church and her native land. "She is a glorious tribute, by God's grace, to the health, zeal and spirituality of Catholicism in America," he wrote proudly.

He showed his love for her by the true test of deeds. Throughout his long career he worked for her glorification. Eager to advance her Cause, he gave of his time, advice and active help. After his first formal audience with the newly elected Pope John XXIII—November 1, 1957—he wrote: "I recommended the Cause of Mother Seton to His Holiness and he made immediate note of it, and I am sure that we shall get prompt action." When she was beatified on March 17, 1963, His Eminence stood by the side of His Holiness in St. Peter's Basilica, translating for the American pilgrims the Pope's homily of praise for this valiant woman.

No one who was part of that glorious pilgrimage will forget the fatherly kindness and generosity of its Cardinal leader at Lisbon, Fatima, Rome, Lourdes and Paris. At Lourdes especially he characteristically stayed up until two o'clock in the morning, refusing to rest until he was personally assured that every last pilgrim was comfortably accommodated for the night.

Until his sudden death, he followed with keen interest the process of the alleged cure through Mother Seton's intercession of Karl Kalin, putting at the disposal of the Vice Postulator his canonists and tribunals.

His love for the holy mother extended itself with natural graciousness to her religious daughters. His affection for his beloved Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent was legend, an affection he shared with their Sisters of Halifax, New Jersey and Emmitsburg—who labored in his Archdiocese—and with every member of the Federation of Mother Seton's Daughters.

God has tried us sorely this year in the deaths of Father Luigi Bisoglio, C.M., Postulator of the Cause; Cardinal Enrico Dante, its Relator; and now Cardinal Spellman, its supreme friend. But we remember well that the trials of Elizabeth Seton were the preludes to her glory. We look forward with confident hope and joy to her ultimate glory, which will surely be shared with her in heaven by His Eminence of New York, her devoted son.

Ferdinand T. Jevons, Seton Great-Grandson, Dies on Long Island

Last Direct Descendant Was 91

FERDINAND T. R. JEVONS, great-grandson and last direct descendant of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton, died on Saturday, November 25, 1967, in his home at Huntington, Long Island. He was 91. Mr. Jevons was the youngest of four children—the others were Thomas Seton Jevons, R. Seton Jevons and Marguerite Jevons—of the late Thomas and Isabel Seton Jevons. Mrs. Jevons was the youngest daughter of William Seton, Mother Seton's oldest son, and his wife, Emily Prime Seton.

Mr. Jevons had been among the first recipients of the new Founder's Medal, struck in honor of his great-grandmother by the Daughters of Charity of St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, Md., and conferred in the college's first Founder's Day ceremonies held on July 31, 1967. Mr. Jevons was cited for "his familial ties to Blessed Elizabeth Seton and his generous assistance in furthering her cause."

The funeral was held from the Huff Harris Funeral Home, Huntington, Long Island, on Tuesday, November 28. Memorial Masses were celebrated in the Motherhouse chapel of the Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent, and in the Blessed Elizabeth Seton Shrine Chapel built on the site of Mother Seton's home on the Battery in lower Manhattan. Monsignor Henry Gebhardt, pastor of the Shrine, was celebrant of the Mass there; representatives of the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity of New York, Halifax and New Jersey attended; also present was Mrs. Robert S. Peabody, whose maternal aunt Sarah Redwood Parrish was the wife of Mother Seton's grandson and Mr. Jevon's uncle, William Seton.

Burial was in Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery, Bronx, N. Y. Present at the graveside ceremony were Father John P. McGowan, C.M., vice postulator of the Cause of Blessed Mother Seton; Fathers Robert Brennan, Joseph De Falco, and Joseph I. Dirvin, C.M.; Rev. Joseph E. MacGinnis, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church; representatives of the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of Charity of Mount Saint Vincent; and family friends.

Born in New York in 1876, Mr. Jevons was educated in Yorkshire, En-



The late Ferdinand T. R. Jevons, photographed in 1963 in the Seton Cottage at Mount Saint Vincent, holding the cap of his great-grandmother, Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton.

gland, the ancestral home of the Setons. He earned recognition in the fields of finance and management, first in his father's shipping firm, later in the brokerage business, and managed a sugar plantation in Cuba. At his father's retirement he assumed the responsibility for the family shipping concern. Mr. Jevons also served in the 101st Cavalry Division, United States Army.

Sesquicentennial

(Continued from Page 1)

York area. He said: "How blest New York has been for your presence! Consistently your Community has been called upon to undertake apostolates for which there were few precedents, no well established techniques, no training programs.

... "Your Foundress, Elizabeth Seton, was a woman of hope and unconquerable optimism—a pioneer who stood on the soil of a vast land and felt the first stirrings of its promise—an American lady of practicality and generosity and informality. . . .

"If your apostolate in her native city is to be continuously effective, it must be flexible and mobile and relevant—in touch. You Sisters of Charity have always marvelously adapted to the changing frontiers in education and professional objectives, to shift in residential areas, like the inner city thrust. You have had the vision and courage for prudent experimentation in this turbulent capital city of a world in turmoil, yet always as, in Blessed Elizabeth's dying words, 'Children of the Church,' loyal and diligent, witnessing the ministry of the Pilgrim Church in every need of the People of God."

A True Love Story

(Continued from Page 4)

piano, Will playing away on his violin, and the children dancing—but even they came to an end with the family bankruptcy over Christmas 1800, of all times, and the consequent push downward of Will's health.

Elizabeth's love showed best now, in her loyalty, her defense of her husband's part in the debacle, and the tender and anxious nursing care she gave him. The trying times brought their tensions and irritations, as in every family. Elizabeth is angry because Will won't let her go out to church in bad weather—"You know him," she wrote, recounting the spat to his sister Rebecca—but she wisely gives in for the sake of peace. And on another occasion she tells Rebecca, "Willy is all aback about something. We are all shortly to go to the *Black River*, and I dare not talk of money. He owes me ten dollars, and says he can't pay me"; but before the note is finished, she can write, "the sun shines again"—she knew only too well how worried sick he was about what would become of them all. Through everything, love never faltered. There is the temptation to quote endlessly in proof.

The tragic but noble climax came with Will's final illness, the desperate trip to Italy to ward off his approaching death, the horrible weeks in the cold quarantine station at Leghorn, Italy, where he capitulated gloriously to God's will, the affecting death scene in Pisa, and the final words: "My dear wife—and little ones—My Christ Jesus, have mercy and receive me!"

Before sailing for New York in April 1804, Elizabeth made a farewell visit to Will's grave and "wept plentifully over it with the unrestrained affection which the last sufferings of his life, added to the remembrance of former years, had made almost more than human."

The whole of their love is in the cry forced from Elizabeth's heart as she set sail on a new and uncertain life: "Most dear Seton, where are you now? I lose sight of the shore that contains your dear ashes; and your soul is in that region of immensity where I cannot find you." It is in the solemn and considered judgment that she made many years later, toward the close of her life: "It seemed that I loved him more than anyone could love on earth."

Here is how a holy woman loved. She gladly took the human love God had given her and returned it transformed into a continued love of God Himself.

A True Love Story

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR years ago, on December 27, 1803, William Magee Seton, husband of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Pisa, Italy. His death brought to a close a beautiful love story compounded of marital faith, hope and charity, and revealing eloquently the essential humanness of the Blessed.

Elizabeth first met William Magee Seton in the fall of 1790 or the spring of 1791. She was 16, he was 22. He was a brilliant figure to the eyes of a susceptible miss of 16. Born in New York of a wealthy shipping family, he had been educated in England, returned home, then gone back again to tour the Continent for four years.

A man of the world indeed, he found London "very gay—there was not a single place of amusement I did not go to, but was much disappointed in not seeing Mrs. Siddons, who is retired from the stage, and Mr. Edwin at last is dead to the great sorrow of all lovers of mirth." A frequent opera-goer while in Italy, constantly invited to concerts and balls, he had made as great an impact on the society of Pisa and Florence as he now made on the society of New York. He was even a passable violinist, and brought the first known Stradivarius to America, having bought the instrument himself at the dead master's shop in Cremona. Best of all to a young girl, he was handsome—as his portraits bear out—and, even better than that best, he was good-humored, kind and tender.

The New York of Elizabeth's courtship was a fairyland. George Washington, President of the United States, was in residence with his Lady, and they set

the tone for the glittering aristocracy that ruled the social life of the town, an aristocracy of which the Setons were leaders.

Only a few notes are extant from the time Elizabeth and Will Seton were dating; and, short as they are, they are filled with yearning, archness, teasing, anxiety—in other words, with love.

The final one has the anxious accent of someone worried over a very important meeting between her father and a husband she very much wants:

"My father dined with us and has gone I don't know where. I do not think you will meet him until the evening. Your *apology* is already made by one who is most earnestly interested in his good opinion of you. *Your E.* will be in Wall Street by five o'clock, and you shall then know more on the subject."

All ended well. William Magee Seton and Elizabeth Ann Bayley were married in her sister's home on John Street on Sunday evening, January 25, 1794, by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Provoost, Rector of Trinity Church and first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York.

They were ideally happy. The July after their marriage, Will had to go to Philadelphia on business—a two-day trip by stagecoach then—and he wrote to his "darling little girl" twice on the way, from Newark and Trenton. When he arrived at his hotel in the City of Brotherly Love he found a letter from Elizabeth awaiting him; and, more of a surprise, when he opened his suitcase, there was her picture right on top! She was taking no chances that he might forget her!

Their happiness reached its peak in the autumn of that first year when, simultaneously, they moved into the first

home of their own at 27 Wall Street, a few doors from the Alexander Hamiltons, and Elizabeth found that she was with child. "My own home at 20—the world—" she cried out in her diary, "that and heaven too—quite impossible!" And she went on, in troubled state of mind, "So every moment clouded with that fear: 'My God, if I enjoy this, I lose you. . . .'"

The first dread shadow fell on this happy marriage with a decline in Will's health in August 1796, "that health," Elizabeth wrote to Mrs. Sadler, "on which my every hope of happiness depends, and which continues me (in) the most perfect *human* felicity or sinks me in the lowest depths of sorrow."

From this point on, Will's health had its ups and downs, but with each down it sank lower.

In June the Setons took a house on Long Island for the summer—"on the East River opposite the Battery and facing Governor's Island. Sister Post divides the house with us, and the pleasure of receiving our husbands together in the evenings, the company and protection we are to each other when they are detained from us counterbalances every inconvenience which a union of families always occasions."

That summer was, in a sense, the last private idyll of the young couple. By the following year Will's father had died and the responsibility of the family business had fallen to him, a responsibility he was not fitted for, since he had not his father's business sense, and also the responsibility for his seven brothers and sisters still at home, who had to be added to his own growing family of three children. There were still happy times, with Elizabeth at the

(Continued on Page 3)

Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

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.

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Emmitsburg, Md.
Permit No. 20

PRAY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED ELIZABETH ANN SETON