



ELIZABETH
SETON

LEGACY
OF
CHARITY

CELEBRATING

1809 ~ 2009

Dear Educator,

We invite you to join with us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the American Sisters of Charity by Saint Elizabeth Seton. This DVD contains information and activities for grades K – 8 that we hope you will find helpful in your teaching. Feel free to copy and distribute any of this material.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF CINCINNATI

Printing Instructions:

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Biography of Elizabeth Ann Seton

On August 28, 1774, a baby girl was born. Her name was Elizabeth Bayley. Her parents were Doctor and Mrs. Bayley of New York City.

When Elizabeth was still a little child her dear mother died. Then Doctor Bayley became Elizabeth's best friend. She loved her father very much.

She and her father took many walks together. Doctor Bayley saw that his Elizabeth liked to learn. So he became her teacher. He was very happy when he saw Elizabeth growing into a beautiful young lady.

Elizabeth was kind to all, and everyone loved her. She spent much of her time helping the poor and the sick.

How happy young William Seton was when the lovely Elizabeth Bayley said she would be his wife. God blessed them with five children. There were Annina, William Richard, Catherine and Rebecca. For many years young Mr. and Mrs. Seton were very happy with their family. Then God sent Elizabeth two great sorrows.

After many busy days of helping the sick and the poor, Doctor Bayley became ill and died. Soon after that Elizabeth's tired husband became sick. The doctor said that

he should travel on the sea. Mr. and Mrs. Seton, with their eight-year old daughter, Annina, left America to visit friends in Italy. They hoped the trip would make Mr. Seton better.

When they got near Italy they could not land. The people thought that Mr. Seton was sick with yellow fever.

The Seton family had to stay in a strange building for a month. It looked just like a prison. The building was so damp and cold that Mr. Seton did not get better. Elizabeth helped him to see this sickness as God's will.

At last their friends, the kind Filicchi brothers, were able to get the Setons out of that sad place.

Mr. Seton was now so sick that in a few weeks he died. How sad Elizabeth and her little Annina were. Elizabeth wanted to go back to America to her little ones who now had no father. It was going to be a very lonesome trip home.

During her short stay in Italy Elizabeth had read about the Catholic religion. She was not a Catholic. The good Catholic Filicchi family showed her just what good Catholics should do.

When Elizabeth came back to America she and her children became Catholics.

In those days many people in New York did not like Catholics.

Elizabeth had a very hard time. Even her friends and many of her relatives would not speak to her because she had become a Catholic. However, she had found new and great joy in the Catholic Faith.

Now Elizabeth had to earn money to feed and clothe her five children. She went to work as a teacher.

One day a priest asked her if she would open a school for him in Maryland. Elizabeth was very glad to do so.

Soon after that she and the young teachers in the school wanted to serve God as Sisters. They became known as Sisters of Charity. Elizabeth was called Mother Seton. She was the first Mother of the Sisters of Charity.

Saintly Mother Seton died on January 4, 1821.

As years went by other young women became Sisters of Charity. Many schools and homes were opened for all children. The Sisters of Charity also began to take care of the sick in hospitals.

Today when we see a Sister of Charity we thank God for the work started by Mother Elizabeth Seton.

**Mother Elizabeth Seton was canonized in Rome on
September 14, 1975. She became the first American native-
born canonized Saint.**

*From the Mother Seton Coloring Book
Copyright 1961 by The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Mount St. Vincent-on-Hudson. New York. New York*

Biography of Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was the foundress of the first active community of Catholic women religious in the United States and the first U.S. born canonized saint. She was born Elizabeth Bayley into a prominent New York Family on August 28, 1774. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley was a physician, professor of medicine, and the first health officer of New York City. Her mother, Catherine Charlton Bayley, daughter of an Episcopal minister, died when Elizabeth was only three years of age.

Elizabeth's entire young life was spent in the New York area where, in 1794, she married William Seton a member of one of New York's prominent merchant families. The couple had five children between the years 1795-1802. During these years Elizabeth was an active and devoted member of Trinity Episcopal Church. Her writings from this period demonstrate a deepening spirituality. The Setons had a happy family life while at the same time experiencing the death of both the elder Mr. Seton and Dr. Bayley. Elizabeth raised not only her own children but fell heir to her husband's younger siblings as well. In addition, she put her energies into improving the lot of those less fortunate by participating in the newly-formed Widow's Society.

By 1798 a double tragedy visited Elizabeth. The family business was moving inexorably toward bankruptcy and her husband was becoming increasingly debilitated by tuberculosis. In hopes of arresting the disease, Elizabeth decided on a sea voyage to Italy. William died shortly after their arrival in late 1803. Elizabeth, along with her oldest daughter, Anna Maria, spent several months with the Filichi family, business associates of her late husband. It was during this time that she was exposed to the Catholic faith.

Upon her return to the United States Elizabeth converted to Catholicism. After three years of economic struggle and social discrimination because of her choice to become a Catholic, she and her family moved to Baltimore. Bishop John Carroll encouraged her to open a school for young women. Besides running the school, Catholic women from around the country came to join her and the beginnings of a religious congregation emerged. The women moved to Emmitsburg, Maryland in the

summer of 1809 where they formally began the Sisters of Charity on July 31. Elizabeth Seton was named the first superior and served in that capacity for the next twelve years.

As the community took shape, Elizabeth Seton directed its vision. Constitutions from the French Daughters of Charity were adapted, a novitiate was conducted and the first group, including Elizabeth, made their religious vows in July, 1813. Shortly after that event, they accepted their first work outside Emmitsburg when sisters were sent to Philadelphia to conduct an orphanage. By 1817 they had also opened a mission in New York.

During her years at Emmitsburg, Elizabeth suffered great personal loss. Her oldest daughter succumbed to tuberculosis in 1812 and her youngest daughter, Rebecca, died of the same ailment in 1816. Her spiritual growth and abandonment to God's will during this period is apparent in her writings.

By 1818 Elizabeth began to weaken from the effects of tuberculosis. She spent the last years of her life directing St. Joseph's Academy and the Sisters of Charity but also preparing herself for the inevitable outcome of her condition. She succumbed on January 4, 1821.

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Short History of The Sisters of Charity

The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati originated in Emmitsburg, Maryland where Elizabeth Seton founded the first community of women religious native to the United States in 1809.

Shortly after its foundation the Congregation began receiving requests from bishops for sisters to serve in their dioceses. Such a request led to four Sisters of Charity opening St. Peter's school and orphanage for girls in Cincinnati in October 1829. This foundation was the first permanent establishment of a women's congregation in the Diocese of Cincinnati which then encompassed the entire Northwest Territory.

By the late 1840s the number of sisters increased to eight. In addition to the school and orphanage that they ran, the sisters visited the sick and supervised lay women who worked for the relief of the sick and indigent.

At this time the sisters in Cincinnati learned that their superiors in Emmitsburg had made arrangements to affiliate with the French Daughters of Charity. Seven sisters, under the leadership of the local superior, Sister Margaret George, refused to participate in this change. With the encouragement and assistance of Archbishop John Purcell, they formed the diocesan Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati on March 25, 1852.

Their work expanded to include a boys' orphanage and the first Catholic hospital in Cincinnati. They opened a novitiate and, as their numbers grew, expanded geographically.

When the Civil War broke out, the sisters volunteered as nurses. More than one-third of the Congregation, by then numbering more than 100 members, saw service both on the eastern front in Ohio, Maryland and Virginia and on the western front in Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Immediately following the war, four Sisters of Charity were sent to Santa Fe to open the first hospital in the New Mexico Territory. By the 1880s the Congregation had sisters in cities and towns along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and New Mexico. The sisters also widened the expanse of their work in the Midwest.

As the Congregation continued to grow, it was able to offer assistance in the establishment of two additional branches of Mother Seton's daughters, the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth at Convent Station, New Jersey (1859) and the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, Pennsylvania (1870).

By the end of the 19th century, the Congregation became involved in work with Italian immigrants. The Santa Maria Italian Educational and Institutional Home was incorporated as the first Catholic settlement houses in the United States and became the foundation for an archdiocesan social service program.

In the late 19th century, schools of nursing were begun in hospitals sponsored by the congregation. The Congregation assumed responsibility for running a boarding school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in 1915. The establishment of parish, diocesan and Congregation-sponsored high schools required the involvement of more and more sisters. And in 1920, the College of Mount St. Joseph was founded to respond to the increasing demand for higher education for women.

In the 1920s the decision was made to become a papal Congregation. The most important of the changes brought about by this event were the adoption of new constitutions and habit.

China became the first foreign mission for the Congregation. In 1928 six sisters arrived in Wuchang, a city about 750 miles from Shanghai. They opened a hospital and dispensary, cared for the aged and orphans, ran a school for young children and a training program for nurses. A novitiate was opened there in 1934. The sisters worked through the Japanese invasion and occupation during World War II and the Chinese civil war but left in 1949 in the wake of the Communist takeover. Other foreign involvements included running an orphanage in Rome in the 1950s and 60s, missions in Peru from 1960s-1990s, a brief sojourn in Africa during the 1970s. At the beginning of the 21st century the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati have members serving in Guatemala, Ecuador, Poland and Armenia.

The impact of the Second Vatican Council caused reassessment of ministry, lifestyle, sponsorship of institutions and internal governance. An Associate program, initiated in 1975, invites friends and co-workers to share in the mission of the Congregation. In 1979 all Sisters of Charity sponsored healthcare institutions were

brought together in the Sisters of Charity Health Care Systems. This system became one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems in the United States and in 1995 became part of Catholic Health Initiatives.

The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati currently have approximately 565 members. Besides traditional ministries of teaching, healthcare and social works, sisters are engaged in parish ministry, administrative positions, and work with senior citizens and the poor. Presently they are located throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

The Motherhouse is located at Mount St. Joseph near Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ministries of The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

The first Sisters of Charity came to Cincinnati in 1829. They were members of the religious community founded in 1809 by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Originally established in Baltimore, the community later relocated to Emmitsburg, Maryland. Six independent communities of women religious developed from Elizabeth Seton's original foundation, including the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Their Motherhouse, Mount St. Joseph, overlooks the Ohio River in Delhi Township.

Educating Cincinnatians Since 1829

In the 1820s Bishop Edward Fenwick and lay members of the Church of Cincinnati had repeatedly appealed to the Emmitsburg community for Sisters to assist in the care of orphans. Finally, Sisters Fanny Jordan, Victoria Fitzgerald, Beatrice Tyler and Albina Levy arrived via stagecoach and riverboat in 1829.

Within a short time these four Sisters had taken charge of five orphans and opened a school out of their residence on Sycamore Street to serve six additional children. Two more Sisters arrived from Emmitsburg in 1833 to help with the expanding mission of St. Peter's Orphan Asylum and Free School. By the end of the decade 50 female orphans were being cared for and 150 young girls attended the school.

These early Sisters of Charity were later described by Cincinnati Archbishop John Purcell as "the zealous pioneer religious of this city...who were never found wanting and always bore the brunt of the battle."

The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati became an independent community in 1852 under the leadership of Sister Margaret George, superior of the eight Sisters then serving in Cincinnati. She refused to join with the Emmitsburg Sisters in affiliating with the French Daughters of Charity, because she feared their European spirituality and rules would mean a forsaking of Elizabeth Seton's commitment to meet the needs of American people.

She was elected Mother Superior by the other five Sisters who joined her in this new, independent community under the direction of Archbishop Purcell. By 1859, their

numbers had grown to 75 Sisters, their ministry to orphans had expanded to include the care of young boys, and their educational outreach continued.

Over the next 175 years, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati would educate countless children in elementary and high schools in Cincinnati, the Midwest and the West. Sisters of Charity would also champion education for women. The College of Mount St. Joseph, which accepted its first students in September of 1920, was one of the first Catholic baccalaureate institutions for women in the State of Ohio.

Building a Healthcare Tradition Since 1852

In 1852 Archbishop Purcell bought the Hotel des Invalides on Broadway and Franklin and gave it to the Sisters to operate as a 20-bed hospital. Named St. John's Hotel for Invalids, it was the first private hospital in the city and the precursor of today's Good Samaritan Hospital. Within three years the hospital grew to 75 beds and moved to the former St. Peter's Academy and Asylum on Third and Plum.

With the outbreak of Civil War, demand for the healthcare services of the Sisters greatly increased. Every bed at St. John's was pressed into service for soldiers. More than 25 Sisters of Charity served the Civil War sick and wounded-in their own hospital in Cincinnati; in nearby army camps such as Camp Dennison; in makeshift hospitals on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers; and on the battlefields of Shiloh, Stone River and Murfreesboro.

Sister Anthony O'Connell, the leaders of these Sister-nurses, became known as "the angel of the battlefield." Under her leadership after the war, St. John's Hospital received a new home and a new name. In 1866 the 95-bed former U.S. Marine Hospital at Sixth and Lock was given to the Sisters by Joseph Butler and Louis Worthington and renamed The Hospital of the Good Samaritan in recognition of the charity care provided by the Sisters. In 1915 Good Samaritan Hospital moved to its present location in Clifton.

Serving Where the Needs are Greatest

Since they first arrived in Cincinnati in 1829, the Sisters of Charity have sent Sisters in all directions to respond to the poor, the suffering and the needy in the

expanding American nation--and beyond. In 1928 the community opened an orphanage and hospital in Wuchang, China.

Today, over 560 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati continue their work of education, social service, pastoral ministry, elder- and healthcare in 25 states and four foreign countries. They also sponsor organizations that address education, healthcare and social service needs, with particular concern for direct service to the poor.

In the spirit of Elizabeth Seton, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati are dedicated to serving wherever the needs are greatest. Their spirit is captured in the community motto: "The love of Christ urges us" (2 Cor. 5: 14).

Local Nonprofit Ministries of the Sisters of Charity

Seton High School (1854)-A Catholic girls comprehensive high school in Price Hill. Originally founded in 1854 as Mount St. Vincent Academy, it moved to its present location on Glenway Avenue (called Cedar Grove) in 1857. Renamed Seton High School in 1927, it currently enrolls 680 students.

St. Joseph Home (1873)-a residential facility in Sharonville for the severe/profound mentally and multiply handicapped from infants through adults. Founded in 1873 as St. Joseph Infant Asylum, it also served for many years as St. Joseph Infant and Maternity Home.

The College of Mount St. Joseph (1920)-a coeducational Catholic liberal arts college in Delhi Township, Ohio, serving 2,273 students. It was housed on the grounds of the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse until moving to its new campus across Delhi Road in 1962.

Seton Family Center (1989)—a counseling center located on a residential street in Price Hill where total family needs are met in a home-like setting. Services include psychotherapy, play therapy for children and diagnostic testing.

Bayley Place (1989)-provides a residential environment for older adults of all faiths in a creative, home-like Christian community. Currently, Bayley Place has 100 skilled nursing beds, 60 assisted living units and 25 memory impaired units.

Eldermount-an adult-day program serving averaging over 30 daily participants from southwestern Hamilton County at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse in Delhi. It allows the elderly to receive needed services in a non-institutional setting.

The Village at Bayley Place-is 78 independent residential living units serving those over 70 years of age in a secure, maintenance-free environment. Health-care, educational and spiritual facilities are conveniently located nearby.

The Village Wellness Center -will house an expanded Eldermount Adult Day Program and Outreach Services is scheduled for completion in 2003.

Elizabeth Ann Seton

C S I S T E R S Y O
M I L U C A N S Y B
E O N O L I K U T E
H E T C O R V S I D
W E N H I H P E R E
D L S B E N C J A Y
M N A V L R N S H N
V W I M G N L A C E
G F N K I Q U G T L
S J T E Y N D P W I

CHARITY
KIND
SCHOOLS

CINCINNATI
MOTHER
SISTERS

JESUS
SAINT

Elizabeth Ann Seton Solution

C S I S T E R S Y O
M I L U C A N S Y B
E O N O L I K U T E
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+ + N K + + + + T +
+ + T + + + + + I

(Over, Down, Direction)
CHARITY (9, 8, N)
CINCINNATI (1, 1, SE)
JESUS (8, 6, N)
KIND (4, 9, NW)
MOTHER (1, 2, SE)
SAINT (3, 6, S)
SCHOOLS (8, 7, NW)
SISTERS (2, 1, E)
You can be like her.

Elizabeth Ann Seton

I E F I R S T A T M S E R I C
A T R N B O R N R W L S A I N
T Q A O S X O M E I O S D K T
E L M N M T A V V F O I G E E
M P D A N I P F N E H W E Q A
M R X A L I T K O Q C L G H C
I F C L N F C L C P S S M D H
T Q I L A W O N A S C R H Y E
S W R E H T O M I B I A G F R
B I T A L Y T D G C L U Z I E
U Q C G Q P L B I A O E P Y P
R F Q V I H W T W W H Z C K X
G V Y C P X M N K M T E L Z A
Y A O I S U N C V P A Z L C B
V A X D G E Q V X I C E K W U

BALTIMORE
CONVERT
MOTHER
WIFE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
EMMITSBURG
TEACHER
WILLIAM

CINCINNATI
ITALY
WIDOW

Elizabeth Ann Seton Solution

I E F I R S T A T M S E R I C
A T R N B O R N R W L S A I N
T + A O + + + M E I O + + + T
E + + N M + A + V F O + + + E
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(Over, Down, Direction)
BALTIMORE (10, 9, NW)
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (11, 15, N)
CINCINNATI (10, 10, NW)
CONVERT (9, 7, N)
EMMITSBURG (1, 4, S)
ITALY (2, 10, E)
MOTHER (8, 9, W)
TEACHER (15, 3, S)
WIDOW (10, 12, NW)
WIFE (10, 2, S)
WILLIAM (2, 9, NE)
First American-born saint

SISTERS OF CHARITY

H E J O K T A A B W T C D R S L S Y
 Y E S P R F I A S N U E L N Q T A R
 T T X U R P L B O S A C O R N N C T
 K S I I O T H I A F O I H A K I S S
 C Z C N I H T A S H S C R A V Y O I
 I A V M U A R T N S A G I I N L C N
 W C O J C M U E I A I D L A L G I I
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 F S X E T C I W G P S E S R U N R O
 M A R G A R E T G E O R G E B C V T
 R O T S E W D C U O L O A C S I I S
 F P V N H O S P I T A L S P T N C A
 Z S L O O H C S H G I H O L I N E P
 S A N T A M A R I A P O A C M A A R
 M E T A I T I V O N R P N E M T G P
 S E H S I R A P W M A Q F S E I E M
 S C H O O L S P Q P E T I U X O D M

AFRICA
 BALTIMORE
 COLLEGE
 DEAFSTUDENTS
 FENWICK
 HIGHSCHOOLS
 MARGARETGEORGE
 NURSES
 PARISHES
 POOR
 SANTAMARIA
 WEST

AGED
 CINCINNATI
 COMMUNITY
 EDUCATION
 FOREIGNMISSIONS
 HOSPITALS
 MOTHERHOUSE
 ORPHANAGE
 PASTORALMINISTRY
 PURCELL
 SCHOOLS
 WUCHANG

ASSOCIATES
 CIVILWAR
 CONSTITUTIONS
 EMMITSBURG
 HABIT
 IMMIGRANTS
 NOVITIATE
 PAPAL
 PERU
 ROME
 SOCIALSERVICE


Sisters of Charity Solution

+ E + O + T A A B W + + D + S + S Y
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 S C H O O L S + + P E + + + + D +

(Over, Down, Direction)

AFRICA (7, 1, SW)
 AGED (17, 17, S)
 ASSOCIATES (8, 1, SE)
 BALTIMORE (9, 1, SW)
 CINCINNATI (16, 10, S)
 CIVILWAR (17, 3, SW)
 COLLEGE (14, 17, NW)
 COMMUNITY (9, 10, NW)
 CONSTITUTIONS (2, 7, SE)
 DEAFSTUDENTS (13, 1, SW)
 EDUCATION (2, 10, NE)
 EMMITSBURG (15, 19, N)
 FENWICK (1, 10, N)
 FOREIGNMISSIONS (1, 15, NE)
 HABIT (10, 5, NW)
 HIGHSCHOOLS (12, 16, W)
 HOSPITALS (5, 15, E)
 IMMIGRANTS (8, 10, NE)
 MARGARETGEORGE (1, 13, E)
 MOTHERHOUSE (12, 11, NW)
 NOVITIATE (10, 18, W)
 NURSES (16, 12, W)
 ORPHANAGE (4, 1, SE)
 PAPAL (10, 20, NE)
 PARISHES (8, 19, W)
 PASTORALMINISTRY (18, 16, N)
 PERU (7, 11, E)
 POOR (14, 15, SW)
 PURCELL (10, 12, NE)
 ROME (8, 17, SE)
 SANTAMARIA (1, 17, E)
 SCHOOLS (1, 20, E)
 SOCIALSERVICE (17, 4, S)
 WEST (6, 14, W)
 WUCHANG (10, 1, SE)


ELIZABETH ANN SETON BINGO

Saint	foundress	children	simple	Bible
humble	Eucharist	schools	Seton	Cincinnati
teacher	Emmitsburg		Catholic	widow
Charity	orphanages	mother	loving	Sister
William	convert	Bayley	hospitals	humble

Saint foundress Elizabeth Emmitsburg schools
 children hospitals orphanages Cincinnati Charity
 Sister mother William Seton humble
 widow simple loving Catholic teacher
 Eucharist Bible Bayley convert

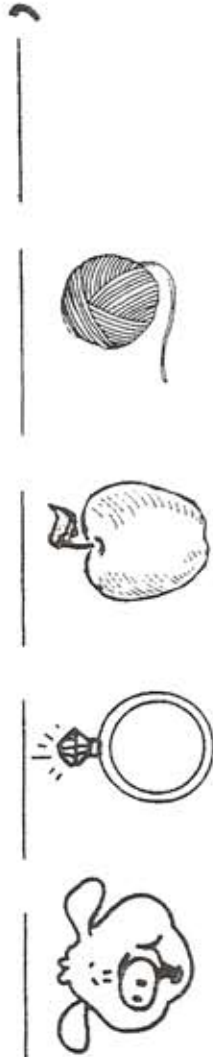
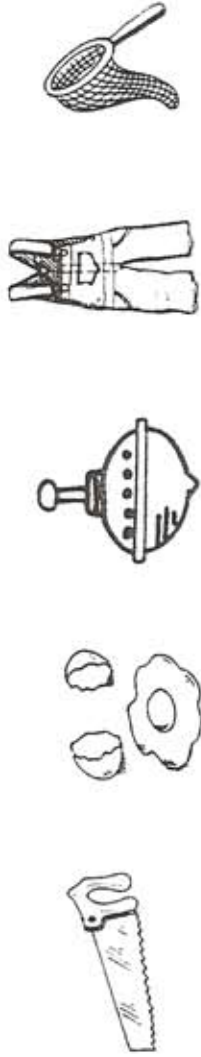
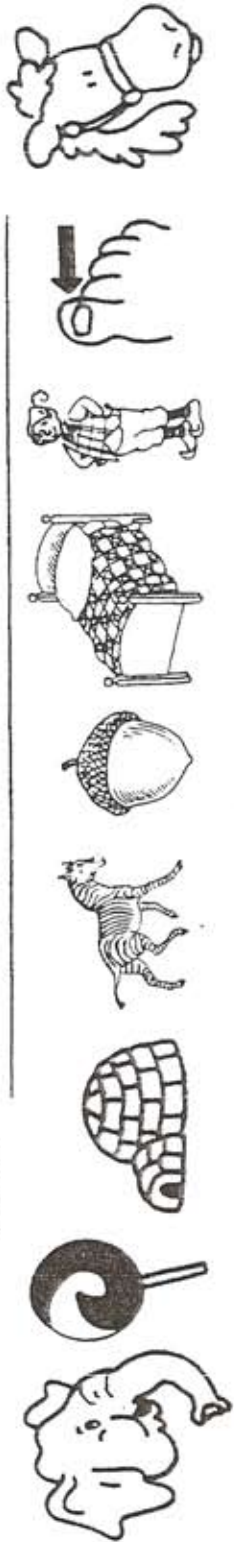
Teacher's copy – Students scramble words and fill in the bingo blanks provided.

ELIZABETH ANN SETON BINGO

Saint	foundress	Elizabeth	Emmitsburg	schools
children	hospitals	orphanages	Cincinnati	Charity
Sister	mother	William	Seton	humble
widow	simple	loving	Catholic	teacher
Eucharist	Bible	Bayley	convert	

Name _____



Decode the message by filling in the blanks with the first letter of each object pictured.



Jump Rope Jingle

Elizabeth Seton wanted to teach

As many kids as she could reach;

She wanted them to know that God's love rules,

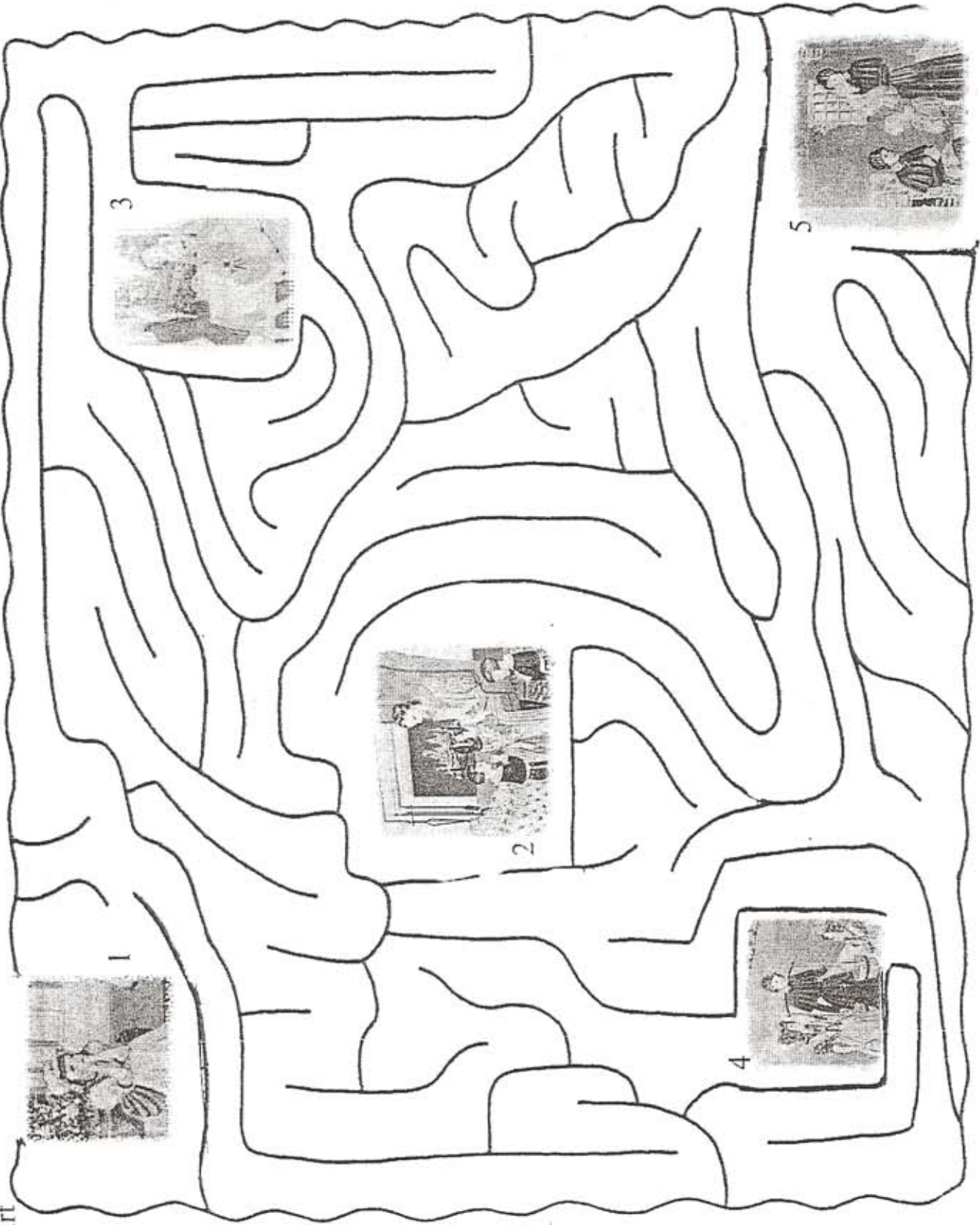
So she started the Catholic schools.

How many schools did she begin?

If you count the highest,

You will win . . . 1, 2, 3, 4

Start



Finish

Follow the path of Elizabeth Seton's life from childhood to her work as a Sister of Charity.

Parody #1—Sung to the tune of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas"

Holy, kind Elizabeth
Prayerful, good and wise
Helping children learn that they
Are precious in God's eyes.
She read the Bible frequently
And trusted in God's ways
To help her through the hard times
And guide her through the days.



St. Elizabeth Seton,
A mother and a wife,
Practiced by her words and deeds
Love throughout her life.
Others joined Elizabeth
In her ministry
And formed a new community
Sisters of Charity

Parody #2—

Sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Elizabeth Ann Seton was a woman who loved God (3x)
She tried to do God's will
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah (3x)
We follow in her ways.

Elizabeth Ann Seton was a wife and mother too (3x)
She loved her family.
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah (3x)
We honor her today.

The Bible and the Eucharist
strengthened her each day (3x)
To do what she must do.
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah (3x)
Her legacy lives on.

Glue pictures

A piece of cardboard

This idea uses PVA glue for drawing, which leaves a raised line when it dries. The raised lines are then covered with gold acrylic paint and black shoe polish is rubbed in to get an 'antique' look.

You will need a bottle of PVA glue which has a nozzle top.

Test it on newspaper.



1. If the glue is new, snip a little piece off the nozzle. Test to see the thickness of the line it makes.
2. If the line you have drawn is very thin, snip a little bit more off the end of the nozzle.



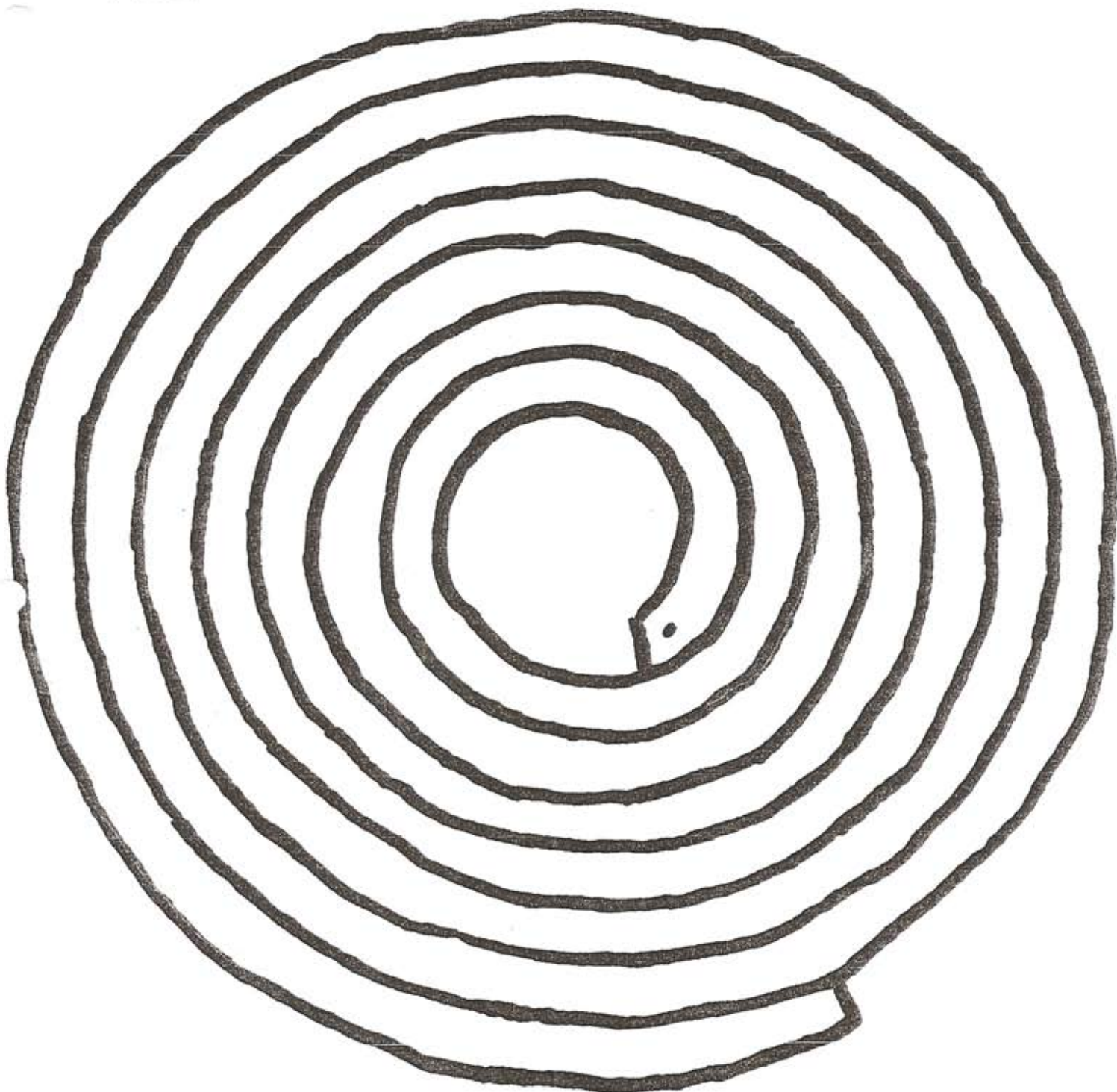
3. Trace the simple picture of Elizabeth Ann Seton on the cardboard. Place the nozzle of the glue where you want to start.
4. Then, draw around your picture, squeezing the glue out gently as you draw.
5. When you get to the end of a line, lift the glue up quickly, so that it doesn't drip.



6. Add some wavy lines, swirls and dots on the cardboard, around your drawing.
7. Leave it to dry overnight. Then, paint all over with gold acrylic paint. Let the paint dry.
8. To get the antique look, put some black shoe polish on a soft cloth, then rub it all over.



ELIZABETH ANN SETON QUOTE SPIRAL



Write Elizabeth Ann Seton quote(s) on the spiral. Color spiral, cut on solid lines and hang from the innermost section of the spiral. Heavier paper works best. A sample of quotes may be found on the next page.

ELIZABETH ANN SETON QUOTES

Our God loves us; this is our comfort.

If you are to do His work, the strength will be given you.

He gives us every grace...this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty.

How liable we are to err in our judgments respecting others, unless we thoroughly know the motives of their actions.

Trust all, indeed, to Him my dear one; put all in His hands...

Look up to the blue heavens and love Him!

Purify your hearts that they may appear to Him like bright little stars at the bottom of a fountain.

Look up and be thankful for the good that yet remains.

Blessed, blessed Lord, keep us always in your company and press our weak hearts forever in your service.

Perseverance is a great grace.

Put your heart at His fee; it is the gift He loves best.

Oh my God, *forgive* what I have been, *correct* what I am, and *direct* what I shall be.

Without prayer I should be of little service.

This union of my soul with God is my wealth in poverty and joy in deepest affliction.

...if I seek out God in the simplicity of my heart, I will surely find Him.

The only way to heave is by humility and patience.

Truth does not depend on the people around us, or the place we are in.

You must be in right earnest or you will do little or nothing for God.

...faith is a gift of God, to be diligently sought and earnestly desired.

Curiosity, too, which keeps us engaged in what is going on, brings home many a foolish companion for our thoughts to break the silence and peace our Lord desires to find in us.

The reward of sacrifice is peace.

...seek God in all things.

To fall from grace to deface and disfigure the image of God in our soul.

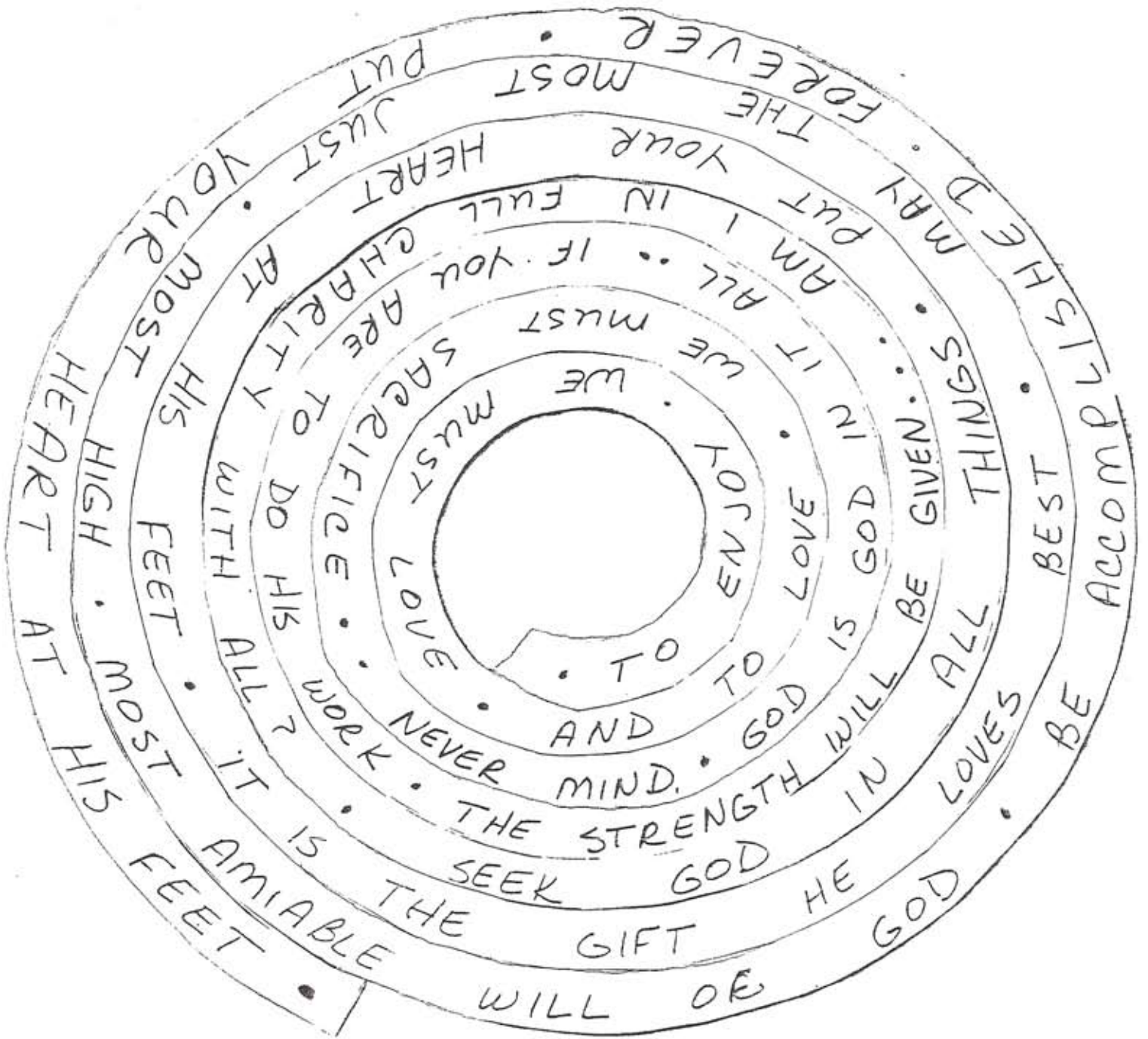
Do all in *God's* way.

God has given me a great deal to do and I have always and hope always to prefer His Will to every wish of my own.

How gracious is the Lord who strengthens my poor soul!

Quotes taken from *Steps to Eternity with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton—Daily Inspiration* a calendar available from The National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727; www.SETONSHRINE.org

SAMPLE





MOTHER SETON

Coloring
Book



Sisters of Charity
Mount St. Vincent-on-Hudson, New York



COPYRIGHT 1961, BY

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

MOUNT ST. VINCENT-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, N. Y.

— TO BOYS AND GIRLS WHO OWN THIS BOOK: —

The pictures in this book are for you to color. We hope that you like the story that goes with each picture. Choose your own colors and materials.

Nihil Obstat: BEDE BABO, O. S. B., *Censor librorum*

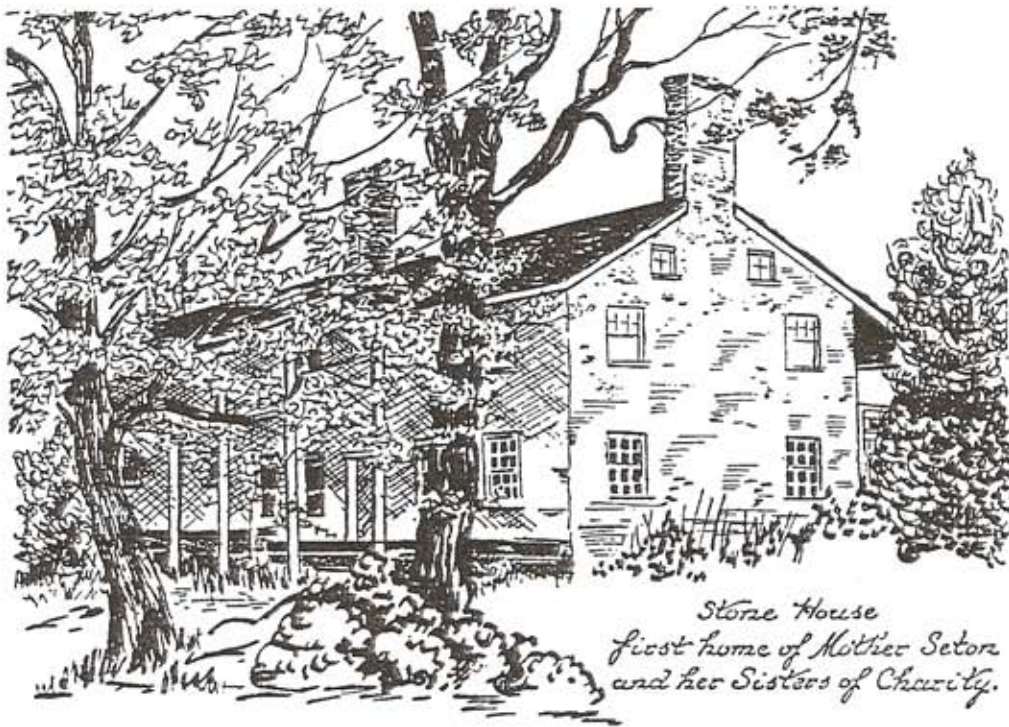
Imprimatur: † JAMES A. McNULTY, *Bishop of Paterson*

April 7, 1961

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY ST. ANTHONY GUILD PRESS, PATERSON, N. J.

Mother Seton Coloring Book

STORY AND PICTURES BY
A SISTER OF CHARITY



*Stone House
first home of Mother Seton
and her Sisters of Charity.*

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Mt. St. Vincent-on-Hudson, New York, N. Y.

Mother Seton Coloring Book



She loves the poor, the rich
and the homeless.

Mother Elizabeth Seton

On August 28, 1774, a baby girl was born. Her name was Elizabeth Bayley. Her parents were Doctor and Mrs. Bayley of New York City.

When Elizabeth was still a little child her dear mother died. Then Doctor Bayley became Elizabeth's best friend. She loved her father very much.



Dr. and Mrs. Bayley love their baby.

She and her father took many walks together. Doctor Bayley saw that his Elizabeth liked to learn. So he became her teacher. He was very happy when he saw Elizabeth growing into a beautiful young lady.

Elizabeth was kind to all, and everyone loved her. She spent much of her time helping the poor and the sick.



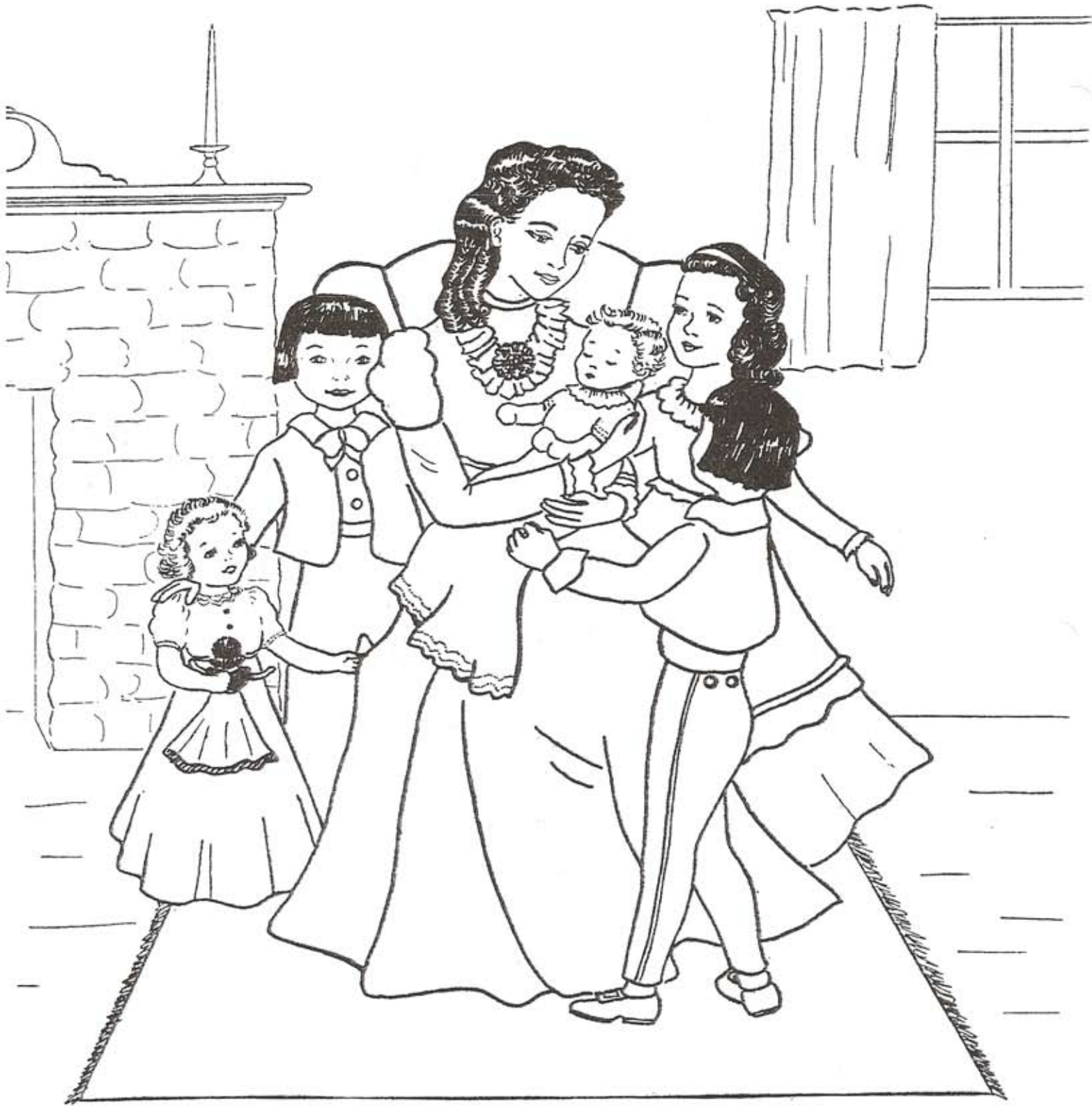
She always pleases her father.

How happy young William Seton was when the lovely Elizabeth Bayley said she would be his wife. God blessed them with five children. There were Annina, William and Richard, Catherine and Rebecca. For many years young Mr. and Mrs. Seton were very happy with their family. Then God sent Elizabeth two great sorrows.



She meets young Mr. William Seton.

After many busy days of helping the sick and the poor, Doctor Bayley became ill and died. Soon after that Elizabeth's tired husband became sick. The doctor said that he should travel on the sea. Mr. and Mrs. Seton, with their eight year old daughter, Annina, left America to visit friends in Italy. They hoped the trip would make Mr. Seton better.



She is a wonderful mother to her family.

When they got near Italy they could not land. The people thought that Mr. Seton was sick with yellow fever.

The Seton family had to stay in a strange building for a month. It looked just like a prison. The building was so damp and cold that Mr. Seton did not get better. Elizabeth helped him to see this sickness as God's will.



She helps her husband meet death as
a child of God.

At last their friends, the kind Filicchi brothers, were able to get the Setons out of that sad place.

Mr. Seton was now so sick that in a few weeks he died. How sad Elizabeth and her little Annina were. Elizabeth wanted to go back to America to her little ones who now had no father. It was going to be a very lonesome trip home.



She and Annina say goodbye to the Filicchi:

During her short stay in Italy Elizabeth had read about the Catholic religion. She was not a Catholic. The good Catholic Filicchi family showed her just what good Catholics should do.

When Elizabeth came back to America she and her children became Catholics.

In those days many people in New York did not like Catholics.



She takes her children to church to visit Jesu

Elizabeth had a very hard time. Even her friends and many of her relatives would not speak to her because she had become a Catholic. However, she had found new and great joy in the Catholic Faith.

Now Elizabeth had to earn money to feed and clothe her five children. She went to work as a teacher.



Her friends will not talk to her.

One day a priest asked her if she would open a school for him in Maryland. Elizabeth was very glad to do so.

Soon after that she and the young teachers in the school wanted to serve God as Sisters. They became known as Sisters of Charity. Elizabeth was called Mother Seton. She was the first Mother of the Sisters of Charity.



Mother Seton is loved by her pupils.

Saintly Mother Seton died on January 4, 1821.

As years went by other young women became Sisters of Charity. Many schools and homes were opened for all children. The Sisters also began to take care of the sick in hospitals.

Today when we see a Sister of Charity we thank God for the work started by Mother Elizabeth Seton.



Mother Seton's work still goes on.

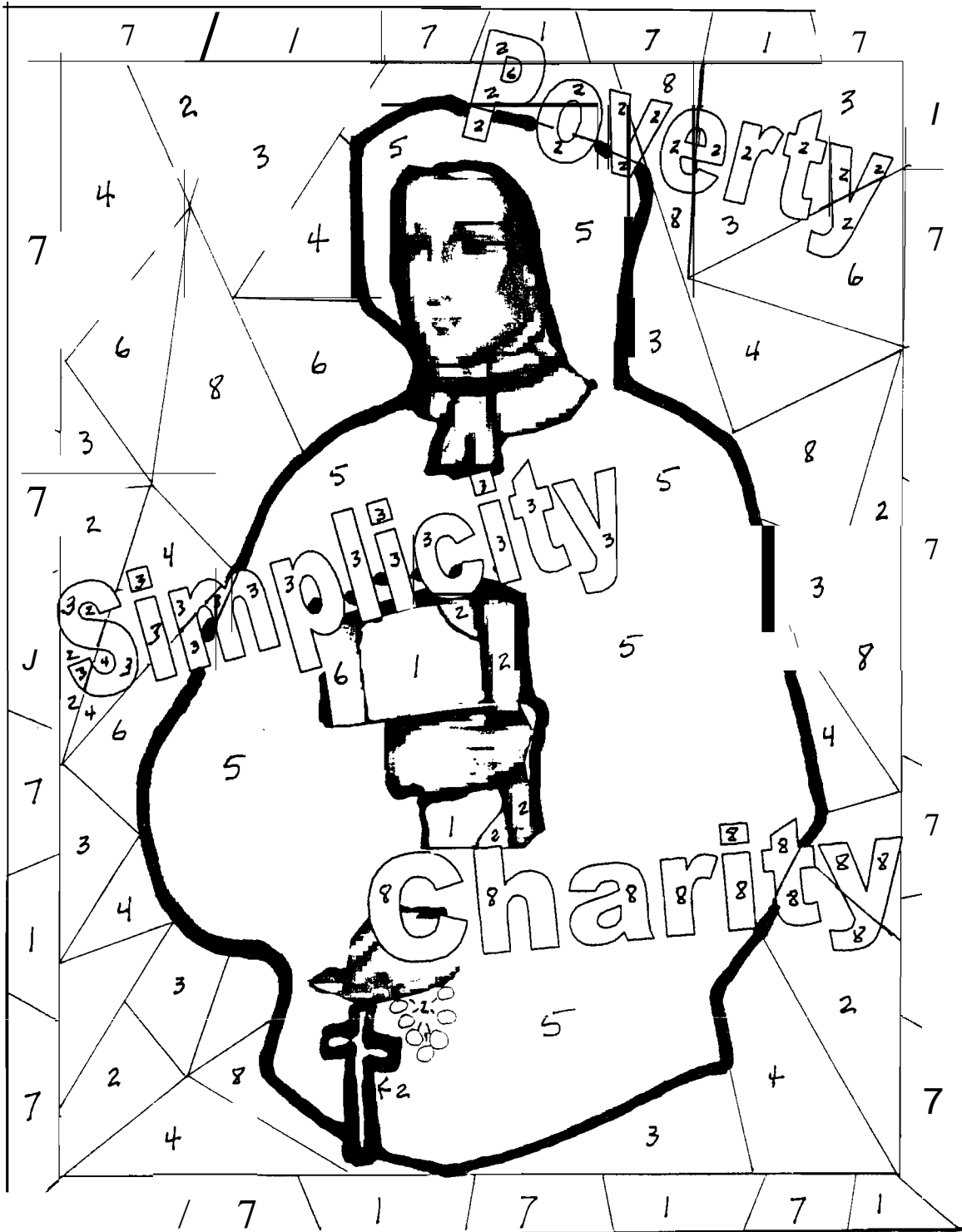
*Mother Elizabeth Seton
was canonized in Rome
on September 14, 1975.
She became the first American
native-born canonized Saint.*



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Color By Numbers

- 1 Red 3 Green 5 Black 7 Purple
- 2 Yellow 4 Blue 6 Brown 8 orange



ELIZABETH ANN SETON ART GALLERY

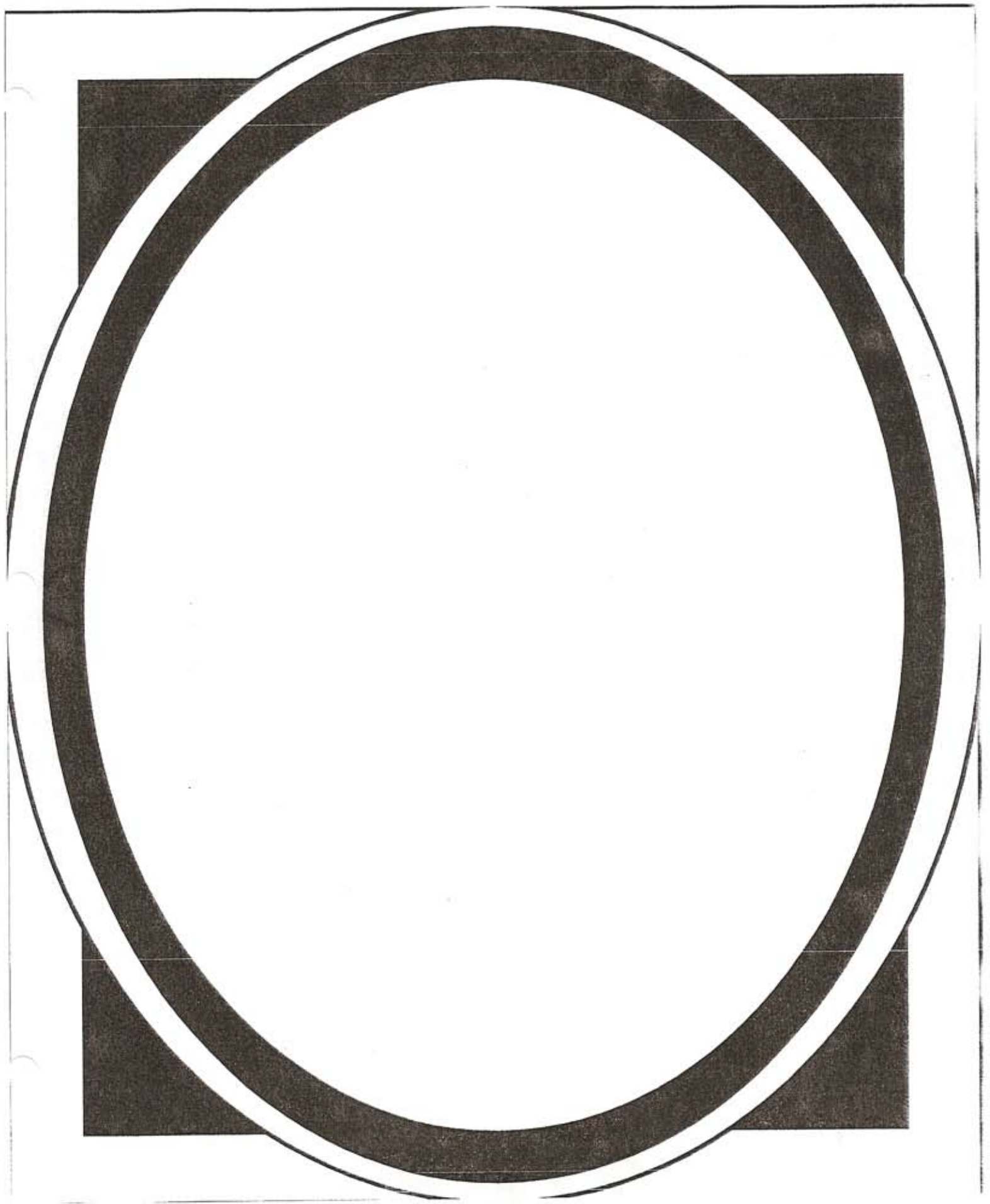
After relating the story of Elizabeth, assign each student one of the events listed below. Of course, some events may be eliminated or added depending on the size of the class.

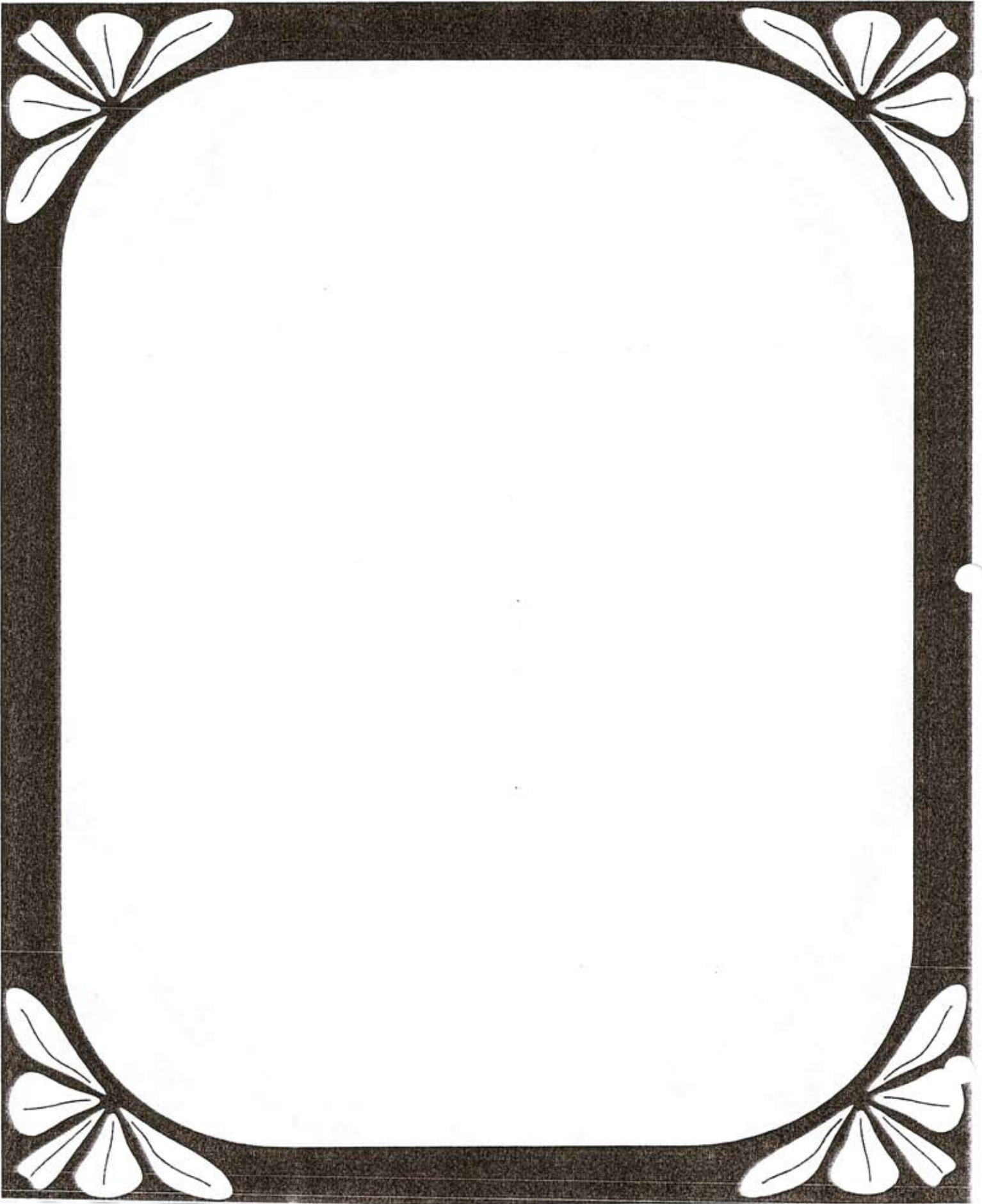
Students are to illustrate their event inside their frame with as much detail as possible, filling the space within the frame.

Display the masterpieces in chronological order with labels. Invite other classes, parents, etc., to a “special viewing” with children serving as docents.

Events in the life of Elizabeth Ann Seton

1. Birth
2. Death of mother
3. Education
4. Part of a new nation
5. Lover of nature
6. Social life
7. Visited the poor
8. Married William Seton
9. Had 5 children
10. Business failed
11. Mr. Seton became ill
12. Sailed to Italy
13. Mr. Seton died
14. Learned about the Catholic faith
15. Returned home
16. Became a Catholic
17. Family deserted her
18. Moved to Baltimore
19. Became a Sister of Charity
20. Started the first Catholic school
21. Moved to Emmitsburg
22. Cared for the poor
23. Her death
24. Declared a saint





MOTHER SETON PRAYER SERVICE

INTRODUCTION:

Elizabeth Seton, widow, mother and convert to the Catholic faith is the first native born American saint. She founded the American Sisters of Charity, established the first free Catholic day school, and opened the first Catholic orphanage. She was known for her works of mercy and charity.

PSALM: Psalm 23

Side 1: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

Side 2: You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sons of Songs 8:7

Deep waters cannot quench love, nor can floods sweep it away. If one offered all personal wealth to purchase love, contempt is all that would be gained.

Micah 6:8

You have been told, O man, what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing their little children to him to have him touch them, but the disciples were scolding them for this. Jesus became indignant when he noticed it and said to them: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I assure you that whoever does not accept the reign of God like a little child shall not take part in it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Matthew 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds he went up to the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him and he began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.
Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.
[Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.]
Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill
Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.
Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.
Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.
Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.
Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven;
they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

James 2:14-17

My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, “Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed.” but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless.

PETITIONS:

O God, you raised up Elizabeth Seton to be an inspiration for many. In thanksgiving for the gift of her life we pray; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

Elizabeth Seton was widowed at an early age; may all who sorrow and are lonely be comforted, we pray; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

Through the intercession of Elizabeth Seton, a convert to the Catholic faith, may we come to a better understanding and appreciation of our differences in our efforts to live the Gospel; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

You inspired her to found the Sisters of Charity; help all religious men and women be faithful in following their religious commitment to Christ; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

You filled her with zeal for the education of youth; guide all teachers and educators to enable students to grow in wisdom and their love of God; **RESPONSE:** Blessed by God forever.

O God, we give you thanks for the life of Elizabeth Seton. May the values she cherished be continued in our world today. May the holiness of her life inspire all to serve you and work only for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

LITANY:

Elizabeth, Loving Daughter
Encourage in all children obedience and love.

Elizabeth, Troubled Teenager
Speak to today's confused, sometimes abused young people.

Elizabeth, Faithful Wife
Grant gifts of love and generosity to all spouses.
Elizabeth, Caring Mother
Share your mother's heart with all parents.

Elizabeth, Loyal Friend
Teach us to share friendship generously.

Elizabeth, Courageous Convert
Strengthen the newly baptized as they embrace the faith.

Elizabeth, Sorrowing Mother
Console those parents suffering the loss of a child.

Elizabeth, Steadfast Religious
Inspire young women to follow in your path.

Elizabeth, Inspired Educator
Share your gifts with all teachers.

Elizabeth, A Woman for All Women
Bestow your charism of love and service on all women today.

PRAYER:

O God, we give you thanks for the life of Elizabeth Seton. May the values she cherished be realized in our world today. May the holiness of her life inspire us to serve you and work only for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER:

God of wonder, you blessed the people of this country through Elizabeth Seton and the women of Charity who have followed her. May we continued to educate, heal, love and serve, as she would have us do. We pray in Jesus' name.

INTERCESSIONS:

With Elizabeth Ann Seton let us turn to our God and pray:

- Fill our hearts with yourself who is love.

Your holy word touched and strengthened Elizabeth's heart;

- Fill us with a great desire to seek you in Scripture.

Your presence in the Eucharist was a magnetic force for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

- May the Eucharist be our daily Bread to nourish your life in us.

Death and separation of loved ones played a painful part in her growth in holiness;

- Let our eyes of faith see your presence in whatever causes us to suffer.

Her heart was trained through genuine friendships to understand love;

- May our human loves fashion our hearts to love you and be loved by you.

Litany to Saint Elizabeth Seton

Elizabeth, Loving Daughter

Encourage in all children obedience and love

Elizabeth, Faithful Wife

Grant Gifts of love and generosity to all spouses

Elizabeth, Caring Mother

Share your mother's heart with all parents

Elizabeth, Grieving Widow

Look with compassion on all bereaved wives

Elizabeth, Loyal friend

Teach us to share friendship generously

Elizabeth, Heroic Searcher of truth

Guide all who, with fear and doubt, seek the way

Elizabeth, Courageous Convert

Strengthen the newly baptized as they embrace the faith

Elizabeth, Sorrowing Mother

Console those parents suffering the loss of a child

Elizabeth, Steadfast Religious

Inspire young women to follow in your path

Elizabeth, Inspired Educator

Share your gifts with all teachers

Elizabeth, A women For All Woman

Bestow your charism of love and service on all women today

O Lord, instruct us in your ways. Bless us with the gift of humility, with simplicity, and with the joy of knowing that you are ever with us.

Then Lord we will be able to rise to your call and hear the cry from your heart for the sick, the poor, and the oppressed.

We will strive through the inspiration of saint Elizabeth to be “ People of the church”.

To see as Elizabeth did where there is need and supply it.

To see where there is suffering and relieve it.

To see where there is injustice and to right it.

In, as Elizabeth puts it in her own words, “we will O Lord, await your will with certain hope, pressing forward to eternity; reaching out for the things ahead, looking steadfastly upward.

O lord we thank you for the works of today.

You have blessed us with a great saint and have inspired us to follow in her footsteps.

Come O Lord, sustain your people, bought with the price of your blood and bring us with your saints to ever lasting glory.

We praise you

We acclaim you

We Worship you with all creation

Amen

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Good Morning!

Today is the feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton. She is the first person born in the United States to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church. She is a woman of great faith and trust and love.

We have invited Elizabeth and her family to tell you a little about her. Good morning William!

Good morning. My name is William M. Seton. In 1794 I married the beautiful Elizabeth. We lived in New York and were very happy. I worked in my family's shipping and importing business. Elizabeth and my sister, Rebecca, organized women to do charitable work among the poor. During these years we had 5 children. This is my oldest daughter, Anna.

Hi! Being the oldest, 8 years old at the time, I got to go to Italy with my parents. It wasn't exactly a wonderful trip. You see, my dad had contracted tuberculosis, which is a lung disease. The doctor told him he had to go to a warm climate to save his health. So we were going to Leghorn to visit the Filicchis, friends of my dad. When we go to Italy we were quarantined for 30 days. My dad's health got worse. It was a difficult time but we read from the bible every day and that helped us to get through it.

That wasn't the end of our sorrows. Eight days after we were released from the quarantine my husband died. The Filicchis were good to us and invited us to stay with them. While I was with them I began to go to Mass and learn about the catholic faith. When I got back to New York, I started to teach in order to support my family. I then

established a school in Baltimore, where I also was starting the Sisters of Charity. You haven't met my oldest son yet. His name is also William.

Hi! You can see I was named after my father. After he died I liked to think of myself as the man of the family – but all that usually got me was hard work! Like the time at my mother's school moved from Baltimore to Emmitsburg. We had to take all our belongings and furniture by wagon. I'll give you one guess who had to do all the heavy lifting! My brother, Richard helped. Here he is.

Hi! My mom's school was a school for girls. Just incase you are thinking William and I had to attend it, we didn't. We just wouldn't have been able to stand that many females! Two miles away was Mt. St. Mary College and seminary. We boarded there. Mom missed us and we missed her, so she arranged to have dinner with us every Tuesday night. We were glad for a good home cooked meal. Have you met my sister, Rebecca?

Everyone calls me Becky. I'm the youngest. I don't always get my way, and I'm not a pest. I loved our school because I had so many friends. Some of the girls were boarders and lived here at school. Others came just for the day. We studied arithmetic, geography, French, music, sewing and religion. It was especially recess! Here's my Sister, Catherine.

My nickname was Kit. My favorite at the school was the Sisters. You could see that they loved the children and were good teachers. I used to watch them pray and I wanted to be just like them.

TV Interview of St. Elizabeth Seton

I: Good Morning! We have an exciting show for you today. You are going to meet some special people who are a real inspiration for us today. Our first guest is Elizabeth Ann Seton, saint, teacher, and foundress of the Sisters of Charity. Please welcome her.

I: Good Morning, Elizabeth!

E: Good Morning.

I: You have the wonderful distinction of being the very first person born in the United States to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church. Tell us when and where you were born?

E: I was born in New York City in 1774. I was growing up during the years of the American Revolution. My father was a doctor. My mother died when I was three years old, but I had a happy childhood. I was very close to my dad who saw to it that I had everything I needed, especially a good education.

I: Elizabeth, I understand that you were well known throughout New York City as an educated, generous, and kind young women.

E: My deep faith enabled me to be all those things. I had a special desire to help the poor. I organized a group of women in my neighborhood to give aid to widows and orphans.

I: You soon met a young man named William Seton. You married him when you were just 20 years old.

E: Yes, we were very happy together. We wanted a big family and soon had five beautiful children – two boys and three girls. I was very happy with my life. But life never follows a straight road!

I: You mean there was sadness and hardships for you to endure?

E: Yes, within a few years my father died, my husband's merchant business started to fail, and worst of all, my husband fell seriously ill with TB. He died while we were on a trip to Italy.

I: It must have been such a sad time for you. How did you get through it?

E: It was sad but there was a blessing too. You see, when we were in Italy I got to know William's Friends, the Filicchi's. They were devout Catholics who taught me about their faith. I learned about God's presence in the Eucharist. I felt very prayerful and close to God when I went to Mass with them.

I: Is that what made you want to embrace the catholic faith?

E: Yes, when I returned to New York I thought, and prayed, and reflected about it for several months. I made up my mind to become Catholic. That was in March of 1805.

I: When the family business failed, how did you support your five children?

E: I had a good education so I decided to become a teacher. I moved to Baltimore. There I met Archbishop John Carroll. He asked me if I would like to start a school. As soon as I heard it I knew it was a good idea because I could educate my children and earn a living.

I: Did it work out as you thought it would be?

E: Even better than I thought! Our school soon outgrew the first building we were in, so we moved out to the country to a little place called Emmitsburg. From this school the idea for parish schools developed.

I: How is it that you started a community of sisters?

E: As our school grew so did our need for teachers. Pious young women joined me to teach. It soon became apparent that we wanted to live more for God and less for ourselves. So under Archbishop Carroll we organized into the Sisters of Charity.

I: As a community of charity what works did your sisters do?

E: Our goal was to meet the needs of the times. So the sisters opened schools, orphanages, and hospitals – not only in Maryland, but in Philadelphia and New York and many other places.

I: The Sisters of Charity are still in existence today. Tell us about them.

E: My original community has grown very big. There are several branches of Sisters of Charity. Thousands of sisters do God's work today. Besides educators they serve as pastoral assistants, social workers, spiritual directors, hospital workers, missionaries and in many more ways.

I: Elizabeth, your life and faith has had an important impact on church and society. You are an example to each one of us.

E: Thank you for joining us today. It has been our pleasure. Thank you.

January Feature

Good morning, today we come together to celebrate Mass in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. In the year 1790 she was 16

old. Picture a comfortable living room. In it is Dr. Bailey who is quietly reading. Elizabeth enters...

A Special "First Lady"

Anno: The scene: a comfortable home in New York City; the year: 1790. Dr. Bailey is reading as 16-year-old Elizabeth enters.

Eliz: Good afternoon, Father.

Dr. B: Elizabeth, my dear. You look lovely as always.

Eliz: Father, you spoil me. I must be the luckiest young lady in New York.

Dr. B: When your mother died, I feared that I would not know how to make you a proper young lady. But I need not have worried. You have your music, your French, the theater . . . but I think you have something else on your mind.

Eliz: Yes, Father, I'm in love.

Dr. B: And who, I pray, is the lucky young man?

Eliz: It is William Seton. His father is in the shipping business.

Dr. B: Ah, yes. But let's not be hasty. You're still young.

Anno: For the next three years, Elizabeth had eyes only for her William. They were married in 1809 at Trinity Episcopal Church. William went into his father's business. Before long, there were five Seton children. The Setons were a happy family.

William (playing his violin as Elizabeth enters): Elizabeth, my dear. Are the children in bed?

Eliz: Yes, William. I love them all dearly, but I also love this time we have by ourselves.

Will: What will you do tonight?

Eliz: This is my night to sew. Please play a song for me.

Anno: But the good life did not last long. When William's father died, he took over the business. But ships were lost in storms and pirate attacks. Soon the business was failing.

Will: I'm a failure. How can I ever take care of you and the children?

Eliz: God will show us the way.

Will (hugging her): What would I do without you? (Coughs.)

Eliz: Take care of yourself, and don't worry. We need you.

Anno: But William grew worse. He developed tuberculosis. Elizabeth, thinking that a sea voyage might help, took him and their oldest child to Italy. Antonio Fellichi, a family friend, waved as the boat docked.

Eliz: William, see! It's Antonio!

Will: It will be good to see him.

Purser: You will not be allowed to land yet because of a yellow fever epidemic in New York. You must be in quarantine for 40 days.

Anno: If it had not been for the help supplied by Antonio, the Setons would have starved or frozen to death. Finally, they were allowed to land, but it was too late. Two days before Christmas William died.

Antonio: Elizabeth, William would not want us to go on sorrowing. He wanted you to be happy.

Eliz: I know you are right, Antonio.

Anto: Let us visit the museum today. And perhaps you would like to go with our family to Mass on Sunday.

Anno: Elizabeth did go to Mass—several times. Later she said that as she knelt in front of the Blessed Sacrament, she found real peace. She

missed the other children, so she returned to America, where she found a small apartment and opened a school in it. But her thoughts often returned to the Blessed Sacrament.

Eliz (speaking to Holy-Trinity Catholic Church pastor): Dr. Hobart, I must speak to you. My heart is troubled. I am thinking about becoming a Catholic.

Dr. Hobart: I knew those Catholics in Italy would poison your mind. If you become a Catholic, I want nothing more to do with you.

Eliz: I'm sorry you feel that way. This is important to me: (Leaves.)

Anno: A year later, she walked into St. Peter's Church.

Eliz: Father, I want to become a Catholic.

Priest: Welcome home, my child.

Anno: But most of her family felt otherwise. Parents removed their children from her school. Times were hard for her. Then a letter arrived from Baltimore, inviting Elizabeth to teach there.

Fr. Du Bourg: Welcome, Mrs.

Seton. You are the answer to our prayer. Our children need you.

Eliz: It is good to be needed again, Father. This building will make a fine home for us and a school for all who seek it. I would like to give my life to God by teaching His children.

Fr. D: Perhaps it will be possible. Let us write to Bishop Carroll.

Anno: With the permission of the Bishop, Mrs. Seton became "Mother Seton," founder of the Sisters of Charity. With seven other Sisters and her own three girls, she went 50 miles to the town of Emmitsburg. There she opened the first Catholic school in the United States.

(All players slowly come on stage from both directions.)

All: St. Elizabeth Seton, we thank you. St. Elizabeth Seton, pray for us. (Curtain)—Ruth A. Matheny, Editor

Elizabeth Ann Seton: Wife, Mother, Teacher, Saint

1.N: Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in 1774, two years before the declaration of independence was signed.

She grew up in New York City. She liked to go with her father, a doctor, as he made his rounds. He was often called to the bedsides of poor immigrants who were sick and sometimes dying far from their homes.

Dr. Bayley: Elizabeth, to be sick and a stranger in a strange land is a terrible thing.

E: Yes, Father. I'm glad we can come and help them. Will we have time to visit Widow Ellis and Granny Holscher?

Dr. Bayley: Yes, Daughter. We will make time to visit them all and take them medicine.

2. N: Elizabeth Ann grew up trusting God. She trusted God in her marriage to William Seton and in the births of their five children. But her trust was tested. Her husband's business failed, and then he fell ill. There was a little money in the house and little time for play, as Elizabeth devoted herself to her husband's care. Still, she did not forget her children. When her husband was asleep or resting, Elizabeth could be found jumping rope with the children. She knew that children need to play and to laugh even in the saddest of times.

E: Come Richard and William, come girls! Your Father is sleeping and we must be quiet. He needs his rest. It will help him get better. But we can go outside and play a while. What shall we play?

C: Let's play Farmer in the Dell!

R: Yes, and then we can play London Bridge is Falling Down!

A: Let's play Jump Rope, too! Where is our jump rope?

3. N: Elizabeth's Husband grew weaker. The doctor suggested taking him to Italy, where the sun is warm and the air is mild. Elizabeth, William, and Anna, their oldest daughter made the long voyage, and reached the docks of Livorno. There in Italy Elizabeth's husband died, far from home, a stranger in a strange land.

E: Oh Anna, how sad that father died. His sufferings are over and he is at peace on the arms of the angles.

A: Mother, we alone and very far from New York. What will we do?

4.N: Elizabeth felt alone and afraid. But friends of her husband's family welcomed her into their home. She saw that they lived what they prayed, and she was moved by their hospitality.

Elizabeth went to Church with them and saw how they loved their faith especially the Eucharist. She decided to join the Catholic Church. She had always been a Christian, but Elizabeth wanted to join the community that had received her with such affection and understanding. In 1805 she walked into Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome and knelt there saying, "My God, here let me rest."

There would be little rest for Elizabeth. When she returned to New York, she and her children lived in poverty. She was barely able to support them as a teacher, even though she was a good teacher. Children liked her because she understood their lively natures.

Word of her gifts in the classroom spread all over the community. Even Bishop John Carroll of Maryland heard of her. He wrote and asked her to come to Maryland and to start a teaching community of women.

Bishop: we have many catholic families in Maryland. We need schools. Will you come here to teach?

E: I have been praying for direction and I seek to do God's will. Yes, Bishop, I will come to Baltimore.

5. N: Elizabeth was happy to be needed. She packed up and moved her children into a ramshackle house in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The roof had so many holes that in the winter snow fell onto their beds as they slept! But Elizabeth had a merry heart. She was doing the work she loved, among the people she loved, for the God she loved.

So when she wrote about her troubles, she compared them to the bites of flies and mosquitoes, which bothered people but do not destroy them. She urged her community to "Remember the sure, the never failing protector we have in God."

Interview of Mother Seton

I: Good morning boys and girls. I am _____ from the Saint Martha News.

Today we have with us Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, mother, sister of Charity and Saint.

Good morning and happy feast day, Elizabeth.

E: Thank you and good morning to you.

I: When were you canonized, Elizabeth?

E: I was Canonized which means to be declared a saint by the church, September 1975.

I: You were born in New York in 1774 and when you were 18 you married William Seton and were soon blessed with a big family. Tell us about your children.

E: I had 5 wonderful children. Two boys and three girls. Their names are: Annina, William, Richard, Catherine, and Rebecca. When my husband became ill and had to travel to a warmer climate, it was my oldest girl, Annina, who went with us to Italy.

I: Did William's health improve in Italy?

E: No, it worsened, and after a few weeks he died. It would have been one of the saddest times of my life if I had not met the Filicchi's.

I: Who were the Filicchi's and how did they help you?

E: They were friends of my husband's family who invited me to stay with them. While I stayed in their home I learned about the Catholic Faith. I went to church with them and began to think about becoming a catholic.

I: Did you become a catholic while you were in Italy?

E: No, I waited until I got to New York. I thought about it and prayed about it for awhile, then I decided to be baptized in St. Teter's church. Catholics were not well thought of at that time and my friends and relatives turned against me because they didn't want me to become one. I couldn't support my five children in New York so I moved to Baltimore.

I: What did you do in Baltimore?

E: I started a school, but the thing I liked best about Baltimore was that I was free to practice my new religion. I loved the catholic faith and most of all I loved the Blesses Sacrament. It is so wonderful to know the Jesus is really present at mass and communion.

I: From Baltimore you move to Emmitburg didn't you?

E: Yes, I began to meet other women who shared my faith and ideals. Our school grew and grew. We were given money to buy a farm in a beautiful valley in Emmitsburg Maryland. The Archbishop asked us to start a religious community. It was there that the Sisters of Charity first started.

I: Was it difficult to get started in Emmitsburg?

E: Yes, especially the first winter. We were in a building called the stone house. It was cold in the winter. The roof was poorly made and one night during a windy snow storm it snowed right in. When the sisters woke up in the morning some of them had snow on their blankets.

I: It must have been a very difficult time.

E: It was in some ways. We had little to live on, and there was a great deal of work to do. Some of the sisters got ill, and once in a while someone would die. But at the same time it was very wonderful. We were giving our lives to the lord and trying to do his work. We especially enjoyed teaching the children in our growing school. Some children were boarders, which meant they lived with us, and some of the children were day pupils. In this way we were able to give poor children a free education.

I: You are credited with starting parish schools.

E: Well, my school was the first. But St. John Neumann should get credit for doing a lot of work to really organize the schools.

I: You died in 1821 and were canonized just thirteen years ago. It is wonderful to have you as an American saint. Is there anything you would like to say to the children in Saint Martha School?

E: What I would like to say is that each child here should grow up to be a saint. Love God with your whole heart and be kind to everyone around you. God bless you.

SUGGESTED BOOKS ON ELIZABETH BAYLEY SETON FOR YOUNG READERS

Primary Level

A Story of Mother Elizabeth Seton
by Brother Ernest, C.S.C.
Dujarie Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1960

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
by Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.
Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1990

Kat Finds a Friend: a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Story
by Joan Stromberg
Ecce Homo Press, Danville, Pennsylvania, 1999

Elizabeth Ann Seton: Wife, Mother, Sister, Saint
by Janet S. Wiley
St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, 1977

Intermediate/Advanced Level

Little Birds and Lillies
by Mary Louise Callahan
Mother Seton Guild Press, Emmitsburg, MD, 1955

Mother Seton: wife, mother, educator, foundress, saint
by the Daughters of St. Paul
Daughters of St. Paul, Boston, MA, 1975

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: Daughters of America
by Jeanne Marie Grunwell
Daughters of St. Paul, Boston, MA, 1999

Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity
by Alma Power-Waters

Vision Books: Farar, Straus, and Cudahy, New York, 1957

***Elizabeth Ann Seton: Saint for a New Nation*
by Julie Walters
Paulist Press, New York/Mahwah, NJ. 2002**