



To Promote the Canonization of Mother Seton

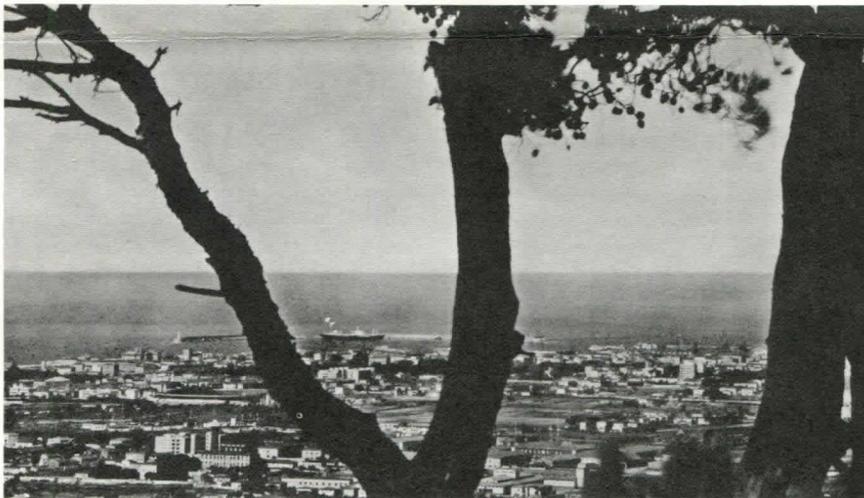
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EMMITSBURG, MD.

OCTOBER, 1971

~ IN MOTHER SETON'S LIVORNO ~

BY MARY COLUMBUS



Panorama of Livorno, Italy

ON A RECENT vacation I experienced one of the greatest joys that an alumna of Saint Joseph's could have, when, from Rome, I went to the City of Leghorn (known in Italy as Livorno) and visited many beautiful places that our beloved Blessed Mother Seton had seen there while she was a guest of the Filicchi family in 1804.

Being an alumna of Saint Joseph's who has been devoted to Mother Seton for many years, I had written to Most Rev. Emilio Guano, Bishop of Livorno, expressing my desire to see these revered places. As a result, through the Bishop's generous consideration, I was met at the railroad station by a kind, devout priest who spoke English, Father Massimo Vanzozi, who immediately announced that he would conduct me personally to all the places in which I had expressed interest.

Father Vanzozi assured me that everyone in Livorno is deeply interested in the canonization of Mother Seton and stated that he is the administrator of the funds for a church to be built and dedicated to her.

Our first stop was the large, attractive apartment of Count Antonio Filicchi, the grandson of the friend of the Seton family. The eighty-year-old Count was most cordial and showed us a beautiful crucifix before which Mother Seton had prayed during her visit to this family. While at Count Filicchi's apartment, we were joined by Father Gino Franchi, pastor of the new church.

The two priests and Count Filicchi then escorted me in a private car to visit the former Filicchi *palazzo* on the Via Venezia in an old section of the City called Venezia because of the numerous canals surrounding the houses in that area. The five-story *palazzo* is now occupied by the Venerini Sisters who conduct a school for children there known as the *Instituta Giulia*. The Venerini Sisters gave us a very friendly greeting and conducted us all through this beautiful building with a wide marble staircase and large halls. Some of the rooms still have remnants of the lovely painted scenes that were on the walls in 1804.

On the top floor of the building is a large glass-enclosed veranda lending a

beautiful view of the sea. Reports relate that Mother Seton frequently walked around this veranda and prayed as she gazed out the windows, thinking of her children in America and expressing her desire to return there, after the death of her husband in Italy. Many pictures of Mother Seton hang throughout the building and the Venerini Sisters expressed their great love for her.

Next we visited the English Cemetery in Livorno where William Magee Seton, husband of our *Beata*, is buried. Father Franchi advised that Mr. Seton's body will be transferred to the new church.

We proceeded to St. James Church adjacent to the site of the *Lazaretto* where Mother Seton and her husband and daughter Anna Maria had been quarantined after their arrival in Italy. Only a lower portion of the stone wall of the *Lazaretto* still stands, as this site is now the location of an Italian naval school. A plaque on the wall outside St. James Church bears testimony to the fact that Mother Seton had visited in this church after her release from the *Lazaretto*.

One of the highlights of the visit came when I was taken to the beautiful Shrine or Sanctuary of Montenero located on the top of the mountain overlooking the City. The road leading up to this Shrine lends a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. At the top of the mountain is a lovely marble church with an altar decorated in gold leaf. The Blessed Mother is reported to have commanded a poor shepherd to bring the painting of the Madonna and Child over the high altar to this spot after he had found it in Tuscany where, according to tradition, it had been miraculously transported from the Grecian Island of Negroponte. Many miraculous cures have been reported through Our

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Apostolic Postulation

FOR THE CAUSE OF
CANONIZATION
OF THE BLESSED

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Foundress of the
SISTERS OF CHARITY
IN AMERICA

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FAVORS ACKNOWLEDGED

RICHMOND, VA.—Several members of my family were ill recently and I prayed to Mother Seton for help. I am happy to say that all are now on the road to recovery. I believe that these favors, which I had promised to report, were granted through the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Mrs. R. P. K.

FREDERICK, MD.—Several years ago I had such severe headaches that several times I thought of taking my life. The doctors could not find out what caused them. I placed the medal of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton on my head and the headaches disappeared. I really do not know what I would do without Mother Seton's intercession.

Mrs. J. E. M.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—I am writing this letter because I promised Mother Seton that if my favors were granted I would report them to the Mother Seton Guild. My son was able to obtain a good position, and another son who had been missing from home called me from a distant city and said he would return home within a few days.

Mrs. M. P. S.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—Enclosed is a donation for the Cause of Mother Seton. I just received an answer to prayer through her intercession. Please publish.

L. C.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.—Enclosed is a small donation for Mother Seton's Cause in token of the many favors she has obtained for me.

H. J. K.

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.—Thanks to Mother Seton for a favor obtained when all seemed hopeless.

V. S.

CORVALIS, ORE.—I am enclosing a donation as a thank you to Mother Seton for helping me in a recent emergency. I pray that she will continue to give me her help with this problem.

Mrs. W. G.

UNION CITY, N. J. — Several months ago I fell and broke my upper right arm and suffered a bad cut over my right eye. People who saw me fall came to my assistance and within min-

utes I was on the way to the hospital. I prayed to Mother Seton who never lets me down. I feel sure she saved me from more serious injury.

Mrs. A. R.

BALTIMORE, MD.—I was X-rayed ten months ago and learned that I had a bleeding ulcer. I turned to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. X rays taken a few days ago showed no sign of further ulceration and only the scar of the previous ulcer. I am grateful to Mother Seton.

M. L.

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.—I promised a letter of thanksgiving for favors received through the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. I had been in poor health, and my sister-in-law had suffered a stroke. We prayed to Mother Seton and now we are both improving. Our thanks to our dear Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Mrs. J. M.

AMHERST, MASS.—I prayed to Mother Seton and asked her to please help my son-in-law to return to church. My prayers were answered. I am so grateful.

Mrs. E. O.

MASSAPEQUA PARK, N. Y. — Several months ago the doctors found that my 11-year-old daughter was infected with a parasite that had attacked her right eye. The parasite was considered active and blood tests confirmed it. A neighbor gave me a medal of Mother Seton for my daughter. The next week the doctor said the lesion looked less active and within two weeks he pronounced it inactive, which new tests proved. Although she has lost the vision of her eye, I feel that Mother Seton came to our help to prevent further damage to her nervous system. For this I am thankful.

Mrs. M. K.

HALIFAX, N. S.—Please publish my gratitude to Blessed Mother Seton for my brother's happy marriage.

S. A. R.

CHICORA, PA.—Enclosed you will find a donation toward the Cause of Mother Seton who obtained for me a very special request. Please publish.

Mrs. S. R.

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Favors Acknowledged

(Continued from Page 2)

HUDSON, N. Y.—I am sending the enclosed check for the Cause of Mother Seton to whom I am very grateful. I had a very bad fall but was not injured seriously. I was wearing a relic of Mother Seton and feel that she saved me.

Mrs. E. R.

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Recently I made a novena to Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton to obtain employment for my brother who had been laid off from work. He has five children and heavy financial responsibilities. Because of the unemployment situation and his age we were terribly concerned lest he would have difficulty finding a job at comparable pay, so I turned to Mother Seton. Within a short time my brother found the job he needed. I feel confident that mother Seton interceded for him.

Mrs. E. J. D.

PENNSYLVANIA—I wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation a special favor granted me through the powerful intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton. For a long time I had prayed to God for freedom to follow a certain vocation in life. My prayers were heard recently when I made a novena to Mother Seton. Now I have the necessary permission and a deep sense of happiness.

Anon

BALTIMORE, MD.—I am writing this note to keep a promise I made to Mother Seton. I implored her for strength to live through ten very difficult days. I know this favor does not qualify as a miracle, but I got through the ten days and whenever I was tempted to worry too much, I said my prayer to Mother Seton. Our daughter had been bitten by our dog which had not had rabies shots. The dog was confined and observed for ten days and, thanks to Mother Seton's intercession, the dog proved not to be rabid, so that our daughter did not have to undergo painful treatment.

Mrs. T. J. L.

HARRISON, N. J.—I am enclosing a check in thanksgiving for a favor granted through Blessed Mother Seton's intercession. It was like a miracle! My brother, who had not been feeling well, requested a new position because the one he had was getting too strenuous for him. He was told it would be im-

FAVORS REQUESTED

through the intercession of
BLESSED ELIZABETH ANN SETON



"Employment"—*Brooklyn, N. Y.; New Brunswick, N. J.; Columbia, Pa.; San Carlos, Calif.; Jamaica, N. Y.; Dayton, Ohio; New Orleans, La.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Bronx, N. Y.; Convent, La.; Staten Island, N. Y.; Rochelle Park, N. J.* "For Family Members"—*Philadelphia, Pa.; Yonkers, N. Y. (2); Akron, Ohio (2); Bronx, N. Y. (3); Jersey City, N. J.; Weston Newton, Mass.; Rosemont, Pa.; New York, N. Y.; Port Hawkesbury, Canada; Huntington Station, N. Y.; Altoona, Pa. (2); Havertown, Pa.; Albuquerque, N. M.; Carteret, N. J.; Catonsville, Md.; Orange, N. J.; San Carlos, Calif.; Succasunna, N. J.* "Cure of Alcoholism"—*Staten Island, N. Y. (2); New Orleans, La.* "Health"—*Brooklyn, N. Y.; Glen Ridge, N. J.; Olney, Md.; Chicago, Ill.; Flushing, N. Y.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Bronx, N. Y.; Ellicott City, Md.; Pueblo, Colo.; Ocala, Fla.; Tenaflly, N. J.; Jamaica, N. Y.; Irvington, N. J.; Blauvelt, N. Y.; Trenton, N. J.; Union City, N. J.; San Carlos, Calif.; Mahwah, N. J.* "Cure of Cancer"—*Kirkwood, N. Y.; Yonkers, N. Y. (2); Mexico City, Mexico; Bayonne, N. J.; Staten Island, N. Y.; Denver, Colo.; Baltimore, Md.; Long Island, N. Y.* "Cure of Arthritis"—*Tucson, Ariz.* "Cure of Parkinson's Disease"—*Union City, N. J.* "Cure of Leukemia"—*Jamesburg, N. Y.* "Cure of Meningitis"—*Queens Village, N. Y.* "Cure of Mental Illness"—*Yonkers, N. Y.; Bronx, N. Y.* "Recovery from Serious Illness"—*Cincinnati, Ohio (5); Brooklyn, N. Y.; Port Hawkesbury, Canada.* "Return to Church"—*Bathurst, Canada; Frederick, Md.* "Good Confession and Peace of Mind"—*Westerleigh, N. Y.* "Marital Problems"—*Virginia Beach, Va.; Mount Vernon, N. Y.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Hillcrest Heights, Md.; Cincinnati, Ohio (4).* "New Housing"—*Bronx, N. Y.* "Financial Aid"—*Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dayton, Ohio; Los Angeles, Calif.* "Special Intentions"—*Westerly, R. I.; Chicago, Ill.; Bronx, N. Y. (5); New Brunswick, N. J. (2); Philadelphia, Pa. (2); Akron, Ohio (3); Baltimore, Md. (2); Boston, Mass.; Brooklyn, N. Y. (2); Bethlehem, Pa. (2); Greensburg, Pa.; Mount Kisco, N. Y.; Dayton, Ohio; Waterbury, Conn.; Halifax, N. S.; Wellsburg, N. Y.; Staten Island, N. Y.; Orange, N. J. (2); Newark, N. J.; New Orleans, La.; Tenaflly, N. J.; Port Hawkesbury, Canada; Springfield, Mass.; Bloomingdale, N. J.; Canton, Ohio.*

possible for at least another year. I started to pray to Mother Seton. Two days later my brother was assigned to a new job. Many thanks to Mother Seton for asking God to help my brother.

Mrs. W. S.

HALIFAX, N. S.—Please publish the following: Thanks to Blessed Mother Seton for the solution of family problems involving a mental patient and the sale of property.

S. F.

NO POSTMARK — For years I prayed for my only son, 28 years old, to get off drugs. He refused to leave home to enter upon a withdrawal program. One day I gave him a Mother Seton relic to hold and told him about it. He has been cooperating in a withdrawal program now for almost three months, and doing very well. I promised to publish the account of this wonderful gift to me from Mother Seton.

M. M.

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Favors Acknowledged

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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.—My son was seriously injured in a car accident and our hopes for his recovery were slight. I put him in Mother Seton's hands, and now I can thank her for her intercession. My son is home and full recovery is on the way.

Mrs. C. D. R.

NORTH RIVERSIDE, ILL.—I received a notice from my draft board that the teaching deferment I had had for the past two years was terminated. After three very hectic weeks I was able, through the intercession of Mother Seton, to renew the deferment. I had promised public acknowledgment of this favor if it was granted.

J. G.

BRONX, N. Y.—Recently I found a job with a wonderful company which pays me a great deal of money. My husband and I were in need of financial help at the time and his retirement check was not enough to see us through from month to month. Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton answered my prayer in a remarkable way, for I was 60 years old and have not previously worked in an office. I am very grateful to Mother Seton.

Mrs. C. R.

ORANGE, N. J.—I have never written to the Guild before, but I wanted you to know that Mother Seton has helped us through three extremely serious illnesses in our family within the past four years. I also gave my Mother

Seton relic to a neighbor and urged her to pray to Mother Seton for the recovery of her own daughter who was in critical condition after being struck by a car. The day after I gave this neighbor the relic the child was taken off the critical list. These and many other favors have been granted us. Mother Seton gives me great strength when I pray to her, and she has always come to my assistance.

Mrs. F. J. D.

PACIFICA, CALIF. — I am very grateful to a friend who enrolled me in the Mother Seton Guild. It is only natural that I should now urge others to pray to Mother Seton and for her canonization, because of the following incident. In the early 1950's two Sisters of Charity planted a Mother Seton medal on the 16-acre hillside property of this then new parish and promised that Mother Seton would see to it that a Catholic school would rise here some day. It has come true—the only Catholic school on the Pacific shore between San Francisco and Santa Cruz. While some Catholic schools are closing, we are expanding. A relic-medal of Blessed Mother Seton has been placed in the foundation of the new schoolroom being added.

Rev. P. A. K.

CONVENT STATION, N. J.—A few months ago I was very badly beaten by a young intruder. He threw me the length of the room and broke my hip, shoulder and collarbone. He then bound and blindfolded me and hit me on the head. After ransacking various rooms he came back to me three different times demanding money. I prayed to Mother

Mother Seton's Livorno

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Lady's intercession here. On the wall of the church hung a picture of our *Beata*. She and the Filicchi family visited this church in 1804.

The priests told of the celebrations that Bishop Guano had conducted in various churches in Livorno in thanksgiving for Mother Seton's beatification in March 1963. A ceremony and Mass of thanksgiving had also taken place in the beautiful cathedral of Livorno which is located in the center of the City. This historic cathedral was heavily bombed during World War II but has been restored.

It was a memorable day.

Seton that he would leave and would not touch me again. I was in the hospital for 44 days. No one can understand why the intruder did not kill me, but I know that Mother Seton saved me.

S. M. M. S.

BRICK TOWN, N. J.—The husband of a dear friend of mine fell three stories to frozen ground and suffered severe brain damage. Doctors had given up hope for recovery and intimated that he be committed to an institution. I gave him a relic of Mother Seton and his condition began to improve. To my knowledge the doctors have been unable to explain satisfactorily why the sudden turn of events. We are very grateful to Mother Seton for her intercession.

E. H.

Mother Seton Guild

Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Address Correction Requested

The Mother Seton Guild, as the Apostolic Postulation, is the official organization for the Cause under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of the Saints.

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