

Unable to make enough money in New York to support her family, she accepted Archbishop Carroll's invitation and came to Baltimore to establish a school there. Soon, she was joined by other young women, and together, they formed a new religious community: the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's. They founded a school for poor children as well, beginning the parochial school movement in the United States.

In 1812, Archbishop Carroll approved the rule of the new community, which then consisted of eighteen nuns. The newly approved community elected Elizabeth as the superior of the group, now known as the Sisters of Charity.

Elizabeth was to suffer further losses in her life, among them two of her daughters who died at very young ages, but her commitment never wavered. The pain and grief only seemed to strengthen her deep faith in God.

The community Mother Seton founded was firmly established by the time of her death on January 4, 1821. It has blossomed today into an international community of some 28,000 Sisters of Charity. Pope Paul VI canonized Mother Seton on September 14, 1975. She is the first native-born American to be canonized. +

COMMENT: Elizabeth Seton had no extraordinary gifts. She was not a mystic or stigmatic. She did not prophesy or speak in tongues. She had two great devotions: abandonment to the will of God and an ardent love for the Blessed Sacrament. She wrote to a friend, Julia Scott, that she would prefer to exchange the world for a "cave or a desert." "But 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." Her brand of sanctity is open to everyone if we love God and do his will.

QUOTE: Elizabeth Seton told her sisters, "The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will."



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NOVENA TO SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON



MOTHER AND TEACHER

NOVENA TO ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS ARE REPEATED ONCE A DAY FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE DAYS

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us Pray: O God, who instructs the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON TO GOD THE FATHER

O Father, the first rule of Our dear Savior's life was to do Your Will. Let His Will of the present moment be the first rule of our daily life and work, with no other desire but for its most full and complete accomplishment. Help us to follow it faithfully, so that doing what You wish we will be pleasing to You. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, make our hearts and souls to know and understand the grace of the Holy Sacrament of the Altar as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton did. Grant us her fervor in adoration, her ardor in communion, and her unceasing desire for eternal union with You. Amen.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us (**mention your request here**).

Lord God,

You blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to Your people. Through her example and prayers, may we learn to express our love for You in love for our fellow men and women.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Lord Jesus, who was born for us in a stable, lived for us a life of pain and sorrow, and died for us upon a cross; say for us in the hour of death, "Father, forgive," and to Thy Mother, "Behold thy child."
Say to us, "This day you shall be with Me in paradise."

Dear Savior, leave us not, forsake us not.

We thirst for You, Fountain of Living Water.

Our days pass quickly along; soon all will be consummated for us. Into Your hands we commend our spirits, now and forever. Amen.

FINAL ACCLAMATION

Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a saint for our time.

Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of faith,
for a time of doubt and uncertainty.

Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of love,
for a time of coldness and division.

Elizabeth Ann Seton, you are a woman of hope,
for a time of crisis and discouragement.

Intercede for our Church and our country. Amen. +

HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION

Elizabeth Bayley was born on August 28, 1774, in New York City to Catherine Charlton and Dr. Richard Bayley. Her parents were devout Episcopalians. When Elizabeth was nineteen, she married William Seton, a rich shipping merchant, They lived in Manhattan where over the course of the next eight years they had five children.

In 1799, William Seton's shipping business was near bankruptcy and his health was failing. Four years later, the couple, taking their eldest child with them, traveled to Italy in hopes that the change in climate would improve William's health. These hopes were in vain; on December 27, 1803, William died in Italy, and Elizabeth was suddenly a widow, stranded in a foreign land.

During her grief, she stayed with the Filicchis, a wealthy, devoutly Catholic Italian family, and found herself drawn to their faith. When she returned to New York in 1804, she horrified her family and friends by announcing that she had decided to become a Catholic. Elizabeth Ann Seton — a widow, penniless, and with no support from her family — became a Catholic on March 14, 1805.

For several years, the young single mother tried a number of occupations in an attempt to support her family. All of them failed. In 1809, she decided to pursue the profession of her father, who had been a professor at Kings College (modern-day Columbia University), and the rector of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore informed her that the Archbishop John Carroll was interested in starting a school for girls in his Archdiocese.