

MOTHER SETON

Foundress of the Sisters of Charity of the United States

The cause of the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Seton, a convert to the Church, the mother of five children and the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of the United States was one of the important subjects of discussion at the recent meeting of the hierarchy at Washington.

Elizabeth Bayley, the child destined to become one of the most remarkable and saintly characters in the history of the Church in America, was born in New York City on August 25, 1774, two years before the Declaration of Independence. Her father, Richard Bayley, was an eminent physician. Her mother, Catherine Charlton, was the daughter of an Episcopal minister. Both were non-Catholics. One of Mr. Bayley's sons, by a second wife, Guy Carlton Bayley, was the father of James Roosevelt Bayley, who, after his conversion, became Bishop of Baltimore.

Elizabeth Bayley, whose mother died when she was quite young, was educated chiefly by her father, a man of great natural virtue, who trained her in the lessons of self-restraint, as well as in intellectual pursuits. The girl was very religious and read industriously, her note books indicating a special interest in historical and religious works. She wore on her person a small Crucifix and often expressed astonishment that this practice was not more prevalent among those of her own communion. Her great delight was reading the Scriptures especially the Psalms, a practice which she continued until her death.

At the age of twenty, Elizabeth Bayley was married to William Magee Seton, a prosperous merchant. Nine years later, in 1803, when five children had been born Mr. Seton's health declined and a sea voyage being advised by his physicians, Mrs. Seton decided to accompany her husband abroad, taking with her the oldest daughter, Anna. They sailed for Italy, but the tedious sea voyage proved too much for Mr. Seton's health and he died in Pisa on December 27th, 1803, leaving the widow and daughter among strangers in a strange land.

Mr. Seton's business connection had brought him into contact with a prominent family of Italian Catholics, the Filicchi, who after his death threw open their doors to his wife and daughter. It was while sojourning among the Filicchi, and visiting the beautiful churches of Italy, that Catholic devotion made its deep impression on Mrs. Seton. The Filicchi presented to her the claims of the true faith and arranged for her a correspondence with Bishop Ceverus and Bishop Carroll. On the other hand, another friend, Mr. Hobart, who later became an Episcopal bishop, tried to dissuade her from the step she was now contemplating, that of renouncing Anglicanism for Catholicity.

Eventually, the answer came to her prayers for enlightenment. She returned to America, and on Ash Wednesday March 14, 1805, was received into the Church by the Rev. Matthew O'Brien, of St. Peter's Church, Barclay Street, New York. On March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, she made her first holy communion.

Two great questions now occupied Mrs. Seton's attention. First, that of selecting a more perfect state of life, and, second, that of training her children, especially in reference to their own religious welfare. She felt called by Almighty God to devote her life to the cause of religion and charity.

While considering these matters, she had the happiness of seeing her children embrace the true faith. Her two sons entered Georgetown College, and Father Dubourg, president of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, knowing that she was socially ostracized by her former friends, advised her to come to Baltimore, which she did, bringing her three daughters. He offered her a house wherein to found a private school for the instruction of young ladies. In this enterprise, which prospered, she regulated her own actions, as if she had already entered upon the life of a religious, and soon was joined by other women who offered their services in the work. The advisability and practicability of founding a religious community was now very seriously discussed, especially when Cecelia Conway, of Philadelphia, who had contemplated going to Europe to fulfill a religious vocation, joined the number.

Mr. Samuel Cooper, a convert from Anglicanism and a student for the priesthood at Mt. St. Mary's, now offered the sum of ten thousand dollars to further the project which the little band of women had in mind. A farm was bought near the village of Emmitsburg, and a log house, still preserved, became the abode of Mother Seton and her co-workers. On July 31, 1809, they took possession, the original community consisting of sixteen persons, including Mother Seton's three daughters and her two sisters-in-law.

In establishing the Order, Mother Seton laid solidly the foundation of a remarkable religious community, selecting for its guidance the rule of St. Vincent de Paul, observed by the Daughters of Charity in France and adopting the habit of the French community, with the picturesque corsette which is today seen in so many cities of the land. The rule, with some modifications, was approved by Archbishop Carroll in 1812, and on July 19, 1813, Mother Seton and eighteen companions made their vows.

Schools, hospitals, prisons, asylums, the hovels of the poor and even the battlefields, have been the scenes of the labors of the community founded by Mother Seton. In 1814 the society was asked to take charge of an orphan asylum in Philadelphia, and in 1817 a similar request came from New York. In 1816 the institution of Emmitsburg was incorporated in Maryland.

The community was thus already flourishing before the death of Mother Seton, from pulmonary trouble, on Jan. 4, 1821. She died breathing the names of "Jesus, Mary and Joseph," and after reciting her favorite prayer, "Agnus Dei." In 1849 the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg were formally admitted with the daughters of Charity in France and since then have been under the rule of the Mother House in Paris. The number of sisters in communities originating from Mother Seton's original foundation is now more than seven thousand.

CREED FOR EVERY AMERICAN

Undeniable "Good Thing" to Which All Citizens Should Subscribe and Pass Along

Nearly every reader is familiar with the expression, "It's a good thing, pass it along." The other day attention was attracted by a "good thing" which is here passed along. It is a "financial creed" for every man, woman and child suggested by the savings directors of the 12 federal reserve districts. Read it carefully. It is as follows:

- I believe in the United States of America.
- My opportunity and hope depend upon her future.
- I believe that her stability and progress rest upon the industry and thrift of her people.
- Therefore, I will work hard and live simply.
- I will spend less than I earn.
- I will use my earnings with care.
- I will save consistently.
- I will invest thoughtfully.
- To increase the financial strength of my country and myself, I will buy government securities.
- I will hold above barter the obligations my country thus incurs.
- I will do these things to insure the greatness of America's Future.

CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION IS NEEDED

The speech delivered by the Hon. David I. Walsh, United States Senator from Massachusetts, in the United States Senate, on present economic disorders, is timely and constructive. The greatest question before the nation today is the high cost of living, and the paramount issue to be decided is whether such condition will be allowed to continue.

The excessive gains reaped by giant industries controlling a nation's supply of necessities of life come from the pockets of the ultimate consumer. The great mass of the people who earn wages and labor for a living are paying a toll to greed unparalleled in the history of human selfishness. Great corporations are reported to have paid stock dividends galore, and to have enriched their stockholders beyond the dreams of modern avarice, yet public opinion has been fed with smug phrases about war time conditions, inexorable economic law, and the high cost of labor. Meanwhile, the American people, who are the best natured people in the world, long suffering and patient, are becoming sullen and ill-natured under repeated extortions.

This is still a government of laws. Representative government has not broken down. As Senator Walsh well says: "Our splendid form of government has been so organized that under every abuse can ultimately be remedied, every wrong righted, if even there is not existing at present the means for any particular task, the people themselves through the ballot, through the instrumentalities which party government and the ballot amply provide, can confer the powers, enact the laws, served, become the secure the constitutional changes necessary to effect their purpose." Our government is the best on earth. We have the remedies in our own hands. To cast off the octopus that is strangling the country is the work of statesmanship, of the press, and of all

Americans. As the Senator from Massachusetts again says: "to give this answer is the best Americanism that Indiana Catholic can be preached; to apply it, the best Americanism that can be practiced."

TO THE ARMY OF DISCONTENT

The Cities Service Co. report 38,858 stockholders of record. Each receiving substantial monthly dividends from their company, to remind them of the greater pleasure to be derived from saving and renting their capital out, than from standing on the street corners and ranting against successful men who happen to prosper from their industry.

CITIES SERVICE CO.

Earnings for 8 months ending Aug. 31, 1920

	8 months ending Aug. 31, 1920	8 months ending Aug. 31, 1919	Increase
Gross Earnings	\$16,875,443.45	\$13,647,249.15	\$3,228,194.30
Expenses	463,187.37	470,343.91	*7,156.54
Net Earnings	16,412,256.08	13,176,905.22	3,235,350.86
Int on Debentures	1,284,702.58	1,282,699.28	2,003.30
Net to Stock	15,127,553.50	11,894,205.94	3,233,347.56
Div. Pfd. Stock	3,087,047.20	2,769,317.50	327,729.70
Net to Reserves, Common Stock and Surplus	12,040,506.30	9,124,888.44	2,915,617.86

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	Market Price	Yield about
Cities Service Co. Debenture C (Bonds)	94 1/2	7 4-10%
Cities Service Co. 6% Pref. Stock	65 1/4	9%
Cities Service Co. Bankers Shares (Com.)	34 1/8	12%
Empire Gas & Fuel 8% Pref. Stk.	84 1/8	9 1/2%

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