

# Mother Seton

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dwelling house on Staten Island, where he had Elizabeth and her children, spend the summer. She observed the piety and religious demeanor of the Irish emigrants who were quarantined there under the doctor's care.

She noted: "The first thing these poor people did when they got their tents was to assemble on the ground, and all kneeling adored Our Maker for the mercy and every morning sun lit them repeating their praises."

In August, 1801, Dr. Bayley ministering to a crowded number of passengers and crew from a newly-arrived ship, was taken ill of the very contagion from which he sought to preserve others.

Realizing he was about to die, and worried lest, in spite of his great moral virtues, that his soul's salvation was in danger, Mrs. Seton first had recourse to prayer for his recovery, but principally for the welfare of his soul.

In the arms of her dear husband, and with full confidence in God's goodness, she then, upon inspiration, went to the cradle of her baby Catherine whom she took up in her arms.

Out on the balcony of the building she raised up the child to heaven, and apostrophized: "O Jesus, my merciful Father and God! Take this little innocent offering; my heart; take it, my Lord, I give it to Thee with all but save my father's soul."

God did not take the sacrifice. Little Catherine later became a Sister of Mercy and the only one of the children to live to old age. Dr. Bayley expired a few days later. He was the demurest and perfectest gentleman, honest and shrewdly honorable and thoroughly fearless.

Just a year after the doctor's death, Mrs. Seton's fifth child was born Aug. 20, 1802. Baptized Rebecca on the Feast of St. Michael, the event was recorded by the mother's pen. "This day my little Rebecca was received into the ark of Our Lord."

**Rooted in Charity**

Continuing, perhaps a commentary of her own philosophy, Mrs. Seton wrote: "She (the infant) has been blessed . . . that she . . . being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may pass through the waves of this troublesome world, that finally she may enter the land of everlasting life."

In 1808 the physicians decided that Mrs. Seton's health required a sea voyage, and Elizabeth determined to accompany her to Italy with her eldest daughter, Anna Maria, who was also the four younger children, William, Richard, Catherine, and Rebecca were left in the care of their Aunt Rebecca. Those of her foster

brood were left with other relatives.

In early October they sailed aboard the little ship Shepherdess, commanded by a jovial Irishman, Captain O'Brien, whose wife was on board with their 18-month-old daughter. During the 36-day voyage to Leghorn, Italy, both children caught the whooping cough, but it was otherwise a tranquil passage. They were not disturbed by Barbary Pirates in the Mediterranean.

**Quarantined at Port**

They were detained at the port lazaretto (quarantine) for four weeks because of Mr. Seton's illness, and there she nursed her husband and child through a difficult period of which she wrote: "Wednesday, Nov. 23. Not only willing to take my cross, but to kiss it, and while I was praying for our country, Mrs. Seton's illness was almost insupportable for her. Her strength was going from her; from then she became sinking."

This lazaretto, or pest house, was a bad place for the sick. They were locked in barred cells, cold and windy, with damp walls, and for beds had only mattresses upon boards.

Their friends in the city did all possible to help them and ease the distresses, but the authorities were fearful of the contagion spreading.

**Italian Friends**

These friends were the Filicchi Brothers, merchants with whom Grandfather Seton had long done business and with whom William Magee had formerly stayed during his earlier travels in Europe. In Leghorn her stepbrother Guy Carleton Bayley was employed in the Filicchi firm.

Thus did the mother's serenity and cheerfulness impress the little girl, whose own morale was a reflection upon the valiant spirit of the worried young wife.

**Out of the Dungeon**

Finally, on Dec. 19, they were released from the dungeon, in which the father had almost died. On shipboard and in the pesthouse they had been confined 56 dreary days since leaving New York, and all three were so pale and pitiful that all Leghorn was touched by the trials which the Americans had endured.

The Filicchi Brothers hurried them to the cordial climate of Pisa, 15 miles away. But William Seton died just eight days after his removal from the terrible lazaretto.

Next week's installment will relate the conversion of Elizabeth Seton to the Catholic Faith, a story which begins in Italy and climaxes with her Baptism in New York.



**Thanks To America, Milk Everyday!**  
"How shy can you get?" is the question these pretty little Pakistani girls seem to answer as they are photographed drinking their daily ration of milk supplied them every day by the American Catholic Relief Services-N.C.W.C. (N.C. Catholic)

## Red Terrorists Strike At China Bishops, Clergy

(Continued from Page 1) and those acting on behalf of the government."

In his message, sent here just before his arrest, Bishop Tang stated that he is determined to continue his resistance to the demands of the communists. They want him to resign his bishopric, admit that he had done wrong in denying the Sacraments to "patriotic Catholics" and to break relations with the Holy See.

The Bishop said that he fears neither death nor imprisonment, but added that he is apprehensive lest he be broken down and sign compromising documents if he is subjected to severe physical pressure.

Bishop Tang has already undergone "arduous and fatiguing" public denunciation demonstrations, each lasting from two to four hours, eye-witnesses have reported here.

As the communists intensify their drive against the Church throughout China, an account of the election of a "patriotic bishop" for the diocese of Chengtu has appeared in a communist newspaper.

The Szechuan Jih Pao states that Father Li Hsiung was "elected" bishop and Fathers Tang Chun and Li Tao-Kwei auxiliary bishops at a meeting held on December 16, the day after the indoctrination courses for Szechuan Catholics were formally closed by the communists.

**WITH NO BISHOP** present the members of the Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics did not attempt even a pretense of a valid consecration. The paper reported the "consecration and installation" of the new "bishop" as follows:

"Father Yang Shih-ya and three others, on behalf of the entire body of delegates, offered the ring, token of authority to the newly elected bishop while Tang Ching, the new auxiliary bishop put the ring on the bishop's finger. Leading members of the clergy and the faithful then kissed the ring."

"With the council as witness," the story continued, "Li-placing his hand on the Bible was sworn in as full bishop of Chengtu Diocese. He said in his pledge: 'I personally feel I am not fully capable of shouldering such heavy responsibilities. . . . From now on I will guide the clergy'

## PARABLES FOR TODAY

(Continued from Page 1)

God the Divine Planner. In planning and trying to build with his own hands a lasting city in this world modern man is guilty of playing God.

The folly of all our modern blind planners was exposed long ago by Our Lord in his famous parable called "the Rich Fool" or "the Rich Miser." Christ's Parable of the Rich Fool might better be called the story of the Man Who Played God.

This Rich Man's mistake was not that he was rich. His fault was that he was foolish. Like the modern planners of our own destiny, the Rich Man dedicated himself to the accumulation of worldly wealth and placed all his hope in his own ability to become successful.

He planned and worked to get ahead of everybody else. He planned to have a goodly share of this world's goods. And his greedy efforts paid off. He began to prosper. He had to tear down his old barn and build bigger barns to hold and build bigger barns to hold and house all his possessions.

**FINALLY THE** day came when the Rich Fool "had it made," as we say today. All his dreams were realized. He was content and secure in his planned prosperity.

Delighted with his success the Rich Man sat down to congratulate himself. "Come, soul," he said to himself, "thou has goods in plenty laid up for many years to come. Take thy rest now, eat, drink, and make merry." (Luke 12:19)

At this very moment this Rich Man's self-made Paradise came tumbling down. His little world fell apart. Here God whom the Rich Man had forgotten stepped into the picture and said to him:

"Thou fool, this night thou must render up thy soul. And who will be master now of all thou has laid up?" (Luke 12:20)

Such is the fate of "the Man who played God." The Rich Fool, Christ tells us, is the tragic figure of the man "who lays up treasure for himself and has no credit with God." (Luke 12:21)

**THE SIN** of our modern age is the sin of the Rich Fool — the folly of playing God. This is the blunder of trusting in our bank account more than Divine Providence. Modern man's distrust of God is not a new or modern sin, only today it has grown more popular.

Today we have returned to the Original Sin — the sin that brought the first Paradise crashing in ruin. Like Adam and Eve we are tempted to think that we "shall be gods" on our own. Given half a chance to do things our way, we hope that our eyes "shall be opened" to see the dawn of a new day. Like Adam and Eve we stretch our hands to the forbidden fruit and ignore God's warning of sudden death.

In our frantic efforts to build here a lasting city we forget the warning of the Psalmist: "Unless God builds the city, they labor in vain who build." In our passion for planning our own future and fortune we forget that "man proposes but God disposes."

The modern apostasy from God, particularly as it is reflected in our own country, does not mean that we Americans hate God or no longer love Him. Only that many of us no longer trust Him. The more we have placed our trust in worldly possessions the more we have lost our confi-

## Pope Tells Orders To Stress Quality

Vatican City — (RNS) — Quality rather than quantity should govern admissions to religious orders, Pope Pius XII cautioned at an audience to the superiors of more than 200 male congregations which have their headquarters in Rome.

He told the superiors they should be careful to receive only suitable candidates and should be more preoccupied about not accepting unworthy ones than in increasing the ranks of their orders.

**THE PONTIFF** stressed that in these times especially "it is necessary to have a united and disciplined army to oppose the enemy of the name of Jesus Christ who is now gathering all his forces."

Pope Pius warned against any easing of the rules of poverty, obedience and self-denial which govern the lives of religious. He said all superiors should be "relentlessly vigilant against any deviation" from the rules.

"EVEN THE slightest weakness can be the beginning of deplorable defections," the Pope said. "No religious can enjoy modern luxury without losing something of faith and charity."

The Pope said it is necessary for superiors to guide those under them with humility and charity, but also with resoluteness. He said strict discipline is necessary "despite what may be said by those who find religious obedience too heavy a burden in our modern times."

## U.S. Priest Heads Satellite Scientists

Accra, Ghana — (NC) — Divine Word Father John Koster, of Dunkerton, Iowa, is chief of the team of Ghana scientists who are recording the progress of the U.S. satellite, Explorer.

Father Koster and his associates were among the first ten scientists in the world to pick up the signals emitted by the satellite after it had been launched.

Working at the observatory of the University College of Ghana where Father Koster is a lecturer in physics and chaplain to Catholic students, the scientists are members of the Ghanaian committee collecting information for the International Geophysical Year.

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## Parishes Report Courier Circulation

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(gain, 7); Our Lady of the Lake, King Ferry, 62. All Saints, Ludlowville, 60. Rev. Frederick L. Wall, pastor, (gain, 22); Sacred Heart of Jesus, Perkinsville, Rev. Paul E. Tuile, pastor, 102 (gain, 8).

**Holy Family, Rochester, Rev. George J. Schmitt, pastor, 715 (gain, 30); St. Bernard, Scipio Center, 48. St. Hilary, Genoa, 40 and St. Isaac Jogues, Fleming, 18. Rev. Leo E. Hastings, pastor, St. Philip Neri, Rochester, Rev. George J. Weimann, pastor, 239 (gain, 16); St. John the Evangelist, Clyde and St. Patrick, Savannah, Rev. Paul Cuddy, pastor, 200; St. Anthony, Elmira, Rev. William A. Burns, pastor, 344 (gain, 1); St. Mary, Corning, Rev. Thomas F. Brennan, pastor, 326; Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, Magr. Thomas F. Connor, pastor, 1,052 (gain, 6).**

**St. Casimir, Elmira, Rev. La. Aelias J. Szczepanski, pastor, 385 (gain, 39); St. Mary, Canandaigua, Rev. Alphonsus P. Crimmins, pastor, 319 (gain, 17); Catholic Chapel, Bradford and St. Joseph's, Campbell, Rev. Stanislaus H. Bialaszewski, administrator, 104; St. Mary, Rev. 68 and St. Joachim, Canisteo, 107. Rev. Emmett Davis, pastor, (gain, 7); St. Patrick, Owego, 473 and St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, 122. Rev. William J. O'Brien, pastor, (gain, 84); St. John, Newark Valley, and St.**

## Formosa Tribes Joining Church

Taipei, Formosa — (RNS) — Half of the estimated 140,000 aborigines in Formosa are either baptized Catholics or are being prepared for baptism, according to an official Catholic report here.

The report said the conversion rate among the seven main aboriginal tribes continues to be "phenomenal." The aborigines are of Malayan stock.

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