

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

24 Pages

Wednesday, September 17, 1975

15 Cents

It's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Now!

St. Elizabeth's life in pictures, Pages 20-21

Vatican City — In an historic day for the United States, Pope Paul VI Sunday proclaimed its first native saint. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, born in New York City in 1775, became St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The long-awaited moment became history when the Pope proclaimed in Latin, "We declare and define that Blessed Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a saint and we inscribe her name in the calendar of saints and establish that she should be devoutly honored among the saints in the universal church."

The canonization ceremony took place outdoors in St. Peter's Square to accommodate the 120,000 onlookers, including some 15,000 Americans on hand to rejoice in the momentous occasion.

[Bishop Joseph L. Hogan led a contingent of some 60 diocesesans to the canonization.]

"Elizabeth Ann Seton was wholly American," the pontiff told the throng, in English. "Rejoice, we say to the great nation of the United States of America. Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage."

The ceremony took on an added dimension, coming as it did in International Women's Year. Pope Paul alluded to this, calling the ceremony "Vatican Woman's Day."

"We rejoice at the bond that is established between this program and today's canonization," he said.

He added, "May the dynamism and authenticity of her life be an example of what women can and must accomplish in the fulfillment of their roles, for the good of humanity."

The ceremony itself reflected this significance. The "advocates" who formally petitioned the Pope to name Blessed Mother Seton a saint, were women. From France, Spain, Italy and Nova Scotia, they represented the four stages of St. Elizabeth's life — young girl, wife,

widow and religious worker.

And in an even more significant innovation, a New Jersey nun became the first woman to assist the Pope at Mass. Sister Hildegard Marie Mahony, superior of the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station and head of the 7,500-member Federation of American Sisters of Charity, set a precedent when she read the first lesson during the canonization ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony, were two of the three recipients of St. Elizabeth's proclaimed miracles: Anne Hooe, 27, a Severn, Md., housewife, and Carl Kalin, 73, a former Yonkers resident who now lives in Florida. Mrs. Hooe was cured of leukemia in 1952 and Kalin recovered from a rare form of encephalitis in 1963, both after prayers for the intercession of Mother Seton. Vatican officials investigated both events as well as a third miracle — the curing of a New Orleans nun who had suffered from what was diagnosed as terminal cancer. She died years later of another cause.

Mrs. Hooe, moved to tears by the rites, said it was "too much for words." Kalin said, "It's wonderful, wonderful."

St. Elizabeth Ann died in 1821 in Emmitsburg, Md., her dying words — "Be children of the Church."

Her sainthood cause was begun in 1882 in Baltimore; she was beatified in 1963 and on Sunday, Sept. 14, 1975, became this country's first native-born saint.

'Ironical,' Bishop Says

OB Vote Draws Heavy Criticism

By JOHN DASH

Vowing to "fight it to the very end," Sister DeChantal La Row, administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, last week scored the Monroe County Health Council's vote that the hospital should close its obstetrical unit.

That vote, taken last Thursday, is the latest event in a process of

more than two years of research and consideration by a group whose written report was divided three ways. Four members of the report group felt that no maternity unit should close, three opted to close St. Mary's and four to close the unit at Genesee Hospital.

Council voting, however
Continued on Page 2



St. Elizabeth in Stained Glass

This stained glass window of Sister Elizabeth Seton was executed in 1866 for the President's Hall of Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. Named for her, the university was founded by her nephew, Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley of Newark, N.J. also a Catholic convert. (RNS)