

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Bishop Hogan - Courier-Journal Pilgrimage to Rome for Canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



### 'Elizabeth Ann Seton Is a Saint' Pope Paul's Homily

Yes, Venerable Brothers and beloved sons and daughters! Elizabeth Ann Seton is a Saint!

We rejoice and we are deeply moved that our apostolic ministry authorizes us to make this solemn declaration before all of you here present, before the holy Catholic Church, before our other Christian brethren in the world, before the entire American people, and before all humanity. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a Saint!



She is the first daughter of the United States of America to be glorified with this incomparable attribute!

But what do we mean when we say: "She is a Saint"?

We all have some idea of the meaning of this highest title; but it is still difficult for us to make an exact analysis of it. Being a Saint means being perfect, with a perfection that attains the highest level that a human being can reach. A Saint is a human creature fully conformed to the will of God. A Saint is a person in whom all sin — the principle of death — is cancelled out and replaced by the living splendor of divine grace. The analysis of the concept of sanctity brings us to recognize in a soul the mingling of two elements that are entirely different but which come together to produce a single effect: sanctity. One of these elements is the human and moral element, raised to the degree of heroism: heroic virtues are always required by the Church for the recognition of a person's sanctity. The second element is the

mystical element, which expresses the measure and form of divine action in the person-chosen by God to realize in herself — always in an original way — the image of Christ (cf. Rom 8, 29).

The science of sanctity is therefore the most interesting, the most varied, the most surprising and the most fascinating of all the studies of that ever mysterious being which is man.

The Church has made this study of the life, that is, the interior and exterior history, of Elizabeth Ann Seton. And the Church has exulted with admiration and joy, and has today heard her own charism of truth poured out in the exclamation that we send up to God and announce to the world: She is a Saint!

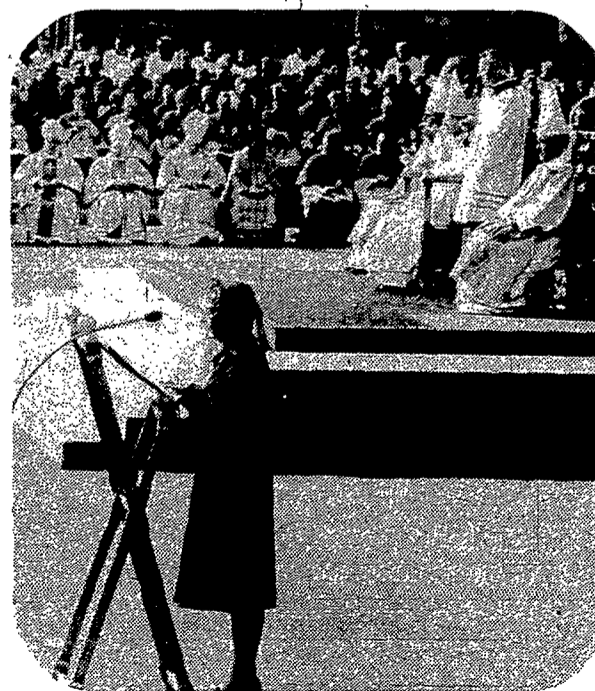
We shall not now give a panegyric, that is, the narrative which glorifies the new Saint. You already know her life and you will certainly study it further. This will be one of the most valuable fruits of the Canonization of the new Saint: to know her, in order to admire in her an outstanding human figure; in order to praise God who is wonderful in his saints; to imitate her example which this ceremony places in a light that will give perennial edification; to invoke her protection, now that we have the certitude of her participation in the exchange of heavenly life in the Mystical Body of Christ, which we call the Communion of Saints and in which we also share, although still belonging to life on earth.

We shall not therefore speak of the life of our Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. This is neither the time nor the place for a fitting commemoration of her.

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Pope Paul VI gives blessing to the multitudes in St. Peter's Square following canonization ceremony.



Sister Hildegarde Marie Mahoney, SC, general superior of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Convent, N.J., and president of the Federation of Mother Seton's Daughters speaks during the canonization.