

Bishop Hogan Blesses Mother Seton Shrine



"Father in heaven, we praise You for sending Your Spirit into our hearts to teach us to pray. Bless this painting of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and teach us to use it as an aid to sincere and devoted prayer... Almighty, everlasting God, You do not forbid us to represent Your saints in stone or wood, or paint, so that, as often as we look upon their likenesses with the eyes of our bodies, we may with the eyes of faith meditate upon their holiness and be led to imitate their deeds..."



"O God our Father, glorify here upon earth Your servant St. Elizabeth Ann Seton by manifesting the power of her intercession through the favors we now implore. Pour upon us the spirit of wisdom and love with which You filled her soul. By serving You as she did, may we please You with our faith and our actions."

A shrine in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was blessed Sunday morning in St. Thomas the Apostle Church. It is a three-panel painting that depicts the life of the first "Yankee" saint, the founder of the American Daughters of Charity, who was canonized in 1975, 54 years after her death.

Msgr. Richard K. Burns is pastor of the St. Paul Boulevard church.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan dedicated the shrine in the presence of the painter, John C. Menihan of Pittsford.

Mother Seton is pictured as a teacher and as a nurse, in springtime Maryland landscapes, and before buildings associated with her career. A New Yorker, born to social position, Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton began her charitable work as a dedicated Episcopalian. As the widowed mother of five children, she knew hardship and grief. Her conversion to Catholicism occurred during a stay in Italy. She opened the first Catholic school in the United States, in Baltimore, in 1808, and the next year she established the Daughters of Charity at Emmitsburg. Members of her order have worked in this diocese since 1845, and are widely known for their hospital, St. Mary's.

Menihan's paintings indicate all of these elements. He drew from contemporary sources — two portraits of the lady



Bishop Hogan with John Menihan, the painter.

Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

The frame was made from chestnut wood pews saved when old St. Patrick's Cathedral was demolished.

In his homily, Bishop Hogan spoke in praise of Pope Paul VI, for the excellence of his "infallible judgment" that elevated Mother Seton to sainthood.

Father Robert F. McNamara, diocesan historian, wrote an essay for the occasion in which he remarked on the particular appropriateness of having a Seton shrine in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. The New York architect who designed the church, Joseph Sanford Shanley (1894-1969), was a descendant of Mother Seton, the historian noted.

"But the chief purpose of the shrine," Father McNamara wrote, "is to introduce Elizabeth Ann to a wider public; as a saint particularly relevant to our present necessities in the United States."

"A convert from Protestantism who served as a bridge between her former and her new religionists, she is an ecumenical figure. As a woman of social position, she is a saint for the rich. As a Sister of Charity, she is a saint for the poor..."

And "she was a Vatican II Catholic long before Vatican II."

"St. Elizabeth can help all us Americans."

done in her own time, and landscape sketches by her spiritual director, Father Simon Gabriel Brute de Remur.

The paintings are done in acrylics combined with sand, on pressed wood panels. The central one, with a rounded arch, is flanked by flat-topped panels, in the Palladian style popular in the New York architecture of the early 19th century. (Mother Seton was born Aug. 28, 1774, and died Jan. 4, 1821.)

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

Another Waste of Money

There seems to be an obsession in the staff of the national hierarchy with year-long programs. Despite the failure of the "Call to Action" in 1976, we currently



Fr. Greeley are engaged in or about to embark upon a year of evangelization, a year of parish renewal and a year of the family. Like the "Call to Action", the family year involves an elaborate "plan" printed in an expensive and skillfully illustrated multicolor brochure. Called "The Plan of Pastoral Action for Family Ministry: A Vision and A Strategy", the booklet has some fine photography and not much else.

I intend no disrespect to the people responsible for "A Vision and A Strategy" when I say they have neither a vision nor a strategy. Rather they have preconceived ideas, a collection of quotations

from papal documents, and a "plan" innocent of empirical evidence, theological depth, organizational sophistication or practical experience.

There is in the "plan" no meaningful review of the sociological literature on the family or original research which antedated the elaboration of the plan, and no input from ordinary Catholic families. The plan is nothing more than an organization chart masquerading as theory, data and policy. It is doubtless well-intentioned; it is a waste of money.

And not, if one believes the rumors, an inconsiderable amount of money. The "program" is supposed to cost between \$450,000 and \$500,000 over three years. The national staff didn't have enough money to keep Msgr. George Higgins for another year or to continue the professionally competent work of Sister Ann Neale on technology and human values. But it has apparently a lot of money for a project that is not only without competency (other than in the photography and the layout of its brochure) but indeed without any substantive content.

The most glaring omission is any mention of sexuality, other than quotations from papal or episcopal documents. How can you have a "vision and strategy" about family life in the contemporary world which pays little heed to the dilemmas and ambiguities of sexual intimacy in the family relationship?

Obviously sex is a dangerous subject in the Church just now because most Catholic families ignore the church's teaching on birth control. Perhaps a document of the national hierarchy must maintain a head-in-the-sand attitude on this massive fact though one wonders why then bother with a family program at all if you are not going to deal with that dimension of the family without which there wouldn't be a family.

Before the plan was elaborated there were deliberations by an ad hoc committee on marriage and the family. I have seen a report of these deliberations and must testify that it is an intelligent and sophisticated work. It also bears very little relationship to the "plan" which allegedly grew out of the deliberations. Indeed in some respects the plan directly contradicts the recommendations of the report (by placing the research phase after the execution of the plan instead of before it, for example).



50 Years

Bishop Joseph M. Regan, a Maryknoll missionary to China and the Philippines, will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination on Jan. 27. Bishop Regan studied for two years at St. Bernard's Seminary. He is widely known as a champion of human rights in the Philippines where he is now assigned.

Students' Retreat

Basilian Fathers Joseph Trovato and Norman Tanck will lead a seminar this weekend at the Cenacle Retreat House for students from St. John Fisher and Nazareth colleges. Sessions will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and continue into Sunday afternoon, Jan. 28.

Collins Family Making Friends Across World

The Jack Collinses of Good Shepherd Parish are making friends all over the world through their printing business. In Gates and Greece and Rochester, yes; and in East Germany, India and Pakistan.

Regular customers in far-flung places have their printing done at the Collins shop on Jefferson Road "because it can be done faster and cheaper here," Collins said. New computerized equipment gives 100 copies per 80 seconds, "and that's printed, in ink."

The international business

comes through relatives here of businessmen there. They bring in orders, handle the shipping "and still the customer will get the printing faster from me than he can from printers down the street in his own country," Collins said.

"We try to get to know all our customers on a first-name basis," he added. "When they come in they know they're speaking with the owners..."

The fulltime printers include Jack's wife, Dorothy, and their children — Debra, 20; Mary, 19 and John, 18.

Heinsohn to Speak

Tom Heinsohn, former coach of the Boston Celtics, will speak here Tuesday night, Jan. 30, at the Lincoln First Bank Basketball Tournament banquet. Players, coaches and administrative officials of colleges in the tournament will attend the dinner.

Heinsohn coached the Celtics from 1969 until last season, winning the world championship in 1974 and '76. He had played forward with eight world championship teams between 1957

and 1965. An All-American at Holy Cross, he was named NBA Rookie of the Year in 1957, and he averaged 18.2 points a game during his nine years as a player. He now is a commentator for college basketball games on Cable TV, announces Boston College games and has a radio sports show.

The Lincoln First tourney will be played Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 3 at the Rochester War Memorial.