

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

The road to Emmitsburg

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Elizabeth Ann was a charming girl. She had brown eyes and milk-white skin. She was bright and beautiful.

But she knew pain and sorrow very early. Her mother died when Elizabeth was just 3.

Elizabeth loved her father very much. He was a doctor. She liked to watch for him through the window and then run out to give him a big hug and kiss.

As she grew to be a young woman, Elizabeth learned to ride horses and play musical instruments. Almost everyone liked her.

Then she met William. He fell in love with her and she with him. They married and settled down in New York. William was a successful businessman. They were very happy. Their five children added to their joy.

But their life was to change. William's business failed. They lost everything.

Then Elizabeth's father died of

yellow fever. Her sadness led her to read the Bible and to pray to God for strength.

When William became ill, Elizabeth had to sell the last of her possessions to care for him. But he died. She was now alone with her children to raise.

Only faith helped her continue. Elizabeth decided to become a Catholic.

She worked hard to support herself and her children. She was poor, but she trusted even more in God.

A priest invited her to Baltimore to teach children. He provided a place for her and her children to live. After a while the bishop of Baltimore invited Elizabeth to go to Emmitsburg, Md. Besides her three daughters she took along four young women who wanted to live and work with her.

Elizabeth and the four women called themselves Sisters of Charity. Elizabeth came to be known as Mother Seton.

At Emmitsburg Elizabeth and her sisters started a school for girls. People who could afford it paid



to have their daughters in Mother Seton's school. Poor children were allowed into the school free. Elizabeth was happy working hard for people and for God.

But two of her daughters died during the next few years. So did her two sisters-in-law. Elizabeth's heart was full of sorrow, but also full of trust in God.

People loved Mother Seton. She always was reaching out to others. She started more schools. More and more young women were attracted to her and her work. The community of the Sisters of Char-

ty kept growing.

There were problems for Mother Seton, but she trusted more and more in God. She seemed to grow stronger as the years went on, discovering strength she never suspected she had.

But then, far from being old, she became very sick and died Jan. 4, 1821. Today the church honors her as St. Elizabeth Seton.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)

Hidden Words

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. All the words are in this week's children's story.

A	F	K	M	D	E	C	Q	J	C
G	C	U	Y	E	M	P	V	S	E
B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E	O
L	T	N	F	L	I	Q	I	T	I
R	H	Z	N	K	T	R	J	O	F
H	O	R	S	E	S	U	V	N	E
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	V
H	I	A	G	N	U	O	W	X	E
S	C	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	R
B	N	T	B	H	G	M	W	R	D

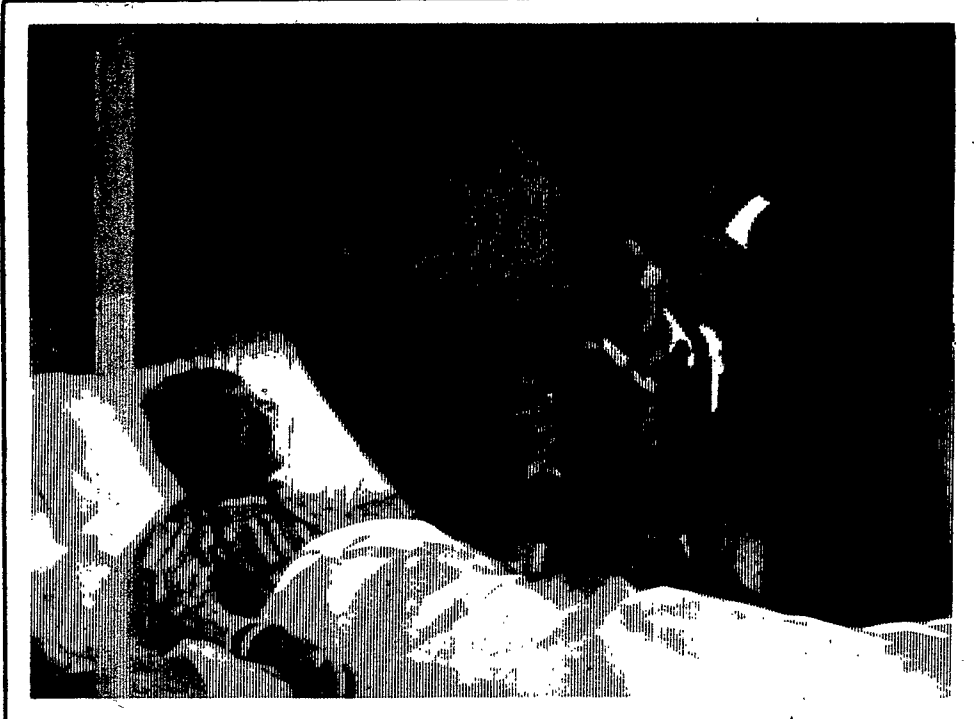
CHARITY ANN, HOUSES EMMITSBURG, BALTIMORE
SETON, ELIZABETH CATHOLIC FEVER

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you think Mother Seton was courageous? Why?

Children's Reading Corner

"Call Me Ruth" is a story by Marilyn Sachs. It tells of Rifka, a young Jewish girl, who comes to America with her mother. A new language, unfamiliar customs and long hours working in a garment factory are depressing and exhausting for the girl's mother. Then the mother finds a new source of pride by joining and becoming active in a clothing workers' union. This is a powerful story of the struggle of a child and her mother. (Doubleday and Co. Inc., 245 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Hardback, \$11.95.)



Love

Making the warmth of God's love manifest to terminally ill patients is important to the ministry of Sister Rosella Molitor, D.C. With funding from the Catholic Church Extension Society she serves the spiritual needs of those living in eastern Oklahoma's home mission territory.

Sister Molitor is one of a team of home missionaries who, in partnership with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the United States. But the team is too small to do its job without help. It needs new members. It needs you.

Join us. Become a member of the Extension team. Although you won't be present in the home missions personally, your impact will be felt in this holy effort. Together we will bring Christ to those living in the home missions.

Write for a free subscription to Extension magazine today and discover the difference you can make. Together, and with God's grace, we can achieve His missionary goals here in our own beloved country.

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