

CALL TO WORSHIP
January 4, 2009

What a special day this is as we gather to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and the feast of St. Elizabeth Seton. Not only is it Elizabeth's feast but it is the anniversary of her founding the Sisters of Charity in this country 200 years ago. From her humble beginnings in Emmitsburg, Maryland to the worldwide network of the Sisters of Charity Federation that grew from her vision, we mark the start of our year of celebration and commemoration.

This dual celebration is about relationship, about partnership with God. The Epiphany is the remembrance of the feast on which Christ first appeared to the Gentiles. They became sojourners in faith following the light of Christ as it was revealed to them. Elizabeth Seton's feast is also a story of a journey in faith. Her life story makes her an unlikely candidate to found a religious community but like the Gentiles she too is a woman on a journey of faith listening to God's direction through the joys and sorrows of her life. Both the Gentiles and Elizabeth are "copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus" as described in the second reading. We have been invited to share in the ministry of partnership spreading the faith and light of God's life within us.

So today we join with one another – Sisters, Associates, family, coworkers, friends – to thank God for the Christ child and for Elizabeth Seton who came among us to lead, invite and nudge us on our journeys of faith. These events truly bring amazement and joy to our world!