Elizabeth Ann Seton Prayer Service
Seton High School
January 5, 2009

Introduction:

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who officially established the Sisters of Charity. This is a big year for all the Sisters of Charity since it is the 200th anniversary of our origin.

Elizabeth Seton was a mother, wife, widow and convert to Catholicism. Mother Seton established the first free catholic day school and opened the first catholic orphanage in the United States. All of this began in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1809. She is known as the Patron Saint of Catholic Education in the United States. Today there are thousands of women around the world dedicated to carrying on her mission.

Please stand for our opening Song: We Three Kings Vs 1-4

Let Us Pray: God of Wonder, you blessed the people of this country through Elizabeth Seton and the women of Charity who have followed her. May we continue to educate, heal, love and serve as she would have us do. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: A Reading from the Book of Micah 6:8

You have been told what is good, and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.
The word of the Lord

For our responsorial psalm we will sing one of
Elizabeth Ann Seton's favorite Psalm;
Psalm 23: Shepherd me, O God.

Seniors & Juniors will sing the first verse, Sophomores & Freshman the second verse
And all of us the third verse. Everyone will sing the refrain. Please stand.

Shepherd me, O God.

Prayer: Holy God, your grace for Elizabeth Ann Seton was found in her experiences as wife, mother, foundress, educator, friend. In her footsteps and in her company may we learn the sources of grace in our lives and come to an understanding of your great love for us. We pray with the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' name. Amen

Reflection:

Reading: (Taken from praying with Elizabeth Seton)
In a letter of 1810, Elizabeth included an account of the sisters community service: "We have a very very large school to superintend every day, and the entire charge of the religious instruction of all the country round. Our blessed Bishop intends removing a detachment of us to Baltimore to perform the same duties there."

Mother Seton instructed her sisters in the words of Jesus: "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." The charity of our blessed Lord in the course of his ministry had these distinct qualities which should be the model of our conduct: His ministry was gentle, benevolent and universal.

Jesus calls us to love and serve others, Mother Seton did in her time as well, and this community's service carries on today through us.

I'm going to ask you to close your eyes and we will take some quiet time for you to do some reflecting and answer these questions to yourself.

Many of us have seen people on a corner, holding a sign, "Will work for food" Do I really allow myself to really see these people? How does such a sight make me feel? What could I do? What do I do?

Time is a precious commodity and a valuable gift. Who gives me their time and makes me feel valuable with this gift? Who deserves the gift of my time? Do I give this gift generously and regularly?

Service to our neighbors should be a free gift. Think of times when:
I gave the gift of healing (physical, emotional or spiritual) when I…
I gave the gift of feeding when I… I gave the gift of sheltering when I…
I gave the gift of hospitality when I… I gave the gift of visiting to when I…

Jesus, servant to all humankind, give me the vision and the humility to see you in other people, especially in those who are poor and suffering. Grant me the courage and compassion to be your hands, your wisdom, and your heart in service to my sisters and brothers. Amen

You may open your eyes as we continue our prayer service. Please Stand.

Petitions: Our response is: Blessed Be God Forever

O God, you raised up Elizabeth Seton to be an inspiration for many. In thanksgiving for the gift of her life, we pray, Blessed be God Forever.

Elizabeth Seton was widowed at an early age; may all who sorrow and are lonely be comforted, we pray, Blessed be God forever.

Through the intercession of Elizabeth Seton, a convert to the Catholic faith, may we come to a better understanding and appreciation of our differences in our efforts to live the Gospel, we pray,

Blessed be God Forever.
You inspired her to found the Sisters of Charity; help all religious men and women be faithful in following their religious commitment to Christ, we pray, Blessed be God Forever.

You filled her with zeal for the education of youth; guide all teachers and educators to enable students to grow in wisdom and their love of God, we pray, Blessed be God forever.

That students will appreciate their opportunity to learn and acquire a love for learning that will last them a lifetime, we pray, Blessed be God Forever.

For the sick in our Seton community and among our families and friends that they experience God's healing strength, we pray, Blessed be God forever.

O God, we give you thanks for the life of Elizabeth Seton. May the values she cherished be continued in your world today. May the holiness of her life inspire all to serve you and work only for your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Memorare was one of Elizabeth's favorite prayers. Together let us pray it.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother! To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen

Litany:

Elizabeth, Loving Daughter
All: Encourage in all children obedience and love.

Elizabeth, Troubled Teenager
All: Speak to today's confused, sometimes abused young people.

Elizabeth Faithful Wife
All: Grant gifts of love and generosity to all spouses.

Elizabeth, Caring Mother
All: Share your mother's heart with all parents

Elizabeth, Loyal Friend
All: Teach us to share friendship generously.

Elizabeth, Courageous Convert
All: Strengthen the newly baptized as they embrace the faith.

Elizabeth, Sorrowing Mother
All: Console those parents suffering the loss of a child.

Elizabeth, Steadfast Religious
All: Inspire young women to follow in your path.

Elizabeth, Inspired Educator
All: Share your gifts with all teachers.

Elizabeth, A woman for all women
All: Bestow your charism of love and service on all women today.

Please join us in our closing song: We Three Kings
Verses 1 & 5