

Our Heritage

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF CINCINNATI



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

We invite you to enjoy this overview history of our Congregation. The spirit of Elizabeth Seton and Margaret George, our founders, is very much alive in our community of charity, even though many changes in church and society have taken place since our foundation in 1809. As we continue our pilgrim journey, we wish to thank all persons who have walked with us along the way, and we will remember them in prayer.



Elizabeth Seton (1774-1821)

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was born in New York, raised a member of the Episcopal Church, married William Magee Seton at the age of 19, and had five children before her husband's death in 1803. The young widow converted to Catholicism in 1805, and three years later she left her native city to open a school in Baltimore. Soon joined by other women, she founded the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland, July 31, 1809.

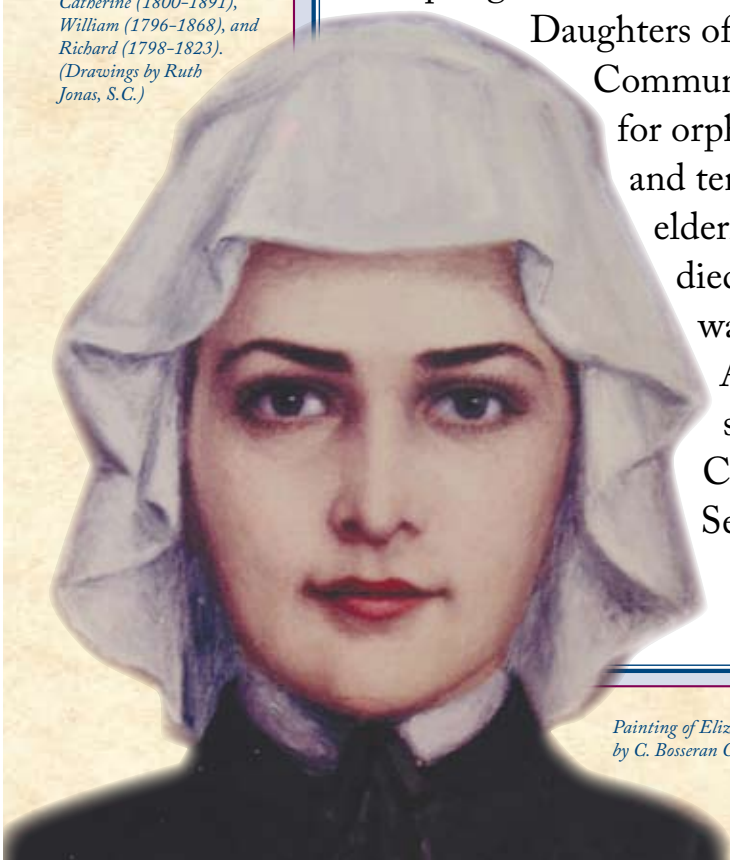
Adapting the Vincentian rule of the French Daughters of Charity, this American Community opened schools, cared for orphans, visited the sick, and tended to the poor and elderly. Elizabeth Seton died January 4, 1821, and was named the first American-born saint in the Catholic Church September 15, 1975.



Elizabeth Seton married William Magee Seton January 25, 1794, in New York City. Their children were, from left to right, Rebecca (1802-1816), Anna Maria (1795-1812), Catherine (1800-1891), William (1796-1868), and Richard (1798-1823). (Drawings by Ruth Jonas, S.C.)



In 1808-1809 Elizabeth Seton ran a school for girls on Paca Street in Baltimore adjacent to St. Mary Seminary and College.



Painting of Elizabeth Seton by C. Bosseran Chambers.

