

## **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Good Morning!

Today is the feast of Elizabeth Ann Seton. She is the first person born in the United States to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church. She is a woman of great faith and trust and love.

We have invited Elizabeth and her family to tell you a little about her. Good morning William!

Good morning. My name is William M. Seton. In 1794 I married the beautiful Elizabeth. We lived in New York and were very happy. I worked in my family's shipping and importing business. Elizabeth and my sister, Rebecca, organized women to do charitable work among the poor. During these years we had 5 children. This is my oldest daughter, Anna.

Hi! Being the oldest, 8 years old at the time, I got to go to Italy with my parents. It wasn't exactly a wonderful trip. You see, my dad had contracted tuberculosis, which is a lung disease. The doctor told him he had to go to a warm climate to save his health. So we were going to Leghorn to visit the Filicchis, friends of my dad. When we go to Italy we were quarantined for 30 days. My dad's health got worse. It was a difficult time but we read from the bible every day and that helped us to get through it.

That wasn't the end of our sorrows. Eight days after we were released from the quarantine my husband died. The Filicchis were good to us and invited us to stay with them. While I was with them I began to go to Mass and learn about the catholic faith. When I got back to New York, I started to teach in order to support my family. I then

established a school in Baltimore, where I also was starting the Sisters of Charity. You haven't met my oldest son yet. His name is also William.

Hi! You can see I was named after my father. After he died I liked to think of myself as the man of the family – but all that usually got me was hard work! Like the time at my mother's school moved from Baltimore to Emmitsburg. We had to take all our belongings and furniture by wagon. I'll give you one guess who had to do all the heavy lifting! My brother, Richard helped. Here he is.

Hi! My mom's school was a school for girls. Just incase you are thinking William and I had to attend it, we didn't. We just wouldn't have been able to stand that many females! Two miles away was Mt. St. Mary College and seminary. We boarded there. Mom missed us and we missed her, so she arranged to have dinner with us every Tuesday night. We were glad for a good home cooked meal. Have you met my sister, Rebecca?

Everyone calls me Becky. I'm the youngest. I don't always get my way, and I'm not a pest. I loved our school because I had so many friends. Some of the girls were boarders and lived here at school. Others came just for the day. We studied arithmetic, geography, French, music, sewing and religion. It was especially recess! Here's my Sister, Catherine.

My nickname was Kit. My favorite at the school was the Sisters. You could see that they loved the children and were good teachers. I used to watch them pray and I wanted to be just like them.