



Elizabeth Ann Seton
Prayer Service
January 4, 2012

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE FEAST OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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Opening Hymn: "We Are Called"

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God.

Leader: Mother Seton was a woman of great faith. Faith fundamentally means trust in God and the development of a close relationship with God. Elizabeth Ann Seton knew God's love and care for her.

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-10

Reader: In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a Saint for our times;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of faith for a time of doubt and uncertainty;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of love for a time of coldness and division;
In Elizabeth Ann Seton we have a woman of hope for a time of crisis and discouragement;
Thanks be to God for this saintly daughter, for this valiant woman of God's church.
(Terence Cardinal Cooke)

Mother Seton's spirit lives on in the institutions she founded, but she also wrote many letters to friends and family and kept a diary. Here are two thoughts to ponder.
"The nearer a soul is truly united to God, the more its sensibilities are increased to every being of His creation, much more to those whom it is bound to love by the tenderest and most endearing ties."

"If I succeed, I bless God; if I do not succeed I bless God."

Quiet reflection/Sharing if you wish

Leader: May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith and may charity be the root and foundation of our lives. To Him whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: Look with favor on all Sisters of Charity as they live their lives in the footsteps of Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Response: O Lord listen to our prayer.

Leader: Guide our leaders as they direct us toward the Mission of our Congregation in education, service to the needy and sick, and all social interests.

Response: O Lord listen to our prayer.

Leader: Help each of us to live the life expressed in our Constitution and directives as we journey in our ministries.

Response: O Lord listen to our prayer.

Leader: May there be an increase in vocations to continue the mission of the Sisters of Charity.

Response: O Lord listen to our prayer.

Closing Prayer

All: Lord, God you blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and Foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to your people. Through her example and prayers may we learn to express our love for you in love of our fellow men and women.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Let Everything That Breathes Praise God"
(or any appropriate hymn to Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton)

O let ev'rything, ev'rything that breathes praise God.
Let ev'rything that breathes praise God.

Praise God in the temple, in dwelling time and place
Praise God in the firmament, transcending holy space.

Praise God, in highest glory, compassionate on earth.
Praise God's sovereign majesty, tending all the weak on earth.

Praise God with the blast of trumpet.
Praise God with timbrel and dance.
Praise God with clanging symbols.
Praise God with lyre, strings and harp.