

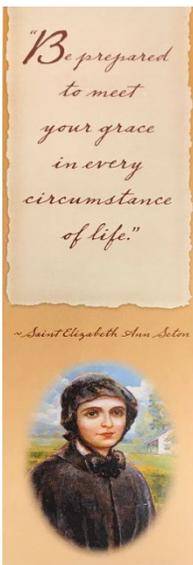


United in Prayer for Vocations | November 2022

Prepared by the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill at the request of the Federation Vocation Core Team

A monthly prayer service is being prepared by each branch in our Federation. The purpose is to pray for vocations, to help us learn a bit more about the charisms of each of our congregations, keep us engaged collaboratively in vocation ministry and bring us closer to seeing ourselves sharing a common Mission of Charity for the present and the future.

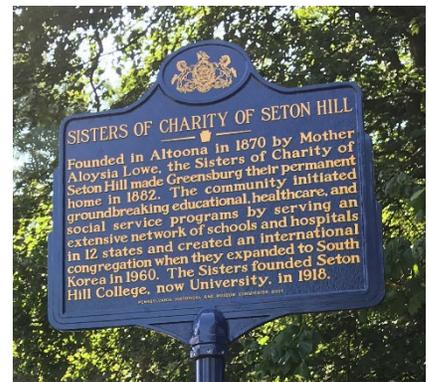
Introduction to the beginnings of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill



The opening passage of the original rule adopted in 1812 by St. Elizabeth Seton reveals the single motivation and the universal mission which inspired St. Vincent de Paul: “The principal end for which God has called and assembled the Sisters of Charity is to honour Jesus Christ our Lord as the source and model of all Charity by rendering Him every temporal spiritual service in their power in the Persons of the poor, either sick, invalid, children, prisoners, even the insane, or others who thro’ shame would conceal their necessities.” (Original Rule, 1812).

The [Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill](#) received its lasting name by unanimous approval when the sisters journeyed from Altoona, Pennsylvania, where they began in 1870, to the large farm Mother Aloysia Lowe had purchased in 1882 situated on a hilltop in the town of Greensburg. The view was breathtaking, the air was fresh and clean, unlike the intense pollution of the industries and trainyards that made up Altoona. To name the hill, Seton Hill, was so easy considering the clear skies overhead that Elizabeth Seton would have cherished.

A school was begun at the cathedral nearby. An academy was initiated at Seton Hill. A Junior College was established, and finally in 1918, Seton Hill received its four-year college charter and status and, later, university status in 2002. The community answered Pope John XXIII’s call for congregations to consider opening a mission beyond their home borders. Four sisters were sent to South Korea in 1960. After becoming a province, the Korean sisters responded to invitations to begin a mission in China and Ecuador. Through the past 152 years, Elizabeth’s words continue to echo forth:



“Be prepared to meet your grace in every circumstance of life.”

Call to Prayer: “We must pray without ceasing in every occurrence and employment of our lives – that prayer which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God as in a constant communication with Him.” (Elizabeth Ann Seton)

Sung Prayer: “Caritas Christi”

Caritas Christi

Barbara Ann Smelko, SC

D Bmin G A Bmin D Emin A
 Ca - ri - tas Chri - sti ur - get nos. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 D Bmin G A Bmin D Emin A D
 The love of Christ ur - ges us. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

July 20, 2001, Barbara Ann Smelko, SC

Reading: As she came to her last days, Elizabeth expressed what it meant to her to be a daughter of the Church:

“I thank God for having made me a child of the Church: when you come to this hour you will know what it is to be a child of the Church. Speak, Lord, for your servant heareth! My hour has struck. From now on, no hesitation, no weakness, no procrastination. Holy Church of God, teach, direct self, call to yourself your child, docile and faithful forever more. Be children of the Church. Be children of the Church.” *(with pronoun liberties)*

Intercessions:

- Radiant and loving God, we rejoice with hearts filled with gratitude during this time of Resurrection awakening. Renew and strengthen the hope, peace, and new life for the suffering people of Ukraine, we pray: Loving God, hear us.
- O God, illuminator of all creation, enlighten the minds and hearts of government leaders to serve the common good of all people, we pray: Loving God, hear us.
- O God of sunrise and sunsets, with your paschal light direct our footsteps through shadow times and murky discerning moments, we pray: Loving God, hear us.
- God of daily insights. Surprise and invigorate our Federation with the splendor of your energizing mystery that we may manifest our living charism in all that you call us to be and to do, we pray: Loving God, hear us.

Closing Prayer: Federation Vocation Prayer

From age to age, O God,
you have ignited hearts
impelled by the love of Christ
to respond with the gift of their lives.
In the name of the family of St. Vincent de Paul,
we commend to you all women
in serious discernment and initial formation
with our Federation of Charity.

Through the intercession of Vincent, Louise, Elizabeth,
and all our Founders in the Company of Charity,
may they experience clarity of call,
generosity of heart,
and the courage to respond in faith.
Give us the grace to be joyful companions
on the journey of discernment.
From generation to generation
may the love of Christ impel us!



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