## The original documents are located in Box 36, folder "National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day" of the William J. Baroody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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## National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day

By the President of the United States of America

#### A Proclamation

Among the most important elements of America's Bicentennial observance—and of everyday American life for nearly 200 years—is the religious heritage of our Nation, rich in its diversity and its quality.

The singular devotion, faith and courage of such servants of God as Elizabeth Ann Seton give life to that heritage and inspiration to us all.

On Sunday, September 14, 1975, His Holiness Pope Paul VI will confer upon "Mother Seton," as she is known to millions of Roman Catholics, the rites of canonization. From that day, Mother Seton will be Saint Elizabeth Seton, the first American-born saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

Born in New York more than 200 years ago, Mother Seton was content in her early years to live the common life of the 18th century woman. But tragedy entered her life, leaving her a widow at a young age and with five children. Moving to Emmitsburg, Maryland, she turned to the work of her church, took the vows of a nun and later founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, an order of nuns devoted to teaching.

Mother Seton established the first parochial school in America, the foundation for an educational system that has brought the priceless gift of knowledge to millions of Americans, including a multitude of newly arrived immigrants whom Mother Seton and her followers instructed in the language and the ways of their new homeland.

For her devout faith and diligent service in the Kingdom of God, her church is bestowing its highest honor on Mother Seton on September 14, 1975.

For her service to her country, we, as a Nation, and believers in many faiths, also have just cause to honor the memory of Mother Seton on that special day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, in accordance with Senate Joint Resolution 125, do hereby designate Sunday, September 14, 1975, as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day, and call for such memorials and other observances as are appropriate to the occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two-hundredth.

Gerall R. Ford



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Gerall R. Ford

#### CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE 452 MADISON AVENUE New York, N.Y. 10022

September 29, 1975

Dear Mr. Baroody:

I thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness in sending me a signed copy of the Proclamation of President Ford on the happy occasion of the National Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Day.

I hope that our new Saint will bring many special blessings to the United States.

Knowing that you will express my gratitude to the President and with prayerful good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours, Huner and

Archbishop of New York

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr., Assistant to the President, The White House, Washington, D. C.



## 3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2936/75

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

October 20, 1975



Dear Mr. Baroody:

I am grateful to you for forwarding to me a copy of the President's Proclamation establishing Sunday, September 14, 1975, as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. I received this inspiring Proclamation upon my return to the United States from Europe where I had the privilege of attending the Canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

May I ask you kindly to have delivered to the President the enclosed letter thanking him for his thoughtfulness in asking that a copy of his Proclamation be sent to me.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

+ Team Tudot

Apostolic Delegate

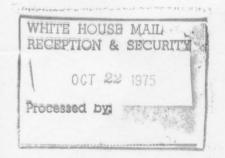
Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.



- 3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20008





Mr. William J. Baroody Assistant to the President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

#### THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

29 EAST EIGHTH STREET CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

CHANCERY OFFICE



October 2, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baroody:

Archbishop Bernardin asked that I acknowledge and thank you for your letter of September 22, 1975. He was very pleased by the action of President Ford designating September 14, 1975 as "National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day". He very much appreciates this gesture.

In thanking you, Archbishop Bernardin would also like to ask that you extend his personal regards and best wishes to the President.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Gerald E. Bensman Administrative Assistant

to the Archbishop



3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20008

October 21, 1975



Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of your Proclamation establishing Sunday, September 14, 1975, as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day.

In your Proclamation, you spoke of the religious heritage of the United States, rich in its diversity and its quality. It is this heritage, I am sure, that His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, had particularly in mind when he said: "Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is an American. All of us say this with spiritual joy and with the intention of honoring the land and the nation from which she marvellously sprang forth."

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

+ Tean Tradat

Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford President of the United States of America The White House Washington, D.C.





MOST REV. JAMES S. RAUSCH General Secretary REV. ROBERT V. MONTICELLO Associate General Secretary REV. MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN

Assistant General Secretary

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. . WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin, Archbishop of Cincinnati

President

September 24, 1975



Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to President Ford. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you, as well, for your part in providing me with a copy of the President's proclamation. I am gratified to have it.

I wish you could have been present for the Canonization. In addition to being a thrilling experience it would have provided you with a break from the responsibilities which must be extremely demanding.

Greetings to your family.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

t James S. Rausch
Most Rev. James S. Rausch

General Secretary

The Honorable William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosure

TON BOOM'S



#### 1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. . WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin, Archbishop of Cincinnati

President

MOST REV. JAMES S. RAUSCH General Secretary REV. ROBERT V. MONTICELLO Associate General Secretary REV. MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN Assistant General Secretary

September 24, 1975



Dear Mr. President:

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for the beautiful proclamation you issued on September 11 declaring September 14 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Day. This action on your part was most sensitive and was received with genuine gratitude by millions.

The Canonization, which I personally attended, was a magnificient event. It is estimated that 20,000 Americans were in attendance. The reception held by Ambassadors Volpe and Lodge on the following day was another manifestation of our government's good wishes for which I am grateful.

With this letter comes my best wishes for your good health and safety. May God keep you in His care.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. James S. Rausch General Secretary

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

# SISTERS OF CHARITY PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION 410 GRANT AVENUE BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11208 TEL. 235-9718



Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baroody,

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the proclamation designating September 14, 1975 National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. I am most grateful to you and the President for such a memento on the occasion of an event so significant in our history as we prepare for America's bicentennial.

May Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's leadership serve as an inspiration to those leaders of today who are trying to respond to the needs of their era.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary McCowan Provincial Superior



### Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

WEST CENTRAL PROVINCE

MARILLAC PROVINCIALATE

7800 NATURAL BRIDGE . ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121 . 314-382-2800

October 10, 1975



Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

THE ROLL BORN

Dear Mr. Baroody:

Please convey our sincere thanks to the President for the duplicate of his Proclamation designating September 14 as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day.

Elizabeth Seton possessed remarkable qualities and was active in the civic as well as religious affairs of her day. How appropriate, then, that her canonization took place in the International Year of Woman and in the Bicentennial Year. She is indeed an "...inspiration to us all," and we are grateful for the recognition given her by President Ford's Proclamation.

Sister Mary John, D.C.

Sister Mary John, Visitatrix
Daughter of Charity

#### Archdiocese of Philadelphia 222 N. 17th Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Office of the Cardinal

September 24, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Baroody:

I acknowledge with grateful appreciation your kind letter of September 22, enclosing a copy of a Proclamation signed by President Ford on the occasion of the Canonization of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. I shall write to thank the President and assure you that my thanks go also to you for your share in the gift.

With cordial best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Cardinal Sul

Say hells & all my Larody fruits!



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

September 24, 1975

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

 $N_0$  2936/75

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer



Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington

Dear Mr. Baroody:

I wish to acknowledge your kind letter of September 22, 1975, with the enclosed duplicate of the Proclamation designating September 14th as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day.

His Excelleny, Archbishop Jadot, is currently in Europe and anticipates being there until mid-October. Upon his return, I am confident that he will personally want to thank the President for this gracious gesture.

With cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Reusa Franca

Monsignor Renzo Frana Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

## SISTERS OF CHARITY SETON HILL, GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15601

September 26, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.



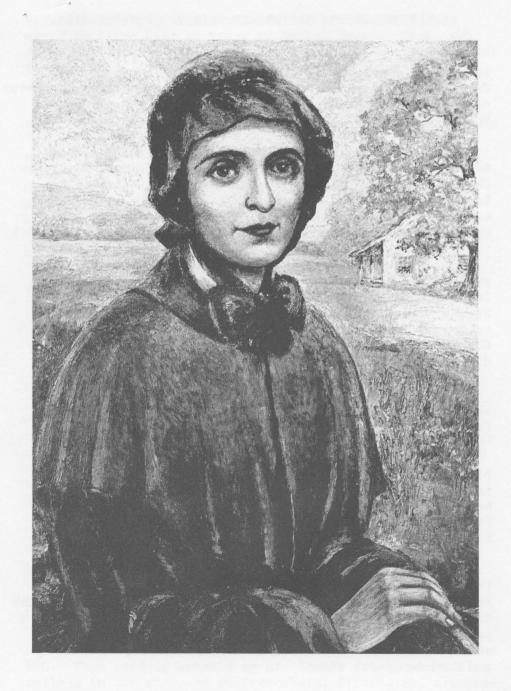
Dear Mr. Baroody:

We are very grateful for the official copy of President Ford's Proclamation declaring National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. It will be one of our treasured possessions in the Sisters of Charity Archives at Seton Hill.

May God bless the President and our country through the mediation of our Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. I am enclosing a brochure which traces the ancestry of Seton Hill back to Mother Seton.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Teresa Clare Kernan,
Archivist for the Seton Hill
Sisters of Charity



Elizabeth Ann Satore

#### A HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SETON HILL

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born August 28, 1774 in New York City, the daughter of Dr. Richard Bayley, New York City's first Health Officer, and Catherine Charlton, daughter of the Reverend Richard Charlton, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Staten Island.

On January 25, 1794 Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, eldest son of one of New York's wealthiest importers. The young Setons moved in the best social circles in New York City. Five children were born to them. In 1799 her husband's firm failed, and in 1803 William died in Italy, where they had journeyed in the hope of restoring his health.

A widow with five children to support, Mrs. Seton returned to New York, became a convert, and was received into the Catholic Church at St. Peter's Church, Barclay Street, March 14, 1805. In 1810 she opened a free parish school in Emmitsburg, Maryland and founded the Sisters of Charity. She was known thereafter as "Mother Seton". She died January 4, 1821.

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg, Pa. are the youngest branch of the community Mother Seton founded.

In 1829, at the request of Bishop Fenwick, first Bishop of Cincinnati, a band of Sisters left Emmitsburg and opened a house in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1852, this house became an independent motherhouse under Mother Margaret Cecilia George, who had been the treasurer of Mother Seton's Community.

In 1870, at the request of Bishop Michael Domenec, an independent motherhouse was formed in Altoona, Pa. under Mother Aloysia Lowe, who had made her novitiate under Mother Margaret Cecilia in Cincinnati. Altoona was at that time a part of the diocese of Pittsburgh. From Altoona, Sisters were sent to establish schools in Blairsville, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh.

Soon the motherhouse in Altoona became too small for the number of Sisters who had entered there, and in 1882 Mother Aloysia Lowe purchased the 200-acre Jennings farm in Greensburg. With the unanimous vote of the fifty Sisters of Charity who then made up the community, she named it Seton Hill in honor of Mother Seton. Thus, the Seton Hill community is a direct descendant of the original foundation in Emmitsburg.

In 1883 the community opened St. Joseph Academy for girls in the farmhouse, which by this time was known as the "remodeled mansion". The first graduating class of 1887 numbered four students. As the academy outgrew the "mansion", Mother Aloysia decided to build a new building on the brow of the hill, and the cornerstone was laid April 21, 1887 for the new motherhouse and academy. A boarding school for young boys had been maintained in Blairsville from 1881 to 1889; and when the academy moved to the new building, the boys school was relocated in the former academy building. The last commencement of St. Joseph Academy was held June, 1947 with forty—nine graduates. It had become necessary to discontinue the academy in order to make room for the growing Seton Hill College.

Seton Hill Junior College had opened in September. 1914. The students who enrolled in the Junior College in 1914 and 1915 understood that at the end of two years they would transfer to a senior college for the remainder of their work. Seton Hill College was approved by the College and University Council April 12, 1918, and the charter was issued June 3, 1918. The enrollment now numbers approximately 700. The College grants the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, and Bachelor of Science in pre-medical technology. It has a special continuing education program to encourage applicants who are pursuing their education after the age of 21. The college has at its disposal 13 founded and supported scholarships. It also gives financial assistance to freshmen and transfer students according to financial needs.

Today the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill number over 600. They conduct schools at all levels from preschool to college in the dioceses of Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Altoona-Johnstown, Washington, Baltimore, Tucson, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and New Orleans. They operate the Pittsburgh Division of Forbes Hospital System, the Jeannette District Memorial Hospital, and administer de Paul Institute for

hearing, speech-language impaired children. In 1941 they purchased the former West Liberty grade school in Brookline, remodeled it, and opened the Elizabeth Seton High School with 77 freshmen. After the "little brick school on Capital Hill", as the students called it, had served for twenty-five years, a modern building was erected, which now has an enrollment of approximately 400 girls.

In 1959, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity by Mother Seton and just a few days before Pope John XXIII declared her VENERABLE, the Seton Hill Sisters accepted the invitation of Bishop Henry of the Vicariate of Kwanju in Korea to establish a school in his diocese. In 1962 four Sisters opened St. Joseph Middle School for girls in Kang Tjin, which now has an enrollment of 1450 students.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill is an apostolic institute of religious women living in community, vowed to the practice of the evangelical counsels and dedicated to the service of Christ, His Church, and all the people of God through works of education, health care, and welfare.



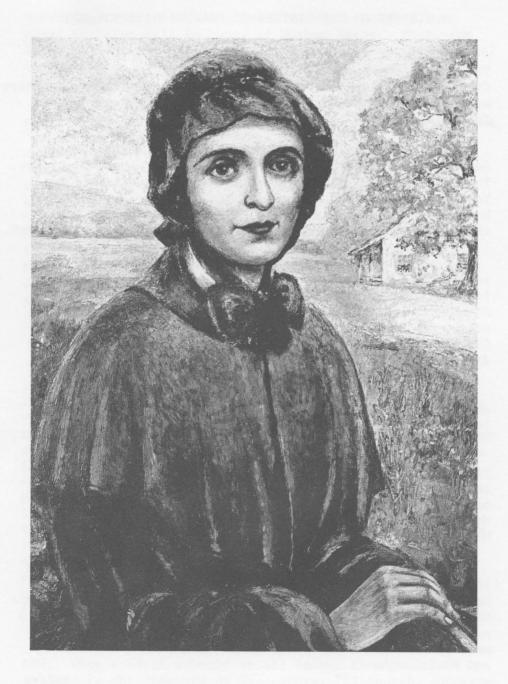
Lord God, you blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to your people.

Through her example and prayers, may we learn to express our love for you in love for one another.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

> Approved: +WILLIAM G. CONNARE Bishop of Greensburg

For information write The Archivist of the Sisters of Charity Seton Hill, Greensburg, Pa. 15601



Elizabeth Ann Seton

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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 for one another.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

> Approved: +WILLIAM G. CONNARE Bishop of Greensburg

For information write The Archivist of the Sisters of Charity Seton Hill, Greensburg, Pa. 15601 where women lead seton hill college greensburg, pennsylvania 15601

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES
ADDRESSISTERS OF Charity
RIGHERS OF CHARITY
RIGHT OF CHARITY OF CHARI

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Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.



#### 1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. . WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

## Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin, Archbishop of Cincinnati President

MOST REV. JAMES S. RAUSCH General Secretary

REV. ROBERT V. MONTICELLO
Associate General Secretary

REV. MICHAEL J. SHEEHAN
Assistant General Secretary

September 26, 1975



Dear Bill:

This is a note of thanks to you for your thoughtfulness in sending me the Proclamation signed by President Ford designating September 14 as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. It is encouraging to me as a priest to see in our Chief Executive a deep faith in God and a positive attitude towards the religious traditions which I and many like me cherish so deeply. I am sure that you had your part to play in the Proclamation and I am grateful to you for whatever you have done to make this all possible. My best personal wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Michael J. Sheehan Assistant General Secretary

The Honorable William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.



#### DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

723 E. PITTSBURGH ST. • GREENSBURG, PENNA. 15601

September 26, 1975.

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baroody:

I am grateful for the copy of the proclamation signed by the President designating September 14 as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. It was a singular day for all Americans. I appreciate having this copy for our files.

With all the best prayerfully and personally, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William G. Connare Bishop of Greensburg

SAINT KIERAN CONVENT 5324 CARNEGIE STREET PITTSBURGH, PA. 15201

September 25, 75 Dear Mr. Barondy, Thank you for sending, me a copy of the Presidents Proclamation of National Edyabeth Seton Day. I am honored to be among the recipients. God bless you! Lincerely yours, Lister Jean Teresa Oneill (S.C.)





#### ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP THIRTY-ONE MULBERRY STREET NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

September 29, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Baroody,

Archbishop Gerety asked me to acknowledge with his personal thanks, your letter of September 22. The Archbishop is grateful for the thoughtfulness of President Ford in arranging for the duplication of his proclamation regarding Saint Elizabeth Seton.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Charles P. Granstrand Secretary to the Archbishop Daughters of Charity Seton House 1053 Buchanan Street, N. E. Washington, D. C. 20017

September 26, 1975

Mr. Gerald T. Ford President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,



What a nice surprise was the copy of your proclamation which was waiting for me on my return to the States after attending the Canonization Ceremonies of our American Foundress in Rome!

I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you from my heart for this copy which I shall treasure.

May St. Elizabeth Ann Seton obtain for our country--her country-- and for its president the blessing of Almighty God!

May I ask one favor more? If you have any influence over the Postal Service, won't you join your request to that of the Federation of Mother Seton's Daughters asking that a Bicentennial Stamp honoring "this first native flower of North American Sanctity," be issued.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Mary Augustine Eastman, D.C.

Sister Mary Augustine Eastman, D.C.

(?Representing the Federation of

Mother Seton's Daughters)

#### Catholic Center 320 Cathedral Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Office of the Archbishop

September 25, 1975



Dear Mr. Baroody,

In yesterday's mail I received your note, accompanied by the special proclamation issued by President Ford designating September 14 as National Saint Elizabeth Seton Day. The special recognition given by our President to this outstanding American woman is most gratifying, and I hope you will convey to President Ford my sentiments of deep appreciation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William D. Borders

Archbishop of Baltimore

Mr. William J. Baroody, jr. Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.



Dear

President Ford recently signed a
Proclamation designating September
14th as National Saint Elizabeth Seton
Day. In his Proclamation the President
states, "The singular devotion, faith
and courage of such servants of God as
Mizabeth Ann Seton give life to that
heritage and inspiration to us all."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President

Enclosure



#### MR. TERRY L. SUNDY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

OFFICE: 202-659-6770

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 18, 1975

Dear

President Ford recently signed a
Proclamation designating September
14th as National Saint Elizabeth Seton
Day. In his Proclamation the
President states, "The singular devotion, faith and courage of such servants of God as Elizabeth Ann
Seton give . . . inspiration to us all."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplfate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President

Enclosure

Most Rev. Joseph L. Bernardin Archbishop of Cincinnati President National Conference of Catholic Bishops 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20005

Most Rev. James S. Rausch General Secretary National Conference of Catholic Bishops 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20005

Most Rev. William D. Borders Archbishop of Baltimore 320 Cathedral Street Baltimore, MD 21201

His Eminence John Cardinal Krol Archbishop of Philadelphia 222 North 17th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety Archbishop of Newark 31 Mulberry Street Newark, NJ 07102

His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke Archbishop of New York 451 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10022

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21;	Sister Mary Schmidt, President Seton Hill College Greensburg, Pa. 15601	36	Sister Mary Agnes Schildkamp Project Forward, Seton Hill College Greensburg Pa. 15601
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- Sister Alice Varie Crates | Jlease Cathedral Convent Altoona, PA. 1660l
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  - 90 Sister Kevin Mary Mannion St. Stephen School Pittsburgh, Pa. 15207
  - 91 Sister Catherine Meinert St. Teresa Symbol Munhall, Pa. 15120
  - 92 Sister Joan McGinley 5731 Beacon Street Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217
  - 93 Sister Mary Norbert Long St. John Evangelist School Tucson, Arizona 85713

Dear

President Ford recently signed a
Proclamation designating September
18th as National Saint Elizabeth Seton
Day. In his Proclamation the
President states, "The singular devotion, faith and courage of such
servants of God as Elizabeth Ann
Seton give . . . inspiration to us all."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed dupliate of his Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr. Assistant to the President



Enclosure