

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize



Formation



Hospitality



Prayer



Service

Office of Parish Stewardship January 2020

We are pleased to present our January issue of **ONE FAMILY IN MISSION** newsletter. We invite you - as part of that **FAMILY** - to share articles, best practices and any other items that you believe would benefit our community of Stewards. Please send them to tzalud@drvc.org.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE!

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Called to Evangelize

Among the various faith-based items featured in Christian catalogs this Christmas Season, we might have seen caps, bumper stickers, magnets, mugs, shirts-- *and yes! even face masks*-- all bearing the same Epiphany-related timeless message: **Wise Men Still Seek Him.**

Although we **wise men, women, and children** here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre may choose to pass on purchasing such memorabilia, perhaps momentarily seeing that slogan (*in catalogs or in this newsletter*) might motivate us to seek to know, love, and serve the Lord more intensely in His Word and Sacraments throughout this new year.

How wonderful it would be if our entire "One Family in Mission" of everyday people became so deeply transformed in the Lord that we would manifest the Lord's Goodness to all who meet us, inviting them to seek to draw nearer to the Lord through our lived expressions of Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service.

Wise Men Still Seek Him. As we start the year 2021, we have the blessing of calling to mind the life of one of our own U.S. Saints: St. Elizabeth Ann "Mother" Seton whose 200th anniversary of death we have celebrated with great enthusiasm, thanks to Bishop John Barres. For our Diocese, committed to Dramatic Missionary Growth, Mother Seton's life provides inspiration for us, everyday saints, to take our evangelizing privilege and responsibility more seriously.

It was our four pillars of stewardship, shown by an Italian Catholic married couple to Elizabeth, stranded in Italy as a young Episcopalian widow, that are credited with opening the eyes and heart of their wise young guest to the attraction of seeking Him more closely in Sacramental union as a member of His Catholic Church.

The couple provided **Hospitality** when they opened their home to Elizabeth and her daughter, providing much needed food and shelter, after the death of Elizabeth's

husband. They provided **Prayer** when they prayed and fasted with and for Elizabeth, introduced her to the Rosary, and brought her to Mass. They offered **Formation** in the Faith by answering her questions, providing Catholic-based spiritual reading, and introducing her to a priest who became integral in her conversion.

Their spiritual, emotional, and financial **Service** included assisting Elizabeth in burying her husband in a foreign land, accompanying her and her oldest daughter back to America, and even when she was back home, providing her with continued encouragement, as well as generously giving her five children much needed financial assistance.

Stewardship is all about recognizing God’s graces and gifts in your life and returning them to Him with increase. For our witness-benefit, Elizabeth Seton personally “paid forward,” and through her spiritual legacy, continues to “pay forward,” the blessings shown to her by the Italian couple, blessings which were so instrumental in her conversion and experienced in her ongoing faith life. These blessings of **Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service** are described in the following “Steward of the Month” feature about our canonized Saint—and about all of us, saints-in-progress, following her lead here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre! And please remember—if you or someone you know should be showcased in our Steward of the Month feature, please send us your or their information!

Steward of the Month: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

If we look closely, we can see threads of the four pillars of stewardship which our Saint received from the time of her husband’s death reflected in the works of charity which she and her community of Sisters of Charity directly and indirectly offered and continue to offer to and through others—even us!

Every parishioner in our diocese who serves as a volunteer or is employed in one of our youth outreach programs, whether crisis intervention, or orphanages and housing, is carrying out the **Hospitality** legacy of Mother Seton, whose community of Sisters of Charity founded the first orphanage and provided the first free Catholic boarding schools for needy children.



Likewise, every parishioner who serves as a greeter or usher, after-Mass hospitality provider, or who volunteers at a soup kitchen or feeds the poor is exercising the Hospitality that was so important to our Saint, having needed hospitality in her life!

For everyone in our diocese, whether laboring in one of our ministerial offices, parochial schools, parish RCIA, Sacramental preparation, Religious Education, or New Evangelization programs, or who has been taught by a Spiritual-Daughter of St. Elizabeth Ann “Mother” Seton is a recipient and dispenser of our great Saint’s **Formation** legacy. Along with any and all of who have attended a seminary or university dedicated and

founded in Mother Seton's honor.

Members in our diocese who participate in **prayer** groups, pray the rosary, and minister to the grieving in Catholic cemeteries, funeral homes and funeral services, and especially our hospice workers, chaplains, Eucharistic ministers, and deacons and priests who minister to souls about to depart this life are following the prayer ministry to the dying that was so important to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Any parishioner who **serves** as a volunteer or works in a Catholic healthcare facility, especially those serving the medical needs of the poor, immigrants, widows, and orphans or otherwise separated children, is serving in the footsteps of Mother Seton and her Sisters of Charity.

To everyone who serves us, THANK YOU, in the name and legacy of America's first native-born Saint Elizabeth Mother Seton. And please, keep up the good Dramatic Missionary Growth work, remembering that through **Hospitality, Formation, Prayer, and Service**, not only do Saints beget Saints, but Saints like Elizabeth Ann Seton beget saints like us, and saints like us beget other saints, and sometimes saints like us might even beget Saints like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as well!

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO READ BISHOP BARRE'S PASTORAL LETTER ON ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON](#)

Formed Stewardship Content of the Month

Each month, our office suggests Stewardship content from Formed.org that will help you grow in the faith! If you are not signed up with Formed.org, check with your parish to see if they have a subscription. This month, we recommend a video on the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine in NYC!

East Coast Shrines: St Elizabeth Ann Seton in NYC

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May God bless you and your loved ones!

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