



1774-1821

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
*The First Native-Born Saint of the United States of America*

March 31, 2011

Dear Friends,

Through much prayer and thoughtful consideration, the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is about to embark on a new venture – Seton Heritage Ministries - that will lead to both exciting and challenging times. While the Shrine, with its holy and historic roots, is already a spiritual destination for 45,000 visitors each year, we have decided to expand the boundaries of its spiritual reach to serve even more visitors and pilgrims. We believe Saint Elizabeth Ann’s legacy of education and charity is a noble and important cause to share. Today men, women, and children can identify with her steadfast courage and faith-filled hope in the face of challenges. We feel Saint Elizabeth Ann is calling us to expand beyond the present boundaries in order to provide multi-level platforms of her mission to the future of the Church.

As a dear friend of Mother Seton, we want you to know that her Shrine in Emmitsburg, Maryland is expanding with a new legal and financial structure which will permit it to function as a stand alone entity. The goal is to expand Seton Shrine’s position as an international ministry and to become a self-sufficient non-profit within the next five years. We have strong faith to achieve these goals and the strategic commitment of the Daughters of Charity and Sisters of Charity.

Making the Seton Shrine a self-sufficient entity within five years is a priority. We are currently transitioning from temporarily receiving financial support to becoming completely self-sufficient and financially independent. The sooner the Shrine can completely balance its operating expenses and break even, the better. Now is the time to harness the very best of marketing, philanthropy, promotion and communications strategies to achieve this goal. We – our associates, donors, volunteers, and community – are coming together as a “team” to transform the Shrine and carry out this exciting transition. We are blessed and feel fortunate in many ways as we move forward with fulfilling this team mission. Each

CONTINUING THE SETON LEGACY OF CHARITY

member has unique passion, talents, and insights to contribute. We welcome and greatly appreciate them all.

As we embark on this transition, we are keenly aware that time is of the essence. The key to success is to make the most of what is offered to us, minimize risks, and not be afraid to undertake new initiatives for Saint Elizabeth Ann to become a beacon of hope in today's society. We ask Saint Elizabeth Ann to intercede for God's blessings upon us to bring her mission alive!

While Seton Shrine has numerous assets to begin its mission, the project ahead is a "start up." "Starting up" a 200 year-old institution brings a number of unique and complex challenges that we will face through prayer and God's will. The next couple of years will require trial and error, testing and experimentation. While all agree that the goal is a self-sufficient, lively and vital shrine, the path to achieving this will not be easy, and we cannot do this alone.

In the end, we aspire to breathe modern life into the heritage given by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. There is much to be done to move forward and make the Seton Heritage Ministries and Shrine a self-sufficient, growing international ministry. We ask you for your prayers and to share the inspiration you have found in Mother Seton so others can be refreshed on their journey and courageously bring Christ's hope to a world in need.

With gratitude and blessings,



Lori Stewart  
Executive Director

P.S. Please contact us if you wish to receive more information about our strategic plan by a phone call (301) 447-7080 or email me, [lstewart@setonshrine.org](mailto:lstewart@setonshrine.org).

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON 1809-2009