

**FEBRUARY 2010**  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



# MARIAN CIRCLE NEWS



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Thurs, Mar. 18, Apr. 15 & May 20  
*Join us at 7 pm in the Meeting Room*

### COMING UP...

**Chili Chocolate Challenge**  
Sunday, March 21 from 1:30-4:30

**Ladies Spring Luncheon**  
Sunday, May 23 from 1:30-3:30

## FUN CATHOLIC "FACTS"

About 300 priests serve in the Archdiocese of the Military.

Mississippi is the most religious state in the U.S. and Vermonters are the least religious.

There are more than 10,000 Roman Catholic Saints.

## OUR MISSION

The Marian Circle of SEAS gathers with the intent to be Spiritual, Social and Charitable. We strive for a balance in:

- bringing spiritual benefits to our members and contributing to the betterment of the community
- extending our circle of friends
- supporting existing parish programs through our gifts of time and talent

### OFFICERS:

Betty Jane Cogar &  
Bruni Quinones – *Leaders*  
Ruth Ann Sroka – *Secretary*  
Joan Seabold – *Historian*  
Joanne Gill – *Treasurer*

### NEWSLETTER:

Joanne Gill – *Editor*  
Debi Grzywna – *Layout & design*

For more information  
regarding the Marian Circle,  
visit us online at  
[www.seascolumbiastation.org](http://www.seascolumbiastation.org)  
or contact the parish office.

## SOW A ROW IN 2010

Although spring is not quite around the corner, you may be starting to think about your fruit and vegetable gardens. In 2010, the Marian Circle will again be sponsoring Sow a Row, a project geared toward bringing fresh produce to the food pantries in our area. Our focus this year will be the Second Harvest Food distribution the first Monday of the month at SEAS, the Columbia Food Pantry, and His Banquet Table. So as you begin the planning of your spring and summer gardens, please consider adding a row or two for this very worthy cause...our neighbors in need. Watch the bulletin in the coming months for details.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Marian Circle continues to be committed to the Social Concerns of our nation and the world. Thank you to Peggy Ignaczak for keeping us aware of the many opportunities we have to help and pray for others. From the lives of our nation's unborn to relief in Haiti, there are many ways you can help. Currently, in the entryway, you will find Rice Bowls available through Catholic Relief Services and information in support of the unborn.

## JOIN THE MARIAN CIRCLE

Attention women of SEAS, if you are looking for a way to get involved in the church and the community without over-committing yourself, consider joining the Marian Circle. There is power in numbers, so we each pick and choose the ways we would like to help. There is never any pressure and always lots of laughs to be shared. Meet other moms with young kids and get to know the family of women that have supported SEAS over the years!

Our mission statement and meeting schedule can be found to the left on this newsletter and online at [www.seascolumbiastation.org](http://www.seascolumbiastation.org). We hope to see you at the next meeting.

## 2ND ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT OUT -REVIEW

If you like a funny story and the company of friends, Ladies Night Out was again your place to be on Friday, October 2, 2009 at SEAS. This year the Marian Circle hosted an Evening of Powerful Women and Humorous Tales. The room was again filled with shopping offered by local home businesses and some extra-special free pampering. Barb Sutton, a local storyteller and humorist held our ear for some good laughs while we filled our tummies with wonderful finger foods and pastries. The money raised benefitted the Girl Scouts Twin Creeks Service Unit of Columbia Station and Midview. If you like to plan ahead, mark your calendar for Friday, October 1, 2010 because we are going for round three. If you run a home business you would like to bring to the event, contact Joanne Gill or the parish office.

## ADVENT TEA & LIVE NATIVITY -REVIEW

Fr. Doug Koesel gave a talk on Simplicity for the Holidays while we all enjoyed yummy cookies and a nice warm cup of tea to begin Advent. Our tables were beautifully adorn with the colors of the season, overflowing with the love of Christ and glowing with a sense of community and friendship. This year's 50/50 raffle winner donated her prize money to Second Harvest along with the raffle proceeds for a total of \$215, a very generous contribution. Bring out the calendar again because we are scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2010.

The abundance of cookies spilled over to the PSR Live Nativity the following week. The Marian Circle served up hot cocoa and cookies to all the PSR children during an evening that included the traditional live performance, decorating the PSR tree and a holiday craft.

## LENTEN PRAYER

### CALLED THE PASSION - Catholic Online

A Lenten Prayer called the Passion Dear Lord Jesus, by Your Passion and Resurrection You brought life to the world. But the glory of the Resurrection came only after the sufferings of the Passion.

You laid down Your life willingly and gave up everything for us. Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross, Your clothing became the prize of soldiers, your blood ebbed slowly but surely away, and Your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple.

Stretched out on the Cross, deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid, You cried out to Your Father that the end had come. You had accomplished the work given You, and You committed into His hands, as a perfect gift, the little life that remained to You.

Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example You have given. Let me place my death in Yours and my weakness in Your abandonment, Take hold of me with Your love, that same foolish love that knew no limits, and let me offer myself to the Father with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life.



# MARIAN CIRCLE NEWS

continued

## WHAT IS A PATRON SAINT?

Taken from Catholic Online

Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life. These areas can include occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes — anything that is important to us. The earliest records show that people and churches were named after apostles and martyrs as early as the fourth century.

Recently, the popes have named patron saints but patrons can be chosen by other individuals or groups as well. Patron saints are often chosen today because an interest, talent, or event in their lives overlaps with the special area. Angels can also be named as patron saints. A patron saint can help us when we follow the example of that saint's life and when we ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God.

For example, Francis of Assisi loved nature and so he is patron of ecologists. Francis de Sales was a writer and so he is patron of journalists and writers. Clare of Assisi was named patron of television because one Christmas when she was too ill to leave her bed she saw and heard Christmas Mass — even though it was taking place miles away.

## ELIZABETH ANN SETON, OUR PATRON SAINT

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was the first native born American to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Born two years before the American Revolution, Elizabeth grew up in the "cream" of New York society. She was a prolific reader, and read everything from the Bible to contemporary novels.

In spite of her high society background, Elizabeth's early life was quiet, simple, and often lonely. As she grew a little older, the Bible was to become her continual instruction, support and comfort; she would continue to love the Scriptures for the rest of her life.

In 1794, Elizabeth married the wealthy young William Seton, with whom she was deeply in love. The first years of their marriage were happy and prosperous. Elizabeth wrote in her diary at first autumn, "My own home at twenty -the world -that and heaven too -quite impossible."

This time of Elizabeth's life was to be a brief moment of earthly happiness before the many deaths and partings she was to suffer. Within four years, Will's father died, leaving the young couple in charge of Will's seven half brothers and sisters, as well as the family's importing business. Now events began to move fast - and with devastating effect. Both Will's business and his health

failed. He was finally forced to file a petition of bankruptcy. In a final attempt to save Will's health, the Setons sailed for Italy, where Will had business friends. Will died of tuberculosis while in Italy. Elizabeth's one consolation was that Will had recently awakened to the things of God.

The many enforced separations from dear ones by death and distance, served to draw Elizabeth's heart to God and eternity. The accepting and embracing of God's will - "The Will," as she called it - would be a keynote in her spiritual life.

Elizabeth's deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her family and friends eventually led her into the Catholic Church.

In Italy, Elizabeth captivated everyone by her own kindness, patience, good sense, wit and courtesy. During this time Elizabeth became interested in the Catholic Faith, and over a period of months, her Italian friends guided her in Catholic instructions.

Elizabeth's desire for the Bread of Life was to be a strong force leading her to the Catholic Church.

Having lost her mother at an early age, Elizabeth felt great comfort in the idea that the Blessed Virgin was truly her mother. She asked the Blessed Virgin to guide her to the True Faith. Elizabeth finally joined the Catholic Church in 1805.

At the suggestion of the president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth started a school in that city. She and two other young women, who helped her in her work, began plans for a Sisterhood. They established the first free Catholic school in America. When the young community adopted their rule, they made provisions for Elizabeth to continue raising her children.

On March 25, 1809, Elizabeth Seton pronounced her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, binding for one year. From that time she was called Mother Seton.

Although Mother Seton was now afflicted with tuberculosis, she continued to guide her children. The Rule of the Sisterhood was formally ratified in 1812. It was based upon the rule St. Vincent de Paul had written for his Daughters of Charity in France. By 1818, in addition to their first school, the sisters had established two orphanages and another school. Today six groups of sisters trace their origins to Mother Seton's initial foundation.

For the last three years of her life, Elizabeth felt that God was getting ready to call her, and this gave her joy. Mother Seton died in 1821 at the age of 46, only sixteen years after becoming a Catholic. She was canonized on September 14, 1975.