

St Elizabeth Ann Seton

Born: August 28, 1774

Entered into Eternal Life: January 4, 1821

Canonization: September 14, 1975

Feast: January 4

Each and every one of us are children of an incredibly loving Father who prepares each of us for an incredible life of learning more about Him and making Him known to the rest of the world. God, our loving Father, gives each of us immense gifts as is stated very clearly in Ephesians 4:11 and elsewhere throughout Sacred Scripture, God gives gifts to each of His servants in order that they use those gifts to help build up the Church. We can see these gifts played out in the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American Saint. Not only was she a wife, mother of four and teacher but she also became a nun and founded the first religious order in the United States. God gave her not only the graces need to follow His will for Her, but he had also given her the gifts (talents) she needed in order to pursue His will for her. She had to actualize those gifts so that they could bare the fruit which God desired for them to produce.

Brothers and Sisters, do you use the gifts which God has given you the way which He desires for you to use them? I'm not speaking here of only material talents such as being good at sports or being business savvy. I speak instead of far more important gifts. Spiritual gifts which can be used to develop your relationship with our loving Father. An example is if someone has the gift of easily going to a place of interior silence, they can hear the voice of God far easier than without it. If you have a great gift of council that is not only a gift which obviously you will find immensely helpful in your own life but also being able to use that gift to help others. In using these gifts in the way which our Father desires, we find that we reap immense rewards not only for others around us and the Church but also for ourselves. Look at how the God rewards the gift of simple bread and wine at the altar. He transforms it into His very body and blood in the Eucharist. Imagine what He can do with the gift of yourself when you offer yourself to Him.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said that "The first end of our daily work is to do the will of God, secondly to do it in the manner He wills it and thirdly, to do it because He wills. Utilize your gifts brothers and sisters to follow God's will. If you don't know your spiritual gifts, go to the adoration chapel and pray that in His good time you may know those gifts so that you can use them to accomplish His will. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton pray for us.