

THE GOOD NEWS WEEKLY
 Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
 John 12:20-33 • March 21, 2021

GOSPEL THEME

Whoever serves Jesus will be honored by God the Father.



The Saints: God's Honored Ones

For centuries, the Church has honored those who served Jesus so faithfully that their lives became perfect examples of Christian living. These people are our "canonized saints." As we draw nearer to Easter, and reflect on today's gospel message, let's look at one such example.

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City. Her father was a college professor. He saw to it that his daughter received the very best education possible. Young Elizabeth had a good life and many friends.

When she was 20 years old, Elizabeth married William Seton. She and William had five children, yet Elizabeth always managed to find time to care about others, especially the poor. She founded the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows With Small Children.

But sadness entered Elizabeth's life. William became very ill. Elizabeth took him to Italy, hoping to find a cure for him. While they were there, William died. After years of helping widows,

Elizabeth became a widow herself at the age of 29.

Elizabeth returned to the United States. The family in Italy who had helped Elizabeth care for William were Catholics. She had been impressed with the way they served Jesus by serving others. Their good example helped Elizabeth decide that she wanted to be Catholic too.

After Elizabeth joined the Catholic Church, her former friends refused to have anything more to do with her. This made Elizabeth lonely and sad, but she loved Jesus and his Church very much. She continued to work faithfully for both.

Elizabeth founded the Sisters of St. Joseph and started a school for poor children in Baltimore, Maryland. This little school was the beginning of the Catholic school system in the United States.

Elizabeth went on to found the first American religious society, the Sisters of Charity, taking vows as a nun when she was 39 years old.

Mother Seton served Jesus by caring for the poor and helping children to know more about him. She died in 1821, only 47 years old, and was canonized (declared a saint) in 1975, the first American-born saint.

Future Saints

Many "unrecognized" saints live in the world today, people who, like Mother Seton, strive to serve Jesus perfectly. As Jesus promised, they are "honored by God the Father." Are YOU one of God's saints? Are YOU a servant of Jesus?

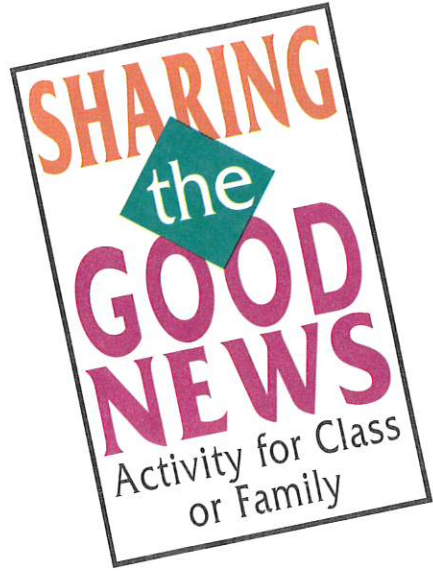
Written by Francine M. O'Connor. Art by Chris Sharp. © 2021 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Imprimatur: Most Rev. Robert J. Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Printed in USA. All rights reserved. It is a violation of copyright law to reproduce all or part of this material without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Liguori.org Answer to A Jesus Promise: IF ANYONE SERVES ME, MY FATHER WILL HONOR THAT PERSON.

A JESUS PROMISE

Decode the message below to find a wonderful promise made by Jesus this week.

V X _____
 Z S L R S Y _____
 O Y P K Y O _____
 T Y, _____
 T L _____
 X Z N W Y P _____
 M V U U _____
 W R S R P _____
 N W Z N _____
 Q Y P O R S. _____

Code Key:
 Z = A; Y = E; X = F;
 W = H; V = I; U = L; T = M;
 S = N; R = O; Q = P; P = R;
 O = S; N = T; M = W;
 L = Y; K = V.



Lent is a time to think about the life we can give to others and also the life we have received, especially from our parents and grandparents. So many people generously give of their time, talents, and resources for our well-being — relatives, friends, teachers Here are some ways of sharing life and love with those who have shared their life and love with us (during Lent or all year long):

- ▼ Offer to spend a day helping with chores or odd jobs.
- ▼ Write a "love letter," thanking them for their love.
- ▼ Ask them to teach you something they do well — gardening, knitting, baking, and so forth.
- ▼ Spend an evening looking through picture albums and sharing memories.

A Meditation for the Fifth Week of Lent

Theme: Service

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Can you find better ways to serve Jesus through your love for others? Can you serve him more thoughtfully through your love for your neighbors? Can you serve him more sincerely in your prayer life?

