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Judith Metz S.C.

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An Annotated List of the Writings of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (4)

Compiled By
JUDITH METZ, S.C.
AND
REGINA BECHTLE, S.C.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was the first American-born canonized saint in the Roman Catholic Church. She was the foundress of the American Sisters of Charity and is credited with starting the parochial school system in the United States. Coming from a Protestant background, converting to Catholicism, and becoming a co-worker with John Carroll in the formative years of the Catholic Church in the new republic, she was one of the most influential Catholic women in the early nineteenth-century. Elizabeth Seton's writings offer a rich insight into her life and her times. Her spirituality and deep personal relationships as well as the detail of her life as widow, convert, single mother, educator, and religious are revealed in hundreds of letters, personal journals, meditations, and instructions to the sisters, some never before published.

The thirteen religious congregations which comprise the Sisters of Charity Federation have undertaken the publication of the complete corpus of Seton writings. Documents have, to date, been located in fifteen repositories in the United States and Canada. Their publication will provide rich source material for those interested in religious history, women's history, and the history of religious life as well as those with a special interest in Elizabeth Seton herself.

As a step in the publication of the writings, an annotated list of the holdings in each repository will be published in several issues of Vincentian Heritage. The first installment contained listings from all archives of the Sisters of Charity and the Daughters of Charity except Saint Joseph Provincial House in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The second installment included listings from all non-Sister/Daughter of Charity repositories, and began the listing from Saint Joseph Provincial House, the repository for the largest collection of Seton writings. Installment number four continues in documenting the entire listing from Saint Joseph. We hope those interested will find this material helpful, and we invite additions to, or comments on, these listings. Send your comments to Judith Metz, S.C., 5900 Delhi Rd., Mount Saint Joseph, OH 45051 or Regina Bechtle, S.C., 6301 Riverdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10471.
Letters from Elizabeth Seton to Catherine Dupleix

*July 12, 1800. To Catherine Dupleix. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:62.*

Her family are all well and missing Due who has been gone one week. Her (Due's) name comes up frequently, musing on where she is and what she is doing. Their consolation is in the fact that she will return some day. She (Elizabeth) gives news about several relatives and friends.

*June 20, 1808. To Catherine Dupleix. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:63.*

She hears Due's health has been poor since her arrival in Europe. She informs Due that she (Elizabeth) and her family have moved to Baltimore at the invitation of Mr. Dubourg of Saint Mary's College. The move was necessitated by declining enrollment in her school in New York. Mr. Dubourg promised expense-free education at the college for the boys and a neat house for Mrs. Seton, for her own girls, and for as many girls as she can manage for a school. After consulting Mr. Wilkes and Post, she accepted, moving in the middle of June. Mr. Dubourg's sister and mother have been very helpful and generous as have the Barrys. Their house is ideal, and their school will have many pupils after summer vacation. They are secure financially due to the generosity of the Filicchi family and Julia Scott, and due to the provisions purchased through the college at reduced cost.

* [n.d.]*

She sympathizes with Due since she has just heard from Due's husband about some disappointment. The children are described to Due and their remarks are quoted. She reports that Cecilia (Seton) is still in New York caring for the family of James Seton but that she would rather be in Baltimore.
June 4, 1810. To Catherine Dupleix. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:64.

She now has the "ill-placed" title of abbess of a convent; "ill-placed" because they are not bound by obligations and are united only by the good works they perform. It is hard to live away from the first ties of her life, but in some ways they had become painful. Here, she has plain and substantial comforts, as well as having her children around her. She reports on each of the five children, what they are doing and their personalities. She elaborates on Anna's romantic involvement with a man, about which she worries; however, he is gone for now with the promise to return in six or eight months. Her own health is good since "the good souls who call me Mother" take excellent care of her. She hopes some day to see Due again.

[February 4, 1811]. To Catherine Dupleix. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:65.

Her peace and quiet increases since last she wrote. She is given what she calls excessive care. Her sisters direct and run the school while she, as Mother of the community, merely superintends. There are now 15 Sisters and 30 boarders. She knows that Due may hear some nonsense about their life as nuns, but they have chosen it themselves and the rules are necessary for good order. She did make a vow of chastity and obedience for one year, but that no longer exists as being deemed unnecessary. She is free, and nothing ever interferes with her duty to her own children. She hopes that Due might visit, perhaps in the spring, then she would see the beauty, the happiness, and the peace experienced here. She reports that the children are well and frequently mention Due. Anna looks upon Due as a second mother. She (Elizabeth) has no health complaints except a weak breast and a slow fever.

[Late December 1815 or early January 1816]. To Catherine Dupleix. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:66.

Rebecca (daughter) is suffering terribly from a tumor but does not complain. Sister Susan helps to take care of her. (Short notes from Rebecca and Kitty are on the last page.)
It would have been a delight for Due to visit again, especially since Rebecca appears to be weaker every day. Kit has gone to spend some time with the Tiernans, but will return soon to continue her studies in music and painting. Kit expects to die at an early age like the others. Letters she receives about her sons praise William’s honesty and Richard’s innocence. She thanks Due for sending news about the Sisters (in Philadelphia).

She describes the final hours of life and the death of Rebecca. The child was beautifully resigned and grateful to die to escape life’s many temptations. Kit is the picture of health, but Elizabeth does not rely on looks. Her loneliness is nothing because she is called on every moment by the 60 boarders, or the country children, or the Sisters -- three times as many as when Due visited them.

She is happy that Due has met Sister Margaret (George) and feels that the two should get along well. Kit has returned from New York; William is going to sea March 13, and Dick is doing well with the Filicchis. She grieves to hear that our poor Protestant friends are blinded by the miserable conduct of Catholics. She rejoices to hear of Due’s love and care of the poor.

Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. John Seton, Her Husband’s Grandmother

1797. To Mrs. John Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:70.

She would like to visit the grandmother to present her two children, William and Anna Marie, to her. There were never two sweeter children.
Fragment of Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. William Raborg of Philadelphia

[n.d.]. To Mrs. William Raborg. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:72.
(First page is missing)

She explains why she embraced the Catholic faith. Her recent trip to a Catholic country gave her the opportunity to see the wide difference between the Faith established by Our Lord and His apostles and the various forms the faith has taken since. When she returned, she felt it her duty to her children and to herself to inquire into the Catholic faith. Her gratitude increases every day. She knows that her salvation depended on embracing the Catholic faith. She never forces her thoughts on others, but leaves them to their own light. She finds her true joy in daily Mass and frequent communion.

Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Reverend Richard Channing Moore

[1801, after her father’s death]. To Reverend Richard Channing Moore. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:73.

She offers thanks for the comfort he offered them in their hour of need. She asks that he reserve the graves on each side of Mr. Bayley for his two eldest children.

[Bruté (probably) added a note thanking God that Mrs. Seton was not buried there. She had told her daughter Catherine that she heard her father use the name of God only once, and that was before his death when he said, “O My God.”]

Letters from Elizabeth Seton to John Wilkes

October 9, 1800. To John Wilkes. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:74.

She requests for her father, the Health Officer, that Mr. Wilkes send him the servant Julius Caesar if the servant is no longer employed by Wilkes.
Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. Hill of Philadelphia

April 19, 1808. To Mrs. Hill. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:75.

She was delighted to receive the remembrance in Mrs. Startin's letter. She was not sure if Mrs. Hill would disapprove of her or if she would renew their friendship expressed when last they met at Mr. Hobart's hall. She had not answered a previous letter since her situation allowed little time for letter writing. She would like to be able to comfort her in her illness. Her own children are a treasure, and she mentions each one along with their respective characteristics.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Antonio Filicchi

April 6, 1804. To Antonio Filicchi. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:76.

Sometimes we turn blessings into evils. She will not abuse her uncommon affection for him, but will show how much she values his friendship by doing everything to contribute to his happiness. She asks him to regard her with confidence and affection.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Eliza Curson Farquhar (Aunt)

[n.d.]. To Eliza Curson Farquhar. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:77.

She is sorry to hear about her aunt's pain. She would rather bear the sorrow herself than see a loved one afflicted.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Reverend Francis Vespre

August 15, 1814. To Reverend Francis Vespre. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:78.

She thanks him for his "beautiful and acceptable present" which everyone appreciated. They will pray for him as she hopes he does for them.
Letter from Mother Seton to John Wilkes

[1815]. To John Wilkes. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:79.

She sends greetings by way of William, who is on his way to Europe to begin his career with the Filicchis. She hopes that Richard will follow the same course eventually.

Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Elizabeth King’s Guardian

[n.d.]. To Elizabeth King’s Guardian. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:80.

She responds to a recent letter from Elizabeth’s sisters in which they questioned two points: (1) why were her expenses so high; (2) their proposal that she become a Sister. Expenses were high because the student came without required supplies which the school had to furnish. Besides, Elizabeth gave no hint about her family’s finances. In regard to her becoming a Sister, Mother Seton was opposed to it. The girl had no disposition for it and possessed neither the physical or mental qualifications. Therefore, the girl’s family should make arrangements to come to Emmitsburg to take her home.

Draft from Elizabeth Seton to Mr. Smith

[n.d.]. To Mr. Smith. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:81.

She counsels a man who has told her his hopes and doubts about entering the priesthood. She reminds him that the desire and the requisites come from God Himself and should not be turned down. He will be placing himself in position to fulfill duties placed upon him by baptism and confirmation, and he will be choosing the surest road to God.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Barclay Bayley

[1810]. To Barclay Bayley. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:82.

She wrote about Harriet’s days from the time she left New York until her death. Both Harriet and Cecilia were united with Elizabeth in Baltimore and moved with her to Emmitsburg. They enjoyed peace-
ful, happy times together in the woods and near the mountain. Harriet, of her own accord, eventually joined them in the chapel as well and became a Catholic. Harriet had little hope of Barclay ever returning for her, but after a letter from Aunt Farquhar, became more hopeful that he would come back.

**Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. Ann C. Tilghman**

[n.d.]. To Mrs. Ann C. Tilghman. ASIPH 1-3-3-7:85.

She asks Mrs. Tilghman to give permission for her daughter’s baptism. She knows the child has changed for the better, but receiving the sacrament would provide guards to virtue and defense against temptation. She briefly told of her own conversion and what it has meant to her.

**Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Reverend John Dubois**

[1810]. To Reverend John Dubois. ASIPH 1-3-3-7:86.

She acknowledges his offer to accompany Cecilia and herself on a trip and considers it an honor. She knows that Cecilia could die on the way, but she will know that she has done her best for her.

**Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Mary Bayley Post**

[1801]. To Mary Bayley Post. ASIPH 1-3-3-7:87.

She writes about the scenes she pictures in which Mary is at their summer home enjoying the peace it offers. She longs for the day they can all be reunited in eternity.

**Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Mary Bayley Bunch**

June 26, 1819. To Mary Bayley Bunch. ASIPH 1-3-3-7:88.

She is grateful for her letter reporting her safe arrival after her second voyage. She remarks on the pains and pleasures of the world and how she misses her own boys and the loved ones she no longer sees.
Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. Rose Stonestreet

November 7, 1819. To Mrs. Rose Stonestreet. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:89.

She sends with Mr. Basil Spalding a request for the $47 she owes St. Joseph's House. Would she tell Mr. Spalding when she can pay it.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Mrs. Burk(e)

March 21, 1810. To Mrs. Burk(e). ASJPH 1-3-3-7:90.

She sympathizes with Mrs. Burk(e) because their sorrows and misfortunes are similar. She hopes they will understand one another and be true friends. She forgot to ask Maria to pray for the brother of Mr. Dubourg for whom they are making a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Letter from Elizabeth Seton to Sister Maria Burke (Murphy)

[n.d.]. To Sister Maria Burke (Murphy). ASJPH 1-3-3-7:91.

She encourages Sister Maria in her final illness, assuring her of the love and forgiveness of the Father. She begs her not to fear.

[n.d.]. To Sister Maria Burke (Murphy). ASJPH 1-3-3-7:92.

She thanks "Dove" for her letter and bids her to be patient to the end.

October 15, 1812. About the death of Sister Maria Burke. (In two different hands). ASJPH 1-3-3-7:93.

This describes the final moments of Sister Maria Burke (Murphy). It describes her devotion upon reception of the Holy Viaticum.

Draft from Elizabeth Seton to An Unidentified Gentleman

[n.d.]. To An Unidentified Gentleman. ASJPH 1-3-3-7:94.

She informs the gentleman that Reverend Mr. Dubois relies on his judgment. The money should be forwarded to him through Mr. Abraham White of Baltimore.
Father is quite changed -- reserved, speaks little, asks for no one -- but writer is sure he will remember the one to whom the letter is addressed.

Letters from Mother Seton to Eliza Farquhar

She regrets that Eliza is so unhappy but assures her that the Almighty will give her strength in every trial. She exhorts her to pray and to rely on God's help. She herself will pray earnestly for her dear Eliza.

She continues her prayers for Eliza and begs her to pray with peace and confidence.

She tells Eliza not to carry her resignation too far. She must pray to receive with true faith the substance and not the shadow.

At Communion she presents Eliza to Jesus each morning she receives. She asks Eliza to be with her in spirit at that time.

Letters from Mother Seton to Rebecca Seton, Her Sister-in-Law

Maitland has stopped payment of obligations in London, and William and James Seton must stop payment in New York. Richard has been very sick, but the girls (William's sisters, Mary and Charlotte) were away at Miss Hay's school.
February 5, 1800. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:2.

William is very much upset about his financial affairs. Two of his associates have gone abroad to try and find solutions to the problem. She has been serving as correspondent to them, sometimes writing late into the night. William’s greatest assistant is Anthony Ogden. [She has crossed out some phrases so as not to reveal information, the knowledge of which might injure William’s affairs.]

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:3.

All is quiet now. She hopes that William will regain strength but all is in God’s hands.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:4.

Everyone is very happy and contented here, including baby Kit.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:5.

She calls Rebecca “Soul’s Sister,” and asks to bless God with her.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:6.

She has been watching at Mary Wilkes’ bedside but the woman has had a wretched night.

[n.d., probably 1801]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:7.

Mary Wilkes has died and Wilkes is in anguish.

[n.d., probably 1802]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:8.

The girls, except for Kit, will go to Rebecca’s where they will attend church at either Saint Paul’s or Trinity, where “Hobe” (Mr. Hobart) may speak. She will see J.S. (James Seton?) on business this afternoon. She recalls the first anniversary of her father’s death.
Four o’clock [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:9.

She asks her to give comfort to Lidy (Eliza Maitland). William has been reading Shakespeare and Kit is bigger and saucier. They all await her (Rebecca’s) coming.

Three o’clock Thursday [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:10.

She and Kit have been sick but are now well. Doxy (Catherine Dupleix?) has been limping but is better. The children and Will are well.

Tuesday afternoon [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:11.

William wants her to remain away from home until October, but he is not as tired as she of meeting only once a week in wearied spirits. She wants to do what William prefers. The children are good.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:12.

Everyone is as well as can be.

Sunday evening [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:13.

She sympathizes with Rebecca in the difficult task of caring for the suffering Eliza (Maitland), William’s half-sister.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:14.

Henry Hobart was replaced by a Mr. Jones last Sunday because Hobart has been attending his sick mother. Children are all fine. Do not walk to see her in this heat.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:15.

William wants to go (to church) tomorrow even though the streets are almost impassable. Rebecca should meet them at Mrs. Bogart’s pew. She says she prefers to have a great deal of work to do. She encloses $10 for Eliza for the baker and the milkman.
[n.d., August 16, 1801?]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:16.

This day will probably decide whether her father will die or get well. He cannot retain food nor can he rest easily. She and Mary Post stayed with him last night for all but two hours.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:17.

It is almost winter and William is cheerful. She asks about various relatives and friends.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:18.

It is Sunday and William took her to church early. H.H. (Henry Hobart) prayed such fervent prayers that her soul found perfect peace. William is distracted with the times, but her children are very good. As for herself she experiences "cheerful sorrow" which she says is "not quite English."

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:19.

She may see Rebecca next Sunday and that thought cheers her. William is worried about money so she dare not ask him for the $10 he owes her.

Six o'clock [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:20.

They had a good trip (to Staten Island for the summer), her father meeting them at the wharf. Everything about the house looked wonderful and all was in order by 6 p.m. She can look out across the water and see their new home (on the Battery). She longs for the day when Rebecca can see her way clear to come.

Ten o'clock, Friday morning [n.d., probably August 1801]. To Rebecca Seton. AS]PH-3-3-8:21.

She is with her father every moment possible since he says he gets no rest unless she is with him. The baby (Kit) never whimpers even though she has seldom been nursed the past three days. Mary (Post) has gone to town to bring back Dr. Tillary to stay with her father until there is a change.
Three o’clock, Monday afternoon [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:22.

It was difficult to see Rebecca go, but she is delighted to hear that the trip was short. She says that the “500 ship” has just come and she feels sorry for her father. (Perhaps the “500 ship” refers to a boat that carried 400 or 500 immigrants to Staten Island where her father, as a health officer, had to examine them.)

Sunday afternoon [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:23.

She takes comfort in the fact that Rebecca is happy and that she is at peace.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:24.

She enjoyed last evening’s church service, singing God’s praises with H. (Hobart) and other church members. William is anxiously uneasy about something. Only God can set him right.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:25.

She is concerned about Rebecca’s indisposition, and she advises a remedy. William talked in his sleep, expressing a desire that Henry Hobart would preach for him.

Thursday morning [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:26.

She listened to her father’s account of the yellow fever of ’98. She had guests for dinner and spent a peaceful, quiet afternoon and evening. She slept from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. After breakfast they were to sail on the schooner to Sandy Hook.

Six o’clock, Monday evening - Tuesday morning [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:27.

She has enjoyed a peaceful evening with a beautiful sunset and details an incident of letting a baby robin out of its cage. Kit resembles Aunt Rebecca, and Elizabeth’s desire is that the resemblance will be interior as well as exterior.
Two o'clock, Saturday, August 7 [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:28.

She anticipates the next day and trusts that she is prepared to yield with thankfulness. William will dine at home tomorrow, much to her happiness.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:29.

She reports on the health of the family and she speaks of preparation for the next day when Mr. Lin will baptize her (Mammy Huler), the children's nurse, who was dying.

Tuesday morning - Wednesday afternoon [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:30.

It is a peaceful morning and she is up early walking on the piazza with baby Kit in her arms. May she (Kit) always be so innocent and she (Elizabeth), along with the baby's godmother (Rebecca), help it happen. The children all love Rebecca and always want her to come.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:31.

In the morning she was penniless and by nightfall she had $20. She trusts in God's mercy. She speaks of being unable to locate the homes of two women and of going to a meeting [Probably the Widows' Society].

August 16, 1802. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:32.

She will always consider yesterday's date (August 15, 1802) as a birthday of her soul, never mind the 28th. H.H. (Henry Hobart) was at Saint Mark's instead of Saint Paul's. William regretted that he did not hear him, but "regrets are idle things."

August 11, 1800. From Staten Island. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:33.

They have rejoiced at the arrival of "Liberties" (one of William's ships, the "Northern Liberties"). They all celebrated. She longs to see Rebecca but realizes that it is better that she (Rebecca) stay with Eliza (Eliza Seton Maitland) this summer.
They are watching the horizon for the arrival of another ship. She is thankful that there is some degree of peace. She is going to write letters on behalf of some Irish immigrants.

William is better, but Mammy is sick. She says this day weds her nearer her blessed home.

The latest boat has brought her four letters and two notes -- a joy except for news of Eliza (Maitland). She praises Rebecca for giving comfort to Eliza. The blessings will outdo the heavy hours and days. About 400 sick persons are being landed from one ship.

She rejoices that she has had time to sew, to hear lessons, and to play while her children danced and sang, especially when she hears of the hard lot of one of the widows who visited her for several hours.

Kate is better but still suffering. She is sending a book and blessings.

She is concerned that her letters are not getting through since she has not heard from those to whom she had written last week. She is happier than she deserves to be.

Kate is still sick with sore throat, sore mouth, cough, and pain in the breast. She has little time for the others.
Two o’clock [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:41.

Mrs. Livingstone (a friend in the Widows’ Society) has died. A postscript adds that the linen is out -- ten shirts.

July 29, 1801. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:42.

She begins with a prayer of praise to God, her benefactor and friend. The beauties of nature praise God while often the soul is imprisoned in darkness. Due (Catherine Dupleix) has left, as has her father, who is shooting snipes. She has taken Anna to the ladder leading to the top of the house to have her look up and promise God to be good.

June 2, 1800. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:43.

She passes the days receiving notes of love continually from her children, and she hopes that Rebecca’s tears may be chased by smiles.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:44.

She heard Mr. Hobart this morning, words of peace and hope, but William did not understand.

Ten o’clock, Thursday [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:45.

William is sick and she is worried about the pain in his side.

Four o’clock, Wednesday, March 11 [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:46.

She advises Rebecca to take care of herself as well as her patient, Eliza. Her family (Elizabeth’s) are all well and happy. Mary Post says their father is no worse.

Ten o’clock, Wednesday, July 15, 1801. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:47.

She reminds Rebecca that it is her duty to make Lidy (Eliza Maitland) aware of the treasures of religion.
Five o'clock [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:48.

She tells her not to come the next day because the storm is increasing.

Monday morning [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:49.

She had spent two hours that morning on the piazza with her New Testament. She wants Rebecca to come for a visit.

October 14, 1800. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:50.

She asks her to come to town so they might “keep the feast” since they do not know when there will be another opportunity. She thanks “Heaven” that Lidy (Elizabeth) is well again.

Three o’clock, Friday afternoon [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:51.

She tells her to take care of herself in the heat. As she prayed from her prayer book, she recalled times they had prayed together and anticipated when they could do it again. The place where she now resides is no home because its rules are too strict.

Eleven o’clock, Thursday night -- Friday morning [n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:52.

She cannot sleep just thinking of the poor, suffering immigrants. Many are dying for lack of food. She wishes she could help them. Her father goes early each day to provide whatever comfort he can.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:53.

She invites her to come for the day since William is taking the children out.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:54.

Mr. Hobart has called on her and talked about his mother and sister. She told him about the happiness she had experienced the evening before when William seemed nearer to her for being nearer to God.
January 29, 1802. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:55.

William is not well. Kit is cross because she is cutting a tooth. The others are well.

Wednesday afternoon [1801 or 1802]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:56.

It has been suggested that Rebecca come to sit quietly with her. Her in-laws think her unfeeling because she did not cry with them.

August 5, 1802. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:57.

She has been busy with church and calls on her friends afterward. She remarks that her soul is sick and not at peace.

[n.d.]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:58.

She hears that Maitland is seriously ill and asks the Father of Mercies to help Rebecca who will remain at the Maitlands.

November 19 -- December 4 [1803]. To Rebecca Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:59.

She has been detained in prison (in Italy). This morning it was explained to them that their ship was the first to bring the news of yellow fever in New York. A boat with 14 oars came to take them to the Lazaretto. William seemed almost as if he would not live another day.

December 4, 1803.

Her continual enjoyment (in the Lazaretto) is the time spent with her Bible, commentaries, and Kempis (Thomas Kempis' "Imitation of Christ"). She felt that of all the hours of her life she would want to recall these more than any others. Through compliance to her situation and humble resignation she hoped to express her love, her joy, her thanksgiving, and her praise.
The Filicchis have been very kind and sympathetic, and Parson Hall and the capitano from the Lazaretto have come to offer sympathy. Filippo (Filicchi) gave her a copy of Saint Francis de Sales' book (Introduction to a Devout Life) to amuse her. Anna remarked that everybody was their friend.

February 2, 1804.

She went to Mass with Mrs. Filicchi (Amabilia) for a particular festival. The experience of the lights on the face of the priest and on the altar made such an impression on her that she wept.

February 10, 1804.

She and Anna will sail in a few days. She has been asking Mr. Filicchi questions about religion. He said that people can have the right faith if they pray first and inquire for it, and that is all he asks of her. So she is trying to be serious while laughing with God. She does not know which is the better way, but she knows that everyone's way should be respected. She has many questions.

February 18, 1804.

They were prepared to sail in the morning but a storm damaged the boat and they were obliged to return to shore. Then it was discovered that Anna had scarlet fever.

February 24, 1804.

Anna is over the worst. She tells about the Filicchis' belief in the Blessed Sacrament and how happy she would be if she could believe as they did. She prayed, using Saint Bernard's prayer to the Blessed Virgin (the Memorare).

April 18, 1804.

She and Anna may now leave their room as the quarantine period is over. Filicchi has taught her to make the Sign of the Cross. She marvels that Catholics believe that all they do and suffer can be offered in
expiation for their sins. She likes the fasting the Filicchis do for Lent, unlike her own which Mr. Hobart called “an old custom.” Even better, she liked the fact that Catholics could go to Mass every day, not just to church once a week as she was accustomed. She has just learned that Captain B. (Blagge) will take her and Anna to America, but Antonio Filicchi will accompany them because of danger from pirates and hostile ships. Anna hopes there are Catholics in America and that she can go to their church.

April 8 -- last hour in Leghorn.

She attended Mass with the Filicchis where she begged God to give her their faith and she promised him all in return for such a gift. She admired and sympathized with the Filicchis on their separation.

Letter from Mother Seton to Harriet Seton, Her Sister-in-Law

[n.d.]. To Harriet Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:66.

She has received consolation from Harriet’s letter, in which Harriet tells her that she loves what Elizabeth loves. Afflictions now are short compared to eternity. She cautions her to be careful in denying and in declaring. Evade conflict with Barclay.

Letters and Notes from Mother Seton to Cecilia Seton, Her Sister-in-law

November 19, 1802. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:87.

Written on first page: “Cecilia B. Seton from her own sister EAS”

She instructs Cecilia to learn about God because there is nothing greater than God, and besides, there is no greater source of peace and joy.

She writes a series of prayers, including two poems, praising the Father of all beings. She praises, too, the Blessed Savior and asks the grace never to disobey Him willfully. She includes short prayers for morning and evening.
October 1, 1803. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:88.

She is leaving (Cecilia) to her loving friends and the protecting care of the Heavenly Father. She tells her to continue to lead a good Christian life, to set up rules for herself, and she will be respected even by those who do not agree with her.

October 7 and 8, 1805. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:89.

(Note: the first pages are in another hand. Perhaps Anna wrote some of this, but thoughts are those of E.A.S.)

October 8, 1805.

(The first three pages are in another hand.)
She loves Cecilia as if she were one of her own children, and she asks her to think of her (Elizabeth) as a sister.

Pleasures pass quickly, leaving pleasant memories. At all times, she advised Cecilia, she should practice the prayer of the heart, lifting her mind to God, no matter what situation or activity she is pursuing. God will never forsake her. She wants Cecilia to think of her as a sister who loves her in her very soul.

Monday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:90.

She wishes she could be at the bedside of the ill Cecilia, but they must look beyond to the time of no separation. For now, they must rejoice in her condition and wait until the final hour will unite them.

Twelve o'clock, Tuesday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:91.

Her (Cecilia's) recent note was like sunshine after rain. Rebecca (EAS's daughter) dreamed that she saw Aunt Cecilia, dressed in black, kneeling at her bedside.

Friday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:92.

She chides her for worrying about something that may never come. She should know that she (Elizabeth) would never leave her. We must yield ourselves to Providence, Whose ways are mysterious. She wishes Cecilia were here but the sacrifice is brightening her crown.
Two o’clock [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:93.

She calls Cecilia a “prisoner of the Lord,” reminding her that she (Cecilia) would not be in her present situation unless it was willed by God. She includes an underlined request that Cecilia should tell no one that she (Elizabeth) is not well.

Three o’clock, Monday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:94.

She was saddened by yesterday’s visit with Cecilia, but prays that peace be hers. She asks Cecilia to send story books for Cate.

Four o’clock [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:95.

She had not known that Cecilia was so sick, perhaps in even greater pain than Due, with whom she visited yesterday. One who has the love of God can look on pain only as an effect of His Love rather than a scourge or torment.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:96.

Sis (Rebecca Seton?) is better. She advises Cecilia to use her own discretion to keep the peace.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:97.

She tells Cecilia that her (Cecilia’s) life, as it is unfolded, proves that God has chosen and marked her for His own. She wishes Cecilia courage and the desire to do, or to yield, in order to please God.

Wednesday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS]PH 1-3-3-8:98.

Little Mags behaved sweetly at yesterday’s ceremony performed by “Whyso” (Reverend Michael Hurley). She (Elizabeth) watched from a separate room and went inside only at the moment of the ceremony. Later in the day she said her litanies and contemplated her conversion to the Church, thankful that she now dwells in this “divine region of ‘Superstition’ as the Englishman calls it. Whyso (Reverend Hurley) is happy that we will dine with him Sunday.”

[Bruté makes a note that “Whyso” is Reverend Michael Hurley.]
Saturday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:99.

Every day her love for Cecilia increases, and she asks forgiveness if her expression of that love overstepped prudence this afternoon. She cautions Cecilia to take care of her throat because her life is precious. She quotes Ganjanelli about embracing troubles with faith, and about experiencing more of Calvary than Tabor. She (Cecilia) is not to come tomorrow if she is not well.

June 7, 1807. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:100.

She says that their secret bonds are especially soothing now, and both of them suffer and long for home. God is merely treating them as He does all those He loves best. They both should be thankful for the past and yield everything with peaceful resignation. She has found consolation in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. She urges Cecilia to be kind to everyone and to remember that the most effective preaching is example.

Two o’clock, Wednesday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:101.

Her heart is heavy about Ann, but God knows her heart. Perhaps she will come this afternoon, but Cecilia must keep her (Ann) warm and give her plenty to drink.

Friday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:102.

She is puzzled that Cecilia’s heart can be cast down for so long. She quotes a letter from Saint M. (Reverend Michael Hurley) in which he encourages them to leave all to God. Various relatives have stopped by, but Cecilia might as well be in a cell; they see so little of her. She will go Saturday when Mage receives her mystical communion.

Thursday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:103.

All of our duties, though often distracting, bring us nearer to God. She lists some directives from Saint Thomas of Jesus (note: not a Saint) for Cecilia’s consolation. She admires the Augustinians, including Reverend Hurley, for their sweet spirit, and she rejoices that Saint Augustine himself is one of her patrons (since his feast is on her birthday).
Thursday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:104.

She feels she has brought Cecilia only added pain instead of consolation. She has confidence that Cecilia is taking good care of Ann (Anna), but, being a mother, the tears come when thinking about her daughter.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:105.

She advises Cecilia that the best thing for her to do is to insist on it. They were inconsistent in not having been to Mr. Wilkes. She does not know how Cecilia could meet them at all.

Three o'clock, Thursday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:106.

She let Cecilia leave the day before, for fear that delay might ruin their happiness. She tells her to cheer up because God prepares a glorious reward. She (Elizabeth) loves Cecilia more than all of her children.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:107.

She wrote letters until half past 12 yesterday. She asks Cecilia to kiss her children, and to bless dear Ann, for her.

Monday evening [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:108.

Sister is better now as is baby Tat. She asks her to be prudent and careful.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:109.

She tells about rising at 5 a.m., going to church in the rain, and at 8 a.m. receiving "her soul's desire." She wishes Cecilia had been there with her, but, at least, yesterday's meeting brought happiness. They daily offer each other to Him.
[Either March 28 or April 28, 1808]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:110.

She attended Mass at 8:00 and then saw the Barrys off on their voyage at 10:00. She would like to have Cecilia with her, but she encourages her to cherish hope. She recommends the last chapter of Combat (Scupoli’s *Spiritual Combat*). She will send her copy, as well as *Devotions*, which Mrs. Barry has given her.

*Two o’clock, Saints Peter and Paul [n.d., copy, March or April 28, 1808]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:111.*

Saint Peter and Paul -- Two o’clock
She reminds Cecilia that peace is from God, and that she (Elizabeth) will be in union with her when the Miserere is sung. Cecilia is not to fear. She will try to see her Wednesday. She hopes Cecilia will hear Mr. Tracy Sunday.

*[n.d., but after the death of James Barry who died January, 1808]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:112.*

She attended a solemn Mass for poor B. (Mr. James Barry), thinking about when such (a Mass) would be offered for herself and Cecilia. She is unable to go to Cecilia, so she wants her to leave Ann with Emma.

*[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:113.*

She loves Cecilia, but the first battle must be won. She tells her to look up.

*September 28 [1807?]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:114.*

She could not get to Vespers and Benediction because everyone at Posts’ house was sick. She and Ann will go to church tomorrow to honor Saint Michael and all Angels.

*Monday, the longest day of the year [June 21]. To Cecilia Seton. AS|PH 1-3-3-8:115.*

She arrived at church yesterday before the offering, and received Communion at 9:00, later, spending an hour among Saint M’s (Reverend Michael Hurley) books.
Saturday night [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:116.

She would love to spend an evening with her. She asks that God’s sheltering wing be over her in every storm and that she may realize that He is nearest to her when her heart sinks. She should think of eternity.

Ten o’clock, Saturday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:117.

She pities her poor brother (James Seton?) and tells Cecilia to be his ministering angel, a sacrifice to the Lord. She tells Cecilia to be confident in Jesus, not worrying about feelings or struggles of nature, for then He is close to her. As Saint M. (Reverend Hurley) advises, she should read her Kempis (Thomas Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ*). She should retain Whyso (Reverend Hurley) for now (as director?) as Anna should also.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:119.

She would not take the burden from Cecilia, but she prays that Cecilia may remain faithful to the grace. It is by this means that she will be exalted. She recalls Saint M’s (Reverend Hurley’s) words of the Mass: “Sursum Corda” and “Peace, be still.”

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:120.

The girls want to go to visit Ann, but she hopes it will not be too much for her brother (James Seton). She (Cecilia) should come to have her finger treated. She (Elizabeth) would love to take care of her, but it is not the time.

16th day of [unclear] [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:121.

Sunday’s sermon by Mr. Tracy, on the advantages of crosses and contradictions, was made for Cecilia.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:122.

She has been hindered from writing today but she sends blessings and her love.
Two o’clock, Saturday [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:123.

Saint M. (Reverend Michael Hurley) is leaving Monday to become rector of Saint Augustine Church. He wishes to see her (Cecilia) Sunday. Elizabeth wants to share her cares and her tears. Her children will be withDue, so she will sleep at Barrys and spend Sunday in church.

Ten o’clock, Thursday evening [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:124.

She consoles Cecilia, having heard that she is so unhappy. She must rest with the watchful Lord and consider others, like Eliza, who have hope for recovery. Until another page is turned over, we must rest under the shadow of the cross.

Four o’clock [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:125.

She struggles against poor human nature and knows that Cecilia must, too. They must never lose sight of one another. She knows that when she was in the position Cecilia is now, she did not bear the suffering half so well as Cecilia is doing. She must have patience and do all for the glory of His name.

Ten o’clock, Monday [September 7, n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:126.

She was troubled that Cecilia stayed at the Ark (Church?) from early until one o’clock yesterday, while she (Elizabeth) had to tend to poor Anna who was very ill, but is better today. Let us put Cecilia’s situation with its threatening wrath, into His hands. She cautions Cecilia to listen only to James’s (James Seton) proposals and not those of the other relatives.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:127.

She sympathizes with Cecilia in her hard trial, a trial which will bring future peace if offered in sacrifice.

One o’clock [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. AS/PH 1-3-3-8:128.

She has had a “confab” with Mr. Harris, telling him about her Canada scheme. He is determined on keeping the school for three years more, so she will have to stay with it. God will order all.
Saturday afternoon [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:129.

She would like to go to Cecilia if the roads are passable, but maybe Cecilia could come to her, leaving Emma in Ann’s care.

April 3, 1803. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:130.

She exhorts Cecilia to keep her heart fixed on the Lord, so that when He calls them home they may sing His praises together and be separated no more.

Sunday morning [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:131.

Though it is Sunday after 9:00, she is home with a sore throat on a rainy day. Again, she encourages Cecilia to accept her present, painful situation in silence and resignation.

Four o’clock, Friday [n.d., March 26, 1808?]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:132.

She thinks that Cecilia would rather go by herself, but if not, Elizabeth will accompany her. It is better to go after 8:00 and then “receive when all are gone.” Besides, Mr. S. (Reverend Louis Sibourd) will be alone at that time. She would like to write the girls a letter but knows that that cannot be.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:133.

She wants Cecilia to come tomorrow. Yesterday everything was decided as soon as possible.

Exaltation [September 14, 1807? or earlier]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:134.

It is Anna’s birthday, and she (Elizabeth) wonders how much longer Anna can rejoice in peace and innocence. Eliza (Sadler) visited yesterday and she (Elizabeth) told her that Cecilia’s love was of a different kind than hers (Eliza’s).
Wednesday evening [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:135.

She is thankful that Anna is better and that Cecilia and Emma have taken good care of her. She wants to see Cecilia again, and hopes her (Cecilia’s) finger is better.

Lady Day [March 25, 1807?]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:136.

She is now spending time at the bedside of Anna, who has returned to her. She tells Cecilia that she should see Jo (Dr. Joseph) about her painful finger. She has been told today “remember the pattern of purity and to dare even to imitate perfection,” that is a “high hill” for her. She tells Cecilia to dismiss her (Elizabeth) from her head and keep her in her heart. She hears from Hatch (Harriet) that there may be some trouble ahead for Cecilia (because of her conversion?).

Christmas Eve, 1805. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:137.

She wishes she could visit Cecilia to console her in her pains and sorrows. She implores her to offer these sufferings to the Father of Mercies. He will help her as He did her sister Rebecca, who meekly bore her burden and is even now interceding for them.

July 1, 1807. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:138.

She is happy to have received consolation from Saint M. (Reverend Michael Hurley) the previous morning. The rest of her day was taken up with visits from various friends, so that she had no time for litanies until 9 o’clock. Even as she visited, her thoughts were on God. Saint M. (Hurley) has changed his mind about the Canada scheme; her own sister Mary (Post) said that whoever loved Elizabeth would want it.

Thursday night, Corpus Christi May 28, 1807. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:139.

She has been in pain but her soul is calm. The mother of Saint M. (Reverend Hurley) has died and they await the new priest. She is happy to hear that Hatch (Harriet) and much loved (Same Seton) are with her (Cecilia).
Friday night [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:140.

Kate is ill. She (Elizabeth) received Holy Communion this morning from Saint M. (Reverend Hurley) and thought of her (Cecilia). She tells her to hold on.

[n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:141.

She tells her that she (Cecilia) is climbing up Ararot, the mountain on which the Ark rested.

*Copy of the Soul, written at Midnight July 8, 1807. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:142.*

This letter has the following notes appended:
(1) ...Copy of the Soul written at midnight July 8, 1807.

(2) [Written on the outside.]
To be read every day for a week. Sweet Peace.

(3) C.B.S. MEAS [These initials are enclosed] [Saint Thomas of Jesus (Not a canonized saint)].

The letter is, apparently, one long quotation on a meditation on abandonment, and a prayer for enlightenment and perseverance.

*Saturday evening [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:143.*

She did not go because of a stiff neck. Perhaps someday we may take a short walk to Greenwich or to town. “Happen what will our Tabernacle is always firm.”

*August 14, 1807. To Cecilia B. Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:144.*

She speaks of her hospital being quiet after a sad night, but pain is easy when the heart belongs to God.
P. 1 She experienced a sweet consolation at Holy Communion, especially since her own self indulgence had kept her away the two previous days. She wonders why she has been called and so many others passed over. May her heart never rest except in God.

11th In her dream, she pressed the Sacred Host close to her heart.

P. 2 Dreamed of almonds and raisins in her lap, then the Sacred Host intermingled. She tried to separate them, but awoke to the thought of how difficult it is to separate human affections.

12th She spent a night of watching in fevered pain, interspersed with “Glorias.”

13th She must be content to forego her Treasure (Holy Communion) today and be resigned to pain.

14th The soul is often overpowered by the body. She hopes it will not be so the next day, the Blessed Mother’s day.

P. 3 Many will offer their vows which cannot be destroyed by death.

15th She prays for humility and love on this feast of the Assumption.

16th Since she has been exiled to a house two miles from church, she offers litanies, rosaries, and prayers of the Mass.

P. 4 She would rather have her Kate taken from her by death than have the child live to offend God even once.

18th In spite of mortality, pain, weakness, and suffering, God will accept it all as an offering, if renewed.
P. 5 She longs to see Cecilia, but she gives up the thought if it will bring her (Elizabeth) closer to God. Rebecca asks if she has told Amelia the right thing by saying "If we have thorns in this life, we will have roses in the next."

20th She is disappointed in the hope of going to church. Kate has some serious complaint.

P. 6 She asks God to renew her, to make her like a child, like Kate, for example. She wants to grieve when she offends; to obey; to work well; to remain close to God every moment.

23rd She has been to church with Anna and has once more received Holy Communion.

P. 7 Parent and child are united in the God Who created them; may they dwell under the shadow of the Cross.

28th On the feast of Saint Augustine and her 33rd birthday, she praises God for life and begs that her footsteps never slip.

P. 8 Today her soul desires to remain with the Master and awaits with hope eternity. Since she has walked like her patron (Augustine) the paths of sin, she prays to be brought to Light as he was.

P. 9 She wants to sing the Te Deum of joy which will continue into eternity.

September 8 She spent the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in bed, but not without continuous prayers that she might follow Mary's pattern of faith and humility.

10th She prayed for the spirit of penance, humility, and meekness found in the soul of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine (Augustinian Order), whose feast was celebrated that day.

14th On the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross she was discouraged by her lack of advancement in virtue, but God in a moment lifts her up.
16th She has been to the Tribunal of Reconciliation and has received pardon through Father S. (Sibourd).

P. 11 A neighbor has given her a journal which belonged to her lately deceased niece. The young woman had written a warning to her friends to beware the writings of Voltaire and Rousseau, which had given her doubts about her salvation and had led to her despair. Elizabeth states that the same writings had once composed her Sunday devotions, but through God's mercy, she has learned to reject their fatal influence.

P. 12 Sometimes she has risen reluctantly, slothfully to go to meet her Lord, yet, He always has given her the same sweet reception.

P. 13 On this feast of Saint Thomas of Villanova (Augustinian), she wants to cry out with him for the love of God, declaring that all torment and fatigue should be borne to attain it.

29th She claims the patronage of Saint Michael, whose feast it is, with confidence in his protection against the enemy and the powers of darkness.

P. 14 She asks Saint Teresa of Avila, who called herself a great sinner, to pray for her, a worse sinner who does not know how much time she has left.

P. 15 The mystery is not in the fact that the Lord is in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, but in the fact that souls of His own creation remain blind to the Light.

P. 16 She continues her prayer of praise to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

P. 17 She asks which of us can think of this treasure of our faith without being saddened about so many who possess only a shadow of this faith, a shadow founded in words only. Whenever we are discouraged by our relapses, we have only to approach the sacred fountain to receive Him Who is Joy, Peace, Contentment.
P. 18 Jesus is everywhere, but in the Sacrament of the Altar,
He is present really and actually as my soul is in my body.
She asks an increase of faith and eternal life.

August 15, 1807. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:146.

Peace is uncertain, but her (Cecilia’s) trial of patience and confidence is her sure means of being perfected. She encourages her to rid herself of depression. The “much loved” (Sam Seton) reports that Cecilia is ill and she (Elizabeth) would love to support her.

January 19, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:147.

She has thought of Cecilia at the Wilderness, with her little circle of children, and wishes she could join her three with the group. She hopes Anna is being a good child, and she is missed.

Last day of May, Sunday night [n.d.]. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:148.

She was delighted with a letter from Bishop Carroll which gave her encouragement and happiness in belonging to his fold. She went to church where Father Burns (Reverend John Byrne) said the prayers, Whyso (Reverend Michael Hurley) gave the sermon, after which she and Kate dined with Father B. It was especially enjoyable because he had just seen her sons and could give information on them, as well as letters from them and Father K. (Reverend Thomas Kelly), a teacher at Georgetown.

Journal, June 9-17, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:149.

N.B. Bruté has written at the top:
“Her journal sailing from New York to Baltimore 1808 -- Preserve it.”
See below (“a pointing hand”).
[5 pages]

P. 1 She wrote as she and three daughters passed the lighthouse 30 miles out of New York. The little ones play and eat until the motion of the sea makes them sick, Anna especially. James Cork has been most helpful. [The pointing hand is next to this line]: “…the poor heart is offered in every way he will make use of it.”
P. 2 Three days have passed and they have taken Anna on deck, supporting her on both sides. A Mrs. Smith and daughter have assisted in this. The little ones Kissior (Kate) and Rebecca, not half so sick as Anna, sing, play games, and alternate between wanting to return to Cecilia and looking towards seeing their brothers.

P. 3 The boat is now going up the Chesapeake Bay just as the sun is setting. The next day she will be among strangers but she shall not be anxious or fearful or disappointed.

P. 4 The next evening they are still not in Baltimore Bay, but should be by the next day.

P. 5 They docked at Baltimore wharf last evening, but now at 9 a.m., Thursday (June 16), they are waiting to send belongings through customs. It is pouring rain, but within an hour they will be at Saint Mary's in His sacred presence.

Thursday Evening, Corpus Christi.

A carriage took them to Saint Mary’s Chapel, where they arrived at the moment of consecration. The splendor of the scene overshadowed anything she had seen in Florence. After Mass she was welcomed by Mr. D's (Dubourg’s) sister, (Madame Fournier). Her children are filled with wonder and delight.

Friday Evening.

She is overwhelmed by the religious opportunities at her new home – Masses from daylight until 8:00; vespers and benediction every evening; friendly welcomes everywhere; Saint M. (Reverend Michael Hurley) talking. The next day she will go on to Georgetown to bring her boys to Baltimore.

August 12, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:150.

She asks Cecilia to meet her in spirit each day when the Angelus bell rings - at 5:30 a.m.; before 2 p.m.; and before 8 p.m. She says it on her knees for the departed to gain the indulgence attached. She does
not mean to neglect Cecilia, but to write letters she must give up some prayer time. She asks about some relatives and friends but would not exchange her situation for theirs.

*August 8, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:151.*

She encourages Cecilia to bear up under the opposition, putting her trust in Jesus who fights for her. She rejoiced at Cecilia’s letter, as did Mr. Babade and Mr. Dubourg. The gentlemen are leaving for vacation so she will have more time for prayer. She asks for Sister Post (Mary), for Harriet, for Catherine (her niece), and for Eliza. She hopes and prays that they all may embrace the true faith. She inquires about a picture of Reverend Michael Hurley which seems to be missing. She inquires about Mrs. Startin, Madame Longumere, Helen, Mammy Taylor, and Mammy Diane.

*August 26, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:152.*

She is anxiously waiting for a letter from Cecilia, especially since her new friends in Baltimore are away. She wants news of Harriet, Eliza, and Em. She talks about Mr. Cooper coming and says that if both had not already devoted themselves to God she does not know “how the attraction would have terminated.”

*October 6, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:153.*

She is happy that Mr. Sibourg in New York is getting some excellent assistants. She is concerned about Cecilia and the others and that they be ministered to. She would love to see all the Wilderness flock in the Church. She prays for that, especially at daily Communion. Reverend Babade will bring two young women to Elizabeth as soon as the house is ready. They are Americans who had intended going to Spain to enter a convent, Cecilia (O’Conway) and May (Maria Murphy). “It is expected I shall be the Mother of many daughters.” She asks Cecilia to send Salisbury flannel for winter coats.
She advised Cecilia to wait patiently until God reveals the time for her to join Elizabeth. Mr. Cooper has taken the tonsure.

(The following note was attached to the above.)

April 3, 1809 (Easter Tuesday).

Their girls, all dressed in white, have just received Holy Communion for the first time. Afterwards Father Dubourg offered a Mass of Thanksgiving. Every night they have Benediction with many priests, and the seminarians singing and praying together. Here, everyone calls her "Mother." Louisa Caton, a relative of Bishop Carroll is anxious for their departure from Baltimore. Bishop Carroll said that Cecilia should wait a while, but not to enter upon any engagements.

1809. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:155.

She has heard of Cecilia’s illness, but also of her coming to Baltimore. She asks Cecilia to bring only a black gown and her flannels. She feels sorry for those who will be left behind but is eager to welcome Cecilia.

"Impromptu" [1808 or 1809]. To Cecilia B. Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:156.

She praises Dubourg’s proclamation on Easter Sunday at Saint Peter’s Church.

Monday morning, September 5, 1808. To Cecilia Seton. ASJPH 1-3-3-8:157.

She longs to see them all. Her day is regular and unvarying — 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. chapel; 9 a.m. school; 1 p.m. dinner; 3 p.m. school; 6:30 p.m. examination and rosary. She was sorry that Cecilia could get to church only once while Mr. Redmond was there.