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House of God

Regina Bechtle S.C.

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Stained glass window depicting Elizabeth Seton.
Daughters of Charity Provincial House, Rome, Italy.
Photo courtesy of John E. Rybolt, C.M

House of God

BY

REGINA BECHTLE, S.C.

What passion drove you,
Elizabeth, house of God,
from Leghorn prison
to New York's altar
crowned with a cross?
More than a weathervane pointed you
to your Savior's body,
to the Eucharist of life.

What passion drove you
to Baltimore haven
and Emmitsburg hills
where God's new house awaited you,
in sickness and stone,
dream and dailiness?

If you did it today,
Elizabeth, house of God,
what kind of home
would you build
for the Holy One,
for a holy people?

Your black eyes flash,
probe my face,
my fears, my heart.
"And you," you say,
"what home are you building?"