



THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
The First Native Born Saint of the United States of America

## Sulpician Priests honored by Daughters of Charity Emmitsburg Province for Early Role

Emmitsburg, Maryland – Mother Seton and her small band of young women arrived at the Sulpician settlement on Saint Mary's Mountain where she was welcomed by John Dubois on June 22, 1809. Two hundred years later the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland honored Sulpician priests from the Province of the United States at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Sister Betty Ann McNeil, DC, Provincial Archivist, remarked, "It was a delight to once again have Sulpicians in Mother Seton's Valley since their story and ours are so intertwined. It was the Sulpicians who guided St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in her establishment and formation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's 200 years ago."

Rev. Thomas Ulshafer, Provincial, received a framed reproduction of the letter written by Mother Seton July 4, 1808. According to Sister Betty Ann, it was a symbol of the gratitude of the Sisters and Daughters of Charity to the Sulpicians of the United States for their support, guidance, and governance to the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph's since the time "the Reverend gentlemen of the Seminary" received Mrs. Seton as their adopted charge. The framed reproduction of a letter written by Mother Seton at Paca Street reflects the Sisters' gratitude, for the wisdom provided at the time of the founding of the community at Emmitsburg, for instilling the Vincentian charism in the first Sisters of Charity, and negotiating the union with the Daughters of Charity of Paris in 1850.

An evening liturgy for the Sisters and Sulpician priests was celebrated by Sulpician U.S. provincial, Rev. Thomas Ulshafer, was the main concelebrant, along with numerous other Sulpicians concelebrating.

The bicentennial of the Seton Legacy will be celebrated on the weekend of July 31, August 1 and 2, 2009, in Emmitsburg, at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 333 South Seton Avenue. "Many consider their visit to the Seton Shrine as a time of grace. Walking on holy ground where a Saint lived, prayed, and died is a privilege. How much more so on the 200th anniversary of her arrival in this 'valley of blessings,' the founding site and cradle of the Sisters and Daughters of Charity in North America. This bicentennial will be quite a birthday party," remarked Sister Betty Ann.



Sister Claire Debes, D.C., Provincial Superior (right) welcomed the Sulpicians to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Shown (l to r) are: Rev. Thomas Ulshafer, provincial, Society of Saint Sulpice, United States Province; Rev. Tony Perez, S.S. from St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, Maryland (center); and Rev. David Thayer, S.S. from Theological College of the Catholic University of America and General Consultor on the General Administration of the Sulpicians.

Visit our web site, [www.setonlegacy.org](http://www.setonlegacy.org), to print the agenda for your visit.

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