

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born on August 28, 1774 in New York City to an upper-class family. Raised an Episcopalian, she married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman. Together they had five children, but William died of tuberculosis after his business failed. Try to imagine Elizabeth as a poor widow with five children to support. Before William Seton's death, the family traveled to Italy, a favorite place for those in England and the United States who sought relief from consumption, as tuberculosis was then named. In Italy, Elizabeth saw the Catholic Church with new eyes and in March 1805 she became a Catholic, to the displeasure of her family. With four friends she established a new religious community, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and opened a school for poor children near Emmitsburg, Maryland; this school was the beginning of the vast parochial school system in the United States. By the time Elizabeth Seton died, her religious order included over twenty communities. She was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975. Donated "in honor of all members" by the Yager family, our window shows St. Elizabeth Ann Seton wearing the habit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Looking up at the saint is a young child, symbolizing Elizabeth's devotion to educating the young. Her feast falls on January 4. Her name is inscribed on the front doors of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan as a "Daughter of New York." The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg is open to the public.

