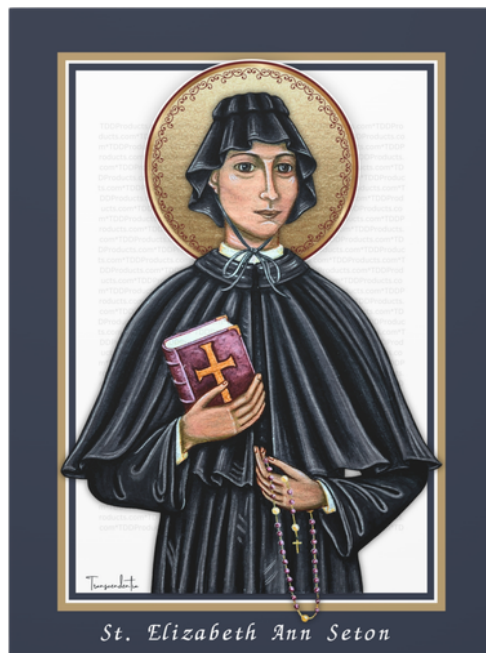




St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Icon

By: Transcendentia Designs

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the foundress of the Sisters of Charity, who laid the groundwork for Catholic education and social services across the United States. She was canonized by Pope Paul VI on September 14, 1975, and became the first native-born U.S. citizen declared a saint. She is the patron of Catholic schools, educators, widows, orphans, those suffering the loss of parents, or having in-law issues.

In our Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Icon, she is depicted in black, which is the habit of the Sisters of Charity, which consisted of a black bonnet, black dress, and shoulder cape. Mother Seton used the funeral color as a continuous memento mori (a reminder of death), stating that she was "always dressed for the grave".

She is depicted holding the rosary, on which she avidly prayed. She found the Rosary to be a powerful prayer that drew her closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and she wanted this spiritual connection for her Sisters and students as well. When she established the Sisters of Charity, the recitation of the Rosary was a central part of the initial rules, with portions prayed during walks to church.

The Red line around the halo is called the Alpha line. The color represents the purified clay that is under the gold. In the process of writing an icon, there is a brownish/red clay under the gold halo, and it represents God's breath (gold) being breathed into Adam (red clay). It is also called the red crown of martyrdom, representing not only the Saints who gave up their life for the faith, but the Saints who died to self for love of Christ. The White line is the last one to be written. It is also called the Omega line. It symbolizes a remembrance of the icon's beginning as a pure white board. The Alpha line "opens" the icon; the Omega line "closes" it.