



## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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### A Novena To St. Elizabeth Ann Seton For Life

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*Saints Elizabeth Seton is a powerful witness to the Gospel of life, in her time. This novena suggests three days of prayer for the promotion of Life in our country and our Church today.*

#### **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Saint Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, a prominent New York aristocrat, had five children with her husband, William, a shipping merchant. Before she turned 30, the Setons went bankrupt and William died. Within five years of his death, Elizabeth had converted to Catholicism, formed New York city's first charity (the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children), established the first Catholic school and the founded the first religious community of women in the United States of America.

#### **Day One**

Saint Elizabeth Seton,  
you knew the beauty of all human life  
when you carried a child in your womb  
and when, as a young widow,  
a teacher, and founder of the Sisters of Charity,  
you sought to live the Gospel of Life.  
Inspire us, intercede for us, and be with us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
You know the sacrament of Holy Matrimony;  
Teach us to support all families with faith and truth.  
You know the love of a good spouse;  
Intercede for all newly married couples.  
You know the stirring of the child in your womb;  
Intercede for every unborn child.  
You know the miracle of giving birth;  
Pray for mothers tempted by abortion.  
Our Father ...  
Hail Mary ...  
Glory to the Father ...

## Day Two

Saint Elizabeth Seton,  
you knew the beauty of all human life  
when you carried a child in your womb  
and when, as a young widow,  
a teacher, and founder of the Sisters of Charity,  
you sought to live the Gospel of Life.  
Inspire us, intercede for us, and be with us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
You know the cry of a little child;  
Inspire us to protect the littlest and most vulnerable.  
You know the searching of the adolescent;  
Open our eyes to the wonder of their lives.  
You know the journey of the dying;  
Be with us as we journey toward death with those whom we love.  
You know the pain of the widow;  
Inspire us to seek out those who are most in need.  
Our Father ...  
Hail Mary ...  
Glory to the Father ...

## Day Three

Saint Elizabeth Seton,  
you knew the beauty of all human life  
when you carried a child in your womb  
and when, as a young widow,  
a teacher, and founder of the Sisters of Charity,  
you sought to live the Gospel of Life.  
Inspire us, intercede for us, and be with us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
You know the loneliness of the orphan;  
Consecrate us to the protection of children.  
You know of the vocation of the teacher;  
Inspire us to teach the Gospel of Life.  
You know the vows of religious life;  
Pray that we might be faithful to the Gospel of Life.  
Our Father ...  
Hail Mary ...  
Glory to the Father ...