



Elizabeth Ann seton

Mother for Many

1774–1821

Born in New York, New York

First American-born saint

Feast Day: January 4

Patronage: Catholic schools

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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints. Six books make up the first set: *Saints of North America*. In this set, each book tells a thought-provoking story about a heavenly hero.

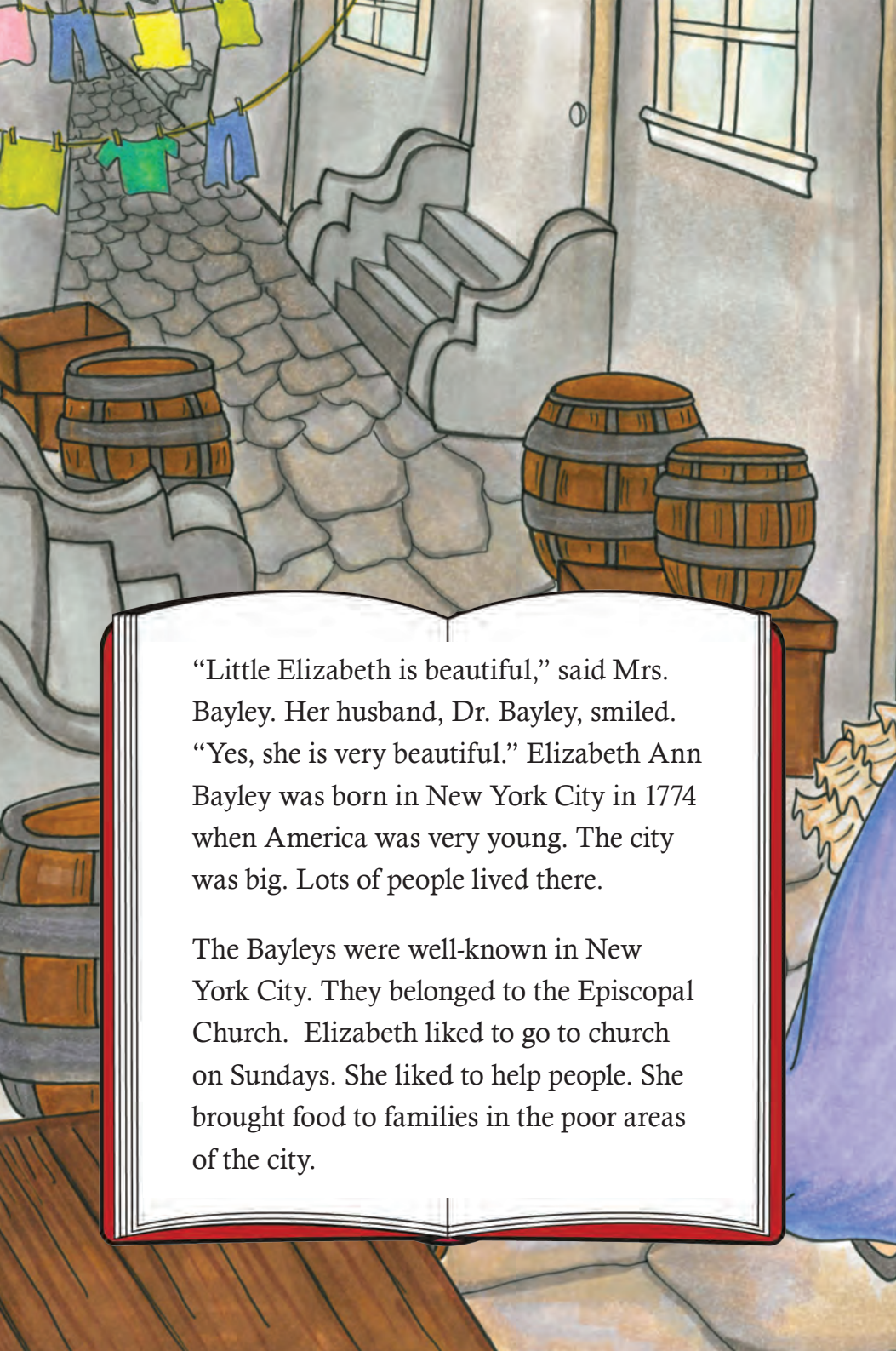
Saints of North America includes the heroic lives of six saints from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Saints Kateri Tekakwitha and Elizabeth Ann Seton were both born in the United States. Saint Juan Diego was born in Mexico, and Saint André Bessette was from Canada. European missionaries also came to North America to spread the Catholic faith, making it their home while they worked with people in the New World. Saints Rose Philippine Duchesne and Damien de Veuster were missionary saints.

Through the centuries, saints have always been dear to Catholics, but *why*? In most instances, ordinary people were and are transformed by the life of Jesus and therefore model Christ's life for us. It is our Lord who makes ordinary people extraordinary. As your children come to know the saints, it is our hope that they will come to understand and identify that they, too, are *called to be saints*.

Which saint wanted to work with Native Americans? Who wanted to work with the sick people on the island of Molokai, Hawaii? To which saint did the Virgin Mary appear? Who loved Saint Joseph? Which saint started the first American religious community of women? Do you know which saint is the patron of nature? Find the answers in the *Saints of North America*, *Saints and Me!* set and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

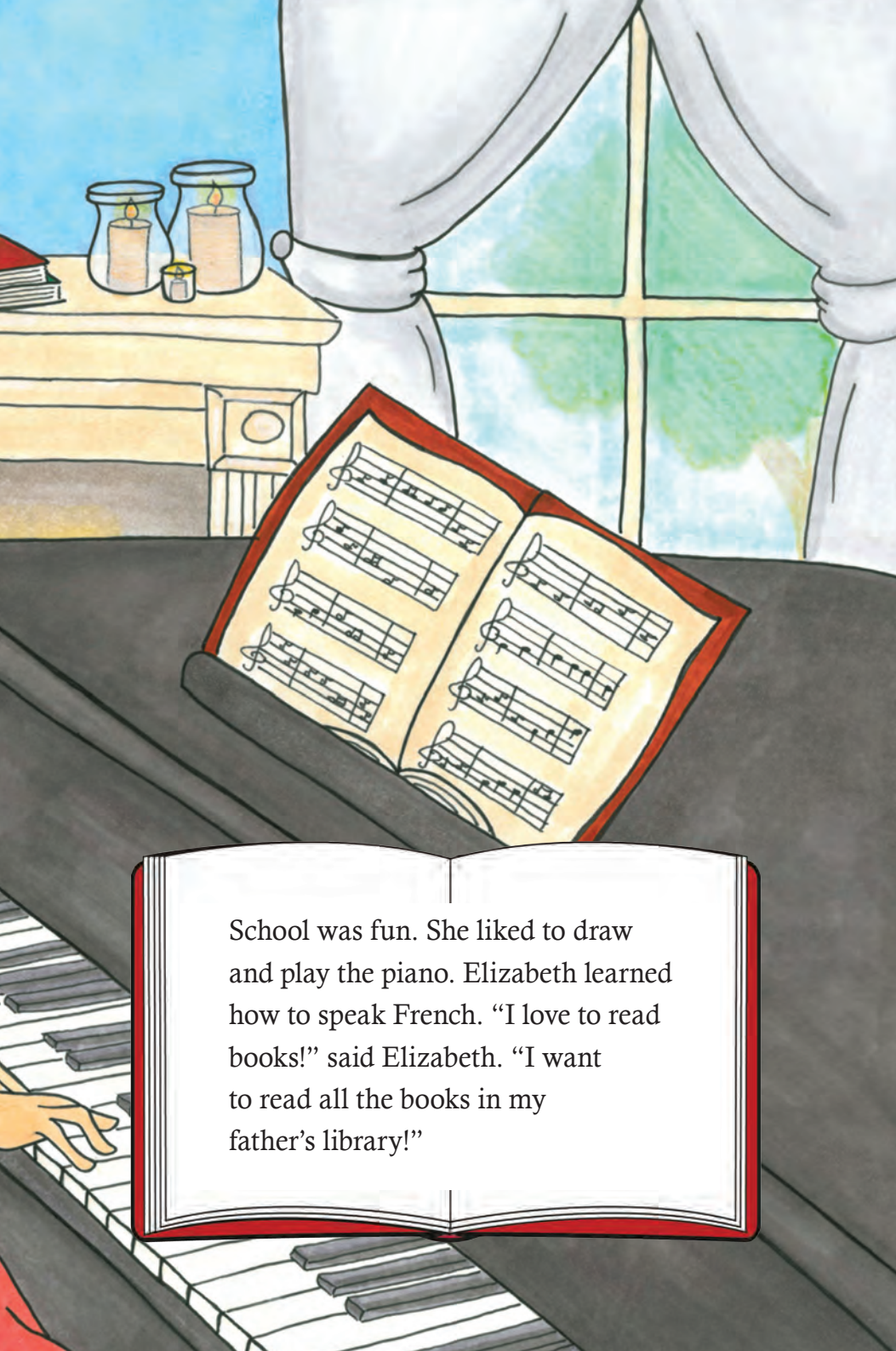
- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.



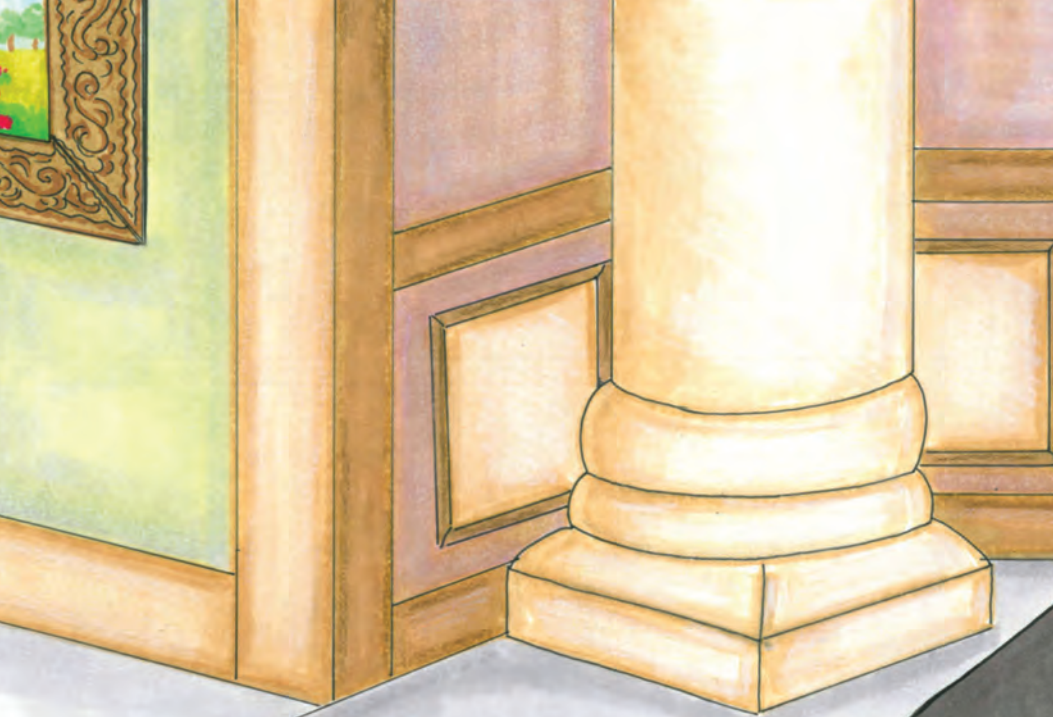
“Little Elizabeth is beautiful,” said Mrs. Bayley. Her husband, Dr. Bayley, smiled. “Yes, she is very beautiful.” Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City in 1774 when America was very young. The city was big. Lots of people lived there.

The Bayleys were well-known in New York City. They belonged to the Episcopal Church. Elizabeth liked to go to church on Sundays. She liked to help people. She brought food to families in the poor areas of the city.



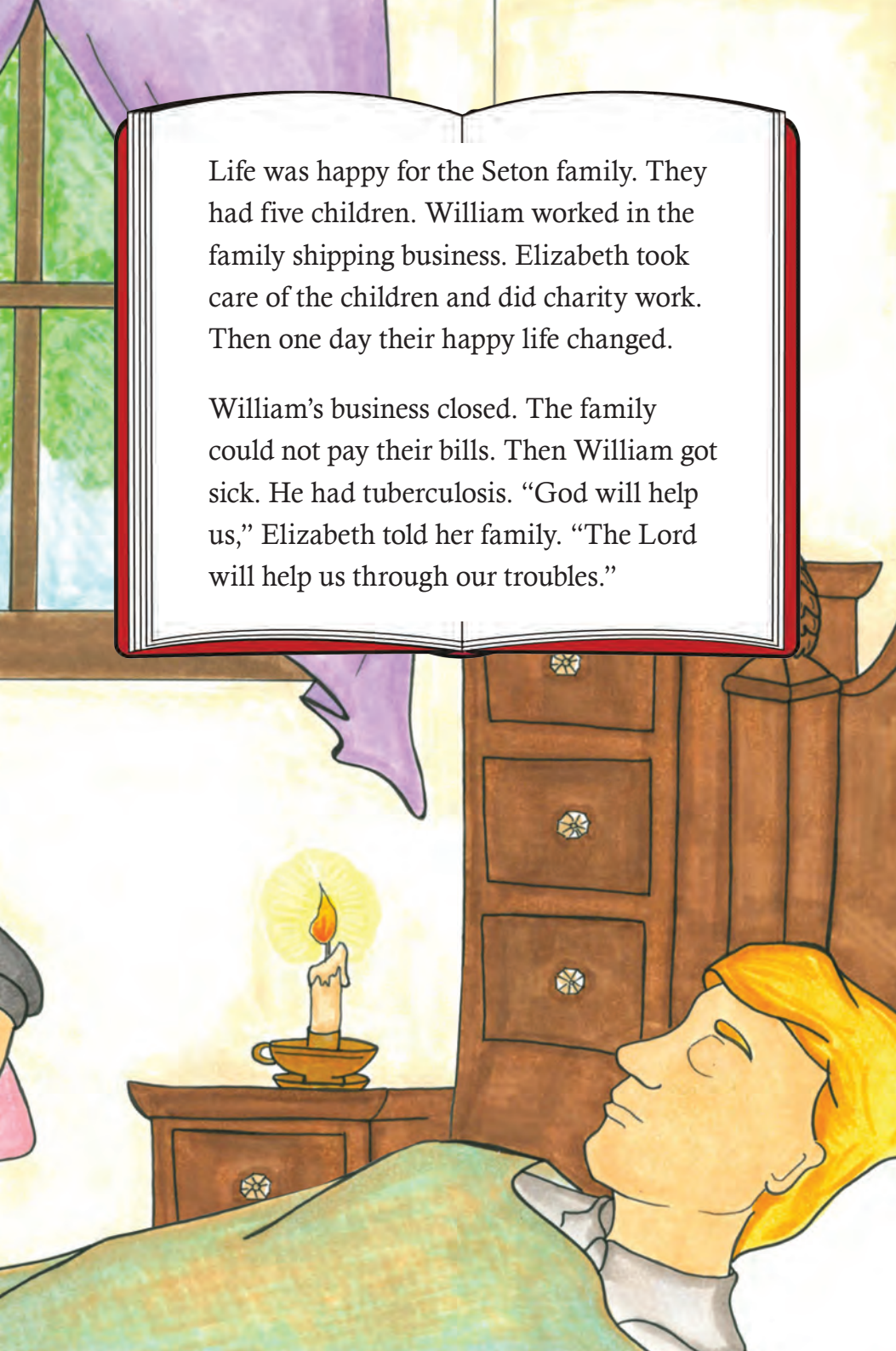


School was fun. She liked to draw and play the piano. Elizabeth learned how to speak French. "I love to read books!" said Elizabeth. "I want to read all the books in my father's library!"



Elizabeth had many friends. They went to parties and dances. At age nineteen she met William Seton. He was very kind. William and Elizabeth went to parties and dances together. They liked each other very much. Soon they fell in love and were married.





Life was happy for the Seton family. They had five children. William worked in the family shipping business. Elizabeth took care of the children and did charity work. Then one day their happy life changed.

William's business closed. The family could not pay their bills. Then William got sick. He had tuberculosis. "God will help us," Elizabeth told her family. "The Lord will help us through our troubles."

