**ELIZABETH SETON DAY – August 30th 2012**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : Welcome**

Good morning everyone. Today we celebrate Elizabeth Seton Day. We thank God for our school community. We also remember Elizabeth, the lady whose dream, hard work and faith helped to create schools like ours. In today’s gospel we hear God telling His followers to ‘stay awake’. It is a reminder to live in the present and to be there for others, just like Elizabeth was in her life. It is also a reminder for us to stop and thank God for what we have.

**OPENING SONG: Standing on the Shoulders**

**Symbols:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : Elizabeth Statue**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : Elizabeth Relic**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : School Candle, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: light candle**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: School bell**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: **Opening prayer:**

Before we begin today, pause for a moment and set aside any distracting thoughts. We let go of yesterday, put aside worries about tomorrow and we focus on today. Lord, we invite you to be with us today. Help us to learn from St Elizabeth Anne Seton’s example. Help us to be people of peace in our school, in our homes and in our world. Amen.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ : Gospel Procession**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Gospel Mt 24:42-49**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant? It is the one that his master has placed in charge of the other servants to give them their food at the proper time. How happy that servant is if his master finds him doing this when he comes home! Indeed, I tell you, the master will put that servant in charge of all his property.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Gospel Reflection:**

In this reading, Jesus is telling his disciples to ‘stay awake’ and be aware. We too, need to learn to live in the present moment and be aware of God’s presence in the world. We need to learn not to worry about the past, or be anxious about the future, but to celebrate in the present. Elizabeth Seton was a great example of someone who lived in the present. She went through many struggles in life from the death of her mother when she was just a child, to nursing family through sickness, to surviving as a bankrupt single mother. Yet, these struggles didn’t cause her to give up. She didn’t dwell on her pain all her life, instead, she learnt through her pain, she was able to see needs that others had and help them. She learnt from the past and carried on in the present. She wasn’t afraid of the future either, she didn’t wait for things to be easy before she did something. Instead, she boldly stepped out and helped where she could with what she had. Elizabeth was a woman who was fully present with others. She gave of her time to be with her dying husband and father. She always had time for her children and gave them attention. She was someone who was fully present with others.

Today we have a choice. We have a choice to live in the present, just like Elizabeth did. To ‘stay awake’ and to be aware of God’s presence in our lives, just like Jesus asked the disciples. Today, we have the opportunity to be aware of the people around us, and patiently give them our time. It can be by listening to someone, to helping out a classmate, by treating our teachers with respect. Let’s practise right now by simply by taking 3 deep breaths and thinking of all the things that we are blessed with today.

**Reflection Clip:**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** : God of love, You gave us Elizabeth Seton as an example of someone who was there for others. May we too, have the patience to give people our full attention and respect. Lord hear us.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** : God of courage, Elizabeth showed great strength when things were difficult. Help us too, to be people who put aside our worries, to help people in need. Lord hear us.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** : Loving God, Elizabeth loved the people around her. Help us to always appreciate the people in our lives – our family, our friends and our school community. Lord hear us.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: God of peace, Elizabeth was aware of Your presence in her life. We pray that we would also be aware of Your presence and that it would empower us to accept Your help in our own lives. Lord hear us.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: CLOSING PRAYER**

Loving God, you sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to bring good news to the poor, happiness to those who are sad and suffering, and hope to those who struggle. Through the example of Jesus, and the life of Elizabeth Seton, may we come to know and love you as they did. May we show our love and care for the poor and needy in our world. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Closing Song: Lift Up Your Hearts**