

# The Soul of Seton

By Barbara Gargiulo

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## Yvonne Macredie



*Our parish has responded so faithfully to the needs of the evacuees from the New Orleans area. However, long before that and long into the future, the People of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton have been there and will continue to be there for those in need. Yvonne Macredie stands tall on the foundation of hospitality and outreach and serves our community faithfully. If you would like to get more involved in the Outreach Ministries of our parish, please contact the Pastoral Ministries office at (972) 596-5505.*

*“And Mary said: ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.’” (Luke 1:46-47)*

### **Editor’s Note:**

*As the faithful of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton grapple with the call to stewardship we always end up talking about gift. Each of us is so fortunate to have so many gifts. Sharing these gifts and welcoming the stranger are the foundation blocks on which faith in action rests. “You shall treat the stranger who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you, have the same love for him as for yourself (Dt 10:19).” Care for the stranger was even incorporated into the gleanings and tithing laws of the day. “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not be so thorough that you reap the field to its very edge...nor gather up the grapes that have fallen. These things you shall leave for the poor and the alien (Lv 19:9-10).”*

Yvonne Macredie speaks of her devotion to Mary. Yvonne remembers her mother saying that whenever she asked Mary about something, the request was always answered. Sometimes the answer was surprising or unexpected; but there was always a response. Yvonne is grateful for this gift from her mother and for the gift of good and caring parents. Yvonne was raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, but has lived in Boston, Chicago, Houston and now Plano.

Yvonne and her husband have four children and seven grandchildren. She proudly carries a “grandmother purse” which displays pictures of the grandchildren. Most are in Texas, but there is a family in Denver—not a bad place to visit.

Yvonne moved to Plano five years ago from Houston. Her husband's job in the oil and gas industry located them in Dallas. Yvonne brought with her a background rich with thirteen years of teaching experience (primary through junior high grades) including experience training teachers. She also had sixteen years of experience training participants in the tech industry. Yvonne's leadership, organizational and motivational skills were put to use as Program Manager of Compaq's New Hire Training for North America. She prepared five-day training sessions. For a while Yvonne was able to continue this work from her new home in Dallas, but the Houston-based company very reluctantly realized that this was a difficult situation.

Yvonne also came to her new parish, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, with impressive credentials from ministry experience in her previous parishes. She had been the designer and coordinator of a program for kindergarten through second grade. She had trained teachers and parents involved in preparing young people for sacraments. She had supplied energy and inspiration for a junior high program. On many different occasions her leadership and motivational skills were recognized and appreciated. Yvonne was generous in giving them. Proclaiming God's greatness and rejoicing in God were part of Yvonne's everyday life.

Her five years at Saint Elizabeth have been filled with days of participation in the Meals and Rides ministry. Yvonne helped coordinate the work of the volunteers in that important parish ministry. As a result of her involvement, she developed along term relationship with two special ladies—Dorothy Roskopf and the late Evelyn Finnegan. She met these women on a weekly basis for over two years.

Yvonne does training in the parish Safe Environment program; she meets with people at both Saint Elizabeth and Saint Mark parishes about creating a safe environment. She served as a member of the Building Committee and was an enthusiastic leader of a small group during the five seasons of Renew.

During the days following the Katrina disaster, Yvonne recognized a need for someone to organize the distribution of household goods. She volunteered to handle the donations from her garage. For six weeks she accepted, sorted, and dispensed the donations.

Yvonne also finds time to sew Baptismal garments for the new members of God's family baptized at Saint Elizabeth. Interacting with parish leaders such as Linda Bell and Donnie Hawley who recognized Yvonne's many skills and gifts is part of the story.

Besides her involvement at Seton, Yvonne felt a calling to assist new members of the Plano community as VP of Membership and President of Newcomer Friends of Greater Plano. The rest of the story is the willingness of Yvonne to say "yes". At the wedding feast at Cana, Mary said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Yvonne tries to listen to His call.