

The Soul of Seton

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Jean Dorans



Editor's Note:

An **Oikonomos** or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability. Jean Dorans is an example among us of the "oikonomos". She has taken the gifts that God has given her and made them yield a great deal. She has shared that yield generously and

with gentle spirit. The call of God to be a good steward is one received by each of us. Ours is a faith response, a yes, a cherished trust between each of us and God.

Jean Dorans says that one of the Scripture passages she finds most meaningful and most inspirational is, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34) Indeed this Soul of Seton fills her days with relating to and interacting with others.

Jean's influence on the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton has been felt since 1988. Jean, her husband, Tom and their youngest daughter moved here from New York. They were part of the J.C. Penney relocation to Plano. The Dorans' have seven children who are now located throughout the United States. Jean speaks very happily of their annual family reunion in Virginia.

While a member of her former New York parish, Jean was honored by being named Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She proudly served bringing the Eucharist to those who were homebound. This was a ministry Jean knew she wanted to continue in her new parish. She called Rosemary Leach who coordinated that work. Jean was not only welcomed but immediately put to work. Jean continues

this work faithfully every Sunday after 8:15 Mass with Pat LaRose and once or twice during the week.

Jean and her husband, Tom also serve eighteen fourth graders of Seton by being religious education teachers. They take this work very seriously and have a definite routine of preparation and work sharing. They truly enjoy this work, have lots of fun and are somewhat sorry to see the year come to an end. The Dorans' have also recently become involved as sponsor couple for engaged couples who are preparing for marriage at Seton. Jean and Tom have been married for fifty-five years; but they have found that sponsoring an engaged couple is more than just sharing their own story and experience. The engaged couples are expected to learn and reflect on many aspects of marriage. Jean and Tom talk to the engaged couples about the joy and comfort of having someone to love and to love you throughout all of life.

Jean serves as a faithful member of the **Friends of the Bereaved**. Through this ministry of the parish, those who have suffered the loss of loved ones are ministered to through the gifts of hospitality and presence.

In addition, Jean's imprint reaches out from the Seton community. Soon after they moved to Texas, Jean and her daughter attended an informational meeting and learned about the Assistance Center of Collin County. Jean volunteered and has been with them for fifteen years. She works under Joyce Hagins and Jackie Hall who heads the Center. Jean now spends half a day each week answering the phone. She offers aid

to those who call. Sometimes it is a matter of directing them to available services such as a food pantry, shelter and/or counseling. Last year this work won these volunteers the "Humanitarian Award" from Collin County. Jean takes obvious pride in this award.

Bottom line—Jean Dorans is a Soul of Seton who quietly and without pretension goes about each day living Jesus' new commandment, "Love one another."

