

# The Soul of Seton

By Barbara Gargiulo

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## *M.L. Dubay*



### **Editors Note:**

***When God called creation into being, He created the person as separate and distinct from the animals and plant life. One of the things that make humans distinct is the ability to choose a response rather than be subject to nature's conditioning. Men and women of faith have the option of choosing to respond with faith. To say, "yes God", even during suffering makes an occasion for His glory. The Good Steward is the one who accepts the call to give back to God, with an increase, all that has been given to them. To give to others, even in the midst of our own***

***suffering, is a testament to the beauty of the person as God's most precious of creations. That is why God himself chose to become human and transform the world through suffering. M.L. Dubay has modeled for us how, when faced with our own suffering, we can use it to share in Christ's transforming work in the world today.***

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When Saint Paul wrote his first letter to the members of the Church in Corinth, he reminded them that being part of a Christian community was like being a part of a body. Both the community and the body are made up of many members. Each member is unique and each has a special role to play, special work to do.

Circumstances in the life of M.L. (Mary Louise) Dubay have provided her with the time and the opportunity to reflect seriously on this teaching of Saint Paul. M.L. understands that she is an integral part of the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and of the outreach from this community.

M.L.'s story begins in Knoxville Tennessee where she was born the youngest of five children. M.L. describes herself as a lifelong Catholic. She graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee where she pursued a degree in business as well as her interest in fashion design. Her distinguished career in business includes time with Dillard's Home Office, Ericsson and Nortel Networks with whom she has been

associated for fifteen years. She now serves as Director of Marketing for the corporation; her responsibilities are global in nature. They include reporting the return on marketing investments and aligning key resources around global marketing strategies. M.L. is proud of the fact that she has worked in three of the four business units that are part of the company; this gives her a broad base of experience and outlook that translate into contributions to the company.

In 1994 Nortel transferred M.L. and her husband Duane from California to their offices in Richardson, Texas. It was then that M.L. found the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. She became part of the Welcoming Committee where she met some good friends. She recalls an especially enjoyable visit Doug and Beth Collins. When the Saint Elizabeth bulletin invited parishioners to accompany Father Timothy Heines on a trip to Italy, M.L. signed on. It was on this trip that she met more Saint Elizabeth friends and responded to Father Tim's request that M.L. become part of the parish's Finance Advisory Council. She was able to use her talents and skills as a business major to serve the parish. M.L. now also fills a role as Eucharistic Minister (Mass captain at 11:45) and a Lector.

But here is "the rest of the story". In June of 2000 M.L. was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Following many days, weeks and months of pain, frustration, depression but also joy and appreciation, M.L. is today cancer free. She credits her husband Duane, her parents and friends and in a special way the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton with providing the support and help that she needed. The passage from the Letter of Saint James which encourages "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you." (James 4:8) became a guiding force in M.L.'s life. She is

now very active in providing help and support to others who have brain cancer. She has co-authored the book *100 Questions and Answers About Brain Tumors*. She wrote this book along with her doctor, Virginia Stark-Vance, a Medical Oncologist in the Dallas - Fort Worth area. M.L. says that Doctor Stark-Vance started out as her doctor but has become her friend. Doctor Stark-Vance describes M.L. as "smart, funny, gorgeous, well organized and just happened to have a brain tumor". Their book has been a source of information and inspiration to patients and families.

M.L. has a busy schedule of speaking engagements. She was guest speaker at the 2003 American Brain Tumor Association Sharing Hope Family Weekend in Chicago. She is preparing to travel to her hometown of Knoxville to be guest speaker at the 2006 Wellness Community Annual Meeting. M.L. is a founding member of the Survivorship Program at the Baylor Richardson Cancer Center in Richardson. She is also on the board of Ladies of Legacy a non-profit foundation that offers direct help, support and honor to patients who are dealing with brain and spinal cord tumors. Clearly M.L. is using her time, talent and energy to make a difference in other's lives. She has reflected deeply on the role God wishes her to play and she expresses gratitude every day for all that has been given to her through the challenge of the test of her faith and strength. M.L. truly believes what she read in the book *A Purpose Driven Life* "Trusting God completely means having faith that he knows what is best for your life."