

AMERICAN SAINTS

Five Candidates for the Honors of the Altar.

In the following interesting letter to the New York *Sun* Rev. Edward F. Mc Sweeney, professor of moral theology, ecclesiastical history and canon law at Mt. St. Mary Theological Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., calls attention to the fact that there are five candidates for canonization, whose claims, based on the heroic sanctity of their lives in this country, are now being examined by the proper ecclesiastical tribunal:

"Investigation into the virtues of Elizabeth Anne Seton, a New York lady, foundress of the Sisters of Charity, has occupied a Baltimore ecclesiastical court now these three years, and may hold it much longer. It will interest all concerned to know that Father Bruté, long her confessor and spiritual adviser, himself enjoyed a high reputation for sanctity, being called 'The Angel of the Mountain.' He anticipated ninety years since, as his writings show, that judicial inquiry would at some future time be made into his holy penitent's life. But he also is a candidate for canonization, and St. Mary's Mountain may have its saint as well as St. Joseph's Vale.

"Father Bruté was the chief helper of Father Dubois, New York's third Bishop, in the founding of Mount St. Mary's College. He afterward became Bishop of Vincennes, and died in the 'odor of holiness' in 1839. The Bishops of the Fourth Provincial Council of Baltimore, held in 1840 and comprising all the Bishops then in the United States, in their official report to Pope Gregory XVI, thus refer to Bruté: 'Since our last meeting we have to deplore the death of our most dear brother Simon Gabriel Bruté, Bishop of Vincennes, who shone with so great splendor of virtue as to leave all who knew him full of confidence in his celestial happiness and glory. God grant us, under the guidance of your Holiness, to walk in his footsteps and reach his reward.'

"In ancient times this act of the Bishops was equivalent to canonization, something that for centuries past belongs only to the Pope. Besides Mrs. Seton and Bishop Bruté three other American candidates await the honors of the altar. These are the 'Lily of the Mohawk,' Tegakwita, an Iroquois maiden, native of New York State, and two Frenchmen, René Poupil and Father Isaac Jogues, S. J., missionaries in the Mohawk Valley. The Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, held in 1884, recommended these last three to Rome for canonization. So that of the five candidates two are native New Yorkers and two others intimately associated with the Empire State.

EDWARD MCSWEENEY,

Mount St. Mary's, Md., October 12.