

Seton



MAGAZINE

"Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church"

JULY 2012



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Did you know?



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native citizen of the United States of America to be canonized a saint.

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every step of the way”*



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**Give us
your
feedback**

**We are counting on you,
our faithful readers,
to give us input
on topics you want
to see in future issues
of Seton Magazine.**

**We want to hear
from you.**

**Perhaps there is something
you and your family
can contribute.**

Let us know.

**THERE IS A GREAT STORY
BEHIND EVERY HOMESCHOOLING FAMILY**

Homeschooling is an adventure, and each family who embarks on the adventure has a unique story, touched and guided by Divine Providence.

We'd like to feature *your* story. If you have a story, or would like to share part of your adventure with us, please contact us at jshanley@setonhome.org

**SHARE YOUR STORY AND
INSPIRE ANOTHER FAMILY**

Letter from the Director of Seton Home Study School

Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Obedience



It is no coincidence that the first sin listed in the Bible is one of disobedience. It is certainly not surprising to parents, whose toddlers, when told “come,” often go instead.

As parents, we want our children to be as free as possible. But we also recognize that there must be limits to freedom. As much as we want our children to be free, we do not want them to use that freedom to place a hand upon a hot stove. We do not want them to use their freedom to jump off the house. A child who places a hand on a hot stove will be burned, and a child who jumps from high places will break bones. Young children may not know or believe in the laws of physics, but they are laws nonetheless, and the children will not escape the consequences.

Just as there are laws in the physical world, so there are laws in the moral life. Just as there are consequences of actions in the physical world, so there are consequences of actions in the moral life. St. Paul says that the moral law is written in the heart. He means that everyone

instinctively knows what is right and what is wrong. Those things which are right are things which tend toward the good of the individual and society. Those things which are wrong are things which harm the individual or society. If we want a better society, then we must be better people.

Secularists look at God’s laws as some sort of arbitrary set of rules. But God’s laws are not arbitrary. They are a necessary set of rules which come from the nature of man. They are the principles which make it possible for individuals and societies to live in peace and prosperity.

We can use human reason to understand the moral law. We can reason to the notion that murder, and stealing, and lying are wrong. But, to help our fallen nature come to the right conclusions, God has given us the Ten Commandments. The Commandments do not make certain actions wrong. They merely recognize and confirm that certain actions actually are wrong. In other words, stealing is not wrong because the Commandments prohibit it. Rather, the Commandments prohibit stealing because stealing is wrong. The individual who is robbed suffers, and the individual who does the stealing suffers the consequences when others discover he is a thief.

The Commandments tell us how to live a virtuous life. They tell us not to do those things which will hurt ourselves and others. Just as we teach our children the laws of physics so that they are not injured, we need to teach our children also the laws of God so that they may lead happy and productive lives. Just as one cannot ignore the laws of physics, one cannot ignore the laws of God. For every action, there is a reaction, whether we like it or not.

God Himself confirms how important it is to teach these laws to our children. In Deuteronomy Chapter 6, through

Moses, God commands the people to keep all His commandments “which I command thee, and thy sons and thy grandsons, all the days of thy life ... And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart. And thou shall tell them to thy children; And thou shall meditate upon them, sitting in thy house, and walking on thy journey, sleeping, and rising. ... And thou shall write them in the entrance, and on the doors of thy house.”

We must teach our children that following the laws of God does not mean slavery, but instead brings true freedom. Conversely, breaking the laws of God means being a slave to sin.

Being a slave to sin does not bring a happy life to anyone. Liars, cheaters, murderers, and adulterers are not happy people. No one puts them forward as role models. No one says they want to be just like them. Rather, it is only those who follow the Commandments who can find happiness in this life.

Following the Commandments also means happiness in the life to come. Jesus tells us, “Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.” And He further says, “If you love me, keep my Commandments.” (John 14:15) Conversely we might say that not keeping the Commandments shows that we do not love Him.

If we love God, then we will keep his Commandments, including his command to teach our children the Faith. And if we love our children, we will want to teach them, because by knowing and keeping the Commandments, they can be happy in this life and the next.



Your Questions...

answered by Dr. Clark

Virtual Views

On Facebook we posed the question *“As the days are getting longer and warmer, what are your family’s favorite summer activities?”* We thought our readers would like to read what parents shared:

Maggie: baseball, softball, swimming, and making things out of duct tape

Matty: Soccer, baseball, swimming, and others!!

Dessi: Gardening...it is frugal and it is a great way to get moving, refreshes body and soul and we do not have to go from one field to another, always running!!!! We work, then we sit and drink ice tea and enjoy the birds chirping and the kids running free...it is all organic! LOL

Angi: swim lessons, softball, theater, violin...many many trips to parks and the library

Lisa: Swim lessons, Tae Kwon do classes, trips to the used bookstore and library, gardening, playing outside, riding bikes.

Kambra: Walks in the woods.... bike rides...

Frederick: video games, lol. It is too hot out here in Phoenix.

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I have been homeschooling for a couple of years, but I think that we could accomplish more with a better schedule and routine. What do you suggest?

The trick to accomplishing anything is first, to stay in prayer, and second, to be organized by following a daily schedule. Set up a schedule for what you want to do, including Mass and the daily family Rosary, and then do your best to stick to your schedule. Train your children to follow their daily plan; put it on the wall next to their desk or chair. The schedule can include the school assignments and the chores. There are always going to be times when things come up which require your immediate attention, but the children should keep going with their assignments.

Work with your students to set up a schedule indicating each subject and the time and post it up on a wall. When the subject is finished and well-done, draw a happy face or paste a sticker on the assignment sheet.

Consider scheduling chores between classes to give the children some activity throughout the day. Reward your children with a certain amount of play time at lunch for completion of morning assignments. For the afternoon, school time can stop when assignments are completed.

Carefully consider your out-of-home activities. Some families spend so much time at outside activities, the schoolwork simply does not get done.

If the weekly assignments are not completed, consider having your children spend their Saturday finishing up incomplete assignments. With that policy, you will be surprised how efficient your children become. Be sure you enforce the policy so your children will believe you and tend to their assignments.

It is a basic truth of economics that incentives and disincentives make a large difference in society. They can also make a large difference with homeschooling. Look at what the incentives and disincentives are in your home and see if you can make any changes for the better.

My sons struggle with the book reports during the year, and I am thinking of having them do reports early in the year. What do you recommend for beginning steps?

You may want to schedule the reading and the writing of the book report either the first week of each quarter or take a week from the other assignments between each quarter. Help the student to understand the assigned questions or topics, then assign the student to read the book, while highlighting or making notes in the book in relation to the topic. By the end of the week, have your student write the report. The following week, have your student go back to regular daily assignments.

Don't forget that we have all kinds of helps for you and your students for writing book reports. On your MySeton page, click on Resources or Scroll down to Reading Resources. You can find not only chapter notes on the assigned books, but also you can find Book Report Worksheets. There are several pages for your student to fill in basic information. By the time your student has finished reading the book and filling in the information on the Worksheets, he has all the information to start writing his report.



Don't miss out on our online resources at MySeton, such as the Book Report Worksheets.

My 3rd grade son has done so well on the tests, getting almost perfect scores every time. I would like him to skip a grade and move into 4th grade.

We never suggest skipping a grade level because textbooks are written with increments built in. When a student omits using textbooks for a grade level, we can almost guarantee problems will show up later.

We encourage parents to enroll a bright student in the usual grade level, but the student can proceed at his own rate, going through the lessons as quickly as he can do them while maintaining excellent grades. In the area of math, a student may not need to do every problem, but the student should at least do the end-of-chapter review problems. When the student starts slowing down or missing problems in the chapter reviews, then the parent can start the student doing the lessons in the following chapters.

Sometimes parents tell us their student can spell all the words in the speller. That may be true, but the spelling books try to show spelling patterns among a group of words so that the student can apply them later with an unfamiliar word. In addition, our Seton spellers try to teach definitions and the use of the spelling words in sentences.

Perhaps a student knows almost all the vocabulary words in the Seton vocabulary book. However, we include exercises in analysis skills on the second page, and, on the third page is an exercise using words appropriately in sentences and which often teach a Catholic concept.

Our conclusion is that it is best to enroll your student in the normal grade level, but proceed through the courses at the rate which is best for him. He can always move into a higher grade level for each subject as he finishes each course.

We are new to homeschooling, and the materials we have received are a little overwhelming. How can I reassure my children?

First off, please remember that you and your student have a whole year to go through the lessons. You just need to start progressing, step by step. Eventually, steps add up, and you've gone a long way. Help your students to do the lessons, subject by

subject, at the pace that is best for each child. Fit the lessons to the child, not the child to the lessons. That is what homeschooling is all about.

For now, show each child the lesson plans for one day in each subject. If they can see that one assignment for one day is not so much, they won't be overwhelmed.

If one of your children says it is too much work, you should say to the student, "Let's look at today's assignments and see exactly what is being assigned." The key is making slow and steady progress, and not stopping for long periods of time.

If a student is trying to make up work he has not done in a long time, it can be overwhelming, like the laundry would be overwhelming if it were not done for several weeks. But if the assignments are done each day, with the extra being done on a Saturday morning if necessary, the children will learn that it is easier to do each lesson each day rather than ignoring the assignments for long periods of time.

This is my first year of home schooling, and I am a little nervous.

The first thing to remember is that you need to stay in daily prayer, and remember that you are doing the right thing, the best thing for the upbringing of your children. You are protecting your children from the secular culture and you are going to influence your children positively by spending time with them each and every day. You are going to train them how to live the Catholic life, how to pray, how to be kind and generous to each other, even showing the older children how to help teach the younger children.

You are going to teach obedience and respect, as well as self-discipline and organizational skills. You are going to teach them how to work together as a family, and how to accomplish things together as a family. You are going to teach your children how to



Be sure to start your day with prayer and say the Rosary every day with your family. Remind them of the examples of holy children, such as the three children of Fatima pictured above.

share and how to care about each other. And in between those important lessons, you can teach some math and reading and English.

Be sure to start your day with prayer. Go to Mass every day if you possibly can. Say the Rosary every day with your family. Have a Family Altar and a May Crowning. Keep holy pictures around the house, and a statue of the Sacred Heart. You have been given the gifts from God at the Sacrament of Matrimony to fulfill the duties of the married state, one of which is to train your children to be good Catholics. They will not just be good Catholics, but also educated Catholics who can be leaders in the future and bring our society back to Christian values.

My second-grade son wants me to sit with him for all his lessons. Is that a good idea?

This is not unusual for younger children, but it is usually not possible to give complete attention to each child, especially when several children are involved. Plus, you have other concerns as well, such as keeping the house and family going. You might want to schedule time during the day that will just be for him, so that he knows when it is "his time". At other times during the day, you might consider asking an older sibling to help your son, such as listening to him read.

Of course, students need to learn eventually to work on their own. One of the most important lessons for homeschoolers is learning to self-motivate and work independently. These skills will help your son throughout his education and throughout his life.

Military and Uniformed Service Academy Prep Program



A fully-accredited, Catholic high school program providing an Advanced Academic Diploma designed to prepare the student for admission to a Military or Uniformed Service Academy.

This exciting new program has been designed to prepare Seton's participating students to earn credits in all courses recommended by the five national service academies, and to meet the stringent Virginia standards for an Advanced Academic Diploma. While the program has admittance to a service academy as its central goal, many students may wish to enroll in this program solely to earn an advanced academic diploma. Completion of this program will require a minimum of 29 high school credits. Due to the challenging academic load, students may stretch their enrollment to five years.

Post Secondary Option

A large percentage of first year students at the academies have accomplished at least one year of post-secondary academic

preparation before entering an academy for the first time. Seton will offer a post-secondary year, a fifth year, for those who desire or need improved academic skills for increased acceptability to the academies. The Air Force, Army, Navy, and Coast Guard Academies will admit new students up to their twenty-third birthdays. The Merchant Marine Academy will admit new students up to their twenty-fifth birthdays.

What are the requirements to graduate from the Military and Service Academy Prep Program?

In order to earn the Advanced Academic Diploma from the Military and Service Academy Prep Program, Seton's students will be required to earn:

- 4 credits in English
- 4 credits in Religion

- 4 credits in Science (with labs)
- 4 credits in Mathematics
- 4 credits in foreign language
- 4 credits in History and Social Studies
- 2 credits in other areas including: Logic, Economics, Keyboarding, Health, Physical Education & Computer Skills.

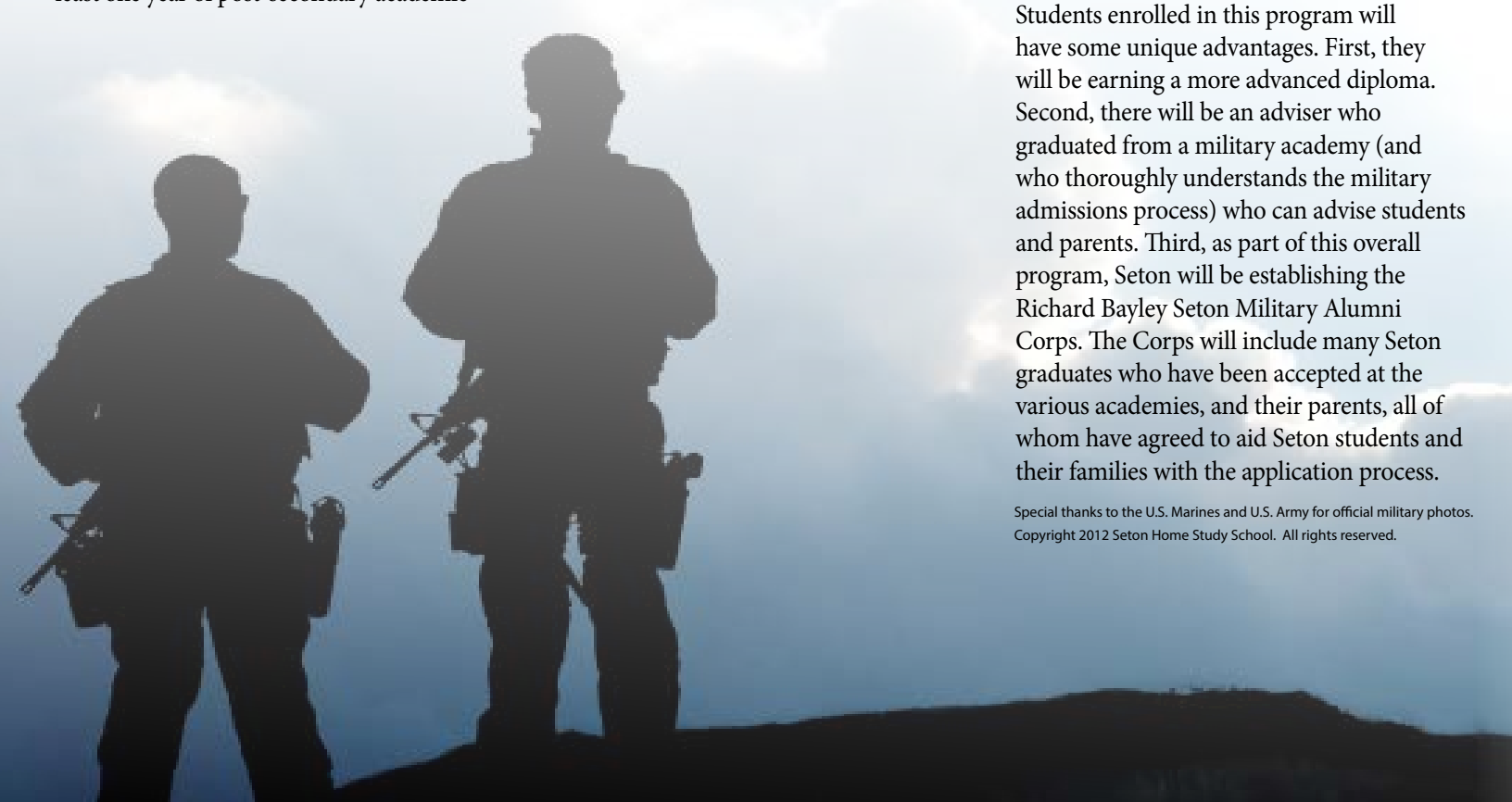
What will this Prep Program cost?

The base cost for this program will be the same as a normal enrollment for a high school year with Seton, which is approximately \$675 - \$725 per year. There will be an additional one time fee of \$100 for the Prep Program due to the additional counseling and mentoring.

What are some of the unique features of this Military and Uniformed Service Academy Prep Program?

Students enrolled in this program will have some unique advantages. First, they will be earning a more advanced diploma. Second, there will be an adviser who graduated from a military academy (and who thoroughly understands the military admissions process) who can advise students and parents. Third, as part of this overall program, Seton will be establishing the Richard Bayley Seton Military Alumni Corps. The Corps will include many Seton graduates who have been accepted at the various academies, and their parents, all of whom have agreed to aid Seton students and their families with the application process.

Special thanks to the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army for official military photos. Copyright 2012 Seton Home Study School. All rights reserved.



An Interview with Gene McGuirk

Director of Academic Counseling

We sat down with Gene McGuirk to ask him a few questions about the program and its history. Here is what he had to say.

Why was the Program created?

The Military Prep Program was the idea of Cmdr. Bill Short, USN (Ret). Cmdr. Short homeschooled his son through Seton and fell in love with our program. He was recruited by the Naval Academy and was sent to a post-graduate high school year to upgrade his academic readiness before admission. Since many Seton graduates have attended the various military and service academies, and through his own experience with Seton, Cmdr. Short felt strongly that Seton's curriculum could make a wonderful program to intentionally prepare students for the academies. The obvious intent is to help homeschooling families to prepare their students for a potential admission to a U.S. academy.



Were the academies involved in the creation of the Program?

After Dr. Clark approved of this program, Cmdr. Short and I went on visits to West Point, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and the Naval Academy. We also visited N.Y. Maritime College, the Naval Academy Prep School and the Military Academy Prep School. I also met with representatives of the Air Force Academy and the Virginia Military Institute on later trips. The admissions representatives of all of these schools were very interested in the Seton project and offered advice and help. All of the academies and colleges named have had previous Seton students accepted, enrolled, and graduated. One Seton student, Jonathan Bate, graduated at the head of his class from West Point in 2006.



Marcela Leano



Joseph Dillier

Seton has all the tools needed for high school success, and a program designed to greatly enhance a student's chances of being accepted at a military or uniformed service academy:

- detailed daily lesson plans;
- academic course counselors available by phone or email;
- online supplements, including audio lectures, and chapter notes;
- an experienced program adviser;
- alumni mentoring through the Richard Bayley Seton Alumni Corps;
- an accredited, advanced academic diploma.

Whether you are looking for an outstanding high school program designed to improve your chances of being accepted to a US military or service academy, including West Point, Annapolis, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Merchant Marine Academy, or you are simply looking for a challenging homeschool program that will provide you with an accredited, advanced academic diploma, Seton Home Study School has what you need!

For more details, contact Gene McGuirk at Seton Home Study School
 Phone: 540-635-4728
 E-mail: gmcguirk@setonhome.org
 For course descriptions and other information about Seton, see the current Seton High School Catalog at setonhome.org.



Accredited

STRENGTHENING *the* FAMILY

BY ZAIDA WOHLKEKING

“Train a child on the right path and even when old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Our family’s homeschooling experience began when our oldest daughter Bianca was in the seventh grade. She had been enrolled in private and parochial schools but as she was growing older, we saw moral and academic issues in the schools. Our concerns led to tears, then to prayers. Looking for direction, I attended a Christian Homeschool Conference in Richmond, Virginia.

The different curriculums just didn’t speak to me. Coming from a parochial background, we were looking for a Catholic curriculum. When I returned home, I shared my dilemma with a friend and she asked if I had heard about Seton Home Study School. She told me, “Look at this book from Seton and tell me what you think.”



It was the weekend but I immediately called Seton and Mary Kay Clark answered the phone. “Dr. Clark, I’m very confused. I think homeschooling is the answer we have been looking for but there are so many curriculums and . . .” Dr. Clark immediately reassured me. “Please call me Mary Kay.” We spoke for quite a while and I was more confident that this was the right choice for my family. “Talk it over with your husband and call us back on Monday,” Dr. Clark assured me, “and a counselor will guide you through the enrollment process. They will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.”

Well that’s what I did and on Monday, Mr. Manuel Vicente answered my call. As Mary Kay had promised, he guided me and answered all of my questions. He made me feel so comfortable!

At that point, we explained to Bianca what we were doing. She said, “Mom, this will not work for me! I don’t want to leave my friends!” I told her to give me six months and then we’ll see. . . Sure, there were rough spots as we got started but it was not too long before she was the happiest and most confident girl in the world.

I’m convinced that homeschooling has provided the environment for her to become more responsible, independent, and involved in the Church. But what has



Photos, clockwise from left: The Wohleking family with Bishop Paul Loverde of Arlington, VA; Bianca Wohleking with Dr. Mary Kay Clark, director of Seton Home Study School; Sarah Wohleking playing at the Virginia Music Teacher Association.

meant so much to my husband and me is that homeschooling has helped us develop a closer relationship with the children.

Since Bianca has always needed to be around people, in the beginning we were concerned about how we would include that element into our homeschooling. But our parish, St. Francis de Sales, has provided so many opportunities for our children to make good friends. Bianca has helped me teach parish religious education and even been recognized by the Knights of Columbus as Young Woman of the Year!

Bianca has said that when she began to homeschool, she felt that she was giving up her friends in school. That was a great sacrifice to her. But her being open to homeschooling was saying yes to God and He has given her so much in return, a hundred fold! Saying yes led her to our

parish to find friendships and there she's made so many friends who share her goals and values. She has taken on leadership roles in our parish youth group. Helping with my CCD classes has given her the opportunity to share the Faith with others. God rewarded her when she said yes, when she got on the right path.

Looking back on the last seven years of our homeschooling journey, there are many memories. When we made the decision to homeschool Bianca, there was a lot going on in our lives. We had moved to Virginia to be closer to my husband's mom after his dad's passing. Back then, Tim was working three part time jobs to provide for the family. He'd start at UPS at 3:30 am and get home from the third job after 11 pm. There were many challenges. But today, when we look at

Nicholas, Sarah, and Bianca we see the results.

As Tim says, "Seton Home Study School has provided our family with an entirely different level of education. My friends at work often comment on how intelligent and well-behaved our children are. I'm very proud of them and know that my children make me a better person!"



A Note from the Graduate

BY BIANCA WOHLEKING

So here we are, the day before graduation. Although I'm relieved that high school is over, I'm going to miss homeschooling alongside my brother and sister, Nicholas and Sarah. Aside from that, my nostalgia for Seton Home Study School has already begun.

Mom and Dad, I have to say thank you for deciding to take our education into your hands. It's been six years that we've been homeschooling and I can honestly say that through the ups and downs and ins and outs, I've loved every single minute of it. Mom, you're the bravest woman I know! You put on the armor of the Holy Spirit and YOU DID IT!

I have so many memories. From using the Seton lesson plans, to having the counselors available when I needed them the most, to watching my Faith grow as I learned so much about God and His Church! Looking back though, maybe what impresses me the most is how homeschooling made our family grow closer. The increased bond between siblings is one of the ways that homeschooling will change a family's life.

But back to those memories! Mom, do you remember those cold rainy days when Nick, Sarah, and I did school on the floor on our comforters? You made paninis and hot chocolate. Or in the spring when school lightened up a bit and we let Nick tell the jokes he wanted so badly to say while in school. We laughed so hard we had to hold our stomachs. And those days when we'd start early, finish around 5, and feel like the most accomplished homeschoolers on the planet.

Dad, I'm going to miss those days when you'd come home from work and take Nick out and we'd all meet up for lunch or Mass. Those were the best days of my life; spending time with the people God gave me to be with - my family. That's all this really comes to.

God, thank you for all that you have provided us with. I could not have imagined a better plan than the one you have placed before me. Please watch over the Class of 2012 and direct us in your way.

Mom and Dad, I'm totally and completely convinced that you're the best parents in the world! Hat's off to how you manage to do all of this. You're doing such a good job.

Sarah and Nick, you are my best friends in the entire world! It's been so fun having you as classmates for these six years. I wouldn't take back one happy, sad, angry, or glorious day.

Seton Home Study School, thank you for teaching me to persevere and overcome my challenges and to love the Holy Catholic Church with all of my heart and soul.

Bianca's Tips for Success

1. Stay focused.
2. Allot time for assignments.
3. Work on your organizing skills.
4. Always prioritize!

Virtual Views

continued from page 6

Another question we posed on Facebook: *“Any suggestions on how to mix school, like history or geography, into trip plans?”* These were some of the responses:

Liesa: Colonial Williamsburg offers a great homeschool program in September.

Kristin: We live in Montana and just bought an RV! We plan many educational history trips this summer!

Karen: We are headed to Camp Wojtyla for a week!

Heather: The backyard! The best things in life are free and every subject is covered there.

Ann Marie: We go to Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA Rockies. They basically run family camps all summer at the lodges. Very family friendly and in the past truly Christian, very good value and there are classes as part of your stay, Beaver Ecology, waterfall hikes, topography, Colorado history, etc. It is located right outside Rocky Mountain National Park on the western side. Free Junior Ranger Programs at National Parks and Historic Sites.

According to Dads

Veronica



BY JOHN CLARK

On Memorial Day weekend, the goal for our family was getting our landscaping done. And with an acre of land, and a once-professionally landscaped yard, that is no easy task. So to accomplish this, Lisa and I assigned the children various tasks of hedging, pruning, mulching, and planting.

Lisa and I had just removed a dead plant and bought a beautiful magenta rose bush to put in its place. Since Veronica has shown an aptitude for growing roses in the past, I asked her if she could plant it. But as she dug a new hole for the roses, she noticed that there was a big rock underneath. She figured that the rock would have to come out in order for the roots of the rosebush to grow properly. As she dug, she discovered that this rock was over four feet long and two feet wide, and probably weighed over 100 pounds.

As she worked on the excavation project, I came over to look at the rock. I kind of grimaced, and told her, “Veronica, that’s an awfully big rock. It’s going to take a while to get that rock out, even with Athanasius, Demetrius, and Tarcisius helping. Anyway, don’t worry about it. The roses will find a place to grow roots, even with it there. Why don’t you just leave the rock in the ground?”

That was pretty well thought-out logic for giving up and moving on to something else, or so I thought. Not to Veronica, who looked at me, half-smiled, and said: “The rock’s coming out!”

There are times in one’s life when you realize that someone has the determination to make a great impact upon the world. And this wasn’t the first time she has shown that kind of fortitude—in fact, she has been showing it ever since she was a very little girl.

I remember that when she was about 16 months old, I took Veronica to a Christmas ornament shop, which was full of fragile pieces

throughout the store. You might think that I’d have to be crazy to even take a little toddler into a store like this, much less let her walk around. But I wasn’t worried at all. First of all, she was already walking like the graceful ballerina that she has today become; she probably walked better than I did. And second, I told her, “Nocky (which was her nickname at the time, because that is how Athan pronounced her name), I know that these ornaments are very pretty, but don’t touch.” That’s all I needed to say. I’d like to believe that her almost preternatural obedience was born of a love and trust for her “old man,” but, whatever the reason, if I told Veronica not to touch the ornaments, she wasn’t going to touch.

As she took a few laps around the store, I noticed that something funny was happening: every shopper in the place paused from what they were doing, and starting staring at her. They were all amazed that such a tiny girl could walk around without either falling into an ornament display or finally succumbing to temptation and grabbing a pretty little decoration. They were awestruck by her determination. Looking back, it’s funny to think how personalities are determined so early in life. Though she is turning 17 years old this month, that quiet determination and appreciation for beauty is still there.

Does her determination drive me crazy sometimes? You betcha.

Did God give her this gift of determination to help her become a great saint and change the world for the better? Absolutely.

And it’s a tough world in which to become a saint. As I’ve told Veronica, perhaps the only harder thing than being a parent of a teenage girl in the world today is being a teenage girl in the world today.

As parents, it’s important, especially as our children go through their teenage years, to real-



Homeschool Conferences

OH, Dayton July 13-14, 2012 (Fri.-Sat.)

2nd Annual IHM Dayton Catholic Homeschool & Parent Conference

St. Peter Catholic Church Family Life Center
6161 Chambersburg Rd,
Huber Heights, OH 45424
Fri.: 2 PM – 8 PM, Sat.: 9 AM – 4 PM
Info: www.ihmconference.org/dayton,
info@ihmconference.org
or call 540-636-1946

IL, Chicago July 20-21, 2012 (Fri.-Sat.)

4th Annual Père Marquette Homeschool & Parent Conference

North Central College – Residence Hall/
Recreation Center
440 South Brainard Street, Naperville, IL 60540
Fri.: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Sat.: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Info: peremarquetteconference@gmail.com,
www.ilarche.com

TX, Dallas July 27-28, 2012 (Fri.-Sat.)

5th Annual Immaculate Heart of Mary North Texas Homeschool and Parent Conference

Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX 76011
Fri: 2 PM – 8 PM, Sat: 9 AM – 4 PM
Info: 540-636-1946 or info@ihmconference.org or
www.ihmconference.org/northtexas

NY, Tarrytown August 3-4, 2012 (Fri.-Sat.)

2nd Annual Immaculate Heart of Mary New York Catholic Homeschool and Parent Conference

DoubleTree Hotel Tarrytown
455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591
Fri.: 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Sat.: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Info: 540-636-1946 or info@ihmconference.org or
www.ihmconference.org

WHY

should I visit a conference?

Meet and greet your friends at Seton

Save on your shipping costs

Get exclusive enrollment discounts

Get to know homeschooling families

Learn great new homeschooling tips

Find inspiration for your homeschooling life

Return the gift by helping a homeschooling family! Bring your old books to your local conference, and we can provide them to other families at discounted rates.

Check out the new Seton Blog

Find inspiration for homeschooling and raising your family. We update frequently with great Catholic homeschooling content. Please stop by, we'd love to see you!

<http://blog.setonhome.org>

ize that those qualities which sometimes drive us crazy are often the same ones that they need to fulfill their missions in life. I guess that one of our jobs as parents is to direct these traits toward the good.

I have given speeches about fatherhood for years, and even written a book about it. Along the way, I've seen heart-breaking stories about fathers who seem to have done everything right, but whose children nevertheless veer off track, and reject their parents, and reject their faith. But truth be told, as I think back over Veronica's life, and the lives of all my children, I am forced to admit: my kids make it look easy. It's tough to be a good father without first having good children. But when you do have good children, fatherhood is a great joy, and a great consolation.

I am also reminded of something else. The Baltimore Catechism teaches us that we were created so we could know, love, and serve God in this life so we could be happy with Him in the next.

But this answer strikes me as somehow incomplete.

My wife and children have been a constant reminder to me that I'm happy now.

I've been to a number of homeschooling conferences already this year, and one thing that the other speakers seem able to agree on is this: the world is in pretty bad shape. Yes, the world is fallen, but if that's the only thing you know about the world, you don't know the whole story.

Some people seem to have forgotten a central truth, but they desperately need to remember it. In the first Chapter of Genesis, we read: "And God saw all the things that He had made, and they were very good."

They still are.

As I watch my children grow up, I have been incredibly blessed to see the good things that God has made. And I am indebted that I have been the father of children who help me see the splendor of His creation, each and every day. May it always be so.

Happy Birthday, Veronica!

Getting Started



BY GINNY SEUFFERT

Many readers—maybe you—are toying with the idea of homeschooling, not quite sure if you want to take the plunge. Here are some questions you may be asking yourself.

I'm not a teacher, not even a college graduate. Am I qualified to teach my children?

Colleges prepare teachers to stand in front of a classrooms of twenty-odd students, of varying backgrounds and abilities, and present a set plan of study. Homeschool parents, even those with large families, teach one well-known, well-loved child at a time. Just as the situations are different, so also the necessary qualifications are different.

Research reveals very little correlation between homeschool student achievement and their parents' educational level. The prerequisites of homeschooling parents are the love they have for their children and the graces they received in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Will I get in trouble with the truant officer?

No!

Some states do not even require parents to inform local school boards about their plan to homeschool. Other states require written notification, registration, or periodic reports. Usually, enrolling the children in an accredited home study course, like Seton Home Study School, will satisfy government mandates.

You can find more information about your state's requirements by visiting the Home School Legal Defense Association at hsllda.org, but the important thing to remember is that homeschooling is legal in every one of the fifty states.

My extended family thinks homeschooling is a crazy notion. How can I convince them?

Don't try too hard. Just tell them you are going to homeschool "this year" because you have heard so many reports about the great achievements of home educated students. Next year, you can tell them that things went so well you want to try it for "one more year."

In the end, it will be your polite, well-educated children who demonstrate the value of homeschooling to your family.

What if my children won't listen to me when I tell them to do their schoolwork?

This is a very common worry, but it really does not matter where your children are taught – at home, or in a brick-and-mortar school – they still must respect and obey you.

If you feel you need to get a better handle on discipline, guidance is available. Seton counselors are happy to help enrolled families, and anyone can purchase several books about the Catholic perspective on discipline from the Seton Educational Media catalog. Seton Press is publishing a book on discipline, written by yours truly, a mother of twelve children, specifically directed to Catholic homeschooling families. Discipline is a hot topic at Catholic homeschooling and parent conferences, and many speakers offer helpful advice.

No matter where or how they are educated, courteous, well-behaved children are a joy to their parents, their extended families, and their communities. They are a pleasure to homeschool.

How many hours each day should I expect to spend on home schooling?

Because homeschooled children do not need to hang up their coats, or find their seats, or wait for the class to settle down, home learning is usually more efficient than institutional schools. Children who grasp concepts quickly often breeze through their work, especially in the early grades.

Some children can finish primary grade work before lunch. As schoolwork gets more challenging, the school day gets longer, topping off in high school at maybe six or seven hours. These are just averages based on my own experience using the Seton program. A bright, motivated child might not need that much time, while other students take longer to digest concepts, and still others may dawdle.

Remember, Mom does not need to spend as much one-on-one time with upper-grade students. Some middle or high school pupils can do some of their work independently with a parent just checking to see that assignments are being completed in a timely and correct fashion.

I have one of those "big" Catholic families. Is there anyway I could take care of my little ones, keep my house in order, prepare meals, AND homeschool? It does not seem possible.

As a mother of twelve children myself, I always laugh at this question. Nothing, and I mean nothing, is easy when you have a large family. And that includes homeschooling. On the other hand, having children in preschool, a different grammar school, a junior high and senior high, and coordinating teacher meetings, permission slips, class parties, homework, and after school activities is not my idea of a restful life either.

Do not hesitate to take some of the tuition you would be paying to a Catholic school and put it towards some domestic help. Get grocery store rotisserie chickens for dinner a couple of nights per week. Train your children to take over

some household responsibilities. Most of all, keep your school and household routines simple and straightforward.

There are some mothers of mega-families who successfully home school right through high school, and later on help teach their grandchildren at home.

My children will be in high school in a couple of years. I don't speak a foreign language, barely passed chemistry, and forget algebra and geometry. How can I possibly teach them to my children?

Most homeschooling moms share your concerns, but we have all found solutions. Some programs offer interactive DVDs that teach students upper level math or foreign language on the computer. Seton offers foreign language audio clips, common geometric constructions, and a host of other helps for high school students on their MySeton webpage. Seton provides audio, and now even videos, to help high school students. Older students may take chemistry or physics at the local community college.

Qualified parents will sometimes offer classes to high school students in math or science. Perhaps a local homeschooling dad is an engineer or a mom is a nurse. I taught French for several years to my own and some neighboring homeschool students. Some priests will teach Latin. Occasionally, parents share a tutor they locate through a local school. All of these options are considerably less expensive than the tuition at a typical Catholic high school.

Is it really all that important to use a Catholic program?

Using a Catholic curriculum is the most important choice you make for your children. Nothing is more essential than inculcating Catholic virtues such as faith, diligence, temperance, loyalty, and of course, love of God and neighbor. Our goal is to raise our children to be adults of noble character and impeccable integrity who will be responsible citizens and, ultimately, saints for eternity.

Every textbook and educational material you use should foster this goal. A Catholic program is key to your success.

Just do it!

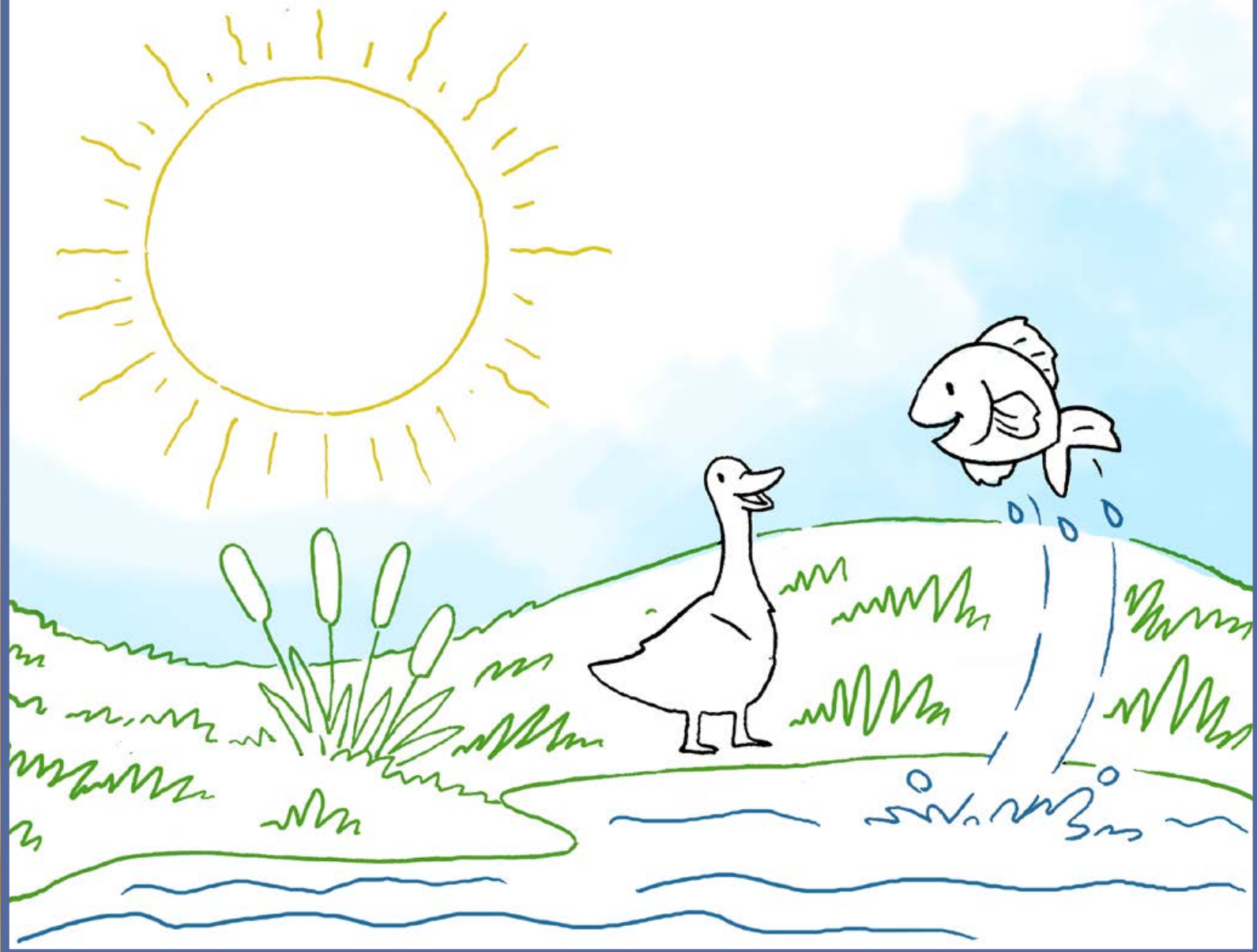
For over twenty years, parents have approached me with their doubts and hesitations as they consider homeschooling. Like any other important life decision, the time will never be 100% right. Parents – you – just need to take a step out in faith and do it. There are sure to be bumps along the way; anything worthwhile is difficult, but help and support are widely available. My advice all these years has been, "Just do it, just start homeschooling."

Since the beginning, I have run into the same parents a year, or two, or even a decade later. They thank me. "You told me to take a step in faith. It was the best decision I ever made." You will say the same words, too.

Just do it! Just *start* to homeschool.

Kid's Corner

GOD MADE THE EARTH,
THE WATER, AND THE SUN.



*Color the land and water with big strokes.
Help your child use a tripod hand grasp to
trace and color the sun with yellow.*

Then he saith to
his disciples,

The harvest
indeed is great,
but the labourers
are few.

Matthew 9:37



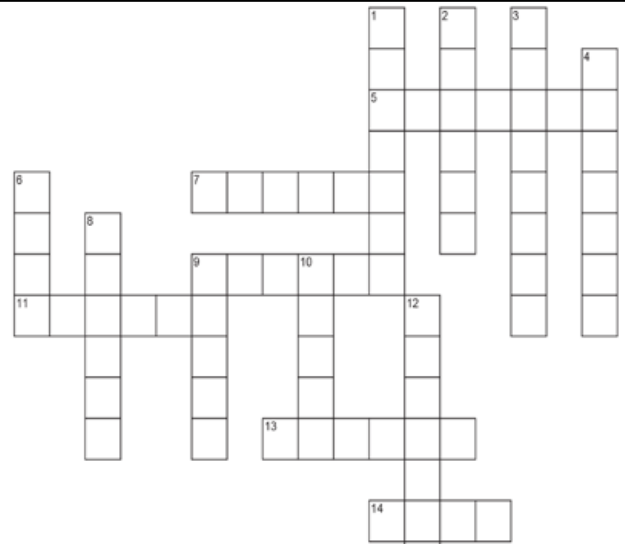
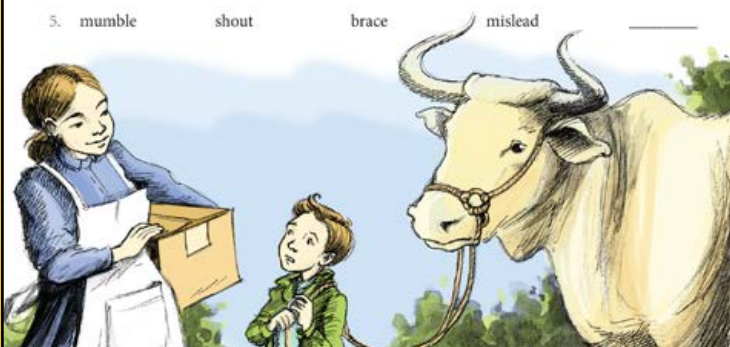
©A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com

Circle the correct word.

1. Which word relates to something that is unexpected?
a) mumble b) demand c) startle d) giggle
2. Which word relates to embarrassment?
a) fetch b) brace c) supreme d) sheepish
3. Which word may result in a mistake?
a) feeble b) mislead c) protest d) meekly
4. Which word describes a *strong* statement?
a) firm b) feeble c) sheepish d) meekly
5. Which word does NOT involve one's voice?
a) giggle b) fetch c) mumble d) protest

Circle two words which either are similar or opposite meanings. Write the letter **S** if they are similar, or **O** if they are opposite. *Optional:* Use a thesaurus for more synonyms and antonyms for Exercise A words.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1. snooze | feeble | startle | nap | _____ |
| 2. fetch | mislead | return | stretch | _____ |
| 3. feeble | pant | weak | brace | _____ |
| 4. object (v.) | protest | effort | ox | _____ |
| 5. mumble | shout | brace | mislead | _____ |



ACROSS

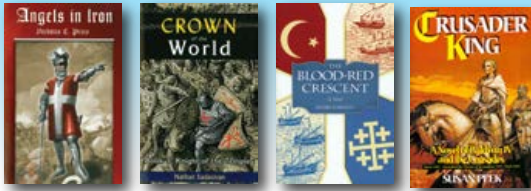
- 5 to argue or object; to speak against or complain
- 7 to laugh with high-pitched, silly, or nervous sounds
- 9 weak
- 11 to speak in an unclear way or too softly to be understood
- 13 submissively; without argument
- 14 to take quick breaths

DOWN

- 1 utmost; extreme
- 2 short nap
- 3 embarrassed
- 4 to cause to jump suddenly in alarm
- 6 solid; difficult to move
- 8 to insist or command
- 9 to go after something
- 10 to make ready to stand against pressure or attack
- 12 to guide in a wrong direction; to lead to misunderstanding

Make Summer Learning Fun!

Exciting Novels for Summer Reading!



Crusader Collection

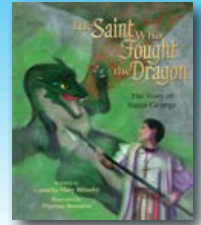
An exciting collection of historical fiction that shares a theme of heroic action in the defense of Christendom from the Muslim invaders. From the Kingdom of Jerusalem in the 12th Century to the Siege of Malta and the Battle of Lepanto these captivating tales will fascinate the reader with feats of courage, fortitude and valor. Recommended grades 8 and up.

P-RD08-61\$49.00

The Saint Who Fought the Dragon

The timeless story of Saint George reveals what happens when a loyal soldier fights a dragon — and wins. Fully illustrated on every page. Hard cover. 27 pp.

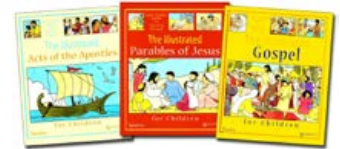
P-RD01-36\$10.00



Illustrated Bible Stories

These wonderful children's books are written in a youthful yet tasteful comic-book style presentation on the life of Jesus, His Parables, and the Acts of the Apostles. They are written in a simple and engaging style, told in a way young readers will find attractive.

P-RL03-30\$42.00



ENGAGING MULTIMEDIA FUN



Mr. Wizard's World

Learn science with the hands-on approach! These are digitally remastered DVD versions of the original uncut episodes from the 1980s and 1990s *Mr. Wizard's World* TV shows.

P-SCDV-30 Mr. Wizard's World (Vol. 1-8)\$125.00
 P-SCDV-20 Science & Technology 7 DVD Set\$40.00
 P-SCDV-40 Watch Mr. Wizard (Vol. 1-8)\$99.00



Navis Pictures

Two remarkable movies featuring an exuberant cast of young people: **mostly Catholic homeschoolers!** With sweeping musical scores, beautiful locations, and outstanding cinematography, these unique films will inspire with timeless themes of courage, self-sacrifice, faith, and love.

St. Bernadette of Lourdes



A captivating film, it captures Our Lady's message of "penance, conversion, and love" which is as much needed now as it was then. Featuring a cast of over 160 Catholic children, *St. Bernadette* is perfectly suited for the entire family. An inspiration for young and old alike. 72 minutes.

M-RLDV-15\$18.00

The War of the Vendee

A cast of over 250 young people tell this tale of the years following the French Revolution. This largely unknown story of the valiant, six year struggle of the people of a small section of western France, ultimately resulted in the restoration of religious freedom to all of France. 90 minutes.

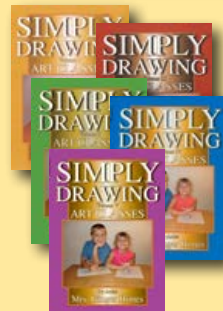
M-RLDV-16\$20.00



CCC Cartoons

Children love these animated DVDs! Inspiring, true stories about saints and heroes. Each 30 minutes.

M-RLDV-41 SET OF ALL 8 CCC DVDs\$85.00
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Simply Drawing Art DVDs Grades K-4

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PAPAL WISDOM



The State has an essential responsibility to assure the provision of educational services, and the right to educate is a fundamental responsibility of parents, religious institutions and local communities.... In this educational process, the State should respect the choices that parents make for their children and avoid attempts at ideological indoctrination. As affirmed in international law, States are called to have respect for the freedom of parents to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions which equally applies to their right to make judgments on moral issues regarding their children.... **The Catholic school assists parents who have the right and duty to choose schools inclusive of homeschooling, and they must possess the freedom to do so, which in turn, must be respected and facilitated by the State.**

Statement of the Holy See Delegation to the United Nations

April 24, 2012

www.setonhome.org



G-SM12-07

