

Seton



MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

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the Key to
Reaching
Our Goals*

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COVER PHOTO

The Kasprzak Family



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

May is truly everyone's favorite month at Seton Home Study School. There is a lot of preparation to get ready for the high school graduation ceremony on May 25th here in Front Royal, Virginia. Everyone is so excited to meet these young men and women who have been held so closely in prayer through the years.

For those of you looking forward to a little time off this summer, please check out John Clark's reminiscence about a long ago road trip. It's about building memories!

Please take a moment to look at the summer conference schedule. We would love to see you at a conference and would be delighted to answer questions, enroll your family, and enjoy your company while you are there. Let us know if you're coming.

Finally, please notice a new feature in the magazine. We've prevailed upon Bruce Clark, our in-house historian to share some historic stories that you are meant to share with your children. Mr. Clark has a wealth of knowledge and we look forward to more of these articles in the future.

Blessings,
Mary Ellen Barrett

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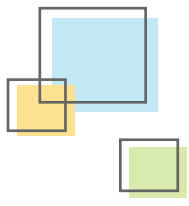
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Subscription is included with your enrollment. Subscription price for non-enrolled families is \$15 per year or \$25 for two years.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Seton Home Study School, an international Catholic institution, is to ensure that all of its students thrive intellectually and spiritually using a Christ-centered, educational program that empowers them to live the Catholic Faith while embracing the academic and vocational challenges of the twenty-first century.

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THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL

“

We started homeschooling because of Sophia's health issues. We chose Seton because of the solid Catholic values and amazing curriculum.

We continue to homeschool because of the flexibility and how much she's grown academically.

- Susan von Stultz

”



SHARE YOUR WHY WE HOMESCHOOL ON **FACEBOOK**



Photo Courtesy: von Stultz Family



St. Louise de Marillac: Mother of the Poor

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

St. Louise, whose feast the Church celebrates on May 9, has a special place in our family. My maternal grandmother Louise came to the United States as a child with her French family as they traveled from South America and settled in Arizona. Grandmother Louise met Army Sergeant John Churchill, married him, and relocated to Washington, D.C. Their child, Jacquelyn, became my mother.

Grandmother Louise showed a certain dignity which I've always believed came from her French background.

I still remember hearing stories from my Grandmother Louise about her grandparents arriving in the New World in South America. My grandmother was a distinguished lady who gave her love and time to her grandchildren. In that regard, my grandmother and St. Louise had much in common.

WIFE - MOTHER - RELIGIOUS

St. Louise de Marillac was born into a noble French family in 1591. Since her mother died when she was very young, she was raised by her single father, who taught her at home and then sent her to a good Catholic school run by nuns. At age fifteen, after her father died, Louise thought of entering a convent, but instead, she married a well-to-do gentleman. They had a son, but her husband died after twelve years of happy married life.

Once again, Louise felt called to be a nun, but she wanted to be active in the community, especially helping poor mothers take care of their children. In 1619, in Paris, she met St. Francis de Sales, who helped her pray about her future work to help families. However, it was after she met St. Vincent de Paul that Louise found specific direction for her future apostolic work.

SHE DEDICATED HER MONEY, HER TIME, HER LIFEWORK, TO HELPING THE POOR.

St. Vincent de Paul believed that middle-class ladies should help mothers of poor families raise and provide for their children and teach them the Faith. Father

Vincent established an organization of middle-class women to help the poor, but he needed a leader who could interact with

wealthy families to donate the money for necessities. Recognizing her background, education, intelligence, and devotion, Father Vincent put Louise in charge of his new organization, which came to be known as the Daughters of Charity.

FULFILLING HER MISSION

Louise traveled to various cities throughout France to meet with wealthy women to obtain donations, and to meet with middle-class women to establish a location for the poor to receive what they needed. In 1633, a wealthy widow offered her own property to help those who were sick. Louise gathered ladies to help, and they soon formed an order known today as the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Louise took charge of this apostolate, helping the ladies to live a spiritual life along with their apostolate.

St. Vincent de Paul continued to help the poor in various ways. One day, he found a child who had been abandoned, so he decided to start a home for abandoned children. Since Louise was well-educated, she started an educational program for some of her women helpers so they could help in teaching abandoned children. Louise kept constantly busy helping women in these various apostolic works in different towns.



“SERVE THE POOR,
LOVE THE POOR,
HONOR THEM,
MY CHILDREN,
AS YOU WOULD
HONOR CHRIST
HIMSELF.”

As Louise grew older, she eventually became unable to help others as much as she had done previously, but she counseled her fellow sisters to “serve the poor, love the poor, honor them, my children, as you would honor Christ himself.”

Louise de Marillac died in March of 1660, and finally was declared a saint in 1934.

Louise could have enjoyed the aristocratic upper lifestyle of French life, but she dedicated her money, her time, her lifework, to helping the poor. Louise used her high-status social background to enter the homes of the wealthy in order to ask them to donate money to the poor and needy. She was surprisingly successful, and was instrumental in founding several organizations consisting of women who agreed to give their time and energy for the poor.

St. Louise, pray for those of us who have the blessings of this world to share our blessings, whatever they may be, with those who have less. Especially, help us to share our Catholic Faith with those who need to hear the words and works of Jesus.

Most of all, St. Louise, pray for us to share our Catholic Faith with those who are “poor” in not knowing the love and teachings of Jesus.



Dr. Mary Kay Clark has been the Director of Seton Home Study School for more than 30 years. She writes columns for the *Seton Magazine* and is the author of *Catholic Homeschooling: A Handbook for Parents*.



Tuskegee Airmen

BY BRUCE CLARK

Few today are aware of the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Black Bombers of World War II. The details of how our black citizens became heroic airmen during that war is told in detail in a marvelous movie, *Tuskegee Airmen*.

Some misguided people at that time believed that non-whites could not be trained to fly airplanes. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt thought otherwise. She wasted no time to bring her influence to change the situation. With pressure and determination, Mrs. Roosevelt went for an historic airplane ride with a black pilot and then personally arranged for a \$175,000 government loan to train black pilots.

In the safety of the First Lady's support, the historic Tuskegee University Black Pilot training program began in June, 1941, with the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

Though the trained black members of the 99th squadron were sent to Africa and Italy, the black flyers were to protect the white American flyers, but were not allowed to have air contact with the enemy. One historic day, two white bomber pilots from Texas stopped at the 99th Squadron headquarters.

“Are you really pilots?” the flyers asked. The affirmative reply was greeted with howls and laughter from the white pilots.

In desperation, because of a shortage of flyers, the black 99th Squadron was re-assigned to protect B-17 bombers from the swift German aircraft. On further missions, no bombers were lost with the protection from the black pilots. The black pilots painted their plane's rudders bright red to tease the Germans and to give the American bombing crews confidence when they saw them in the battle. Their fame quickly spread.



Bruce T. Clark, has been the Seton Historian since 1989. A homeschooling father of seven, Mr. Clark served as a Green Beret Captain in U.S. Special Forces and is the author of five historical novels: *The Custer Legacy*, *The Castro Conspiracy*, *The Blood-Red Flag*, *Redcoats and Rebels*, and *The American Renegade*.

your Questions ANSWERED

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

I don't think I can finish up my son's lessons by June. Can I get an extension?

Your enrollment is for a full 12 months, beginning on your start date. For example, if you sign up in June, but don't start schooling until September, you need to call for an extension only if you continue beyond the following September. If you need to keep your son in the same grade beyond that, even for one course, please call the Seton Registrar at 540-636-1324 for an enrollment extension. You can also email registrar@setonhome.org your questions about extensions.

My son wants to read a different book for his book report. What should I tell him?

Unfortunately it's not practical for Seton graders to read all the books students might like to read. Please explain to him that the books recommended in our lesson plans are books that Seton teachers have evaluated over the years and that Seton graders are

prepared to grade reports on those books. All of these chosen are recommended because they are rich with good qualities for Catholic students.

Will colleges accept students who have been homeschooled for high school?

Homeschooling is no longer new or unknown to colleges. In fact, since homeschool students tend to be good self-learners, most colleges are happy to accept them. A good percentage of our students earn scholarships, so be sure to have your high school student take all the college entrance tests available, even taking tests two or three times to increase the score.

My boys don't like to sit still for their bookwork. Any ideas?

Boys tend to be active learners. Give them some sort of activity while they are learning, such as writing while standing at a blackboard, going up and down stairs while memorizing math facts, bouncing

a ball while repeating the parts of speech, whatever! Have you noticed office workers now using stand-up desks? Children don't need to sit while doing many of their assignments!

My youngest in Kindergarten seems bored, but I am busy with the older children. Have you any suggestions?

Consider having the older children take turns helping to teach your kindergarten child. An older daughter might like to help with sounding out the letters and shaping letters; an older son might like to help with basic math problems. Give the "teachers" a little allowance or some sort of treat for being Mom's Helper.

I never had the English courses like you have. Why are they important?

Many people think the English courses are not necessary unless one is going to become a writer, but Seton English courses develop correct thinking skills as well as

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correct writing skills. Your children may think they will never need to write an essay or a long report. However, everyone needs correct thinking skills or they will develop incorrect conclusions. In today's society, we see people voting for candidates with whom they don't agree, but they don't recognize the incorrect arguments. While religion is the most important course for students for understanding the teachings of the Catholic Church, the English courses are a close second in importance to recognize logical and correct thinking.

My daughter wants more of an explanation for her grade for high school English. Who can help her?

When it comes to answering questions for the English assignments and grades, it is best for students to send an email to ask the

question. However, before the email is sent, I suggest that you or your husband take the time to go over the specific directions in the lesson plan with your daughter. Sometimes students might assume a direction from the first quarter, for example, which may not apply to a different quarter.

Also, it would be worthwhile for your daughter to review the Introduction pages for the English course, and then discuss her daily English assignments with you before she does them each day.

Why cannot the grader accept my daughter's opinion in her interpretation of a character in the story?

Unlike other courses, the answers for Literature or Book Reports are not always objective, but a matter of opinion which, however, must be supported by facts. The Literature courses and Book Reports demand a considerable amount of thinking skills which ultimately should develop a student's ability to examine why a character acts in a certain way.

When students attend college, the professors do not insist the students agree with them, but the students need to give facts or evidence which would or could lead to a certain conclusion.

When may we contact Seton's academic counselors?

The academic counselors are available from 9 am to 5:30 pm, Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, but not on national holidays. Other times, please leave a message which will be answered by the next available counselor. Sending an email is suggested, as it is an accurate way to communicate both the question and answer.

As always, we do suggest that the student takes a good look at the directions, both in the Introduction to the course and the specifics of the assignment. If a student phones and leaves a message, please ask him to speak slowly and repeat his name, phone number and ID number.



Dr. Mary Kay Clark has been the Director of Seton Home Study School for more than 30 years. She writes columns for the *Seton Magazine* and is the author of *Catholic Homeschooling: A Handbook for Parents*.



The Seton College Partner Program is a way to encourage students to continue their Catholic education by attending solidly Catholic Colleges after high school.



setonhome.org/colleges



Establishing Traditions in Your Homeschool

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

Have you ever had a bright idea to make a holiday more special by doing something a little different with the kids? Maybe you bake a special cake or buy a little treat and next year, when you've forgotten all about it, you are confronted with the notion that this is now a tradition and, even though it's 10:30 the evening before, you'd best get your tradition game on and make that happen.

The idea of tradition is extremely appealing to children because structure and routine are of great comfort to them. When children have a solid routine in their lives, they feel secure and comforted. It's ideal when parents, particularly of the very young, can provide a good structure for their children when it comes to bedtimes, meal times, nap times, and play times. Carrying this forward as they get older, having good routines in school time gives them the framework to flourish in all their activities.

This is also true of establishing traditions around the Catholic faith, the changing seasons, and holidays. When we make tradition a part of the homeschool experience, we help the child feel secure. We also give them the opportunity to love their faith or their heritage and we are passing down what is good and beautiful in the culture.

Let me share a few of the traditions that have sprung up in our homeschool over the years - small things that mark the seasons and add a little delight to the days.

Our Family Traditions

We begin school on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15th). We begin with early Mass and then a big breakfast, usually pancakes with whipped cream with blueberries. After that we look over our Seton lesson plans, and the children pick out folders and notebooks from the "generally enormous" pile that I've accumulated over summer.

I give them things like special pencils and pens, pretty journals for the girls, masculine ones for the boys, stickers, and a few edible treats. It's a leisurely start to the year and we center it upon asking Our Lady for her intercession for our studies in the coming year. After dinner I serve Assumption parfaits, which are just blue gelatin and whipped cream layered in pretty glass bowls. Healthy no, memorable yes. Heaven help me if I forget.

November 11th is Veteran's Day here in the United States, a day in which we honor those who have and do serve this great country. It is also the feast day of another soldier, St. Martin of Tours. St. Martin, while a

soldier for France and a catechumen, saw a beggar in the road and cut his cloak in half in order to cover him from the cold.

Afterwards we pray for our own soldiers. Then it is time to read the book *Snow on Martinmas* by Heather Sleightholm, after which I give the children a gift of new and cozy winter pajamas wrapped in brown paper. By this I am hoping to honor a great saint, provide my children some warmth in the coming cold months, and make the connection that those who serve our country provide us the same kind of warmth and protection. Even after all these years, my adult children still look forward to their St. Martin's Day pajamas.

St. Bridget's day on February 1st is another day we mark by reading. *Brigid's Cloak* is a longtime favorite here and we accompany the story with St. Brigid's bread and tea. It's all very Irish and particularly enjoyed by my own Bridget. (See below for my recipe.)

I try to make one special day each month that I can make a "tradition." This gives the children and me something to look forward to each month, and helps include things that I want them to learn about but aren't part of any lesson or subject.

Making Your Family's Traditions

When planning out which traditions to establish for your family, think of them in three categories: the natural world, liturgical observances, and family traditions.

Under the heading of natural world traditions, include observing the equinoxes, going out to observe the different phases of the moon, strawberry picking, leaf peeping, bird watching, beach combing, and apple picking. Picking activities for different times of the year (the third week of June we go strawberry picking, it's a tradition!) and adding a stop for ice cream makes the memories even more special.

Tradition is extremely appealing to children because structure and routine are of great comfort to them.

For liturgical observances consider the ones I mentioned and add saints and feast days that are important to your family. We are enthusiastic observers of Saint Nicholas day, we dye Easter eggs on Holy Saturday while I read the children the gospels from the Easter vigil, and we commemorate many Marian feasts with food, stories and songs.

When considering these special days, don't forget to sometimes include or participate in your homeschool group's days of celebration. An All Saints' Day party or a May Crowning with your current crop of first communicants is a beautiful way to preserve Catholic culture and devotions, especially since so many parishes don't offer these special traditions. Even fun seasonal traditions such as apple picking or a field day can make the homeschool experience much richer for families and give everyone something to look forward to on a calendar too full of less enjoyable obligations.

However it works in your homeschool, I encourage you to start and gradually build up your own family culture of traditions and observances. The fruit of these efforts will be enjoyed when your children get older and tell stories of the fun they had or the meaning they found in these days. It makes those 10:30-the-night-before scrambles well worth it.

Does your family or homeschool group have traditions you would like to share with us?

Email them to MBarrett@setonhome.org and let us know if we may use them in an upcoming article!



Mary Ellen Barrett is mother of seven children and two in heaven, wife to David and a lifelong New Yorker. She has homeschooled her children for eleven years using Seton and an enormous amount of books. She is editor of the *Seton Magazine* and also a contributor to *The Long Island Catholic*.

St. Brigid's Bread

1 cup flour
1 tablespoon sugar
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter, in small pieces
3/4 cup oatmeal (old-fashioned)
1 egg
1/2 cup buttermilk



Directions:

Preheat your oven to 425° Fahrenheit and grease a baking sheet or use parchment paper.

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl. Cut in the butter with knife until mixture is crumbly. Add oats and mix well.

Beat the egg with the buttermilk in a separate bowl.

Make a "well" in the dry ingredients, then pour in the egg mixture and mix all with a fork until the crumbs hold together. Form the dough into a ball and knead (on a floured surface, about 20-25 times). Add flour if the mass is still too sticky to work with.

Form the doughball into 8-inch round and transfer it to the baking sheet and score a deep cross into the bread but do not cut through (as if cutting scones).

Bake for fifteen to twenty minutes, or until medium brown and a tester comes out clean. Serve with butter, jam and Irish tea.

College Visits

A Primer on How to Plan for Success

By Nick Marmalejo

College visits can be intimidating for both students and parents. Seton Guidance Counselor Nick Marmalejo offers some items to keep in mind before, during, and after one's college exploration to help bring more perspective and ease to the process.

Visiting a prospective school, college, or university is one of the most exciting milestones in any educational journey. Choosing a school is similar to choosing a vocation. The college you select will define your future in ways that you cannot anticipate. Because of this, it is important to set yourself up for success as much as possible.

Proper Contacts

Admissions representatives or student volunteers often conduct tours of the campus and are available to answer questions about the school. Before your visit, try to become as conversant about their program and school as they might be. Accomplish this by exploring the college's website and literature. This will allow you to ask the best and most penetrating questions during your visit, since most of the preliminary ones will be out of the way.

All school employees are ambassadors who, to some degree or another, embody the school's mission. If possible, I encourage you to form a relationship well in advance of a visit with one specific college admissions representative at each school you are seriously considering. The

level of professionalism, organization, and kindness exhibited by this person will be your first indicator of the school's climate. Similarly, if there is a particular professor whose work excites you, it would be worthwhile to meet them during the visit. Meeting teachers or staff one-on-one is a fine way to avail yourself of inside information that can help you in your application process and choose the right school.

One other thing I encourage is to make as certain as possible that your accommodations while you are visiting are comfortable and satisfactory. Saving a few dollars to stay at a run-down hotel is probably not the best idea. While that could work out, you do not want to create any unnecessary opportunity for your school visit experience to be colored negatively. Having your lodgings, transportation, and food happily squared away in advance frees you up to immerse yourself in the college visit experience.

Know Your Mission

Before choosing a college to visit, it is critical for you to understand what you hope to gain not just from attending any college, but this specific one. This means you have to know about yourself

and your direction. What is the outcome you wish to achieve? What kind of person and professional do you want to be when you finish? How much debt, if any, will you have? The clearer you are on these specifics, the more successful your college visit will be.

Additionally, when it comes to choosing the right Catholic college, it is important to be familiar with your own individual charism and mission. Each Catholic school has its own spirit or ethos, and the one you choose should have an atmosphere that suits you. If you want to thrive academically and live your Faith to the full, you need to be in a setting that will foster your specific personal and spiritual needs.

Fully Engage

Once the formal tours and meetings are over, take some time alone to venture around the campus as if you were one of the students. How does the place make you feel? Are the buildings clean and functional? How are the other students? Do they treat you well? Is this a climate in which you feel at ease and in which you can find yourself successful? Does the area surrounding the school work for you? These and more are the types

SETON STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those
who serve you!*



Kathleen Hunt

Assistant Director of Special Services



Even as a girl in the small town of Kingston, New Jersey, Kathleen Hunt was preparing for a life in education. After all, her favorite game to play with other children was “school,” where Kathleen was the teacher.

Reflecting on those days, Kathleen says that she modeled her teaching style on her mother Marguerite’s example of being a good listener and having a generosity of spirit toward others. She fondly adds that both her parents inculcated in her a love and a zest for learning.

Along with her degree in Elementary Education, Kathleen brings a wealth of teaching experience to her work in Seton’s Special Services, where individualized modified curricula is developed for students based on their unique challenges. These challenges can include being overwhelmed by a current course of study, a transfer student’s educational gaps, or the full spectrum of learning disabilities.

Whatever the need, Kathleen and the Special Services team help families address and surmount these obstacles. After listening to parents and children in order to evaluate their needs, team members counsel on schedules, lesson plans, and textbooks. In each personalized case, the team’s goal is to help that child succeed, and demonstrate what Kathleen calls Seton’s “can-do” approach, reassuring families of continued help by phone or email.

In discussing her six years at Seton and a lifetime of teaching, Kathleen says, “My aim at Seton and throughout my teaching career has always been to have my students experience the joy of learning!”



of questions you need to ask before you commit to a school.

On the flip side, if you are not engaged in this process, it could be a very costly mistake. College, even with financial aid and scholarships, is enormously expensive. You will be investing a great deal of time and energy into a school and the degree or status it confers. Hence, a college is certainly not the place where you want to be going through the motions because you think you have to be there. It should be a freely willed choice and one that motivates you.

Being as realistic, objective, and honest as possible in your college research and visit will provide you with the best data on which to base your college choice. Oftentimes, we arrive with pre-conceived notions at a school. We want to test those notions to see if they have merit, or should be modified or reversed. Sometimes this calls for one or more additional visits. Regardless, asking the right questions and doing whatever it takes to understand why a particular school has value—and value to you personally—will go a long way towards making the right decision of which college to choose.



Nick Marmalejo, a history major, graduated from Christendom College in 2001. He holds a Virginia Teacher Certification and lives in the Shenandoah Valley with his wife and four children.

For more information about how Seton’s Special Services Team can help with your homeschooling, contact ssdept@setonhome.org

Seton is the Key to Reaching Our Goals

The Kasprzak Family



We were not always a homeschool family. Our children attended public school for a few years. It took a lot of praying and guidance from our Lord for us to reach the decision to homeschool. Once we opened our hearts, we heard the answers to our prayers. It was almost as if God was shouting at us to homeschool. Every child learns so differently and with the help of parents, a student can learn infinitely.

With homeschooling, we can tailor a program to fit our students' needs. It was extremely important to us to be able to set our children up so that they can reach their goals. We are their parents and we have the very important job of making sure we are there for them every step of the way. We wanted our relationships to flourish and homeschooling has given us those connections.

We have friends who use Seton Home Study School for their children (The Farmer Family of Delaware) and they recommended Seton to us. We were so impressed by the curriculum. Prior to Seton, we used a hodge-podge of curriculum to get our feet

“Seton has given us the tools we need to succeed.”

wet and become acquainted with what our state's requirements were. With Seton, we do not have to worry about any of that. Everything comes in a neat package with lesson plans or what we like to call "success guidelines" through an accredited school. We also absolutely love how our faith is incorporated into every aspect. We love the lesson plans and the warmth and family feel of the Seton Community.

We love that there is an understanding that the child should come

first, not the lesson plans. We have that freedom to work longer on certain subjects of interest and still meet all our learning expectations. Our kids are excited to learn and see their books. We all love seeing the pictures of stained glass and beautiful churches from around the world. Seton has really given us the tools we need to succeed.

The Immeasurable Benefits

Homeschooling has set us free in so many ways. We have the freedom to teach our children the fundamentals of our faith. Because we homeschool year round, we have freedom from a typical school year, which allows us to visit family and friends and take trips when it fits into our schedule. We are able to let our children really be a part of forming their education by allowing them to choose when curriculum choices can be made. We love the beauty of all of those things combined. We have found joy in watching our children have "Aha!" moments. The memories and moments we have been able to create by having Seton as part of our lives have been immeasurable.

Henry and Natalie both have asked some really beautiful questions that open our family to faith-filled discussions. My husband and I both went to Catholic School for quite some time and we both feel as if we are learning new concepts about the Church every day. Our family also has become friends with so many other Seton Families around the world. We have pen pals that share our faith and our school and I am able to help mentor other families because of our wonderful experience. The benefits have really been endless.

The ability to give our children an affordable, yet fully encompassing, Catholic education is paramount. We are learning right along with them. Seton allows our children to take part in so many activities. Our children both take piano lessons. Henry is able to partake in a science club, Code Ninjas, where he learns computer programming and competes in Science Olympiad. He and Scott are also part of our local Boy Scout Troop and enjoy





...serving the community. Henry recently started karate. Natalie has been dancing ballet, tap and jazz. This year, she was invited to be part of the Crystal Team at CoMMotion Dance Company. These multiple interests and programs would not be possible without the freedom that Seton allows our family to have with such a flexible schedule.

Since my husband leaves early for work, the kids and I tend to say our Morning Prayers and Guardian Angel Prayers in the morning before we come down for breakfast. Then, we go through our morning work, starting with Religion. I find the Baltimore Catechism books to be so helpful and we also research a Saint a Day. Henry and Natalie are very independent and do their phonics, vocabulary, spelling, reading, handwriting and maps on their own. They come to me if they need help or do not understand the directions. We all usually take a break and have lunch. Then, we do Math, Science, English and History. I take turns with the kids teaching math. Sometimes, our afternoons run longer because they like to listen and help each other one in learning. We play board games, play, paint, play piano or go outside and explore after that.

In the evenings, when my husband gets home, we pray together before dinner. Dinner talk is usually about what we did during the day. Then, we will split into teams and go to our activities. If we do not have activities that evening, we snuggle in with tea and hot chocolate or we walk around the lake near our house, weather permitting, and talk more about what we learned that day.

Trust in God's Plans

Do not let comparison kill your joy. Too many times in life, we allow ourselves to worry about if we are "good enough." If we waste our time worrying if we are "good enough" or if our kids are worried about if they are doing "well enough" we miss out on the actual joyous moments we are having while learning together. Nothing should steal those moments. Have a thankful heart. When



your heart is filled with thanks, there is no space for doubt. Also, pray together. The constant in our prayer is, "Lord, lead me where you need me." I speak from experience when I say it takes a lot of prayer for most homeschool families to make it through the day, let alone an entire education. So, just remember when times are tough, and the kids are crying because they do not understand the concept and you do not remember how to teach it, say a prayer and take a break. Knowing when to take breaks might save a downhill day. The Lord's plans are so much greater than what we can imagine and we just have to trust in those plans with our whole hearts.



Road Trips

BY JOHN CLARK

Every time I drive down the road and see a family watching a show on the overhead screen on their car, I feel a little sad. They're missing out on the chance for some great family times.

When I was growing up, my family's vacations normally took the form of fishing excursions to Canada. I'm not sure how or why my Dad picked the precise location of Webbwood, Ontario, but that's where we went every year. And if you look at a map and draw the route from Front Royal, Virginia, to that little town, you will see that it's a long way—about sixteen hours of driving. If my Dad disliked driving that distance, he never let on. And mostly, my brothers and I enjoyed the drive.

The vacation began as soon as we pulled out of the driveway. We'd listen to old time radio shows and talk shows on the radio. But mostly, we just talked to each other and snacked on cookies our grandmother had given us for the trip. (We also argued with each other—after all, we are talking about a family with seven boys, each of whom prided himself on the clever use of invective.) We would take turns sitting in the front seat listening to the CBS Radio Mystery Theater with my dad or chatting

about his adventures with his fellow Green Berets, his recent sales meetings, or the ways that Canada was different from the United States.

In addition to our conversations, we had our share of adventures on those drives. Though we didn't stop for hotels, as my Dad drove straight through the night, we did stop in the morning for breakfast. When I was growing up, these were the only times I remember ever eating out. Somehow, when you're a little kid, it's exciting to order food and have someone bring it to your table.

THE LEGENDARY BREAKFAST

Over the course of those years, our car broke down a few times along the way, and one such occasion has lived on in Clark folklore ever since. It all started when, on the last morning in Canada before we left for home, one of my brothers decided that it would be a good idea to put chocolate chips in the scrambled eggs. For obvious reasons, I opted out, but my youngest brother Timothy decided to partake in the questionable concoction. That proved unfortunate.

2019 CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING CONFERENCES



The following is a list of Catholic homeschooling conferences where Seton will offer materials for preview and sale, as well as a \$30-per-child enrollment discount.

About thirty minutes later, with my Dad driving, Timothy in the front middle seat, and Ken in the passenger seat with his head on his pillow, Tim's stomach decided that it could no longer hold the contents, and Tim threw up all over Ken's pillow. My father, trained to camouflage himself in any environment on earth and infiltrate enemy territory but never for anything like this, swerved off the road and went into a ditch.

A few minutes later, a Canadian policeman came along and radioed for help. Within minutes, a tow truck arrived and out popped a little guy who looked like he had been bathing in discarded motor oil all morning. To his credit, he hooked the car up to his truck and pulled it out in less than two minutes. He walked over to my Dad and said, "Forty bucks." My dad said, "Huh? Forty dollars?"

"Yep," came the response. Though a \$1,200 hourly rate seemed a little pricey, there wasn't really anything my Dad could do but hand him the money he was planning on using to buy us lunch. (Though, truth be told, none of us felt too much like eating at that moment.) Of course, my Dad forgot about the Canadian/U. S. exchange rate and handed the man forty U. S. dollars, which is the equivalent of about \$110 dollars today.

LIFE'S LESSONS

We all climbed back in the car and my Dad stopped at the nearest gas station to clean up the car. Happily, though the car was still pretty clean, Ken's pillow wasn't as lucky. And I learned something that day: sometimes, growing up can involve cleaning up someone else's mess.

Road trips are a great American experience: some good, some bad—each one a memory. Each one a chance to bond a little more with your family. So take it from a father who is watching his adult children grow old enough to move out of the house: close the screen, put away the electronics, and spend time with each other the next time you take a long road trip on your vacation.



John Clark is a homeschooling father, a speech writer, an online course developer for Seton, and a weekly blogger for The National Catholic Register. His latest book is *"How to be a Superman Dad in a Kryponite World, Even When You Can't Afford a Decent Cape."*

OH, Dayton, June 1, 2019 (Sat.)

IHM Dayton Homeschool Conference

St. Peter Catholic Church - Family Life Center
6161 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Info: 540-636-1946
www.ihmconference.org

KS, Kansas City, June 7-8, 2019

(Fri.-Sat.)

Kansas City Conference for Catholic Homeschoolers

Coronation of Our Lady
13000 Bennington Avenue
Grandview, MO 64030
Fri.: 2:30 pm – 8 pm
Sat.: 8 am – 4 pm
www.kccatholichomeschooler.org

TX, Dallas/Ft. Worth, June 13-14, 2019

(Thu.-Fri.)

IHM North Texas Homeschool Conference

Grapevine Convention Center
1209 S Main Street
Grapevine, TX 76051
Thu.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Fri.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Info: 540-636-1946
www.ihmconference.org

VA, Fredericksburg, June 21-22, 2019

(Fri.-Sat.)

IHM National Homeschool Conference

Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center
2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Fri.: 9 am – 9 pm
Sat.: 9 am – 4:30 pm
Info: 540-636-1946
www.ihmconference.org

CA, Costa Mesa, June 22, 2019 (Sat.)

SCCHE (Southern California Catholic Home Educators)

Conference & Curriculum Fair

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
1015 Baker Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Sat.: 8 am – 4 pm
www.southerncaliforniacatholichomeeducators.org

MD, Mt. Airy, July 12, 2019 (Fri.)

IHM Maryland Homeschool Conference

St. Michael Catholic Church
1125 St. Michael's Road
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Info: 540-636-1946
www.ihmconference.org

IL, Chicago, July 18-19, 2019 (Thu.-Fri.)

IHM Chicago Homeschool Conference

Bobak's Signature Events and Conference Center
6440 Double Eagle Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517
Thu.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Fri.: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

NJ, Mahwah July 26-27, 2019 (Fri.-Sat.)

IHM New York Homeschool Conference

Ramapo College of New Jersey - Robert A. Scott Student Center
505 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Info: 540-636-1946
www.ihmconference.org

For updates on all Seton Conferences go to:

Setonhome.org/conferences

Scholarship Winners: *Freshmen Write Home*

BY JEFF MINICK



In 2018, Seton awarded ten \$1,500 scholarships to Seton graduates bound for colleges or universities recommended by the Newman Guide. Recently, we reached out to these lucky grads to ask them about their experience as a college freshman.

Scholarship winner **Maria Rakoczy** of Huntsville, Alabama, has spent this year at Ave Maria University in Southwest Florida. Though leaning toward a major in history, Maria had interests outside of the liberal arts and wanted to go to a Catholic university with a wide variety of courses. Ave Maria has provided her with that spectrum of choice.

“College makes you more mindful of the people around you,” Maria says when asked how campus life had changed her perspective. “Not just being considerate toward others, but more aware of what they have to offer and what they contribute to the community.” In her email response, she wrote that “Among the many lessons I have learned in my first

year of college, perhaps the one that I have found most impactful is truly recognizing the ways God makes Himself present in my life...This perspective reminds me that though life, and college for that matter, has its ups and downs, I must continue to see the good that can come out of it.”

In the same note, Maria, who was enrolled at Seton for her high school years, also stated that “I am thankful for the many papers I wrote for the Seton curriculum. Though they were painful back then, they prepared me for the barrage of papers I face now.”

We also heard from **Rebecca Krymowski** of Homerville, Ohio, who is studying graphic design at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio, a Catholic school with some 3,000 students. She also credited Seton with helping her make her way through college academics. “Seton did well to prepare me for the workload, especially in terms of writing. Even more so than in English, I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the

knowledge of religion Seton gave me and find myself ahead of my theology class.”

Rebecca, who has gone on several retreats and frequently attends adoration, also reports that this past fall she made the Dean’s List at Walsh.

Claire Amaya Parra of Valencia, Spain, journeyed far from home to attend Christendom College here in Front Royal, Virginia. She writes:

“When I arrived, I was traveling alone as my parents were not able to accompany me...In fact, before I arrived at Dulles I had never even been to Virginia. Despite this uncertainty and expectancy, I was able to find a home in Christendom and fit into its small community of vibrant Catholics coming from families similar to mine.

Growing up in a country with fewer and fewer practicing Catholics, it was enlightening for me to befriend so many people with similar backgrounds as mine, despite a huge geographical and cultural difference.”

Claire praised both the students and the “incredibly faithful teachers” of Christendom. She relates that she enjoys school events such as the Chester-Belloc Debate Society as well as interacting with her fellow students. Like Rebecca and Maria, Claire also reports that she has grown “spiritually and intellectually” during her year in college. And like them, she credits Seton Home Study School for helping her prepare to take on the challenges of higher education.

Scholarship recipient **Kyle Fletcher** of Rockwall, Texas, is a seminarian at the University of Dallas, Texas, where he is majoring in philosophy and letters. His academic schedule is filled with courses like English literature, philosophy, science, and theology. Of these Kyle writes, “The courses have been demanding, but the rigorous courses that I had with Seton prepared me to succeed in completing the workload in college.”

Kyle also offers advice to Seton’s high school students. “I would recommend that high school students apply themselves as well as they can to their studies. It will provide them with a solid base in college as it did for me. Also, when they make the decision of where they want to go to college, the most important aspect in a school is faith. A Catholic university in the Newman Guide would be best or at least a school with a solid Catholic campus ministry.”

Hats off to these young people and to all Seton graduates, past and present. May you continue to carry the Faith in your hearts and to let the light of that Faith shine wherever you go.

Current senior high school students who wish to apply for a Seton Catholic College Scholarship for the fall of 2019 should visit the Seton website at: setonhome.org/collegescholarship



Jeff Minick is the Latin Counselor at Seton Home Study School. He has spent the last twenty-five years teaching Henle Latin to hundreds of home-educated students. He is the father of four, all of whom were homeschooled, and grandfather to twenty-one, three of whom he homeschools.

Seton Home Study School 2019 Scholarships



WHAT YOU CAN WIN?

On August 15, 2019, Seton is awarding ten \$1,500 Scholarships to Seton high school students graduating in 2019.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

August 1, 2019 is the deadline for applications.

WHICH COLLEGES QUALIFY?

Newman Guide Recommended Colleges or Universities including Seton College Partners featured on page 5.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- You have completed or will have completed by August 1, 2019, Seton Home Study School for grades 9 - 12.
- You plan to attend a Newman Guide Recommended College or University in the upcoming fall semester.
- You have submitted your completed Seton Scholarship application with college letter of acceptance.

Details, applications, and a complete list of Newman Guide Recommended Colleges and can be found at

setonhome.org/collegescholarship

A BETTER WAY TO LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BY DRAPER WARREN



This year, Seton is very excited to announce a new partnership with Rosetta Stone, one of the leading providers of foreign language education in the world.

Rosetta Stone has long been a favorite curriculum choice of homeschooling families, and Seton has historically had many students taking Rosetta Stone courses through our Independent Study Program.

Teaching foreign languages has always been one of the more challenging subjects for homeschooling families. Students ideally need to both hear proper pronunciation and have experience speaking in the language themselves. If the parent/teacher doesn't already speak the language, this might not always be possible.

In recent years, Seton has focused on providing Latin and Spanish. Not only are these the most popular for Catholic high school students but our staff has the expertise to provide additional resources like pronunciation recordings. However, earlier in Seton's history, we had offered both French and German as well, and one day we would like to expand our language offerings even further.

NOW - SPANISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN

Now, Seton will be offering Rosetta Stone courses directly. This first year we will start with Spanish, French, and German (because religious vocabulary is so important in Latin, we only plan to continue offering our Fr. Henle Latin series courses). Because the Rosetta Stone courses contain everything a homeschool family needs, including lessons, resources, and assessments, Seton can offer languages in which our own staff might not have expertise. This will permit us to provide a wider variety of languages.

Rosetta Stone's innovative and immersive online courses help solve the traditional problems of teaching a foreign language in the home. Not only does the Rosetta Stone system interactively employ native speakers to pronounce all of the lessons and vocabulary, but the software is programmed to analyze the student's pronunciation as well. The lessons are entirely interactive, and students use a microphone to give some answers verbally. The program then compares the pattern of the student's vocal response with the pattern from the native speaker to make sure the student's pronunciation is close.

On a personal note, when I was a Seton high school student, I studied both the Fr. Henle Latin and took Rosetta Stone German as an independent study. Now, about 17 years later, I was tasked with doing a review of the Rosetta Stone German to make sure it was appropriate for our students. I found that I remembered nearly everything I had learned all those years ago. Rosetta Stone ties words and phrases with images, which helps with memorization, and does so much review and incremental learning that the material becomes second nature.

Knowing how much of a struggle Spanish in particular has been for some students, I think these new Rosetta Stone courses will be the answer to many prayers.

The idea behind the methodology is in some ways quite simple, but was also very difficult for the Rosetta Stone team to perfect over time. The courses try to replicate what the experience would be like if you moved to a foreign country and only spoke to people who knew the foreign language (i.e., learning through immersion). English is not used at all in the courses. There are no English translations, no grammar rules explained in English, etc. The object is to learn to think in that language without having to take the intermediate step of translating into English.

As an example, if it were a lesson on colors and you were learning the German word for yellow, which is gelb, Rosetta Stone would present you with perhaps three different pictures of yellow things, maybe a person wearing a yellow shirt, a yellow flower, and a yellow cake. The word gelb would be shown and spoken with each image. The student has to figure out what these images have in common, but it is usually very obvious. You are never given the English word yellow, but you learn to associate yellow things with the word gelb. It is amazing how quickly you can build up a vocabulary using this system. By the end of just the First Quarter, students will be able to read and understand four little stories/paragraphs that might appear in a typical Pre-K read-aloud book. Then as they progress, their reading and comprehension levels quickly rise.

Rosetta Stone is perfectly designed for absolute beginners with no prior experience, and because of the simple presentation of the method, these courses could also be appropriate for Junior High students looking to get a jump start on high school credits.

I asked a few of the Seton students on Catholic Harbor who have used Rosetta Stone before what they thought of the program. A sampling of their comments are below.



Draper Warren is the Director of Admissions and Conferences at Seton Home Study School and the Administrator of Catholic Harbor. He is a Seton alumnus, a graduate of Christendom College, and is currently completing an M.B.A. degree.

“ It is super easy to use and is very interactive! I have learned a lot and would recommend it for anyone! – horsecrzy1 ”

“ I love that Rosetta stone uses a visual orientated learning style, especially since 65% of students are visual learners, and since Rosetta Stone has an app, I can do Spanish whenever and wherever. – Icecool ”

“ It's a very easy program to use. I learned very quickly, and I really understood what each word meant and when to use it.
It was also nice to learn how to say each word through speech, and actually speak Spanish instead of just writing it out. It was very fun, especially at the end of a lesson where they would test your knowledge by simulating a conversation with people in Spanish. - Steven ”

Rosetta Stone uses multimedia to teach foreign languages. Speakers and a microphone are required to complete each course. Headsets are available from Setonbooks.com.



Good Stories Teach Moral Lessons

BY ASHLYN THOMAS



Reading essentially made up my career as a homeschool student. Fairytales were my bread and butter; I would pull out *The Little Glass Slipper*, *Peter Pan*, *Heidi*, *Ella Enchanted*, or *The Goose Girl* from its hiding place and hungrily read the pages.

Consider this permission for all moms and dads: let your child read. Arguably, sneaking a book into the classroom isn't encouraged, but setting aside time to read between subjects throughout the school day is.

Time spent reading stories contributes to a child's moral development and character. You can teach your child moral values through stories. Books build character for all readers, but especially for preschoolers and teenagers.

Teaching the difference between right and wrong is not always easy for adults, but stories impart values and explore moral ground, whether they are fairy tales or rooted in real everyday life. Books compensate for our own deficiencies and those of society by providing an influence that meets our children's need to identify and imitate.

Some wonder how stories encourage character. When William Bennett was the Secretary of Education in 1985, he answered by asking,

"Do we want our children to know what honesty means? Then we might teach them about Abe Lincoln walking

three miles to return six cents, and conversely, about Aesop's shepherd boy who cried wolf.

"Do we want our children to know what courage means? Then we might teach them about Joan of Arc, Horatius at the bridge, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Do we want them to know about kindness and compassion, and their opposites? Then they should read *A Christmas Carol* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* and, later on, *King Lear* ..."

As teachers we have the responsibility to form our children's moral compasses.

Mr. Bennett provides a clear observation: children learn how to act and how to be persons of virtue by how their imagination and consciences are shaped and captured. Stories teach honesty, courage, and kindness, especially in a society where everyone is too absorbed and busy to supply good example.

Stories speak to the heart and mold our character. For example, *Ella Enchanted* was my courageous heroine. I adventured with Ella on the quest to break her curse, a fairy's 'gift' of obedience. The theme of selflessness was apparent to 10-year-old me, and I learned perseverance when she was determined to break her curse so that she could act freely out of love, not forced action. She faced ogres, giants, stepsisters,

STUDENT PROFILE

RITA IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



and a handsome prince! When my mother gave me this book, she gave me Ella's perseverance and selflessness to emulate.

Books build character for all readers, but especially for preschoolers and teenagers.

As teachers, we have the responsibility to form our children's moral compasses. If we do not, they learn narrow-mindedness, prejudice, and bigotry, and accept the degeneration of moral worth. They see things from their own perspectives and crave a bigger picture of the world. Books give wholesome ideas, emotions, and principles in times we cannot.

So, stories teach moral lessons. There is no shortage of books that celebrate virtue. I encourage parents to introduce children to the world of reading--may it be classic novels, contemporary fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and biographies!



Ashlyn Thomas is an Academic Guidance Counselor for Seton families. Ashlyn graduated from Christendom College with a B.A. in English Literature and worked in tourism before finding herself in the field she loves: Education. Ashlyn hails from "Little America", i.e., Maryland where she grew up using the Seton curriculum with her sisters.

Rita Bogusz recently earned the Dolley Madison Level Award in the American Heritage Girls. To earn this award, she had to plan, lead and implement a substantial service project that benefits an organization.

Rita's project was an Underwear and Socks Drive benefiting the St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. The children and adults at the Mission lack the most basic of necessities, and with the cold winter months approaching, Rita felt called to do something to help.

She conducted the parish-wide collection and in just one month, she gathered 429 packages of socks and underwear donations for the Mission.

"The flexibility of homeschooling not only allowed me the time necessary to research various charitable organizations, but to communicate with the parish ministries, design the advertisements, and run the drive. Homeschooling also taught me about responsibility and how to be independent, skills I needed to lead and organize the drive".

Rita is interested in reading, writing, sketching, volunteering, camping, hiking, and the culinary arts. Her favorite subjects this senior year are Apologetics, English and Economics.



"I love Apologetics because through it, I am learning how to prove the reasonableness of Catholicism and am prepared to defend my Faith whenever the opportunity arises. I have always enjoyed English because I like reading classical literature and improving my essay writing. Seton's Economics Online course is very fascinating because it presents the social science in the light of the Catholic Faith".

When asked about her goals, Rita offered, "My goal in life is to make a difference for the better in the world and bring people to know and love Christ. If it is God's will, I hope to major in New Evangelization and Catechesis so that I may have the knowledge to better do so".

in the **Schoolroom**

Where We Share Our Best Tips for Homeschooling with Seton



MAKING YOUR POCKET SHRINE

A lovely project for these devotions it to create pocket shrines. This allows the children a lot of creativity and would also make nice Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts. All that is needed is a small box or tin, paints, some holy cards or photocopies of holy pictures, scraps of trimmings, glue, glitter, and whatever else the children like to add.

Paint the boxes first so the children start off with a dry surface. This craft is a nice way to use some of those extra medals, bits of broken rosaries, and cards that come unsolicited in the mail.

When given as gifts, we wrap the tiny statues in tissue paper and include them in the shrines. You may recognize the picture in the Marian shrine, it's from a Seton book! At the end of the school year before getting rid of the workbooks I pull out several pages with particularly beautiful pictures for the children to use in making Christmas

cards or to use for projects like these. The artwork is too lovely not to recycle.

If you decide to make some pocket shrines, please email photos to mbarrett@setonhome.org. We would love to share them here and on social media!



The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Mother and June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Encouraging these devotions in our children is a way to deepen their faith and bring them closer to the love of God.

At the heart of Catholicism is love. Not our love of God but His profound love of us. He offered His only Son and His beautiful mother suffered greatly all for love of us.

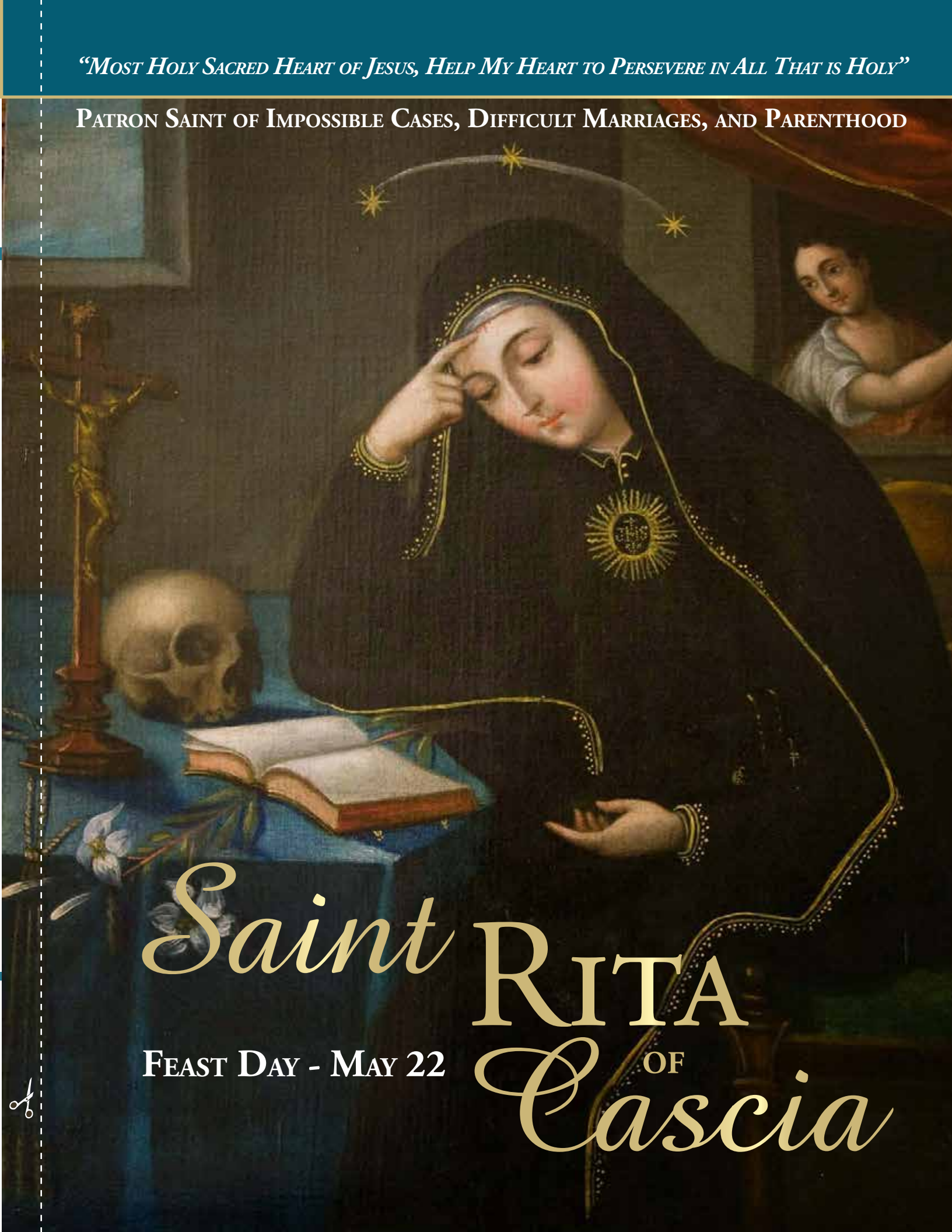
During this month, it might be nice to learn the traditional prayers; the *Hail Mary (Ave Maria)* and the *Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster)*, in Latin. Younger children can learn the shorter prayers,

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee!

*O Mary conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

"MOST HOLY SACRED HEART OF JESUS, HELP MY HEART TO PERSEVERE IN ALL THAT IS HOLY"

PATRON SAINT OF IMPOSSIBLE CASES, DIFFICULT MARRIAGES, AND PARENTHOOD



Saint **RITA**
FEAST DAY - MAY 22 **OF**
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The Seton Summer Reading Club

THE CLUB IS OPEN
FROM

June 1 - August 31, 2019.

*A fun way to keep up reading
skills over the Summer!*



See more: setonbooks.com/summerreading ↗



The Right and Duty of Parents Regarding Education

The task of giving education is rooted in the primary vocation of married couples to participate in God's creative activity: by begetting in love and for love a new person who has within himself or herself the vocation to growth and development, parents by that very fact take on the task of helping that person effectively to live a fully human life....

*Familiaris Consortio,
Pope St. John Paul II
22 November 1981*

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