

# Seton



# MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

MARCH/APRIL 2020



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Dear Reader,



I am so excited to share this issue with you, it's one that is close to my heart. Our theme this issue is beauty and what honors God and His creation more than the contemplation of beauty. Our Features Writer, Jeff Minick, explores the question of *Why Beauty Matters*. This article is to be savored and saved. It is certainly one of my favorites since I've been editor.

A perfect companion to Mr. Minick's article is John Clark's *Beauty is Our Calling*. My favorite line, "Insofar as man clumsily grasps for a scientific definition, beauty expresses itself more symmetrically in poetry than in prose." As a writer, my heart sang at these words.

"Mary Ellen", you say, "It's all good to speak of beauty but I have a lot of children, a small house, and it's the season of mud!" That is where Regina Doman comes in. She, mother of ten, has some practical, concrete suggestions about creating beauty with a tight budget, a large family, and, since she lives in the country, I'm assuming, some muddy feet. Regina generously shares lots of photos of her home and family.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we've enjoyed bringing it to you. With Lent in full swing, it is good to think about beauty, because the Resurrection is coming and nothing is more beautiful than Our Savior returning with the promise of new and eternal life!

Blessings,  
Mary Ellen Barrett

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**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



“

I wanted my daughters to receive a Catholic education but could not afford sending them to Catholic School; also, with my older parents living in another country, I wanted the freedom and flexibility to travel there in case of an emergency, without it being an educational setback for my children.

- Zuhailly Edwards

”



SHARE YOUR “WHY WE HOMESCHOOL” ON **FACEBOOK**

# St. Joseph, Patron of Homeschoolers

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK



The Catholic Church has never declared an official patron of homeschooling. Nevertheless, individual families should choose saintly patrons for their own family. Whomever their primary patron, St. Joseph should have a place in the homes and hearts of every homeschooling family. All of us, but especially husbands and fathers, need to look to St. Joseph as a heroic guide in life and for the teaching of our children.

St. Joseph serves as a reminder of the importance of fathers in the family, especially in this sad and strange time when fathers often are considered irrelevant, extraneous, and unnecessary. Sadder still is when some fathers start to believe this ignoble lie. Fathers, as well as mothers and children, need to be reminded by the life of St. Joseph that fathers are of great importance for the family.

Though Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit, God willed for Jesus to have a foster father on Earth to protect and to love Him and His mother, Mary. When His son Jesus was in terrible danger from an evil and murderous king, God the Father warned Joseph by an angel in a dream. Immediately, Joseph took Mary and Jesus and made a daring overnight escape—a difficult, treacherous escape. Though earthly fathers are not generally called to perform such feats, a father's heroic protection is desperately needed in many other ways. In fact, a father's decision to homeschool his children is evidence of his desire to personally teach and protect his children.

Jesus, the Son of God, Who is eternal and omniscient and all-powerful, desired to have an earthly foster father. That fact should inspire every father on Earth. If God the Father in Heaven desired an earthly foster father, how much more does each child on Earth today need a father, someone to call "Dad" in good times and in bad times. The world, for all its nonsense, might forget that fact. Your children, however, will never forget you. Never. You homeschool Dads have chosen a special calling to be even more present in the lives of your children—to teach them directly and to personally foster their spiritual growth. There is no better example of human fatherhood than St. Joseph.

St. Joseph was also the greatest husband in history. While Mary did not need a husband to accomplish her role in salvation, God willed for her to have St. Joseph as a husband. Though their love was virginal, the highest and holiest

# The Letter

The principal characters in my novel *Redcoats and Rebel* are the Quinn twins, Andy and Colin, who fought on opposite sides during the Revolutionary War.

Colin was a Tory who fought for English Supremacy, Andy was an American patriot fighting for a free country. I wrote a letter based on what Colin might have said to Andy after America won her freedom.

spiritual aspirations of marriage were witnessed in the lives of Joseph and Mary. Joseph was not only her best human friend, he was also her faithful guardian who was willing to leave his home and his work at a moment's notice to protect her and her Son.

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church." This is what the Catholic Church teaches. St. Joseph was the purest example of that beautiful teaching. In the homeschool family, fathers should be inspired by St. Joseph's love for Mary and His Son, just as wives should be inspired to love their husbands as Mary surely loved Joseph.

So should our homeschooling families be inspired, not only by what St. Joseph has shown us, but also by what he can do for fathers. Father Donald Calloway has written a beautiful book about St. Joseph called *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. Father Calloway explains that one of St. Joseph's titles is "Zealous Defender of Christ," because St. Joseph so powerfully wanted to defend his son Jesus. St. Joseph also wants to help defend your family. St. Joseph is a powerful intercessor for fathers to teach their children.

St. Joseph loves you and your family. St. Joseph desires your highest good, which is to be in the presence of God. St. Joseph sees the homeschooling that you are doing. By leading your family to Christ, you are the modern-day Magi who traveled some distance and likely with some difficulty, to worship Jesus. How could St. Joseph respond to your teaching your children to love Jesus, with anything but love? How could St. Joseph respond with anything other than his powerful intercession for your family and your homeschooling?

As we continue on our homeschooling journey, let us ask St. Joseph to guide and to guard our family with his prayers. Regardless of the difficulties we face in this life, let's keep Jesus at the center of our lives. Thus we can look forward to meeting Mary and St. Joseph presenting to us their beloved Son Jesus, thanking us parents for our Catholic homeschooling, and perhaps allowing us to worship Jesus as we behold Him in the arms of Good St. Joseph.



**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*.



**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*, all available from Seton.

Dear Andy,

*Since we parted on that morning so long ago, Our Blessed Lord certainly has watched over us and protected us. A great many good men on each side, including our dear friend, Walter Butler, died for causes in which they believed. In six years of war, I saw hundreds of boys learn all about death before they had a chance to learn very much about life. I'm sure you did too. I fear that those sour memories will always remain with us.*

*America has become an independent nation that will have to suffer through growing pains. At this point, America really is not one nation, rather, she is thirteen entities joined together by winning a victory over England and her allies. I think many of these entities will be reluctant to surrender their individuality in order to create a great nation. To be sure, the Colonies suffered injustices under the Royal Rule. Hopefully, the leaders of a new nation can learn a great lesson from those inequities as they establish a central government. I hope they will build a strong government that guarantees rights and justice for all, and devises a plan that will allow citizens to select their own chief of state and legislature. There are some words that bring a certain tightness to a man's throat. Freedom is one of those words.*

*I guess my ideas sound strange, coming as they do from a former Loyalist, but America needs all of her sons and daughters to make this great dream of liberty come true. It will take some time for our wounds to heal and to allow our animosity to dissipate, but our attention needs to be focused on a bright future rather than a dismal past. The last words Walter said to me were, "You have to live for both of us now." I'd like to believe that if he were here, he would feel the way I do.*

*I look forward to seeing you and all the other members of our family one day very soon. Until that joyous reunion, I remain your devoted and loving brother,*

Colin

# your Questions ANSWERED

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

## **How much input should I give to help my 6th grader with her book report?**

While you don't want to dictate the exact words or sentences, you certainly could point out a particular issue with a question, such as "Don't you think you should explain why the character made that decision?" In other words, instead of giving a specific sentence or idea, ask a question for your student to help him think about what he needs to explain.

## **We are almost in spring and I feel so far behind. What can I do to catch up?**

First consider which courses are the most important, and then concentrate on those. Religion, Reading, English, and Math should be caught up as much as possible. Consider having classes or discussions on the weekend to catch up with these courses. History and science could be studied in the evening or on weekends to catch up. Some parents have children catch up by doing some assignments while traveling in the car, when they can ask questions.

Remember that the lesson plans are suggestions, not commands. Students are not required to do every assignment in the lesson plans. To receive a grade for a quarter, a student needs only to submit the specific Seton-graded tests or assignments. To catch up, look over the lesson plans and see what can be skipped or consolidated. Similarly, for workbook pages, if a student does half the problems on a page correctly, then there may be no need to finish the page. The goal is to have the student learn the same material but progress more quickly.

## **My son is attending a weekly class with a group of homeschoolers. Is this a good idea?**

Homeschooling is as great as it is because children are learning from their parents, those who love the child the most, and are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to help their child understand and learn. Homeschooling strengthens not only the learning process as parents can individualize the presentation to accommodate the particular learning style of the child, but it also strengthens the relationship between parent and child. Parents should be aware of



## *Seton Student Achievements*

SHARING SUCCESS WITH THE SETON COMMUNITY

[setonmagazine.com/students](http://setonmagazine.com/students)



The Duindam siblings Mike, Eva, and Simon (l-r) are active in karate. Mike recently won first prize in Kumite, Eva won her first karate trophy, and, Simon won two 1st Prizes at the Open Dutch Championship.

the potential situations for a particular child in a group-class situation, not only from the aspect of learning the lessons, but also how the group may be influencing your child's perspective, perhaps even on an unrelated issue, for which you might be concerned.

Homeschooling is wonderful because it affords parents and children the opportunity to learn in a number of different environments. Homeschool classes that assist parents in subjects such as foreign languages, science labs, the fine arts, and phys. ed. are a part of a wide and generous education. It's also a wonderful opportunity for parents to find support and encouragement with others who are "in the same boat". In short, as long as your family is not too committed outside the home and all of the schoolwork is getting done, enjoy your classes!

**May I submit the book report for my son from his local homeschooling class?**

It is not uncommon for parents to ask us if their student may submit a different book for a book report than we send with the curriculum. You have to remember, though, that it's very difficult for a grader to grade a book report for a book that the grader has not read. The Seton graders are familiar with the books Seton has provided for our students at each grade level. They are also familiar with the specific guidelines which Seton requires for the book report. Unfortunately, Seton graders cannot adequately grade a report for a book which is not on the Seton list, nor follows the guidelines for a Seton book report.

**With spring coming up, I know my boys will want to be going outside and joining a baseball team. How strict should I be to insist the boys finish their schoolwork before they go to their practice?**

Remind your boys at the beginning of the week, and also at the beginning of each day that, if they want to go to baseball practice, they need to finish their schoolwork as scheduled. If they are trying but do not finish their scheduled work, they need to finish it up, either in the evening or on the weekend. It is important to do this because, in their adult lives, they cannot leave their jobs undone. You might have a weekly sheet listing the courses, and your boys could check them off as they are done



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each day. You can put the baseball or football practice at the end of the day's schedule. This emphasizes that schoolwork needs to be done before playtime.

Sports are great for teaching such virtues as learning to do difficult things and learning to be part of a team. Parents understand that these virtues and others taught from sports will help their children later in life when difficulties and tough choices arise. However an education is even more important since that will last with them throughout their lives and directly affect much that they do every day.

So, as important as sports are, we don't want to value sports above education. Education and sports should go together. If our children are truly ready to make a commitment to their team, then part of that commitment must also be to do their schoolwork when they should, thus leaving them time for sports practices.



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*.



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# LIVING THE EASTER TRIDUUM

## AS A FAMILY

BY CHERYL HERNANDEZ

**F**or many years now, our family has attended a Holy Week retreat led by priests and sisters of an order near and dear to our hearts. It has become the highlight of our year, not just because of the opportunity to get together with other Catholic families, but because of the powerful way it enables us to truly live the Triduum.

For most families, it may not be possible to go away on a retreat, but I would like to encourage you to immerse yourselves into the sacredness of this time and perhaps experience your own family retreat in your home and in your parish. This is a time that our Lord asks us to accompany Him on His journey to Calvary, stay with Him during His Passion and Crucifixion, and experience the immense joy of His Resurrection on Easter. Our Faith offers us beautiful liturgies that help us along this journey, and Our Lord is ready to pour His graces upon all those who are willing to accompany Him.

The Triduum is three days — from the evening of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. It is like one, continuous liturgy, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continuing with Good Friday of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross, then ending with the joyous Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord. It is "the culmination of the entire liturgical year" (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #18).

As homeschooling Catholics, we have an opportunity to truly live the Triduum and teach our children to do so as well. Here are some suggestions for each of the three days that you might consider trying with your family.

### Holy Thursday

This is "the night He was betrayed," as we hear at every Mass. Much occurs on this momentous day, including the washing of the Apostles' feet, the first Mass, and Our Lord's Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is a lot to soak in and understand, so it is important to prepare ourselves by reading the Gospel accounts, such as Matthew 26:17-75, before Mass and talking with our children about what is happening. We can ask them to imagine themselves right there with Our Lord, every step of the way.

At the retreat we attend, we are encouraged to "stay awake" with Our Lord, as He asked His Apostles to — but they instead fell asleep. We each sign up for an hour of Adoration during the night, and often the teens challenge themselves to take the very early morning hours. In the stillness of the church, we have an opportunity to sit with Jesus, comfort Him, and love Him.

Often, it is in this silence that Our Lord speaks to us if we listen. If you can, take your older children back to the church for an hour of Adoration. This is probably the single most effective way of truly living this sacred time — just be with Him. If going to the church isn't possible, consider waking up in the middle of the night and sit in silence in front of a crucifix in your home. Ask your children to help you console Jesus.



## Good Friday

This is the most solemn day of the year, the day our Lord and Savior was mocked, tortured, and died for us. It is the day He forgave those who crucified him, and entrusted the Virgin Mary to his beloved disciple and to all of us.

It is a day of fast and abstinence. Many people at the retreat we attend choose to fast on only bread and water throughout the whole day. Although not necessary, it can be another way to enter more deeply into this day.

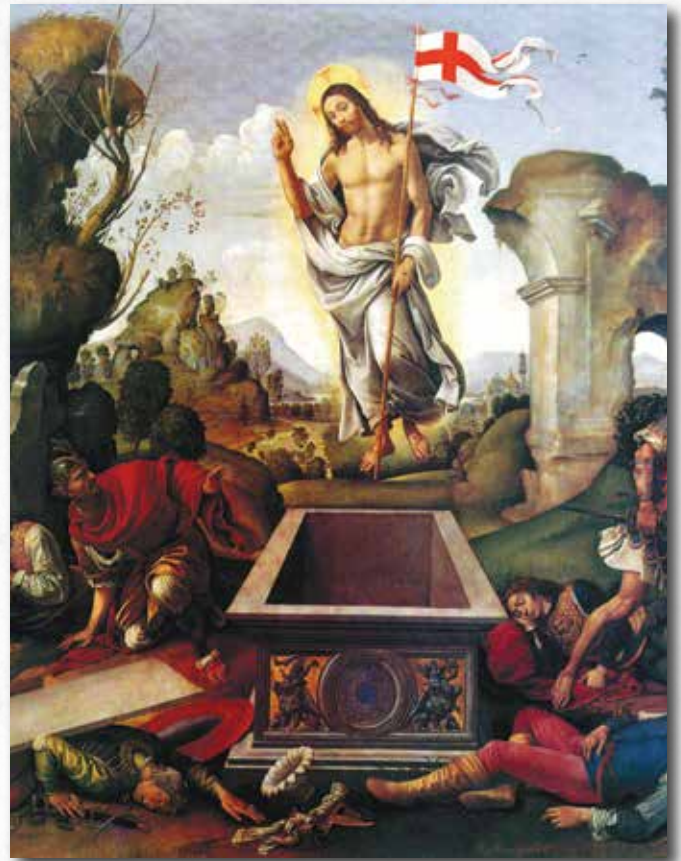
Before the Good Friday liturgy, it can be beneficial for teens and adults to watch the film, *The Passion*. Although difficult to watch, it can be a very powerful experience. As we visualize the cruelty of the way Our Lord was treated, we can place ourselves there with Him.

When we come to the church for the Passion of the Lord's Supper, the bareness of the altar, the veiled statues and images, and the door left open to an empty tabernacle all have a profound effect. One of the most moving moments for me during this liturgy, and for my children as well, is the opportunity to venerate the Cross.

## Holy Saturday

This is a day the whole Church quietly waits at the Lord's tomb, and a time to keep vigil with Our Blessed Mother. Even from the tomb, He reveals Himself to us in this silence. The disciples did not understand this silence — they lost hope — but Mary never did.

On this day in particular, the Church (according to *Paschale Solemnitatis*) encourages the faithful to pray the *Office of Readings and Morning Prayer*, easily available online.



Another way to help us keep this atmosphere of prayer and recollection is to listen to podcasts of Lenten homilies and meditations while we are going about our preparations for Easter.

## Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil Mass is the summit of the entire liturgical year. My children grew up attending this beautiful liturgy, even if they slept through most of it when they were young.

But the ones who could stay awake experienced for themselves the wonder of processing with their fellow Christians into a darkened church with the illumination from their own candle, lit from the Paschal candle, which was lit from the fire outside. Even from a young age, they knew there was something very special about this moment.

The great day is finally here, and this is a time for celebration and joy!

Consider coming home after the Vigil and have your own festivities — break out the Easter cake, chocolates, and celebrate with your family. Better yet, get several families to join you on this momentous occasion of Our Lord's Resurrection.

The joy of Eastertide lasts for 50 days, so make sure you keep on rejoicing that Our Lord is Risen!



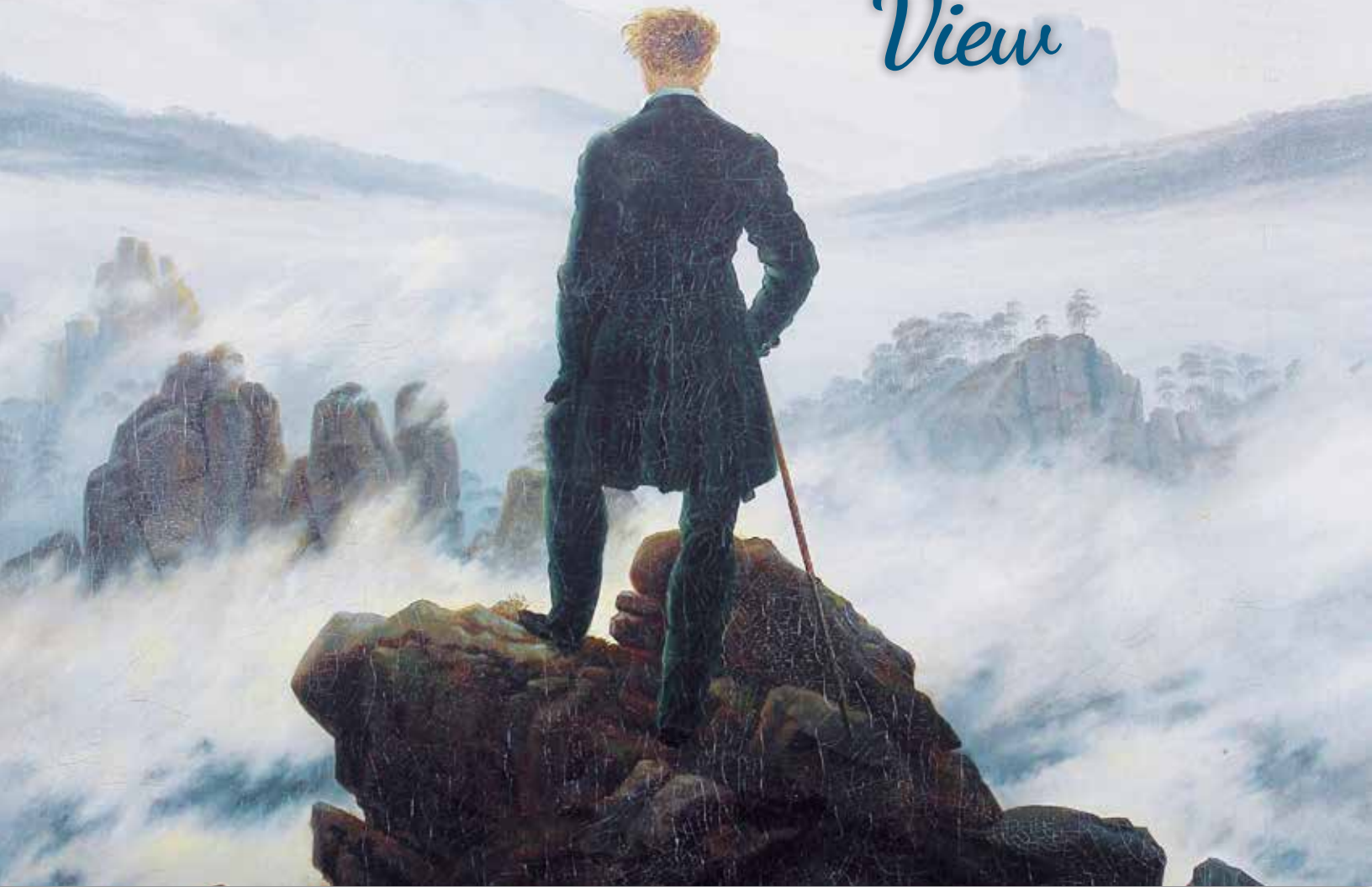
Cheryl Hernandez and her husband live in Florida, and have homeschooled their nine children for over 23 years using the Seton curriculum. Born in California and raised in Europe, Cheryl has a BFA in Graphic Design and is a convert to our wonderful Catholic Faith.

Why

BY JEFF MINICK

# Beauty Matters:

# Three Points of View



*Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog | Caspar David Friedrich | 1817*

## *Beauty is a Profound Mystery*

We can find beauty everywhere: in the face of a sleeping child, in the laughter of a spouse, in the Mass. It can range in scope from Michelangelo's "David" to the potted geraniums sitting on our kitchen windowsill. Beauty has the power to bring tears to our eyes, to take our breath away, to warm our hearts.

Yet if asked "What is beauty and why does it matter?" most of us, I suspect, would find ourselves baffled or fumbling for inadequate words of explanation.

Let's turn to three life-long students of beauty and see whether they might be of help.

*In Beauty Will Save The World: Recovering the Human in an Ideological Age* (Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2011, 278 pages), Catholic convert Gregory Wolfe looks at the connections between Beauty and Truth, particularly in our literature, and calls for a revival of Christian humanism.

In Chapter 4, "Christian Humanism: A Faith For All Seasons," Wolfe begins with this description of a playwright and film writer whose work will be familiar to many Seton families: "It is a curious fact that the artist who produced the most compelling and accessible vision of Christian humanism in the twentieth century

was a multiply married, luxury-loving, alcoholic atheist by the name of Robert Bolt.”

It was Bolt who created *A Man For All Seasons*, a movie beloved by many of its for its powerful depiction of Saint Thomas More. As Wolfe tells us, Bolt later wrote the screenplay for *The Mission*, the story of Jesuit missionaries in South America.

God truly does work in mysterious ways.

After making his case for Christian humanism, Wolfe concludes the chapter with these words:

“Allow me to end with two quotations that sum up the heart of Christian humanism. The Catholic writer Gerald Vann once wrote, ‘Today the old adage, ‘Don’t preach to the starving, give them bread,’ can be given a new application: ‘Don’t preach divinity to the subhumanized; first give them back their humanity. . . .’ We cannot save others from subhumanity if we are subhuman ourselves.’ And Hans Rookmaaker, the Dutch Calvinist art historian, once said, ‘Christ didn’t come to make us Christians. He came to make us fully human.’”

## How We Become More Human

In *Beauty in the Word: Rethinking the Foundations of Education* (Angelico Press, 2012, 168 pages), Catholic author Stratford Caldecott delivers this same idea in regard to a Christian liberal arts education. He writes, “The central idea of the present book is very simple. It is that education is not primarily about the acquisition of information. It is not even about the acquisition of ‘skills’ in the conventional sense, to equip us for particular roles in society. It is about how we become more human (and therefore more free, in the truest sense of that word).”

Unlike Wolfe, Caldecott in this charming book focuses our attention on education, specifically on writing and on the Trivium, or the language arts: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. *Beauty in the Word* is not, however, a how-to manual on composition, but instead a Catholic defense of the liberal arts incorporating, among other things, the Liturgy of the Mass, an essay on Wisdom, and as the title suggests, the Word. In his examination of education, truth, and beauty, Caldecott looks as well at figures familiar to many home educators, men and women such as Charlotte Mason, Maria Montessori, John Senior, and John Holt. In his “Endnotes,” Caldecott reminds readers that beauty, true beauty, is a source of joy. Prior to that, in his “Conclusion,” he takes this example from Hans Urs van Balthasar, which should bring a smile of recognition to many readers of this magazine:

“The infant is brought to consciousness of himself only by love, by the smile of his mother. In that encounter, the horizon of all unlimited being opens itself for him, revealing four things to him: (1) that he is one in love with his mother, even in being other than this mother, therefore all Being is

one; (2) that love is good, therefore all Being is good; (3) that that love is true, therefore all Being is true; and (4) that that love evokes joy, therefore all Being is beautiful.”

## Vehicles of Our Salvation

Another evangelist for beauty was Sir Roger Scruton, who died of cancer on January 12, 2020, age 75. A philosopher, a commentator on aesthetics and culture, an equestrian and a lover of the English countryside, and a proponent for beauty in everything from literature to architecture, Scruton was also a member of the Church of England, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the British Academy, an accomplished musician who wrote two operas, and the author of more than 40 books on art, aesthetics, politics, and culture.

The loss of this gentle, witty man saddened many of us familiar with his work, but we still have his books and articles, and his online videos. For an excellent introduction both to this man and his ideas, go to YouTube and Google “*Roger Scruton Why Beauty Matters*.”

Near the end of his life, Scruton was attacked, as so many are these days, for his faith and his conservatism. In a brief article on his website, we find these words written by him just weeks before his death:

“During this year much was taken from me — my reputation, my standing as a public intellectual, my position in the Conservative movement, my peace of mind, my health. But much more was given back: by Douglas Murray’s generous defence, by the friends who rallied behind him, by the rheumatologist who saved my life and by the doctor to whose care I am now entrusted. Falling to the bottom in my own country, I have been raised to the top elsewhere, and looking back over the sequence of events, I can only be glad that I have lived long enough to see this happen. Coming close to death, you begin to know what life means, and what it means is gratitude.”

Scruton’s gratitude was no doubt closely connected to his love of Truth and Beauty. G.K. Chesterton once stated, “I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder,” and what else is our perception of Beauty if not “happiness doubled by wonder?”

All grownups know that politics and postmodernism cannot save the world, much less us. But as Wolfe, Caldecott, Scruton, Chesterton, and many others know, Truth and Beauty can be the vehicles of our salvation and that of our culture.



**Jeff Minick** has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, NC. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, VA.

# Family Breakfast, Flexibility, and God-centered Days: Meet the Brasile Family

— AN INTERVIEW WITH MARIA BRASILE  
BY JEFF MINICK

When I phoned Mrs. Maria Brasile to interview her for Seton Magazine, the first thing I asked was how to pronounce her last name. She asked in return, “The Italian way or the American way?”

“I’ll take the Italian way,” I said.

“Bra-ZEE-Lay,” she answered enthusiastically, laughing, and I knew right away talking with her was going to be fun.

Maria and Carl Brasile have two sons, eleven-year-old Anthony and nine-year-old Giuseppe, and have been enrolled in the Seton Home Study School since Anthony was four. When asked what advice a veteran homeschooling mom might offer to beginners, Maria said, “Make sure your school and your day are God-centered. My kids have the same struggles as other students. Do it because you want to be with your kids.” In regard to the Seton program in particular, Maria especially likes “the focus on our Catholic faith in every subject throughout the curriculum.”

## All in for the Family

Like many others, the Brasile family shapes its school schedule around the activities of the family. Because Carl owns an electrical company and also works in the afternoons and evenings as a production manager at Chrysler, Mom, Dad, and the two boys spend time together in the mornings, usually starting school around 10 a.m. “Instead of doing family dinners,” Maria says, “we do family breakfasts.”

Part of that schooling includes teaching Anthony and Giuseppe Spanish and Italian. Maria has a doctorate in contemporary Spanish literature and a minor in Italian literature, speaks French and some Japanese, and once taught at Wayne State University in Detroit. When she became pregnant with Anthony, Maria resigned from her teaching post “so that I could give all my time to him.”

Despite her advanced degrees, Maria tells me she did not always feel fully adequate as a teacher for her sons, especially in the subjects of math and science. Like most of us who homeschool, however, Maria tackled these subjects and found herself learning along with her boys. “By the grace of the Holy Spirit,” she says, “I found a new love for relearning all these subjects I once felt incapable of learning myself.”





Maria tells me her family begins the day with prayer and ends it with an act of contrition. As for the school day itself, she remarks, “We usually cover all subjects every day, but if a science or history chapter is particularly interesting that week, we will finish it and save another subject for the next week.”

For the Brasiles, the freedom offered by homeschooling has allowed them to indulge their love of travel. Twice the family has flown to Italy, once in 2017 and more recently in 2019. Descended from ethnic Italians living in North Africa, Maria and Carl “have family all throughout Italy, so we not only have the opportunity to see some beautiful places and churches, but we also have the chance to spend time with beautiful people that we love and cherish, and also get to relish our history and our cuisine.”

In an email follow-up to our phone conversation, I asked Maria about some of the religious sites they had visited while in Italy. She wrote in return: “I would have to say that the most notable religious site that the average tourist doesn’t see might be the Vatican gardens, which we were able to tour in 2017. On our most recent trip in September of 2019, we got to see the Holy Stairs, also known as La Scala Santa, which is near St. John Lateran. We also went to St. Mary Major, which houses the manger of Jesus. While we were in Sicily, we saw churches in fortresses in the mountains in Erice that dated back to 600 to 800 A.D.”

## More Homeschooling Benefits

In addition to their visits to Italy, the Brasiles leave behind the snow and cold temperatures every February, and head to Florida for a few weeks, taking their schoolbooks with them for a working vacation.

This flexibility in school schedules has also allowed Anthony and Giuseppe the opportunity to follow their passion for mixed martial arts. For two years, they have studied at Master K’s in Shelby Township and have earned their blue belts. When I asked how her sons became interested in mixed martial arts, Maria laughed and said, “Well, first by watching that movie, *The Karate Kid*. Then a neighbor put her son into Master K’s, and the boys followed along.”

Like some other homeschooling parents I’ve interviewed, Maria stresses the importance of outside support in her boys’ development. For a time, her father coached the boys in soccer. At her parish, SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, a large number of homeschooling families meet socially and operate a co-op of classes for those who wish to participate.

In an email sent to me before we spoke by phone, Maria offered these thoughts on home education:

“Homeschooling has been nothing but absolutely wonderful for our family. We have support from our friends, family and parish members. Of course, as with anything, there are days we struggle to finish all that I wish to accomplish in a day. This could be either due to an illness, disturbances or even laziness, but then we pick ourselves back up and move forward the next day. Prayer assists us with this motivation.”



# How Parameters Create Housekeeping Poetry

BY REGINA DOMAN



**H**ave you ever tried to write a sonnet? In sophomore English class I once had to construct one. After picking my topic and brainstorming a bit, I found I couldn't use every beautiful word or catchy phrase I wanted, but only those words which fit the parameters of a sonnet. Thus I discovered poetry is largely an exercise in limitation.

Creating a warm cheerful Catholic home is much like writing a sonnet. There are many admirable and beautiful furnishings out there, but not all of them fit your particular home. If you struggle with beautifying your home, you might need to consider your parameters. Parameters in poetry and in home decoration are not so much limitations as channel walls that can make you even more creative.

## Customize Your Parameters

Of course these parameters are often set by your situation: the type of house you have, the family members who live there, their ages and needs, your budget, and your and your spouse's tolerance for chaos and desire for order. Still, home décor is an important part of evangelizing others, particularly our children, whom we are evangelizing just as much – or more – as those outside our home.

I put a lot of stock in evangelizing the imagination of my children and our guests: I want my home to help them better love goodness. Beauty is the incarnation of goodness: it is meant to be what goodness looks, smells, sounds, feels, and tastes like. As Dietrich von Hildebrand observed, when we sever the connection between goodness and beauty, goodness is in

danger of becoming abstract and merely moral. Beauty has an evangelical power that should not be overlooked by the wise homeschooling parent.

So how do we create beauty, especially when finances are tight, children are boisterous and sometimes destructive, and demands on our time overwhelming?

I have found a lot of peace in setting parameters for the decoration of my home. It simplifies choices and affirms my own instincts. While my personal parameters might sound pretty strict, they work for me. They are not moral: they are based mainly on what I believe to be beautiful.

To discover your own parameters, you need to discover what you find beautiful: beautiful to the point of stirring your soul and raising your mind to God, or beautiful to the point of helping you relax and focus on the truly important. Goodness is creative, just as God is creative, and can vary from person to person: just look at the incredible variety of the saints! So part of setting parameters is being attentive to what you find beautiful in a home until you can articulate or visualize your ideal.

I'll tell you how I came up with my personal parameters as a way of hopefully guiding you to discover your own. I based them on a few strong negatives (sometimes it's easier to discover what we want by identifying what we don't like!) and a few flexible positives. Again, these are my personal parameters for creating beauty in a very busy house of ten people with limited money: feel free to disagree with my parameters, particularly if it helps you discover your own!



First of all, I don't like plastic. Period. I don't like touching it or washing it or trying to keep it clean. Thankfully, it's not a health issue for me. I simply don't like it, so I radically limit it in my house. We do use plastic for food storage, picnics, and pool/outdoor toys, but that's about it. I fill my kitchen with materials and textures I love instead: pewter and enamelware for children's cups, china and earthenware for dishes. I have taught all my babies gracefulness by giving them inexpensive pottery plates and cups: when they break, the children learn that some things have to be handled carefully.

## Plastic Begone

Early on I decided I would not have plastic toys. As the oldest of ten children, I spent so many Saturdays cleaning a basement that seemed to contain an acre of Fisher-Price, Happy Meal treats, and Legos that I decided I was done with plastic forever. After 25 years of marriage and ten children of my own, I feel content in that decision, which we have mostly kept. I love wooden toys, which are either expensive or hard to find, so we have always necessarily had fewer toys, but my children play with them more. Plus I don't mind that a cluttered corner of our playroom resembles a Tasha Tudor illustration.

Which brings me to the second related parameter of no logos or licensed characters on clothing or toys. This isn't a moral parameter but an imaginative one. I am jealous of my children's imaginations. I don't want them cluttered with other people's stories, particularly ones that are banal or even morally suspect: I want them to create their own. So I give them toys that don't have already-trademarked tales

attached. This has cut down on the visual noise in our home, and led our children to even make their own toys, which I love.

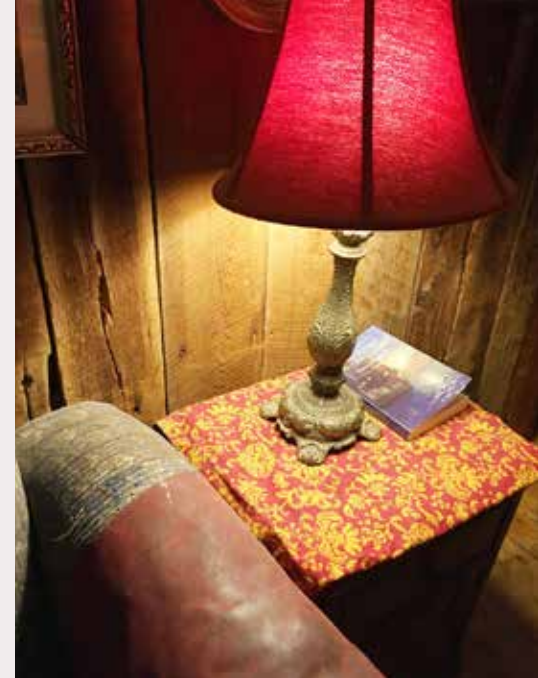
## Playful Parameters

A positive parameter: I am enormously fond of medieval culture and fairy tales. Our furniture is mostly bought second-hand or hand-me-down, but because my parameter was "fairy tale cottage" I said no to many items that didn't fit. Fortunately children are hard on furniture, so getting rid of pieces that didn't fit via rampant destruction has been easy. It has also made me think twice about spending money on "perfect" pieces in light of what they might look like five children later.

A definite parameter is my favorite colors. When shopping or offered something for free, I choose the items that are in my palette of reds, blues, and greens. There's nothing wrong with white couches and square plates: I like them in other people's homes, but not for mine.

In all of this, I try to walk the fine line between love for beauty and snobbery. Pride can poison what is otherwise beautiful and wholesome: I have to remind myself that this is all for nothing if my children end up as aesthetes who sneer at the bourgeois with their plastic toys. Loving Christ is more than merely having good taste.

Which brings me to a complementary parameter: hospitality. Loneliness is endemic in our society, and I want to make it as easy as possible to welcome people into our home. This means keeping a certain standard of organization and scheduling a rough cleanup everyday at 4 PM, which requires having smaller



amounts of toys and clothing so that is possible. If each person in our family can reasonably be expected to manage their own belongings, life is easier, and I try to help them see that limiting stuff helps them maintain it more easily.

Creating beauty in the home is not a matter of having pristine furniture or following the latest trends, but a matter of evangelizing ourselves and our families in our vocation. Often it does mean saying no to what doesn't fit, no matter what a good deal it is or who gave it to you. Less stuff means more time and energy to focus on what matters: Christ in our hearts, offered to the world.



**Regina Doman** and her husband Andrew, who works for Seton in the Testing Department, live in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley with six of their ten children.





# Beauty Is Our *Calling*

BY JOHN CLARK

Every two months, my editor informs me of the theme for the upcoming issue of this periodical. When I was informed that this month's choice was "beauty," it was with trepidation that I dutifully opened my Macbook and pressed the button for "New Document."

You see, while beauty is always simple, it is never simplistic. In fact, "beauty" has proven almost impossible to define. Insofar as man clumsily grasps for a scientific definition, beauty expresses itself more symmetrically in poetry than in prose. And even then, sculpture and musical instruments often express and explain beauty more keenly than the jumbled words of poets.

For instance, Michelangelo's *Pieta* and Mozart's *Flute Concerto No. 1 in G Major*, communicate breathtaking beauty, and one imperils himself in the attempt to explain these masterpieces with the words found in an unforgiving lexicon. Thus, because I work in ink rather than oils, the apprehension. Nevertheless, I began to think about the things in my life that are beautiful—that of which I can say without hesitation: This is beauty. And I thought of my family. More universally, I thought of all Catholic families.

Let me explain.

Beauty lies in the realm of "ultimate" things, or as the classic philosophers like Aristotle once called them, "ends." It is a thing that, once fulfilled, leaves nothing further to be desired. And while Aristotle explains that happiness itself is the ultimate end, beauty occupies the same space as happiness; in fact, beauty and happiness find themselves inseparable—even indistinguishable from one another. For it is both beauty and happiness that we seek, evidenced in the fact that we Catholics can say—and say rightly—that that our ultimate end is the Beatific Vision.

## *The Catholic family — is a reflection of God*

The Catholic family—composed of individual members in the state of sanctifying grace, each with an indwelling of the Trinity—is a reflection of God, and thus exhibits a form of beauty that rises above (or, as the philosophers say, "transcends") the mere material world.

In our everyday homeschool world, we are surrounded by beauty. That's no minor point. In a world in which we Catholics increasingly feel out of place, we increasingly feel at home *at home*. Roger Scruton, the recently-departed philosopher of beauty, argues for the importance of beauty and home: "We are needy creatures, and our greatest need



is for home—the place where we are, where we find protection and love. We achieve this home through representations of our own belonging, not alone but in conjunction with others.”

My wife and children are beautiful representations—witnesses—of my belonging, and I of theirs. All in all, our family is a testimony to the love of God. And so is yours. That is beauty.

That “conjunction with others” and its relation to beauty is also worth pondering. Aristotle says that “to be beautiful, a living creature, and every whole made up of parts, must not only present a certain order in its arrangement of parts, but also be of a certain definite magnitude.”

Please consider that Aristotle’s very definition of “beauty” here could also serve as a definition of “family.” The love of a husband and wife produces new and immortal human life; in an immediate flash of Creation, a man becomes a father, and a woman becomes a mother—a role of almost impossible magnitude and beauty that is only perfectly realized in the Beatific presence of God.

### *A Family’s Destiny*

And on that point, Pope Saint John Paul II writes that the sacrament of Matrimony is not only a “memorial” of God’s work and an “actuation” of a love for family, it is also a “prophecy” that gives husbands and wives “the grace and duty of living and bearing witness to the hope of the future encounter with Christ.” That is a more eloquent way of saying that while beauty surrounds us and is present in us, we are called to perfect beauty in Heaven—along with our families. Let us not forget, the communion of saints is composed, in large measure, by the communion of families, triumphantly reunited in Heaven.

That is a thought that should console those of us who have lost parents, children, and wife or husband. It is also a thought of future consolation, when our dearly beloved tearfully depart. Because sadness is not the end of the story; rather, beauty is the end of the story, as well as the beginning.

For my part, I await that eternal moment where—in the presence of God—Lisa sees the Divine Trinity reflected in my soul, and looks upon me as Beatrice once gazed at Dante. As you homeschool families move through your lives, remember that our families are destined for a place of perfect love, fulfillment, happiness.

And beauty.



**John Clark** is a homeschooling father, a speech writer, an online course developer for Seton, and a weekly blogger for The National Catholic Register.



**Grace** | Homeschooling gives Grace the flexibility to study dance by scheduling her school around dance classes and rehearsals, including a recent Christmas ballet.



**The Dizon Sisters** | The Dizon sisters were awarded a plaque of appreciation for their music and singing at Mary Mother of God’s fundraising concert, in Imus, Cavite, Philippines.

**Submit your photo, your achievement, and how homeschooling has helped you succeed!**

[setonmagazine.com/students](https://setonmagazine.com/students)



# The Essential Homeschooler's Guide to COLLEGE ADMISSION

BY NICK MARMALEJO

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**Note:** As Seton's Guidance Counselor, I receive many calls about College Admission, particularly this time of year. To that end, I asked the editors to re-publish this as its direction is so timely and valuable.

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**Every** Seton family is in a different place in their homeschooling journey. Some are exceedingly familiar with the college application process, while others feel as though they are wandering in the desert.

My aim for this article is to provide you with some basic—and hopefully helpful—information to guide you and give you a confidence boost in navigating any college admissions process.

In general, colleges of all kinds are looking at three things when it comes to admissions: prior coursework, SAT/ACT scores, and extra-curricular activities. These last include everything from participation in sports and the fine arts to volunteering and leadership activities. The first two categories concern the academic life of the student, while the third takes into account life outside the classroom.

## Coursework & GPA

For the college, the core picture of a student is made up by the course load the student has undertaken during their high school career. College admission departments want to know not only what courses a student has taken, but also if that course load was the most rigorous available to the student.

Currently, there is a heavy push by education professionals to sell the importance of Honors, AP, and IB classes to eager students and their parents. While these classes do have their merit, admissions departments increasingly have their own unique internal ranking system, and they assess the competitiveness of a student's application to some degree only against what was available at the student's school. This means that if a student did not take an AP class because it was not offered, the student may not be penalized.

A similar scenario arises with how a student's GPA is considered. While many colleges want to see a 4.0 equivalent GPA on the transcript, high schools across the fruited plain have muddied the waters and obscured the looking glass with creative GPA calculations. These schools often weight a specific course—usually an Honors, AP, or IB class—as having a higher GPA possibility.

The argument is that since those classes have tougher coursework than the regular courses, a student should receive more merit on their transcript for their achievements and not be punished for taking a harder course. An example would be that instead of receiving a 4.0 on a 4.0 scale for a perfect grade in Honors World Literature, a student might receive a 4.5 or 5.0 for the course while still being on a 4.0 scale. This is what is called a weighted GPA.

What this means is that there is no longer any universal GPA standard, and now every college has to sort through the nuances of a particular GPA to gain a better understanding of a prospective student. This is why every college now enquires if a student's GPA is weighted.

At this point, you might be scratching or shaking your head. If schools are tampering with GPAs, doesn't that create a skewed playing field? Will not a GPA become arbitrary, since, as soon as one school or system begins weighting its GPA, others will do the same or come up with their own scale?

**My answer:** Yes, and this is part of the mess that is modern education.

## Standardized Tests

The ACT and SAT are the most widely accepted and important standardized tests used for undergraduate admissions. Students should take one or the other, no later than the second half of the 11th grade. It is advisable (if it is not a hardship) to take the exam earlier, as either test can be taken as often as a student desires to achieve the best scores.

A pre-SAT also exists, and it offers students the potential to win a National Merit Scholarship (\$2500), but sitting for the test can be difficult. Unlike the regular SAT or ACT, where you can simply go online to register for the exam, you will need to gain permission from your local school district or private school, if they are offering the test, in order to sit for it at their facility. It can be meritorious for a student to take the pre-SAT, but it is not a pre-requisite for college. Of the approximately 1.6 million 11th grade students who take the exam each year, only about 8,000 students obtain the scholarship.

Are SAT or ACT scores really that important? Yes, they are. No matter how imperfect these tests may be, they are used in many cases to assess a student's strength and depth of their course work.

My bottom line recommendation on the SAT or ACT is to study for either exam as you would for a class. At a minimum, purchase a book on the test(s) you intend to take and visit their respective websites for practice questions, study tips, and test registration.

For More Information Go To:

SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)    ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## Extra-curricular Activities

A student's personal profile is not complete without an account of what one does when outside the classroom. Whether it's playing an instrument, playing a sport, or other activity, such as learning a trade, communicating this information to the college will round out your application. It provides context for all of your other achievements and helps the college determine if you are a good fit for their school.

Seton students can receive credit for some of their extracurricular activities by recording them on a homeschool transcript and sending them to us. (A homeschool transcript template is available under the Resources tab on your MySeton page). Leadership activities such as time spent in Boy Scouts or doing volunteer work cannot be recorded on the transcript. Those items should be communicated separately to the college along with your application.

## One Final Tip

Do not wait until the last minute to plan for or apply to college. If you think college is in your future, or may be in your future, think about your prospective paths now. Similarly, when it comes to deadlines, always seek to be at least 4-6 weeks ahead of schedule. This allows for more personal sanity as well as time to resolve inevitable discrepancies as they arise.

In the meantime, if you have specific questions do not hesitate to contact me at [guidance@setonhome.org](mailto:guidance@setonhome.org).



**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.



## Seton GPA

**At Seton, you receive an unweighted GPA for only those classes graded by Seton. It is based on a 100 point scale and then calculated into a 4.0 equivalent. If you want to read about the nuances of how the 4.0 Seton GPA is calculated from the 100 point calculation, please visit [www.setonhome.org/gpa](http://www.setonhome.org/gpa).**

**The above also means that transfer credits and independent studies are not included within the Seton-given GPA. This is not wholly uncommon. But remember colleges and universities are focusing on the actual coursework and entire picture, not simply a single numeric calculation.**

## *What's a Homeschooling Mom to Do?*

**You're** a Seton homeschooling mother of five: Andrew, 12; Mary, 10; William, 8; Annie, 6; Grace, 4. “My precious steppingstones,” you often think to yourself when you’re seated with the children and your husband for supper.

And like you, Andrew, William, Annie, and little Grace are lively, optimistic about life in general, energetic, and goal-oriented. All of you love the swirl of a good party, the adventure of travel, meeting friends at the swimming pool. All of you look forward to the school day, even Grace, as school for her means being entertained for a while by Andrew, acting out fairy tales and making up stories.

### **Then There's Mary**

Unlike the rest of you, Mary is calm, loves order—the room she shares with Annie is a contrast between mess on one side and a spic-and-span Spartan tidiness on the other—and has an eye for detail. When you can't find the car keys, it's Mary who knows where they are. While the rest of you are frantically dressing for Mass—“Where are my shoes?” “I can't find my blue coat!”—Mary sits demurely in the den near the front door, every hair in place, coat buttoned, teeth brushed.

During school time, Andrew and William are always looking for their pens or notebooks, chattering away when permitted and frequently needing a reminder to finish their math lesson or their grammar.

Not Mary. After you give her the assignments for the day, she methodically completes each one, checking and rechecking her answers, taking care with the cursive handwriting assignment, and carefully putting away each book before drawing another one from the bin beside her desk.

You worry about Mary. You can see how much she loves her family, yet she's nothing like her siblings. Is she happy? She says she is. But still you worry, and finally you mention your fears to your friend, Claire. “She's just so different than the other kids,” you say. “And different from me and Bill as well. So much quieter. So self-contained.”

“Maybe you and Mary should try taking a four temperaments test,” Claire says, and then explains that the ancient way of classifying people by their temperaments—sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric, and melancholic—sometimes shed light on why and how even

members of a close family can differ dramatically in their personalities.

So you give it a go. You find the test at the Seton site, you and the three older children take the test, and you figure out the scores. You, Andrew, William, and Annie all place as predominantly sanguine, while Mary's personality leans heavily to the melancholic.

You begin investigating the four temperaments online and discover that though all of us are a mix of these temperaments, usually we favor one more than the others. You learn that unlike her siblings, Mary craves order and regularity, prefers being at home with her family as opposed to socializing in large groups of people, and likes to plan in advance rather than suddenly and spontaneously heading off to the park or the pool.

Not only are you reassured by these discoveries, but you also use the information to help your daughter. You ask her if she'd sometimes like a quieter study space and allow her to do some of the subjects at the kitchen table while the rest of you are in the schoolroom. You try to inform her ahead of time when you're planning a trip to the grocery store or the library. While the rest of the crew



and their friends are in rowdy mode in the back yard, you no longer worry that Mary and her best friend Maggie are inside drawing and painting. You learned, too, that to draw Mary out of her shell, you must gently encourage her in making new friendships and looking at life as an adventure.

In addition, you learned more about the personalities of your other children—and yourself. Perhaps in your research you came across Art and Laraine Bennett's *The Temperament God Gave Your Kids*, and discovered the challenge for the sanguine parent of sanguine kids “will be to provide structure and to set limits.” You look at your own life and realize that sometimes your spontaneity—those visits to a friend's house, those days when instead of studying science you decide to take a walk around the neighborhood with the children—can eat into your schedule.

Now let's hear from a real Seton mom who took the four temperaments test and used the results in her home:

## Insight From a Seton Mom

*Being a sanguine personality has its ups and downs. I spent 10 years as a classroom teacher, having to be the spotlight and center of attention for large groups of students. Going from there to becoming a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom was quite a change. However, I'm now truly the center of attention for just one student, all the time. I'm 'on' pretty much 24 hours a day because I focus on her learning. She is very similar to me and yet we have our distinct differences. Just enough of the same that we do sometimes clash during school hours.*

*Having just one student allows me to focus on each step we take. Being a very emotional person, though, can also lead us to some truly dramatic moments during a school day. The downside to that comes when we hit those moments when she refuses to understand something, even though she does and just doesn't want to attempt it, and then my emotions take over. Once we get past that time it is very easy for both of us to forgive each other for our outbursts and move on to the happier place we prefer to live. I'm thankful that I have my daughter to help me realize that I need to be more balanced.*

**Seton Mom - Susan S.**

**Highly recommended:** In *The Temperament God Gave Your Kids: Motivate, Discipline, and Love Your Children*, Art and Laraine Bennett “provide an accessible synthesis of classical wisdom, modern counseling, science, Catholic spirituality, and wonderful storytelling to the four basic temperaments that serve as the foundation of one's personality and approach to life.”



**Jeff Minick** has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, NC. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, VA.

# STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those who serve you!*



## Aidan Callegari High School Academic Counselor

Meet Aidan Callegari, one of the newer members of the Seton staff.

Aidan jumped on board in September, 2019, and works today as an academic counselor for Latin, history, and religion.

He brings to this position a considerable amount of knowledge and expertise. After attending public schools in New York and Richmond, Virginia, he entered Christendom College, where he double majored in History and in Classics and Early Christian Studies. While there, he served as president for a year of the Classics Honor Society, the Iota Rho Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, a national honor society promoting the study of classics.

After graduating from Christendom College Magna Cum Laude, Aidan spent a year teaching basic religion classes at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Petersburg, Virginia. When he learned that Seton was looking for an academic counselor for history, Latin, and religion, he applied and was immediately accepted.

## A Current Events Aficianado

When not working at Seton, Aidan enjoys reading history, historical fiction, and alternate historical fiction, and considers himself a “current events aficianado,” meaning he is an avid follower of the news. When asked if he had any hobbies, Aidan smiled and said, “Coffee.”

And the most satisfying part of his work for Seton? “That comes from speaking to parents or students by phone, or communicating by email, and helping them work through some concept that has confused them. When they finally understand, it brings a smile to my face. It's a very gratifying sensation.”

Aidan encourages students, particularly those studying history, to look hard for answers to questions asked by their text before phoning Seton for help. Most often, when students call with this kind of question, they have overlooked the answer either in the textbook or in the lesson plans.

“I'm very happy to be here and to be a resource for students,” Aidan says, leaning back in his chair. Asked if he has any general advice for young people, he thinks a moment and then says, “I encourage students to be looking into things, asking the deep questions, and getting the most out of your education.”



# SETON

HOME STUDY SCHOOL

*Families For Life*





**MARCH FOR LIFE 2020  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Photos from these Seton Families:**

**Outer-circle** - clockwise from upper left: Neff, Capak, Hibl & Shanley, Capak, Deluna, Dale, Wlaschin, Duda, and Ulibarri.

**Inner-circle** - Vinicomb, Seton, Castillo family with Arlington Bishop Burbidge.



# Seton Home Study School

1350 Progress Drive

Front Royal, VA 22630

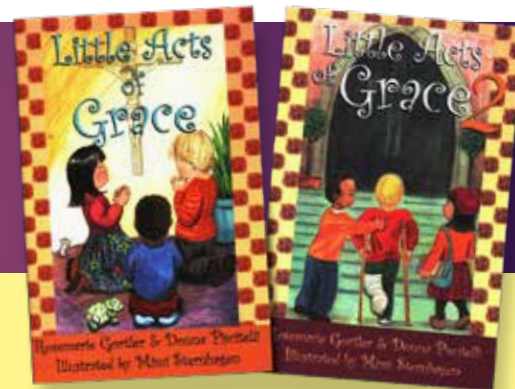
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## Lenten Resources

You'll find Lenten resources for all ages at  
**[Setonbooks.com/Lent](http://Setonbooks.com/Lent)**



## *The Transcendent Power of Art*

A work of art is a product of the creative capacity of the human being who in questioning visible reality, seeks to discover its deep meaning and to communicate it through the language of forms, colour and sound.

Art is able to manifest and make visible the human need to surpass the visible, it expresses the thirst and the quest for the infinite.

Indeed it resembles a door open onto the infinite, onto a beauty and a truth that go beyond the daily routine. And a work of art can open the eyes of the mind and of the heart, impelling us upward.

**Benedict XVI**  
**General Audience**  
**August 31, 2011**

