

Seton



MAGAZINE

"Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church"

SEPTEMBER 2012



LIVES OF SERVICE

AN INTERVIEW WITH A HOMESCHOOLING MILITARY FAMILY

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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Every day provides opportunities to renew our marriages.

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The Adams Family

Did you know?



Six different religious orders in America trace their origins back to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

*“With you every day,
every step of the way”*



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Front Cover: From left to right: Margaret Adams, John Adams, Maura Adams, and William Adams.

THERE IS A GREAT STORY

BEHIND EVERY HOMESCHOOLING FAMILY

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

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

SHARE YOUR STORY AND INSPIRE ANOTHER FAMILY

Letter from the Director of Seton Home Study School

Dr. Mary Kay Clark



Archangels Michael, Raphael, & Gabriel

On the 29th of September, we celebrate the Feast of three archangels: Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel. Archangels are God's messengers who guide and protect the people of God through ongoing inspiration, grace, and private revelation.

The archangel Michael was commanded by God to cast the disobedient angels out of Heaven, and to cast them into Hell. Michael was commanded by God to prepare Heaven for the coming of saints who would join the good angels in the beatific vision. God willed to have the help of angels, just as He willed to have the help of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph as the parents of Jesus. God also wills to have the help of parents to raise their children as saints to attain Heaven. Just as St. Michael fought the disobedient angels in Heaven, he helps parents to fight off the disobedient angels, the demons roaming the Earth, and to keep them away from their family.

As our culture becomes more secular and pagan, it also becomes more demonic. We homeschooling parents need to have even greater recourse to St. Michael for his protection over our families and the Church. The prayer to St. Michael has become more popular as parents recognize the need for him to "protect us in battle." Nevertheless, we parents must stand guard and be prepared to fight to protect our children. We need to be vigilant about the cultural influences on our children. We should also be ready to fight in the civil arena for our religious freedom to live the truth, to express the truth, and to worship Jesus Christ.

Raphael was the archangel sent by God to Tobias, the son of the blind Tobit. Raphael helped Tobias on his journey to collect a debt owed to his father. On the trip, Raphael, appearing

as a man, helped the young Tobias to catch a fish which contained the proper nutrients or medicine to cure his father of his blindness. Thus, the archangel Raphael reminds us that we parents have a responsibility to our own parents, especially if they need care.

Raphael particularly reminds us, as he traveled with Tobias, that our guidance and protection of our children must be positive. We need to help them with good friendships, management of time, the joy and adventure of learning, and enjoyment of good music, art, and literature that can raise the mind to God and His abundant gifts. Such positive guidance will help diminish the effect of the materialistic, decadent, and demonic influences which permeate our society.

The archangel Raphael also helped Tobias find a wife, showing God's concern that our children find the vocation God wills for them, whether it be marriage, the priesthood, or the religious life.

Raphael reminds us to pray that our children's guardian angels will help them to discover their vocations. Guardian angels can aid those called to marriage in finding a good spouse who will help them attain Heaven. In order for our children to peacefully raise their own children in the Catholic Faith, they must find a spouse who is of the Catholic Faith, as the Church recommends. Our children's spouses must themselves be living the Catholic lifestyle in spite of the surroundings of an almost demonic secular culture.

The archangel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary to ask her to become the mother of the long-awaited Savior. Gabriel asked her to agree to accept the responsibility of bearing, raising, and

teaching the Son of God. The greatest act of God is the Incarnation of the Divine Son as the man Jesus Christ.

Gabriel reminds us parents of how important Revelation is; and how important children are. The institution of marriage was made essentially for bearing and raising children in the teachings of God so they could attain to eternal happiness in Heaven with God forever. Advocating doing away with marriage and children is the devil's work to deprive God of souls to live in eternal happiness.

God instituted the Sacrament of Matrimony. It can never be separated from children and raising children in the Faith, in the eternal teachings and truths.

If the primacy of Faith and children in marriage is lost to society, marriage and society will be virtually destroyed.

The archangel Gabriel came in a dream to warn Joseph to flee those trying to murder Jesus. Our prayers during this month should be to ask Gabriel to help us and our children flee those temptations of our society, and even the education establishment, if they attempt to attack and undermine the life-giving teachings of the Catholic Church.

Holy Archangels of God, Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel, continually intercede for us before the throne of God and before the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray for us to have the wisdom to guide our children and the power to protect them. Pray that we will persevere in following the Will of God for us and our children. Holy Mother of God, pray for us. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, mother and teacher, pray for us.

Your Questions...

answered by Dr. Clark

Virtual Views

On Facebook, one mom asked:

"I would like suggestions on activities very small kids can do while I homeschool. I have a first grader, kindergartner, a preschooler and a toddler. I have been homeschooling for two years during nap time so having them around me during this time is new."

Amber: 1. Have older children play with non-school-aged children for 30 minutes each morning and afternoon.

This allows you time to work with other children on their schoolwork. 2. Prepare a school box for the preschooler. Include craft items, coloring books, special items to be used only during school. Prepare this over the summer, because halfway through the year it is difficult to stay motivated to prepare items for preschool.

Michelle: I bought a big roll of clear contact paper and stuck it on a closet door so the sticky side faced out and she could reach it. Then there was a basket of all kinds of things she could stick to it. Cotton balls, pieces of ribbon and yarn, cheerios etc. You get the idea. It kept her busy for an hour or more.

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What is the best advice you can give to start off the new school year?

Daily family prayer is essential for success in Catholic homeschooling. Start the day with prayer, pray the Rosary at some time during the day, and pray frequent short prayers throughout the day. Daily Mass is important so everyone has a chance to receive Jesus Christ. If you cannot attend daily Mass, perhaps you and your children can join in the prayers at the daily Mass on EWTN.

The second best advice is this: work out a realistic daily schedule and try very hard to stick with it. If you have a baby or toddler who takes you away from your schedule, have a plan for what each child should do when you are busy. Each child should continue working the current assignment without you, or you should have something each should do until you return to help them. You need to work this out for each child based upon the subjects each child likes to do, or can do if you are not available. One student may love math; have him do a math page if you are not available. Another child may love to read the history book; have her do that while you are busy with the baby.

Some moms have an older child who can help a younger student when mom is not available. If you have the lesson plans available, an older child can follow the lessons. Give directions to the children about how you are proceeding. Let them see you use the lesson plans so they can follow them on their own if you are not available.

Inevitably, moms will sometimes be pulled away from homeschooling, but having a plan for the children when this happens gives you assurance that homeschooling is still progressing.

I am concerned that the grade level work may be too difficult for my child.

When parents start homeschooling, they are not always aware of the grade level in which their child should be in for every subject. Parents soon recognize that a child is doing well in some subjects, but does not seem to be on the same grade level in other subjects.



“Daily family prayer is essential for success in Catholic homeschooling. Start the day with prayer, pray the Rosary at some time during the day, and pray frequent short prayers throughout the day.”

Seton recommends that parents who are just starting homeschooling give a Placement Test to their child. Test only one section, or at the most two sections, in one day so that your child can focus enough attention on each section, such as computation or reading comprehension. The test may not be totally accurate but can give a good idea of a student's ability in reading, math, and English. Once you begin homeschooling, if you find your child behind in a subject, Seton is happy to send a lower level textbook.

There is nothing worse than a student who is constantly unhappy struggling to learn concepts that he is simply not intellectually ready to learn. Homeschooling provides parents and student the opportunity to work together to start where the child is ready and able to learn.

If your student is struggling, try to find out if he needs a lower level book. It is better to start at a lower level and review concepts, and have him learn lower concepts well so he can

be successful and happy, and thus ready to learn more advanced concepts. After all, you can enroll your child in the next grade level, subject by subject, at any time. Seton has no school calendar.

My 10th grader seems to need more of my time than I can give him because of the needs of my younger children. Should I think about hiring a tutor?

There are a lot of possibilities. First, could your husband oversee your son's schoolwork, either before he goes to work or in the evening? At this age, your son may simply need to be reassured that he is doing the work correctly. Often a dad finds the same tendencies in his son as he himself experienced in past years and consequently is likely the best tutor for his son.

Second, Seton has plenty of resources for students on our website. On your MySeton page, under Resources for each subject, he may find just the help he needs. The Chapter Notes, the Audio Lectures, and the new Videos (though still limited) could be of great help. If he needs help with algebra or geometry, we do have computer disks which provide tutoring for every lesson.

Your son may phone or email one of our counselors for a particular issue or problem. We also have a Message Board for various courses; he may find answers there from a counselor, or ideas from other students.

Depending on the subject, your high schooler might find help on the internet, but you need to be careful about your son using the internet or spending too much time on the computer. For safety reasons, we recommend that a computer be located in a central area of the house, such as a dining room or kitchen.

If you think you need a tutor, be sure you know the person, perhaps someone from your family, a retired teacher, or someone you know at church. The tutor should not need to come in more than once a week just to answer questions from the past week or give tips for the upcoming assignments. You might consider a college student who was homeschooled.

Must I return the lesson plans from last year? What do I need to keep on file from last year's work of my children?

Please return the lesson plans. We do not use them over again, so feel free to write in them or highlight whatever you want. Obviously, the lesson plans are a result of many members of our Seton staff over a period of many years. Every year, we review them to improve them and update them as books change. Because of these changes, the lesson plans are not suitable for reuse.

Depending on the friendliness of your state and/or local school district, you should keep a certain amount of "evidence" of work done. While your children are in the elementary grades, you might want to keep graded quarterly tests. Once your child enters high school, these may be discarded.

For a high school student, keep at least samples of the graded quarterly tests. Since many tests are now graded over the internet, you probably have copies of some assignments on your computer. Computers do break down and lose data, though, so you want to be sure to make backups. An easy way to make backups is to copy work to one of the many free storage sites online. Several sites, such as Microsoft Skydrive or Box.Net, offer lots of space for free.

As long as you are enrolled with Seton, you will have access to all Seton-graded tests and assignments through your MySeton page. If you leave Seton, the work will still be stored on our computers, but you will no longer have access to your MySeton page to retrieve it. (If you need copies, though, we will send them to you even if you're not enrolled.)

Once your student reaches 18, you no longer need to keep any proof of work completed.

Sometimes my day is taken up with doctors' appointments or attending to the children's grandparents. How can I help my children keep up with their assignments?

You and your children should be praying every day for constant help from the patron saints of your children.

As much as you can, prepare assignments ahead of time, or be sure your

children know where they can look in their lesson plans for their assignments if you are suddenly called to grandma's house, or you need to take the baby to the doctor.

Try rewarding your children for doing their work while you are gone. The reward needs to be instant, or when you get home, or that evening. Do not wait until the next day or the weekend. To a child, tomorrow might as well be next year. Money always is appreciated, even if it is only a quarter. Another treat would be a special pizza dinner or a favorite ice cream dessert.

Tell the children that if they cannot do one assignment without help, to go on to another assignment. Some children like to "excuse" themselves because they cannot "get past" an assignment which requires help.

Dad needs to back up Mom's directions. God has given dads an authoritative way which encourages the children to be obedient. Mom needs to rely on Dad to be involved in the education of the children. Dads are valuable, if not absolutely necessary, for the well-rounded education of their children.

If grandparents or other relatives are available, ask them to come and help the children while you are at your appointments. Sometimes homeschooling families help each other. You can take your children over to your friend's house for a time, and when your friend needs you to help, she can bring her children to your house.

Why doesn't Seton have a foreign language offering for elementary grade levels?

While we do sell foreign language books for elementary grade levels, we do not want to put pressure on families or children to start a foreign language. Obviously, if parents or grandparents want children in the family to learn a language, we encourage that most heartily. Nevertheless, it is not required by any state and we believe this decision should be left to parents.

If you look on our website, click on our book catalog, or call one of our Seton Educational Media counselors, you will find books and audios for teaching Spanish, French, and Latin to younger children.

Starting your School Year on the Right Foot

Getting started can be daunting, even for the most experienced parents. To help you get your school year started, we asked parents and Seton Counselors for tips and suggestions that they have found most helpful through the years.

From Seton Counselors....

The most important piece of paper in your box is the packing list - put it in a prominent place, like the refrigerator or next to the computer. It has your course information, plus the family/student ID numbers and your password to logon to *MySeton*.

The most important phone number to have available is for Elementary Counseling: 540-636-1429. Call us with ALL of your 'getting started' questions, or email us at counselors@setonhome.org. We're here to assist you! - *Cecilia Sauer*

Before starting the school year:

- Simplify, simplify, simplify!
- Get rid of clutter -- less is more.
- Have a place for everything and everything in its place.
- Take a realistic look at extracurricular activities.
- Put into practice a chore list BEFORE schooling starts for ALL the children. All hands should be busy maintaining an orderly household.

An orderly physical environment combined with a basic/simple schedule for activities should allow for the family to attend one weekday Mass and keep the stress level for both mom and students under control. - *Sharon Hassett*

Make Literature a family event. Sometimes students get bogged down in their high school English studies because they don't understand a book, or can't bring themselves to finish it. Get the family involved. Read the literature and book analysis books out loud after dinner as a family activity. You might be surprised by how much everyone enjoys the stories, and you might just start some fantastic family conversation, all while making English assignments move along faster and easier to accomplish. - *Christine Smitha*



From Veteran Parents....

My tip is to make it to daily Mass. Ours is at 8 o'clock and it's a little tricky because it's a 20 min. drive one way, but WOW, what a difference when we make it! Best way to begin the homeschool day! - *Donna E.*

Don't have so many outside activities for children and moms that you are never home, and your "homeschooling" becomes "car-schooling." - *Terry A.*

Make some freezer meals over the next few weeks to use for those busy days when you just don't need one more thing to do. Start your day everyday with family prayer, we always say a decade of the Rosary and read a short saint story. And don't answer the phone or check e-mail during school time. Wait until lunch break. - *Lisa S.*

Don't wait until the last minute to get acquainted with material/lesson plans. Make sure you have all the supplies you need before first day. Don't feel like you have to do everything...give your older kids responsibilities helping the younger ones. They are capable of getting themselves up and making their own breakfast. This frees up your morning some and takes stress off of you. God bless! - *Faith F.*

Spend some time at adoration. Bring each child to mind while in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Ask God to help you realize the needs of each child, set goals for each child and help you meet those goals. - *Beth L.*



For more helpful tips and homeschool helps visit www.setonhome.org/magazine

Making the Best of Seton's Online Tools

MySeton is a section of our website customized for your family. Almost any information you could receive by calling Seton—grades, papers received, payments—can be found on your MySeton page. Many services, such as audio pronunciation guides and lectures, are available only on MySeton.

Logging in to MySeton

In order to log in to *MySeton*, go to www.setonhome.org/myseton. You can either type this address in your browser or use the link from Seton's home page. The first time you log in to *MySeton*, you will be asked to supply your family number and password. The password and family number are found in bold print at the top right on the packing list that you received with your books.

Courses Tab

Clicking on the Courses Tab takes you to the command center of your *MySeton* page. From here you can upload assignments, view grades, and access a myriad of resources, including course notes and answer keys.

Viewing Grades

Your children's grades are always available for review online. On your Courses page, courses and grades for your children are displayed in a grid. The left side shows the courses, the grades are in the middle, and a series of icons is on the right. The icons relate to different actions that are available for a particular course.

You will notice that each of the grades and courses listed is actually a link. If you click on one of these links, it will take you to a more detailed page for that course. Each course has specific items for each quarter that are either optional or required in order to receive a grade for the course. The items are grouped first by quarter, and then by whether they are parent-graded or Seton-graded items.

Accessing the Features of MySeton



Uploading Work

Uploading is the process of sending work from your computer to Seton. Work that is uploaded to Seton is either created in a word processor or is a non-computer file that has been scanned. Uploading work to Seton will usually result in receiving a grade more quickly than if the same work were sent by mail.



Online Tests

Online tests are tests that you can take through your *MySeton* site, rather than on paper. Online tests are available for many of the tests from high school down through the fourth grade. Almost all tests that are fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc., are available online. Some tests, which are either entirely or almost entirely essay questions, are not available online. These items need to be uploaded or mailed.



Course Resources

Sample essays, test taking tips, answer keys, and chapter notes provide insight into the most important elements of the course. Reviewing these valuable resources will help students navigate around common roadblocks saving them time and avoiding possible frustrations. In short, they will help your student stay focused and on track.

Message Boards

Seton maintains online message boards that can be used by students and parents. Each of the subject message boards is moderated either by a Seton counselor or by an expert in the subject. In addition, students and parents can post messages to each other. You'll find the link to the Message Boards at the top of the Resources Tab page.

Video Resources

Production has commenced on a wide range of video tutorials for high school students. A host of new video tutorials covering the English 9, 10, 11, 12, and American Literature courses is currently in production for the fall. For more information, please see the back cover of the magazine.

LIVES OF SERVICE

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ADAMS FAMILY

Seton is proud to have had the honor to interview one of our families who serves in the Armed Forces. The Adams Family of New Market, Maryland, has a son and a daughter serving in the Navy, another son in the Army, and their youngest daughter is on the way to Fordham. Captain Adams has served honorably in the Navy for 26 years.

Captain Adams, why did you choose a Navy career?

My father served in the Army during World War II and the Korean War, and all three of my uncles served in the Navy. In grammar school, I was fascinated by ships and a devotee to the television show "Victory at Sea." After earning a Ph.D. and completing a post-doctoral fellowship, I initially taught at a pharmacy school but always yearned to fulfill my boyhood dream of being a Navy Officer. At the age of 34, I joined the Navy as a biomedical scientist.

Captain Adams, what advice would you offer to other parents about having their children choose a lifestyle of military service?

Military service is a vocation just like the religious life or the health professions. Just as priests minister to our spiritual health and health professionals minister to our physical health, the military ministers to our corporate physical health, protecting the nation from foreign enemies. And like the religious and medical vocations, the military life requires selfless service and a keen sense of honor, courage, and commitment. Members of the U.S. Military offer the nation their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Mrs. Adams, what would you offer to parents?

Military service is an honorable profession and I am so proud of the desire of



Captain and Mrs. Adams.

my children to serve their country... something bigger than their own personal ambitions. One of my husband's mentors always said, "The Navy is important because the country is important; the country is important because it's where my family lives."



Photo taken during deployment in Kuwait, 2011

MAURA ADAMS

How did Seton help prepare you for Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps?

I can remember the trepidation I felt as I stood outside on Mendel Field in formation the first day of school at Villanova University. I was not sure if I had been fortified by Seton with the appropriate tools to survive college and the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. I was soon surprised that the discipline instilled in me through Seton's intensive curriculum had given me an edge compared to the other students. I was able to rely on the excellent writing skills and study habits formed at home, and the strict foundation of the Seton program allowed me to draw on skill sets that my colleagues lacked.

JOHN ADAMS

How did Seton help prepare you for a military academy?

The most important skill Seton taught me was the ability to write clearly and concisely. That skill has paid dividends both at West Point, and in the Army. West Point put a lot of emphasis on writing ability, including five courses in the core curriculum focused on critical and analytical writing. I always received praise for my writing style and content, all of which I learned during high school with Seton.



Photo taken during deployment in Afghanistan, 2012

“Behold I command thee, take courage, and be strong. Fear not and be not dismayed: because the Lord thy God is with thee in all things whatsoever thou shalt go to.”

JOSUE 1:9

Mrs. Adams, how do you handle the pressures and concerns of having your children in harm’s way?

Pray. I know that there is risk in everything we do, but I pray that God will protect them and keep them safe, especially when they are deployed.

Mrs. Adams, would you reflect on the concerns of a mother having a daughter choose the military life?

I have concerns for all my children, period, whether daughter or son. All have been deployed: William as a submariner, Maura as a nurse in Kuwait, and John as an Infantry officer in Afghanistan. I also have a new daughter-in-law who was deployed in Kandahar for a year before she married my son John. It certainly is a difficult life for all service members, a life filled with hardship,



John receives his commission at West Point.

separation, and sacrifice. I now have Margaret who will be attending Fordham in the fall. She feels it’s her turn to join them in the service of our country and she has joined the NROTC unit there. I am proud of all of them for serving and for being willing to deploy.

Captain Adams, what advice would you offer families about Seton’s potential role in helping them achieve a military career?

Seton has helped all of my children obtain an elite Catholic education, far better in quality than that available in public schools or Catholic schools. All four have gained admission to top quality colleges: the US Merchant Marine Academy, Villanova University, the US Military Academy, and Fordham University. The values taught in the Seton curriculum, when brought to the military by Seton graduates, reinforce the traditional military virtues of duty to God and country, and enlarge the Kingdom of God on Earth.



For the full interview, visit
www.setonhome.org/magazine



WILLIAM ADAMS

After your active duty experience, would you want your own children to follow in your footsteps?

I would be proud of my children if they pursued a career in the military, as it is one of hardship and sacrifice that many of the people who enjoy the freedoms we protect do not understand or appreciate. Regarding

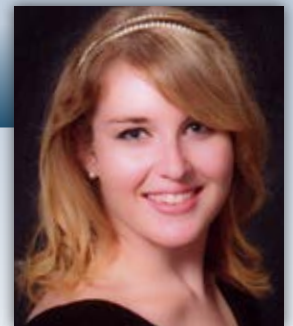
my children attending a military academy, I think it is an outstanding way to be exposed to the concept of service to others while juggling the demands of a heavier workload than most civilian colleges.

Photo taken during the banquet at John’s graduation at West Point, 2010

MARGARET ADAMS

What can you offer to other families about how Seton has helped prepare you academically, and for important life decisions, like which college to choose?

Coming from an accredited home study school made a massive impact on college applications. Since everything is online now, in an application you had to pick your high school from a list of all the accredited high schools in the country. Seton was always on the list and I never had to go through an entire process of proving I went to school. Though Seton is challenging, it is completely worth it, and it all pays off.



Senior photo of Margaret

Virtual Views

"I would like suggestions on activities very small kids can do while I homeschool. I have a first grader, kindergartner, a preschooler and a toddler. I have been homeschooling for two years during nap time so having them around me during this time is new."

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Darlene: Play dough with cookie cutters. Lots of them. We also used water colors and finger paints to keep them busy. I would tuck away a school time play box. I called it the Mary Poppins Bag. They were only allowed to play with these toys during school time. I would try to put a different toy in it every week, something new and different that would keep them busy. Yard sales came in very handy for this.

Beth: I was recently at a homeschool conference and heard a speaker say she bought a blow up kiddie pool on clearance at the end of the summer and would use it as sort of a containment area for the little ones to play in. She could get creative with what she put in it, anything from stuffed animals one day, to a water table or sand, cereal, rice table, etc. You could clear it out and put them in there with a little table that had Play Doh to play with, or paper and washable markers or finger paints. The hardest part would be to teach them that if they want to play with that stuff, it has to be inside the pool area. The purpose is to give them a spot to play where you can always be watching them (instead of them grabbing things and playing with them all over the house) and also it makes for easier clean up of even messy playthings.

See all 17 comments on
Facebook
in our July 30 posting



According to Dads



BY JOHN CLARK

Falling in Love Again

Over the past several years, I have seen some of my friends divorce. When we see marriages fail, we might consider the occurrence an opportunity to work on our own.

Some marriages end because of serious abuse or other situations which make it impossible for the spouses to live together. But many marriages end simply because the spouses "fall out of love." It has been said that such couples should remember why they fell in love in the first place. That's a cute idea, and it might work. But it seems flawed for an obvious reason: namely, that the original reasons may no longer exist. A man may have fallen in love with a girl because she was tall, young, and had long, flowing blonde hair. But twenty years later, her body may have relocated those inches of height to her waist, she looks a generation older, and her blonde hair is turning gray.

The girl may have fallen in love with her man because he was so athletic, and full of energy, and never turned down the opportunity to do exciting things like travel to exotic lands. Two decades later, he may regularly fall asleep on the couch, and his idea of exotic travel might mean going to the International House of Pancakes.

Instead of remembering reasons why you fell in love years ago, try this: Look for new reasons to fall in love today, and pray for the grace and the will to find these reasons.

Catholic theology teaches us that love is an act of the will—and we have control over our wills. When a husband falls "out of love" with his wife, the essential problem is the deficiency of will. Yes, wives are sinners, and they can do things that greatly distress their husbands. But honesty and humility dictate that husbands are also sinners, with our own set of foibles and

spiritual gaffes, and neither husbands nor wives should make imperfection the enemy of love.

At some point in the breakdown of a relationship, the argument becomes: "that person is imperfect, and therefore, is no longer worthy of my love." Despite any faults, each person is worthy of love on an ontological basis—that is to say, God created them. A wife is due her husband's love based solely on the fact that God created her.

Love contains certain ingredients, as Scripture tells us. If love is patient and kind, then the lack of love is impatient and unkind. If love "keeps no record of wrongs," then the lack of love keeps a record. In fact, the more love lacks, the better the recordkeeping.

I've expressed to my children that every human relationship is flawed because it consists of two flawed persons, and charity is often lacking in each relationship. It might help to think of human relationships as a game. Here's how it works:

In this game, you score points by having Christian love in your heart for each other. Each person can score from 0 to 100 points at any time he or she desires, which means the cumulative score can be anywhere from 0 and 200. (Unlike in most card games, you decide which cards you are dealt. No one can force you to have a "bad hand" except you.) If the score is 200, you are in the rarefied realm of the great saints, and if the score is 0, you are in the inglorious realm of the devil and his minions. For the game to operate well at all, it must contain at least one hundred total points of love. If the number drops under one hundred, the game slowly withers away.

The genius of this game is that you have enough points to win all by yourself—you can



College Prep

EARLY ADMISSION TO COLLEGE

BOB WIESNER

Many colleges offer students the opportunity to apply for early admission. This is a process whereby students who are very certain of which college they wish to attend may be able to get the whole process completed well in advance of the usual time; they avoid the rush, so to speak. The advantage to the student is that the college application process is cut to one application only, thus saving time, money, and aggravation. The student is also likely to have an earlier claim on available scholarship funds at the college. The college gains by being able to process applications before the real crunch time for them and by having the certainty that the student is really serious about attending.

There are trade-offs, of course. If for some reason the college does not accept the student, there may be no back-up plan for any other school. Usually this is not a problem, since the deadline for regular admission is late enough that the student is able to apply elsewhere. The other drawback for the student is that he is expected to hold off on applying to other schools until the early decision has been made. This could result in other applications going late to the second choice colleges.

The usual deadline for early admission falls in October or November, so now is the time to consider early admission if the choice for college is narrowed to one only.

Next Month's Column

SAT and ACT Tests



“ Maybe all of us, whether we have a blissful marriage, or one that is need of serious repair, should ask God for the grace to help us fall in love with our wives in a deeper way, every day. ”

score 100, even if the other person scores 0. No matter who scored, those 100 points are enough to win the game. Let's be honest with ourselves—there have been times when we have had pretty low scores, but hopefully there have been times when we scored 100. If that number in your marriage is low, you've got to deal yourself a new hand. Go ahead: deal yourself four aces. It's not cheating; the only way to cheat is to keep looking at your wife's hand and wonder why she keeps dealing herself bad cards. Don't look at her cards—look at yours. And, a very important part of this game to remember is this: do not insist that you're holding a Full House when you really only have a Pair of Deuces. It doesn't work in Atlantic City, and it won't work in your marriage.

Reducing the concept of love to a card game might sound simplistic, but love is simple. We may never be able to control the love of another, but we have control over our own will to love. On a practical level, we need to pray to be better husbands, to love our wives more, to offer sacrifices for them, and to see Christ in our wives. Moreover, your success as a home-schooling father is probably directly relational to the love you have for your wife.

Maybe all of us, whether we have a blissful marriage, or one that is need of serious repair, should ask God for the grace to help us fall in love with our wives in a deeper way, every day. Maybe we should ask God to help us look for these “falling in love” moments—these moments that draw our affection and love for our wives.

Chances are, your wife does some things that most people would consider strange, but these are often the things that define a person. Maybe your mission as a husband is to find those things about your wife that are endearing and lovable, even if the rest of the world “doesn't get it.” That's OK. The rest of the world doesn't have to—all that matters is that you do, and that you desire to find new and better ways every day. Maybe failed marriages are too intent on “the way things used to be”--and the reasons that they originally fell in love. Good marriages should center on the now, in recognition of the eternal now that is Heaven. Even if your marriage is in desperate straits, you haven't missed the chance to fall in love again with your wife. There's still time...right now. Who doesn't want to fall in love, anyway?

September Checklist



BY GINNY SEUFFERT

September is an exciting time when the children are eagerly looking at their new books, and moms are hopeful that this year will be the best ever. But merely wishing doesn't necessarily get you what you hope for. You must take action. Here are some ideas to help your school year flow more smoothly.

Start the Same Time Every Day

Set an absolutely non-negotiable start time for your school day. Make it not one minute later than 9 o'clock in the morning; 8 o'clock is better for children past the primary grades. If the children do not start on time, evaluate what is causing the delay. If little Janie is not getting up early enough in the morning, perhaps she needs an earlier bedtime at night. If Johnny has trouble locating his books or pencils, he might need to set up his workspace at night before he goes to bed. If the children are just generally dawdling and uncooperative, have Dad get them up or talk to them before he leaves for work.

Make Sure the Children Can Start Without You

Often in the morning, Mom is busy with nursing and dressing babies, breakfast prep and cleanup, and throwing that first load of laundry into the machine. Make sure that the children have some schoolwork they can start on time without you. This should be easy for older students as most of them can follow their own lesson plans. Primary grade children will be able to get started as long as they have a definite idea of what Mom wants them to do. Most children, even kindergartners, can practice their handwriting or do some arithmetic without much help.

If your children are likely to play around when you are not in the room, have each one set up his or her books in a different room – Janie at the dining room table, and Johnny at the kitchen island, for example.

Create a Safe Space for the Little Ones

Find a place in your house or in your yard where your babies and toddlers can play with minimal supervision. Especially in the morning when they are rested and fresh, you can train your little ones to play independently for quite some time. Some moms gate the doors to the playroom, make sure the electric sockets all

have child guards, and ensure there are plenty of toys with no small pieces on which a baby can choke. During the warm weather months, many younger children are happy to play in the yard, while the students work at the picnic table. Some families have a screen-in porch or a backyard deck which makes for a very pleasant place for either homeschooling or play. If your older children are self-sufficient enough for you to be away for a while, taking the younger children out of the house and to the park or the swimming pool can provide your high school students with some valuable quiet time for their studies.

Have Pre-planned Break, Lunch, and Quiet Times

Children who know that they can have a snack and short recess at 10 o'clock if they have finished their assignments, are less likely to day-dream or whine about being hungry. During the break, keep the TV off, and while the weather is nice, insist that they get some fresh air and sunshine. A healthy snack and some exercise is the best recipe to keep the children alert until lunchtime.

Usually half an hour is enough time to eat lunch, but I would still allow a full hour's break from the schoolwork. This gives Mom time to switch the wash, and gives the kids time to do some chores or ride their bikes. After lunch, the youngest children must take a nap. Even the primary school children, who should have finished most of their work before lunch, would profit from an hour of quiet time. (I can assure you that Mom will absolutely benefit from quiet time!)

While the little ones rest, Mom can work with older children on the more challenging assignments like English or book reports. A good practice for all the children is, when they have finished each assignment, to have them check off the work in their lesson plan book. At the end of the school day, Mom can briefly glance to see if any work remains unfinished. To prevent them from falling too far behind, high school students will benefit from an hour or two of evening "homework" or reading for their book report.

Keeping Junior and Senior High School Students on Schedule

Seton counselors often receive calls from the parents of junior and senior high school students who have fallen behind schedule in one or more subjects. I believe a few simple ideas can keep them on track:

- Encourage the students to work on every subject every day. A student who is devoting 45 minutes each day to each subject will

not fall too far behind, even in English and history. If they skip even just a few days in math and foreign language, students will lose necessary skills, making it even more difficult to catch up.

- Highly discourage TV in the evenings. It is a better idea for your older students to catch up on reading or finish a math lesson. Even a short thirty minutes of a nightly schoolwork session will have a big payoff.
- If students are struggling with some of the more advanced work, carefully review the lesson plans in that particular subject for ideas and advice. If more help is needed, contact a Seton counselor right away. Do not wait until the student is months behind before contacting Seton for help! Teens often ignore their more difficult subjects and concentrate their efforts on the subjects they enjoy and excel in. This is a recipe for disaster.
- Remind complaining students that their contemporaries in institutional schools typically spend six hours each day in the classroom and several more hours completing homework. Very few homeschooling students are devoting eight hours a day to schoolwork.

Family Prayer

The whole family will benefit from some simple daily group prayer activities. Start your school day with a morning offering and the short aspiration, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen." Let a little one hold the flag, and recite the pledge. When you break for lunch, say the Angelus, in addition to grace before meals. Keep some of those plastic rosaries that come in the Seton boxes in the car, and say a decade, or the whole rosary, if you are driving somewhere.

If daily Mass is impossible in your situation, plan to attend at least every Friday, so the whole family completes nine First Fridays. Find a time for everyone to go to Confession every week or two. We homeschooling parents should not become so busy with the practical concerns of home education that we lose track of the spiritual helps available to us. Pray to your own guardian angel and to your children's angels, too. Pray to Blessed Marie and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who founded Catholic education in Canada and the United States respectively, for their intercession in this important work. Model your family life after that of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and remind your children to do the same. God will reward your sacrifices and answer your prayers.

Kid's Corner

THERE'S a TIGER
IN MY TUB!

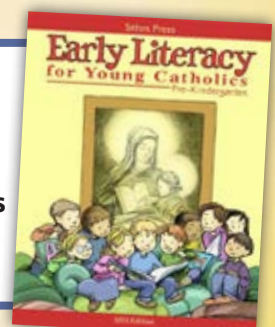


Name all the things in the picture that start with the letter T, then color the picture.

For more coloring activities like this one, check out

Early Literacy for Young Catholics

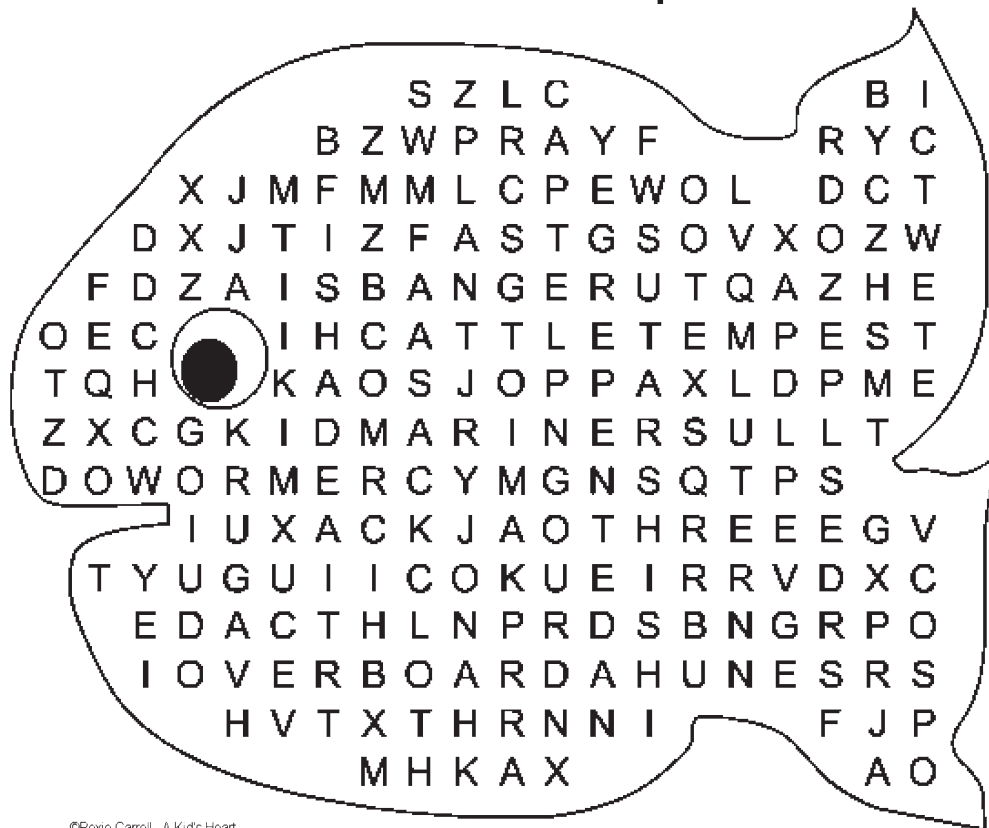
<http://www.setonhome.org/prekenrollment/>



Jonah and the Big Fish

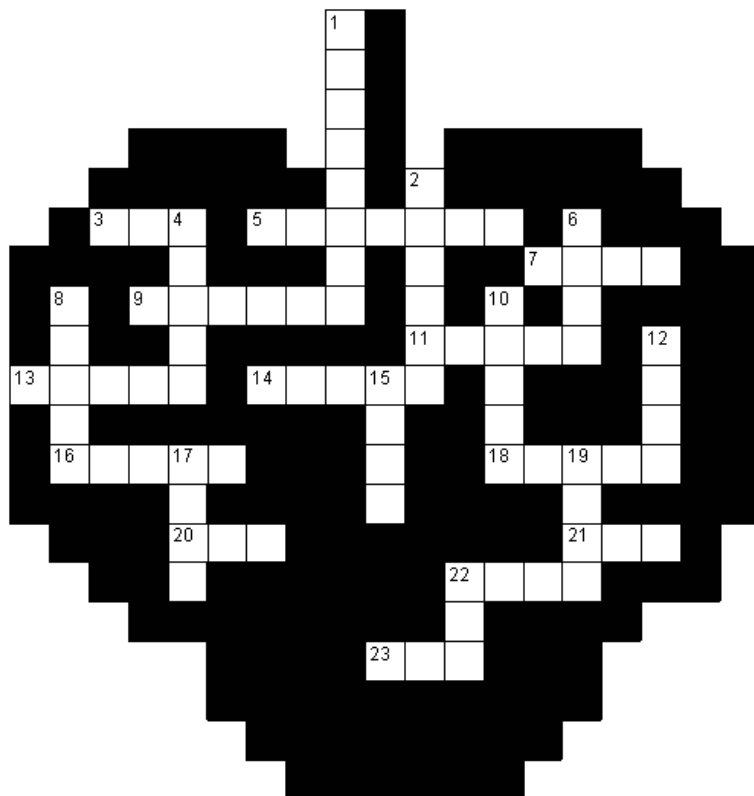
Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

- ANGER
- CATTLE
- FAST
- FISH
- GOURD
- JONAH
- JOPPA
- MARINERS
- MERCY
- OVERBOARD
- PLANT
- PRAY
- REPENTED
- SACKCLOTH
- SHADE
- TARSHISH
- TEMPEST
- THREE
- WORM



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Creation



Across

- 3. God removed one of these from man to make woman
- 5. Creatures
- 7. What God used to water the Garden
- 9. To make from nothing
- 11. Our planet
- 13. Healing type plants
- 14. Eve was the first one

- 16. Little night lights
- 18. Grew in the garden; one was of life; one was of the knowledge of good and evil
- 20. The heavens
- 21. First woman
- 22. The lesser light that rules the night
- 23. The greater light that rules the day

Down

- 1. Another name for the Garden of Eden
- 2. The _____ of Eden
- 4. They fly in the air
- 6. These swim in the seas
- 8. These are sown to grow plants; fruits reproduce by these

- 10. Apples, oranges, and bananas
- 12. God created our earth in 6 of these
- 15. First man
- 17. What God did on the 7th day
- 19. Where God planted the first garden
- 22. Adam was the first one

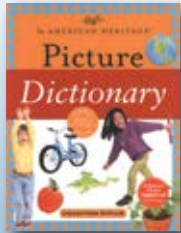
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We recommend that students have a good dictionary and thesaurus.

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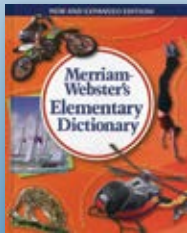


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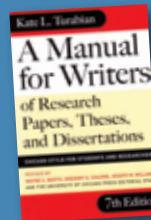


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A host of new video tutorials covering the English 9, 10, 11, 12, and American Literature courses is currently in production for the fall. These videos will break down key weeks in each quarter, addressing frequently asked questions while offering advice to make the work easier. Other high school English videos, on topics ranging from essay writing to use of quotations, will be added as well.

First quarter tutorials should be available before the end of this month, with subsequent quarters added thereafter.

Check the "Video Tutorials" section under the "Resources" tab of your *MySeton* page before starting each new quarter in high school English for new lectures added regularly.

PAPAL WISDOM



THE HORIZON OF GOD

Dear friends, on days that are busy and full of problems, but also on days of rest and relaxation, the Lord asks us not to forget that if it is necessary to be concerned about material bread and to replenish our strength, it is even more fundamental to develop our relationship with Him, to reinforce our faith in the One who is the "bread of life" which satisfies our desire for truth and love. May the Virgin Mary, on the day on which we recall the dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, sustain us on our journey of faith.

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, August 5, 2012

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