

# Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

SETONMAGAZINE.COM | JUNE 2014



**STUCK ON  
SETON...  
FOREVER!**

The 'Greatest Classroom'  
& the 'Chosen Teacher'...

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Vol. 3, No. 6, June 2014

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### **Subscription Information:**

Subscription is included with your enrollment.

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

Cover images:

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Every day at Seton, gathered before the altar at our noon Angelus, we offer prayers for our families and friends. We encourage you also to pray for other homeschooling families, especially those who may be suffering from illness, unemployment, or other crosses.

We are all united in the Communion of Saints, and God allows us through our prayers to uphold, support, and console other members of His Church. Let us, then, remember to pray for one another as we all walk the path of homeschooling, so that we may all join together in prayer, one day, in Heaven.





# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

Some of us have been in parishes where a copy of the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help hangs and where the parish members join in a weekly novena to the Blessed Mother under this title. Some of us, as we visit an unfamiliar church, find on a wall a copy of the miraculous picture, whose history is miraculous as well.

On June 27th, the Church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, along with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the day before the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary's heart is so close to the heart of Jesus since she carried Him in her womb, and the Church teaches that Her Divine Son will not refuse her anything.

All of the miraculous pictures, statues, scapulars, and medals, along with the Rosary of Our Blessed Mother, provide us with an incredible abundance of opportunities to ask Jesus and Mary for blessings we need for ourselves and our families. The Church teaches that Mary's help is perpetual, available for us at any time and ongoing, literally without end, unceasing, and has been since the Annunciation. Considering all her apparitions and her messages to help us to attain Heaven, it is clear that Jesus Himself wishes us to consider her our Mother of Perpetual Help.

As with so many of the sacramentals, the story of the painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help shows many twists and turns over a period of many, many years. A traveling merchant stole the picture from a church in Crete, the largest island of Greece, where it was known for numerous miracles. A year later, the merchant arrived in Rome with the picture, but immediately became very ill. A Roman friend took care of him and when it was evident he was dying, the merchant told his Roman friend the story of his theft of the miraculous picture. It is likely

that the Roman friend was the writer of this story, written on a piece of parchment which was attached to the back of the picture.

The dying and remorseful merchant asked his Roman friend to take the picture to a church where he believed it belonged. After the merchant died, the Roman took the picture to his home, but on the pleading of his wife, he did not take the picture to a church. The Roman friend later stated that the Blessed Mother appeared to him and asked him to take the picture to a church, but his wife continued to prevail. The Blessed Mother appeared on two occasions to their six-year-old daughter, telling her to tell her mother of the Blessed Mother's command to take the picture to St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Rome. The day of the second apparition, the astonished mother took the picture to the church, where it was properly enshrined in 1499 by the Augustinian Fathers.

The picture is actually an Eastern Rite icon, Byzantine art more symbolic than realistic. The Infant Jesus and Mary are surrounded by the objects of His sufferings and crucifixion, painted on wood, likely in the fourteenth century. The painting measures only 17 by 20 inches; the colors are typical of Eastern Rite icons, with deep blue, red, and gold.

The many details in this small painting hold so much meaning, it is necessary to spend time studying the image. One thing is clear in the picture: the Mother of God knew beforehand the incredible details of her Son's sufferings, and that the Baby Jesus looked with human apprehension at the instruments of His crucifixion.

St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote extensively about the Blessed Mother in his book *The Glories of Mary*. He wrote "... we may understand the confidence that the Holy Church has in Mary, we need only



remember that in all public calamities, the Church invariably invites all to have recourse to the protection of the Divine Mother by novenas, prayers, processions, by visiting the churches dedicated in her honor and her images. She wishes us always to seek her and invoke her aid."

In the current culture of anti-Christian values, against life, marriage, and family life—a public calamity if every there was one—we home schooling families need to obtain a copy of this picture, and daily say the Memorare:

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*



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*.



# your Questions ANSWERED

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

**After talking with my home schooling friends at church, I would like to enroll in Seton, but my husband doubts my ability to do it.**

If you don't know already, you might want to pin down exactly what your husband thinks will go wrong. Is it a question of organization, or of teaching ability, or of having a baby while teaching older children, or of keeping the house livable while teaching? You might even find that doubts about your ability are really concerns over the children's future, such as getting into college or playing on sports teams. Whatever the specific objection is, you might find a specific answer.

In general, encourage your husband to go on our website and take a look at a sample of our lesson plans. They are very detailed with day to day suggestions. Remind him that we have academic counselors available by Message Board, by email, and by phone. Also, tell him that your friends would be happy to help you get started, and even share tips. You and one of your friends might teach a class together on a difficult subject. Ask your husband to talk with the other home schooling fathers in the area. Most of all, both of you need to talk about it and pray together about it.

**My high school son has not been truthful with me about doing his work. I am a working mother and cannot keep track of everything.**

This can be a problem when a student is old enough to work on his own, but doesn't really have sufficient supervision of his work. If you know another homeschooling family in the area, perhaps you might drop your son off at their house at least some days a

week. In the unfamiliar surroundings of another house, your son won't have much to do other than his work. You could also try taking your son to the library on a few days, although since most libraries have Internet access, there might be many things to do besides schoolwork.

If you can afford it, you might think about hiring a tutor, even if only for half days. Your son would likely get more accomplished while the tutor is present, and she might give assignments to be finished by the next day.

Though you are a working mother and can't be there all the time for him, it is important for your son to know that you are interested in his success with his schooling. He needs to know that you care what he does. If you cannot keep track of everything every day, perhaps you can show interest in just one subject per day by simply asking him to show you what he read today or asking him to show you an assignment.

Home schooling is more about home than schooling. You need to show your interest in him and what he is doing. Once he knows how much you care, he may give more attention to his studies.

**I find myself losing patience with my children sometimes. Maybe I am not "cut out" for home schooling.**

If God sent you children, you are "cut out" to raise them. Home schooling is really just another form of raising your children. Whether parents are "home schoolers" or not, parents are teaching children every day—sometimes by words and sometimes by example. Home schooling makes

the teaching and learning process more formalized, but that is merely doing more systematically what you are already doing all the time.

Not only are you helping your children toward heaven, but they are helping you toward heaven! The daily back and forth with your children is teaching you virtues, such as patience. Love for your children shows itself in your caring attitude and the time you spend with them.

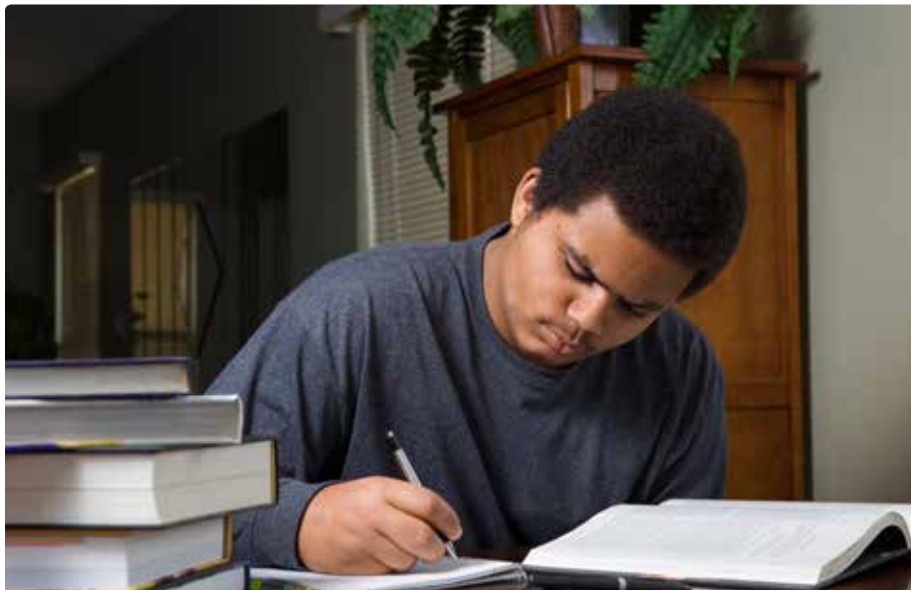
Believe it or not, they do grow up! And when they do, you will be surprised how much they care about you and their dad, and about their brothers and sisters. Their best friends will be their brothers and sisters. In schools, siblings are separated every day for many hours. Not so with your children, not so. Your children love and care about each other, even though it may not seem so. Hang on. The best is yet to come!

**Will my children be able to attend college if they cannot score well on the ACT or SAT which will be geared for the Common Core program?**

We're pretty confident that Seton students will not have any trouble on the ACT and SAT tests. Regardless of whether the tests change somewhat due to Common Core, the tests will still measure student knowledge and ability in the areas of math, reading, and writing. Since these are areas in which our students excel, we are not worried.

Remember also that Seton can help your child gain admissions to the college of your choice. First, we offer an accredited diploma, which is backed

*Homeschooling is more about "home" than "schooling."*



by the same accrediting agencies which accredit colleges. Second, if an admissions office has any questions about a diploma, Seton is happy to call the admissions office and answer those questions. Seton is one of the largest Catholic high schools in the United States, and the likelihood is that whatever college you are applying to has already accepted Seton graduates and seen how well they perform in college.

**I notice that you are being accredited by a public school accrediting association. Can't you find a Catholic home schooling accrediting association?**

The thing to understand about accreditation is that the value of accreditation is only as good as the agency which is doing the accrediting. Because Seton is accredited by the same agencies which accredit a large number of public and private high schools, Seton's accreditation is widely accepted as valid. That makes sense, because if a college values its own accreditation, it can't devalue Seton's accreditation. There are many different accrediting agencies for schools, including some Catholic accrediting agencies. However, accreditation

through these agencies would not bring the same benefit to families as does our current accreditation.

*Not only are you helping your children toward heaven, but they are helping you toward heaven!*

Some parents are concerned that a secular accrediting agency would require us to change our curriculum to be less Catholic. However, we have been accredited for many years, and we have never been pressured in the least to make any curriculum changes.

In fact, the accreditation examiners who have visited us have been very friendly, very positive, very helpful, and frankly, very impressed with our school. At the last Accreditation Association meeting in Atlanta in March, our two Seton representatives met with several of the officials who highly praised the work of Seton.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work to explain the Seton Home Study School apostolate to the AdvancEd Accreditation Association, which will give us an onsite visit in October.



**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*.



## 2014 Conferences

The following is a list of Catholic homeschooling conferences where Seton will offer materials for preview and sale, as well as a \$30-per-child enrollment discount (grades 1-12).

For additional conferences, venues, vendors, and contact information, visit: [www.setonhome.org/conferences](http://www.setonhome.org/conferences)

### **VA, Fredericksburg June 20-21, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM National Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **CA, Costa Mesa - June 21, 2014 (Sat.)**

SCCHE (Southern California Catholic Home Educators) 15th Annual Conference & Curriculum Fair

### **OH, Dayton June 27-28, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM Dayton Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **OH, Cleveland July 11-12, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM Cleveland Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **CO, Centennial TBA - See Website**

2014 Rocky Mountain Home Educators Conference

### **FL, Tampa July 17-18, 2014 (Thurs.-Fri.)**

IHM Tampa Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **IL, Chicago July 25-26, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM Chicago Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **NY, Dobbs Ferry August 1-2, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM New York Homeschool & Parent Conference

### **MA, Lowell August 8-9, 2014 (Fri.-Sat.)**

IHM New England Homeschool & Parent Conference





# STUCK ON SETON... FOREVER!

BY LISA DUDA

The first time we heard the word “Homeschooling” was twenty-six years ago in the cry room at church with then 7-month old Mary Beth. I was standing next to another mom with her newborn baby girl. We looked at each other’s babies and both said, “Congratulations!” to each other. Then I commented, “They’ll probably go to school together and become friends.” Then the father said, “Oh, sorry. We are going to be homeschooling.” “Homeschooling?” I said, “What’s THAT?” That was in April 1988. Fast-forward twenty-two years, and that girl was in my daughter’s wedding.

Although we ended up putting our oldest three children in public school for three years, we kept thinking how nice it would be to teach them at home. I really didn’t know much about homeschooling back then, because it wasn’t very popular in the 1990’s, but a friend gave me an address for Seton Home Study School (this was before we owned a computer) and several other homeschool catalogs. When I received Seton’s info packet in the mail, it hit me straight in the heart.

Right there, on the front page was written, “God’s Greatest Classroom is your Living Room.... and You are His Chosen Teacher.” Then I read Dr. Mary Kay Clark’s book *Catholic Homeschooling* (twice), and completely fell in love with the idea.

At first my husband was not as enthusiastic, thinking especially of his wasted tax money going into the public schools. But shortly after I sent a few pleas to the Blessed Mother, my friend’s husband finally convinced him that this was a good idea. My husband asked him “What makes you such an expert?” He said, “I’m sorry, I thought you knew. I’m a History teacher in the public school.” That did it. John was hooked. Forever.

## ..... SETON MAKES IT EASY

We officially began homeschooling with Seton in 1995, and discovered that homeschooling is an apostolate and an adventure. We are the first evangelizers to our children. We nurture them at home, building character and teaching them virtue as well as Math, English and so on. Seton makes it easy, as its curriculum weaves the Catholic Faith throughout every subject.

There are so many reminders, especially in the *Faith and Freedom* readers, to practice charity and patience, and to have a grateful, cheerful heart. Immersed in this, they then go out and spread the love of Christ to the world. “*Train up a child the way he should go and he will not depart from it*” (Proverbs 22:6).

In 1997, we began our *Annual Catholic Family Camporee* at Wolf Den

Campground. It’s a weekend of activities including a community potluck, Jamboree, and Rosary around the campfire, hiking, volleyball, swimming, and more. We welcome everyone-not just homeschoolers-to share our faith and prove to the world that “Being Catholic is *cool*,” that Catholics are fun, and that it’s okay to just smile and be yourself. We want people to feel welcomed and loved. It is so great to watch the children so happy to be with other like-minded Catholic families.

In 2001, our whole family was able to be part of the building and Dedication of the *Marian Friary of Our Lady of Guadalupe* with the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate (FFI) in Griswold, CT. We spent the entire summer building, gold-leafing, sanding,





## MEET THE FAMILY

And now....Let me introduce you to my children:

**Zachary John** (7) a.k.a. the "Drama King". Pure ENERGY! It is difficult to nail him down for a while to do his school, but when he does, he is like a sponge.

**Gabriel Luke** (9) is doing very well in the 4th grade, with his favorite subject being Science. He loves the outdoors. He is a little calmer the older he gets, and appreciates simple things. He loves to please people, and I call him "Gabriel, My Angel."

**Bernadette Mary Grace** (14) is now in 9th Grade, with 10th Grade Geometry. She invented her own "*Geometric Theorem of Because it is Obvious*." She loves to knit, play guitar, and sometimes helps tutor the "Littles".

**Rebecca Anne-Marie** (16) is in the 11th Grade. Rebecca loves to crochet. She's also my #1 Pastry-Chef and Hair stylist.

**Benjamin Daniel Francis** (17) is in the 11th grade with Becky, but music is his life. We thank God for the flexibility Seton offers so that Ben can easily incorporate his music throughout the day, between studies. In April, his second CD, "*The Songs of Nature*" was officially copy written and is now available for purchase through Seton Educational Media.

**Joshua Michael** (20) lives in Front Royal Virginia, about two minutes from Seton! He works for the State of Virginia, helping autistic children, and is engaged to be married at the end of June to a lovely young lady named Marigrace.

**Matthew Edward** (23) graduated Central

CT State University with a dual-degree in Criminology and Sociology. He is the one who struggled the hardest when he was homeschooling. Tears rolled down my face as he received the President to President Award and Scholarship toward C.C.S.U. He was hired by the Department of Social Services as an investigator. In his spare time, he answers 9-1-1 calls as a Volunteer EMT.

**Christopher Joseph** (25) & **Theresa** (My Daughter-in Love) now lives in West Virginia, parents to our two grandchildren so far, Joseph and Jeané. Chris is temporarily working on a pipeline while waiting for a Connecticut State career. Chris and Theresa plan to homeschool. Meanwhile, they carry the tradition of music and laughter into the next generation.

**John Donald Jr.** (25) works as a revenue agent for the State Dept. of Revenue (DRS). He is also an EMT in the Columbia Fire Dept. A typical sportsman, he enjoys bow-hunting, fishing, canoeing, and swing-dancing. He sings tenor with a choir, and still plays guitar beautifully.

By the way... Do not worry about socialization...the twins were most popular in college because they were different.

**Dan Cormier** (My Son-in-Love) & **Mary Beth** (26) Mary Beth is my first Seton Homeschool Graduate (2005). When she went to college, she said, "College is a breeze! I get all my information spoon-fed to me!" Her peers would ask, "How come you don't like... *swear*?" She'd respond, "Because I have like....a *vocabulary*." She graduated from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, and is working as a trauma nurse (RN) at Backus Hospital along with her husband.



staining, and landscaping. My husband and I are Franciscan Tertiaries, so we put a lot of love and prayer into it. What a great learning experience for the children too! We called it "Art Class".

## ENCOURAGEMENT

In June 2003, we founded a group called *Catholic Home Educators of the Immaculate*, modeled after the charism of the Friars, and it still meets every First Friday of the month. Here, families share curriculum and experiences to welcome, help and encourage other families. Annual events in-

clude an Epiphany Talent Show, Academic Fair, May Crowning, Queenship of Mary, Blessing of the Children, Field Trips, and a *huge* All Saints Eve Celebration, where the children dress up as their favorite saints in costumes of Biblical nature, knights, kings, queens, Indians, etc...The children look forward to it every year.

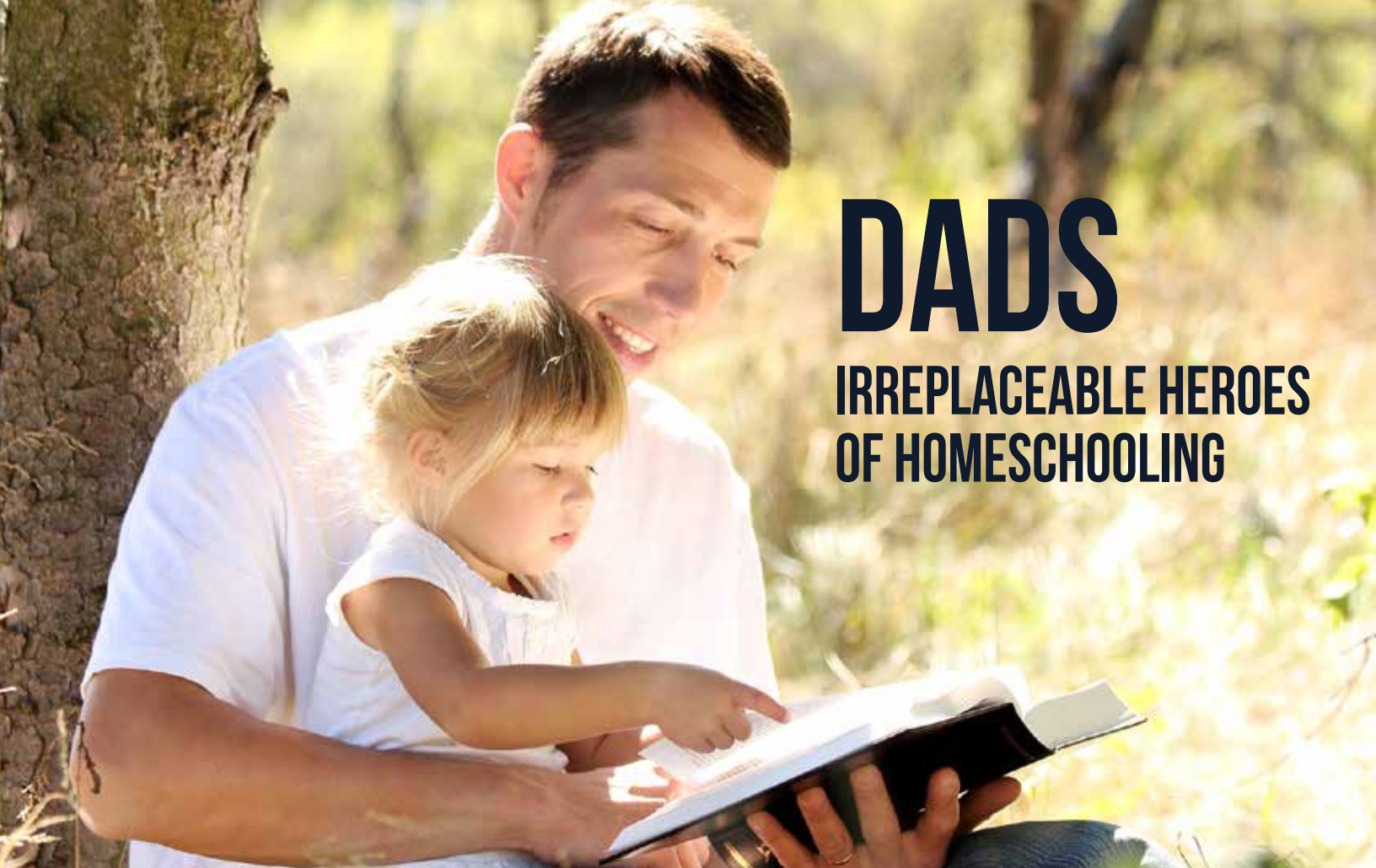
Because of homeschooling, we have the flexibility to go on field trips while others are still in school. We usually choose destinations of religious, historical, geological, scientific, or simply naturalist significance. For example, just last week, we covered

Colonial Times in Gabriel's fourth Grade History book. So we went to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA for the day, and stepped into the 1700's. We have also been on several mini-adventures to places such as Canada, all of New England, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia. We even traveled to Seton Headquarters in Virginia, had a tour, and met many of Seton's Staff, including Mr. & Dr. Clark!

The greatest adventure we experienced was when we took eight of our children on a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





# DADS

## IRREPLACEABLE HEROES OF HOMESCHOOLING

Out there, Dads seem to have acquired rather a poor reputation. They're inadequate, bumbling, and terribly prone to mistakes. They don't know who they are, lack responsibility, and couldn't begin to earn your respect. Out there, Dad is really unimportant, and generally in the way. At least, that's what you'd think if all you ever did was watch TV shows or otherwise listen to the popular culture. Meanwhile, in homeschooling circles, there's a lot of talk about moms. Moms do the teaching, moms hold down the fort, and moms take care of all the little details that keep young families steady in the day-to-day activities. Moms deserve enormous credit, of course—all the credit in the world as a matter of fact—but today, we're here to talk about dads. We know that fathers are some of the most hardworking, high-achieving, devoted, and necessary people in the world. Dads may be operating behind the scenes most of the time when it comes to homeschooling, but as it turns out, they're really indispensable. In fact, we really couldn't live without them. Here's why.

### SUPPORT FROM DAD

In 2013, Seton Home Study School ran a survey to discover what makes the difference between success and struggle for homeschooling families. Perhaps the single most common factor cited by successful families was support from Dad. That can take many different forms depending on individual circumstances, but the key is that Dad cares and stays involved, that he supports the education of the children in the

home, and believes in the work his wife undertakes to that end. (We know that some Dads stay at home and teach while Mom holds down a full-time outside-the-house job, but this is not common, so we will assume for this article that Dad works outside the home.) It takes extra work and sacrifice on a father's part for his wife to stay home and educate their children, but she can do that confidently and freely when she knows her husband has embraced that path along-

side of her. As for the children, they know instinctively when their parents disagree, and their behavior reflects the discord. However, when a father commits himself and his family to a course of action, the children know there is no choice but to fall in line, and when they see Dad standing in support of Mom day after day, they won't bother trying to do otherwise. Fathers are the rock upon which the homeschool is built, and without whom there is no stability.

### IRREPLACEABLE LOVE

Part and parcel of this is the spiritual benefit that fathers bring to the homeschool. Just as Our Father in Heaven cares for each hair on our heads, so our fathers on earth possess an irreplaceable love and concern for their children. That concern manifests itself in the prayers and sacrifices which a father continually offers on behalf of his family. A good father does all he can to ensure his children reach their eternal destiny as well as their earthly potential. Because he knows



his children so well, and because he can call upon the special graces of the marriage sacrament, his prayers are uniquely efficacious for the welfare of his particular family. My own father, after all these years, still amazes me with his profound commitment to my well-being and that of my brothers. Physically, he offers himself and his talents whenever we might need them—be it car repairs or financial advice, but spiritually, he goes to battle for us every day with Mass offerings and Rosaries, and though he wouldn't tell us this himself, Mom lets us know when he's fasting for us. I know that my father on earth will not rest until we are safe in the arms of our Heavenly Father.

## TAKE UP THE SLACK

At a more quantifiable level, it is also true that dads fill in where moms can't manage. Though it sounds cliché, it is nevertheless often the case that fathers have a certain ability in the maths and sciences, and that the teaching of those disciplines falls to their lot, particularly at the higher levels. Without this contribution, children would otherwise lack the instruction they really need when working with such difficult concepts.

Even in cases where the roles may be reversed and Mom has the math mind, Dad often possesses a particular talent in an area that is less appealing or comfortable for Mom. It might simply be the difference between being adequate and being passionate. In such cases, Dad's contribution to the classroom is vital, both for the learning and for the interest of the students. The only things I remember about astronomy are the things I learned from my father, and I'll never forget those nights when he pulled out the telescope and taught us the difference between planets and stars, how to trace a line to the North Star from the cup of the Big Dipper, the names of the constellations, and an appreciation for God's gift of light.

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

In many families, the lion's share of educating falls to the mothers, and in general, we're not given to thinking of fathers as the primary educators of their children. That may be true, so far as it goes, but here's the thing: dads are born leaders. Whether they know it or not, actively choose it or not, they lead their children. This is because children are fascinated by their fathers, in awe of the parent with the deeper voice who leaves so early in the morning and comes home so late in the evening.

Children instinctively look to their fathers. They want to know what 'Dad' will do in any given instance, and then they mimic what Dad does until it becomes their own. Have you never asked a child, "Why did you do that?" The answer is usually, "That's what Daddy does." This means that when Daddy prays, treats people with dignity, works hard, respects nature, honors life, takes care of Mom, loves books, and challenges his mind, his kids notice and learn to do the same.

It is precisely this fact of a child's inherent attraction to 'Dad's' ideas, choices, likes, dislikes, and actions that makes a father's position and influence so important. Dads are the ones invested with the power to guide and inspire a new generation to change the world. How much more so when dads have chosen to live their vocations fully, parenting with devotion and intention, as homeschooling fathers are known to do! That's why at Seton, we're here to support and encourage dads. We take our hats off to you, Seton fathers, and we offer prayers for you. Happy Father's Day! May St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus, protect you and your families.



Christine Smitha holds a B.A. in English and Literature from Christendom College. She has taught Literature for nine years, and enjoys dabbling in journalism when she gets a chance. She is currently Seton Home Study School's Accreditation Manager.



## Dads: 5 Things You can do Today to help your Homeschooling

1. Let your wife (and kids) know how much you appreciate her teaching the children.
2. Make the time to talk with her about school, one-on-one and undisturbed by little ones.
3. Treat your wife to a "Date Night" to provide some adult time to unwind. It could be as simple as a movie rental and a bottle of wine.
4. Ask your children at night to tell you what they learned that day.
5. Read to the little ones and have the older ones read to you.

*"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." Albert Einstein*





# 5 WAYS TO THANK DADS

BY CHRISTINE SMITHA

It is notoriously difficult to buy gifts for a man. Yet, men appreciate gifts, attention, thoughtfulness and gratitude as much as anyone else. Father's Day is upon us, and you and your children are probably pretty anxious to celebrate the day in the best possible way for the man of the house. Here are some tips and ideas for anyone needing a little inspiration in the 'thanking Dad' department.

## 1) THINK SPIRITUALLY.

What father doesn't need prayer? Consider creating a spiritual bouquet with your children to offer to your husband with a Mass card on Father's Day. 'Hail Mary's' offered by the lisping voices of the little ones, Holy Hours of Adoration from the teens, the intentions of your Sunday Mass attendance for the month of June, small daily sacrifices offered by each family member--these and many other spiritual offerings can be gathered into a lovely bouquet of graces sure to touch Dad's heart and bless his days.

## 2) SERVE.

Undoubtedly you've noticed, but most men gravitate to acts of service as their primary way of showing love and care. This means that they often are most moved by similar services undertaken for their sakes. Consider rendering a special service for the head of the house this month. Take his suits to the drycleaner. Get the whole family involved in cleaning the car head to toe, inside and out. Have the kids help polish and shine his shoes. Is there something of his that needs fixing? Take it in to be fixed. Such acts of service will show Dad that he's truly loved.

## 3) HELP HIM RELAX.

Every father lives with an overwhelming amount of responsibility on his shoulders, not just at home, but also in the workplace. In both work and home, he is daily called upon to make decisions that will for better or worse affect the welfare of numerous people. He probably doesn't complain, but the pressure is always there for him. This June, find ways to lighten the load a little. Take on a chore that he typically handles and do it yourself. If there are teens in the house, perhaps more than one "Dad chore" can be taken out of his hands for the month. Let him sleep in next Saturday while you take the kids to softball and soccer. Commit to letting him unwind when he gets home from work next week, instead of meeting him at the door with a list of things he needs to handle. The extra breathing room will bring peace and a smile to Dad's face.

## 4) TREAT HIM.

Fathers spend a great deal of time looking after the needs of everyone else in the family. They work hard for long hours every day, and when they get home, family responsibilities descend. Look for ways that the family can treat Dad this month. Make his favorite dinners. Buy his favorite ice cream, jam, coffee, or other item that he normally lives without. Update the photos on his desk. If he likes to golf, see about purchasing a tee time for him (they don't always have to be really expensive). If he

likes to fish, arrange a fishing day or weekend for him. Have the kids plan little gifts, homemade or store-bought—Dad's favorite cookies made with love by all the children, or his favorite candy purchased with allowance savings. Dad is sure to get a kick out of all the special treatment.

## 5) BE VERBAL.

Dads need verbal reminders of gratitude and appreciation as much as the rest of us do. A simple 'thank you' goes a long way, but the hectic pace of our lives often causes us to forget such simple kindnesses. June might be a good month for the whole family to recommit to verbal thankfulness. Make saying thank you a conscious part of loving Dad. To seal the deal, consider extra words of gratitude and praise with some thank-you notes from you and the children. Have each child in the family write a thank-you note for one thing Dad routinely does for that child. Alternatively, have each child write about a favorite memory of time spent with Dad. Present Dad with a list of "Things We Love About Dad"—a fun family project from the heart. Tell him how he's helped to make each of you a better person. Dad will be thrilled to know how much you appreciate him for who he is and what he does every day.

Ultimately, dads know we love them, but in a world where fathers are lambasted and lampooned, let's make an extra effort to show dads how much we appreciate them this month. You can never thank Dad too much!



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## MODEL OF FAMILY LIFE

BY FR. PAUL SCALIA

Priests are told by their bishop at the time of their ordination that they are to “imitate the Mystery you celebrate.” The priest is to imitate what he makes present on the altar. Grace works in our souls when we receive Christ in the Eucharist. By grace, if we imitate the Eucharist, imitate Christ in the Eucharist, we can be transformed. We are not only to receive the Eucharist, we are to imitate the Eucharist. All who receive Christ in the Eucharist should imitate Christ in their family life, in their homes. What instruction does the Eucharist give us for family life?

The Eucharist is the sacrament of Sacrifice, Presence, and Communion. These three aspects of the Eucharist instruct the family. The Eucharist instructs us in the practice of the three evangelical counsels. Sacrifice teaches poverty, Presence teaches chastity, and Communion teaches obedience. The Eucharist enables us to live the three evangelical counsels by teaching us how to learn from the Eucharist what Christ desires for us to accomplish.

The Sacrifice of the Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass, is the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. St. Paul connects the Eucharist, and the sacrifice of Our Lord on the Cross, and the continuation of His sacrifice in the Mass. St. Augustine teaches [that] on the altar, Christ is present and slain and sacrificed. The Mass is a true Sacrifice. Christ Himself consecrates and offers the sacrifice. Christ Himself offers every Mass, which is why the priest is another Christ. The sacrifice that He offers is the sacrifice of Himself.

### SACRIFICE

The Sacrifice of Christ corresponds to the evangelical counsel of poverty. Christ displays a certain poverty by coming down to His creatures in the form of bread and wine. Poverty is not just an absence of created goods. Poverty is a detachment from earthly things.

Poverty is necessary in the family. Poverty, that is a spirit of detachment from created goods, should be practiced in the family. The family must teach poverty which can be learned from the Eucharist. Family members need to detach themselves from the greed of our culture, from the constant drive to have more goods. Poverty has a spiritual significance. Parents must make a deliberate effort to cultivate a spirit of poverty.

### PRESENCE

The Eucharist is also the Sacrament of Presence. Christ is truly and really present to us, His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. His Presence teaches us reverence and, consequently, chastity. Christ is truly Present but He is veiled under the appearance of bread and wine. He is there, truly present to hear us, to listen to us, to know us, to love us, to answer us. The real Presence of Our Lord teaches us that we should reverence the Eucharist, as it is God Himself Present.

We show reverence for Christ in the Eucharist when we bow and kneel and genuflect, and make the Sign of the Cross. This reminds us of the necessity of reverence for Christ. The Mass and the Eucharist is the school for reverence.

Family members should learn from the reverence we practice in church to have reverence for each family member. The reverence that Christ displays to us, and the reverence that we show Him in church, should be brought into the home and the family. Reverence is the ability to recognize the value of everything and of everyone.

Family members should learn from the Eucharist and the real Presence to be truly present themselves in their own homes. Keep faithful to the family dinner. Family members need to be physically present, but also mentally present in their home. To show reverence for each other, members of the family should not be occu-



pled for long times on the phone, playing computer games, or watching television. These are threats to the unity of the family.

### COMMUNION

The Eucharist is also the sacrament of Communion. The Eucharist unites us with Our Lord in Holy Communion. Our Lord has commanded us to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, to do this in memory of Him, therefore we must obey Him. Thus the Holy Eucharist establishes obedience to Christ, the third evangelical counsel.

At the Last Supper when Christ instituted the Eucharist, He spoke strongly about His commandments. “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” “You are My friends if you do what I command you.” His instructions at the Last Supper are full of commands for our obedience.

We can see the kind of obedience Christ requires when He says, “I am the Vine and you are the branches; apart from Me, you can do nothing.” The obedience that Christ desires is the obedience that Holy Communion should bring about within our souls. This is the obedience of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

*This article was excerpted from a presentation given to homeschoolers.*



Fr Paul Scalia received his M.A. from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome in 1996. He is the founder, editor and publisher of The Fenwick Review at the College of Holy Cross.



# Organizing my Life

BY JOHN CLARK

Appearing in various literary forms, writing about organization is all the rage; in fact, it has become a genre. (As I'm writing this, I typed in "organization" to Amazon.com "books" and got over 230,000 results.) For some readers, it is surely a source of help and consolation, yet somehow when I read these articles, I feel more frustrated than comforted. In fact, sometimes when I read articles about organization, I feel compelled to write rebuttals. But maybe the organizers and I can find some common ground. To all you organizers out there, can you please write an organization book for me? To help you get started, I have some questions.

## 1) When should I start getting ready for Sunday Mass?

After Sunday Liturgy, people sometimes look with wonder at our gaggle of children and ask: "When do you start getting ready for Church?"

My answer: "Tuesday."

After my response, they look to the side and laugh a little; then they look back at me and notice that I'm not laughing. Then they abruptly stop laughing and change to a look of confusion, mixed with a dose of fear.

Dressing up for church takes five days. There's the laundry day. There's the sorting day. There's the finding shoes day. Then there's the panic day. That's the day we realize that our kids lost their church clothes and played in the mud in their dress shoes. I tried to hose off the mud from their dress shoes, but I left them outside and somehow one got lost. I'd like to blame our dog, but cocker spaniels never look guilty. Which brings us to the shopping day.

With minor nuances, this is pretty much how it goes every week.

And getting ready for liturgy is only part of the equation. Getting to liturgy is challenging as well. Since we are in that tiny minority of Ruthenian Byzantine Catholics, we drive an hour each way to church; and because Demetrius and Tarcisius often serve liturgy and need to get there early, we (try to) leave ninety minutes early.

And we take two cars. That's 250 miles of driving every Sunday.

Organizers, should I be doing something differently?

## 2) How do I deal with the unforeseen?

This past Easter, my four-year-old

daughter, Immaculata, graciously gave me some of the chocolate from her Easter basket, which I proceeded to put in my pants pocket. Shortly thereafter, I put my cell phone in the same pocket. Needless to say, the chocolate melted through the foil and into the earpiece on my phone and I still can't hear on it. Modern parlance has given us the term "eye-candy." I refer to this as "ear-candy."

M & M's used to have a slogan: "Melts in your mouth. Not in your hands."

Great slogan, but here's a better one. "Melts in your mouth. Not in your iPhone."

That means that all my conversations lately have taken place on "speakerphone." That can be a little awkward. A few days ago, a client called and asked if I could take the call off speakerphone. Of course I couldn't, so I explained why this was the case. That explanation was followed by a long pause on the other end of the phone. I'm guessing that this was not good. Organizers, should I buy a new phone, or just buy pants with more pockets?

## 3) What is a closet for?

I asked Lisa if I could have a man-cave. She said a "cave" was out of the question because of our limited space, but I could have a "man-closet." Yes, in retrospect, I guess a cave was too much to ask for. I am officially falling short of Neanderthal standards. For a few weeks, I had my own walk-in closet, but alas, it was too beautiful to last. It became the shoe closet. Although I haven't done a formal count, we must have over 200 shoes, sandals, boots, and baseball cleats in that closet. Incredibly, none of them fit anyone on earth. Yet, somehow, we tenaciously believe that we will need them one day.



Organizers, do other people use closets this way, and is there any chance that I will ever have a man-cave?

## 4) For organizational purposes, do you recommend bi-location or time travel?

One night last week, Lisa and I had to be in Washington D.C., while Athanasius had to work in the Christendom library, Tarcisius and Demetrius needed to be at the basketball gym, and Philomena and Dominica had a practice to get to on the other side of town, and Veronica couldn't babysit her brothers and sisters because she had previous engagements. That left us with three or four places to be at one time. This is pretty common for us. Organizers, bi-location seems like the easier thing to do, but time travel would offer some unique advantages. For your clients, which do you recommend?

At the end of the day (both literally and figuratively) some things cannot be organized. Some things in life don't lend themselves to organization. Not everything can be anticipated. Life is lived on the fly. And many of us are just trying to get through the day—faith, hope, and charity intact. If you can do that, don't kick yourself for being disorganized. And most of all: DON'T GIVE UP HOMESCHOOLING BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET ORGANIZED!!!!

Whether organizers or disorganizers, maybe we should say the following prayer together, which I mostly plagiarized from someone more organized than myself. It goes this like:

*Dear God, Please give me the strength to organize the things I can. The peace to accept the things I cannot. And the wisdom to know the difference.*



**John Clark**, a Christendom College graduate, holds a degree in Political Science and Economics. He is a popular writer and speaker at family and homeschooling conferences.



***Stuck on Seton... Forever!***  
*continued from page 7*

Cross-Country tour for six weeks in 2002! We called it "U.S. Geography, Geology, Natural History, and Science." We learned so much that trip. We brought our school books with us and visited every National Park from Connecticut to California, Washington and back again. We were able to verify the Great Flood, de-bunk overpopulation, and truly appreciate "God's Marvelous Works!" Now, that's what I call a homeschool "supplement."

## SKIRTING THE BRINK

Of course, there are occasions when homeschooling requires heroic perseverance through seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Just like everyone else, we have had our share of financial problems, Mom working, difficult pregnancies, toddlers, struggling readers, dyslexia, lazy-eye, ADHD, and discipline issues. There have been many times I myself have been on the brink of giving up.

Yet I am constantly reminded that the rewards out-weigh the struggles. Almost every day we begin with daily Mass. The rest of the day follows with homeschooling, cleaning, knitting, cooking, hugs & kisses, and I wouldn't trade it for the world! My husband, the one who originally didn't want to homeschool, now agrees that giving up is not an option. He helps wherever he can, and because he has only a four-day work week, he is home to make sure there is order.



I am the Teacher, Nurse, Cook, Household Management Supervisor, and Social Director. He is the Principal, Guidance Counselor, Mr. Fixit, Financial Advisor (For our Adult Children), and the Weekend Breakfast Chef. Help is always at hand... you just need to ask.

My Dad (a retired Physicist) comes twice a week to teach Geometry and Algebra II to my "Middles." My neighbor, Olga takes the two "Littles" for two hours a week to give me a break. Other friends have come and gone through the 19 years helping here and there.

One thing that I have always lived by all these years, is the trust in God that He knows what He is doing. I always believed in that old saying, "Every child is born with a loaf of bread in his mouth." I have personally witnessed this through prayers, promotions, & prosperity. God is never "out-done" in generosity. "You set the sail...God will provide the wind."

## *The Holy Eucharist, continued from p. 11*

the branches to the vine, and that obedience is not just a matter of the Vine commanding and the branches just obeying. It is far more intimate than that. The branches actually have the life of the Vine within them. This is the kind of obedience that should characterize the family. The first step to the interior kind of obedience is the external form, discipline. The goal of discipline and obedience in a household should be the same as Holy Communion, that is, to set within the child the principle and the ability to obey. The task of the parent is to form the will of the child, somehow get within the child to form that child from within, so the child will de-

sire to obey and be able to obey. That is what Our Lord desires to accomplish in you, to form you from within, so that you will be able to obey because you will desire to obey.

Sacrifice, Presence, and Communion, — poverty, chastity, and obedience, — this is what the Eucharist teaches us, this is what the Eucharist should form within us. As a family, you should receive the Eucharist together and worship Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament together. Allow Our Lord to form you from within, allow His grace to find its way into your soul, and also to imitate the Mystery you worship.

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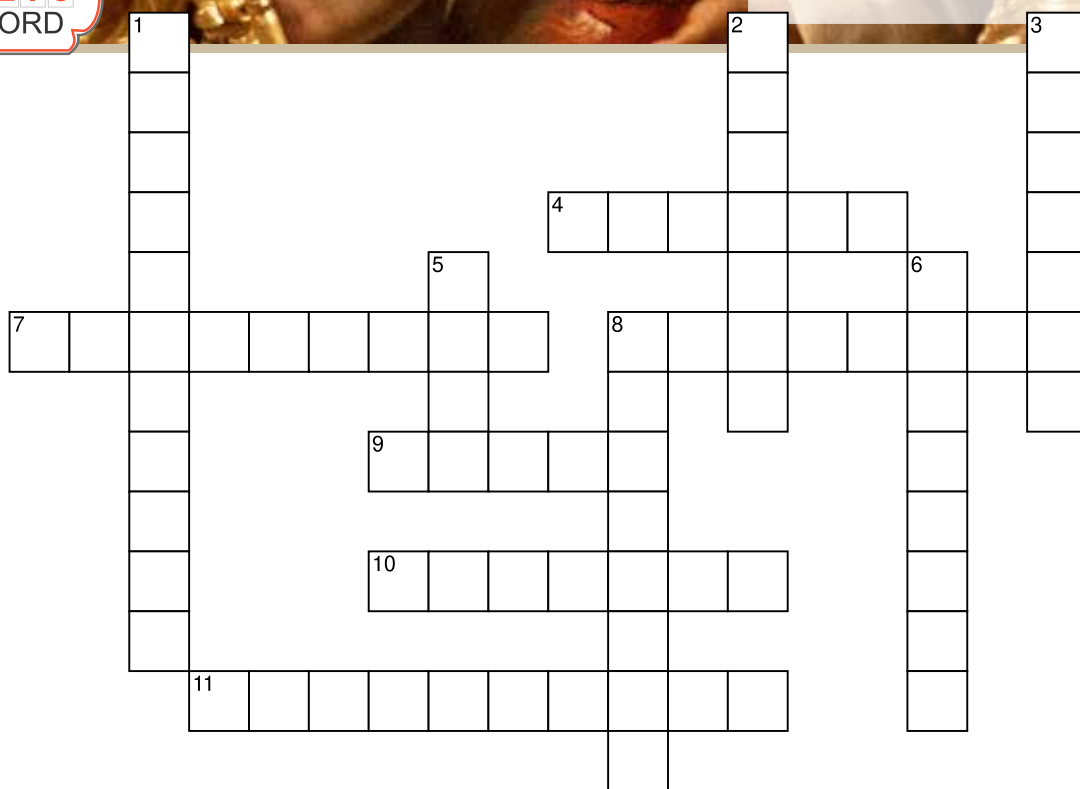






## CATHOLIC CROSSWORD

## SAINTS FOR JUNE



### ACROSS

- 4 St. John \_\_\_\_, bishop martyred under King Henry VIII.
- 7 We celebrate the Feast of the \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ of Jesus on June 2nd.
- 8 He is called the Apostle of Germany; his feast is on June 5th.
- 9 The feast of Saints \_\_\_\_ and Paul is on June 29th.
- 10 St. Aloysius \_\_\_\_
- 11 The Feast of the \_\_\_\_ Heart of Mary is celebrated on June 8th this year.

### DOWN

- 1 The month of June is dedicated to the \_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
- 2 St. \_\_\_\_ of Padua, called the Wonder Worker.
- 3 The feast of \_\_\_\_ Lwanga and Companions is on June 3rd.
- 5 St. Thomas \_\_\_\_, martyred under King Henry VIII.
- 6 We celebrate the \_\_\_\_ of St. John the Baptist on June 24th.
- 8 He accompanied St. Paul on many journeys.



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## Student Achievements



**Katarina** | I won 2nd place in a local singing competition. I'm wearing the purple dress, the girl to my left is the 1st place winner. Home schooling has given me the dedication needed to make my dream of becoming an opera singer become reality.



**Abrielle** | In February of 2014 I submitted a poem in an amateur poetry contest. After my submission I received word that my poem was to be published in the book *Across the Way*.



**Benjamin** | My neo-Classical CD *Songs of Nature* was recently published. I use a keyboard, piano, bowed psaltery, and software to orchestrate my soundtracks.

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# PAPAL WISDOM



We said that the people of God, by the constant inner working of the Holy Spirit, is constantly evangelizing itself. What are the implications of this principle for preachers? It reminds us that the Church is a mother, and that she preaches in the same way that a mother speaks to her child, knowing that the child trusts that what she is teaching is for his or her benefit, for children know that they are loved. Moreover, a good mother can recognize everything that God is bringing about in her children, she listens to their concerns and learns from them. The spirit of love which reigns in a family guides both mother and child in their conversations; therein they teach and learn, experience correction and grow in appreciation of what is good.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 139

Pope Francis Image Credit: Catholic Church (England and Wales)