

Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

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Race*
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SETON DIRECTORY

Executive Editor

Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editors

Kevin Clark
Christine Smitha

Marketing Director

Jim Shanley

Design & Layout

Dominic de Souza
Joe Sparks

Copy Editor

Sarah Rose

Contributing Writers

John Clark
Nick Marmalejo
Fr. Constantine Belisarius
Becki Agar

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Seton Home Study School
1350 Progress Dr.

Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: (540) 636-9990

Fax: (540) 636-1602

Internet: www.setonhome.org

E-Mail: info@setonhome.org

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Photos of the Agar Family: Annie, Johnny and Jeff finishing the Ludington Triathlon



Customer Service

custserv@setonhome.org

Counselors

counselors@setonhome.org

Admissions

admissions@setonhome.org



Grading

grading@setonhome.org

General Information

info@setonhome.org

My Seton

myseton@setonhome.org

Shipping

shipping@setonhome.org

Standardized Testing

testing@setonhome.org

Special Services

SSDept@setonhome.org

Seton Home Study School

540-636-9990

Admissions

540-636-2039

High School Grading

Rhonda Way
540-622-5525

Elementary Grading

Bruce Hacker
540-622-5524

High School Course Approval

Gene McGuirk
540-635-4728

High School English

Walker Solis
540-636-1755

Elizabeth Wagner
540-622-5555

High School History

Bruce Clark
540-636-1199

Nick Marmalejo
540-622-5571

High School Math

Tom Herlihy
540-636-1846

High School Math/Science

Don Valaike
540-636-1396

Seton Educational Media

540-636-9996

Transcripts, Records, and Extensions

Betty Valaike
540-635-1937

Senior Guidance/ Enrollment/ Independent Studies

Christopher Smith
540-636-2238

Religion/Sacraments

Fr. Constantine
540-636-1527

Special Services

Stephen Costanzo
540-622-5546

Kathleen Hunt
540-622-5542

Standardized Testing

Patty Graham
540-636-1250

Elementary Counseling

Sharon Hassett
540-636-1429

Carin Delancey
540-636-2342

General Counseling

Cecilia Sauer
540-622-5526

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.



Sts. Anne and Joachim

Parents of the Virgin

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

During my high school and college years, our family lived in St. Anne's parish in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. I have memories of the church being filled for the annual novena for the nine days preceding St. Anne's July 26th feast day. My husband gave me my engagement ring in St. Anne's church, and we were married there. When we return to Cleveland, we visit or attend Mass at St. Anne's.

Most of us homeschooling mothers, and grandmothers, have a special place in our hearts for St. Anne, whose feast day we celebrate along with her husband, St. Joachim. St. Anne spent years in prayer, asking for the gift of a child. Her husband joined her in these prayers, especially since the Jewish community looked on them both as disfavored by God. They went through many years of personal heartbreak and community disapproval.

Year after year, Anne prayed daily asking God for a child. Even when she was past the age of having children, she continued to pray for a child, as did her husband. The traditional belief is that Joachim would spend days in the fields with his sheep herd, often away from the critical Jewish community, to spend time in silent prayer and meditation.

Meanwhile, Anne, even when she was in her late years, remained faithful in her daily prayers and petitions to God. It is believed that she promised God that if He sent her a child, she would present her child in the Temple, "as a gift to the Lord," as one Church-blessed visionary wrote.

The traditional belief is that both Anne and Joachim, separately, received a heavenly visitor, an angel, informing them that they would have a special child, a child who would be remembered until the end of time. Joachim returned from the fields and stayed with Anne, as they both believed, without any doubt, in the words of the angel.

Anne and Joachim's prayers were finally answered by the birth of little Mary. While Anne and Joachim knew their baby girl was going to be special, they were surely amazed. Writings by various blessed and saints tell that Anne and Joachim were awed by the child's holiness, knowledge, and perception. She did not need to "learn" as other children. She had such a great depth of understanding about the truths of God that both Anne and Joachim actually learned from her.

Anne had not planned to send her daughter Mary to live in the Temple at such a young age, but she and her husband realized that God had given them someone special who was not to live with them but who had a special mission from Heaven. When Mary was only three years old, they presented her to the Temple priest. Her level of knowledge and holiness was quickly recognized by those in the Temple. Some believe that the Temple priest was informed by Heaven that Mary was a special child sent from God to be protected in the Temple.

As a wife and mother, and finally a grandmother of the Son of God, St. Anne can be an inspiration to us homeschooling mothers as we go through the various stages of our family life. She certainly is a patron for those who want to have a child, those who are pregnant, as well as those who are teaching their children at home. As Anne and Joachim protected Mary from the general society, we homeschooling parents can ask St. Anne to protect us and our children. We can certainly pray for her to help our children develop a love for Jesus and a greater understanding of the truths that Jesus taught.



"O glorious St. Anne, you are filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer! Heavily burdened with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at your feet and humbly beg of you to take the present intention which I recommend to you in your special care. Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and place it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a happy issue. Continue to intercede for me until my request is granted. But, above all, obtain for me the grace one day to see my God face to face, and with you and Mary and all the saints to praise and bless Him for all eternity. Amen." (Official Novena Prayer)



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

As a working mother, I want to cover the most important subjects with my daughter, and have my mother teach the other subjects. Which subjects should I teach?

Consider having your mother teach the courses that she likes to teach. If she likes science or loves teaching English, have her teach those courses. Then you can focus on the other main courses: religion, reading, phonics, math, history. Have your child do the spelling, handwriting, and vocabulary with your mother. Of course, there should be no limit to the amount of reading. Your mother might want to take your daughter to the library once a week, but have her focus on biographies or other non-fiction books. The fiction books at the public library tend to promote the secular values of our current "culture."

My oldest daughter has just finished Seton, but I am hesitant to send her to college until next year. I need her help to teach the other children.

The experience of helping to teach the other children may prove to be more valuable for her maturity than either of you can imagine. Such help reinforces the idea for her and the other children that family members need to work together. Considering the difficult situations college students often face, some parents believe delaying college for a year after graduation gives them the opportunity to help their son or daughter mature in regard to dealing with current social issues at college.

There are also financial considerations. Colleges are extremely expensive, even with scholarships and aid. You might encourage your daughter to get a job, open a bank account, and learn financial responsibility. Your daughter could help at home and likely save thousands of dollars for college

at the same time.

On the other hand, if your daughter feels that she is being unfairly held back, it could cause resentment. So, this should be a decision which is agreed to by all parties.

My children do not want to do any homeschooling during the summer. I would like them to start early on some difficult subjects. What is Seton's position on "summer school"?

Summertime provides a great opportunity to keep reviewing subjects which need constant review, such as math or reading. Summertime can be used to get an early start on a subject which has proved to be more time-consuming, such as reading the book for the book report and doing the report.

The summer break was originally meant to give students time to help work on the family farm, but today there is really no reason for a summer break for most children. It often proves to be a setback for young students. In fact, studies have consistently shown that students score lower at the end of summer than at the beginning of summer on the same tests, with the greatest "summer learning loss" suffered in mathematics.

Try to schedule a subject or two in the morning before afternoon playtime. Alternatively, have your children study in the afternoons. In some areas, it is too hot to go outside in the afternoon, and this can provide valuable time for math review or for getting a head start on the next year.

Summer is a great time for reading,

and many libraries have summer reading programs which give prizes for finishing certain numbers of books. If your local library does not offer such a program, you might suggest it to them, or even start your own family reading program with prizes and awards.

My friend has a child with a learning disability, so she is reluctant to try homeschooling.

Most parents are nervous to try homeschooling a child with a learning disability, but what they forget is that with a parent's patient, one-on-one help, the child can progress better and faster than in a group classroom situation. Sometimes parents discover that either the father or the mother had a similar problem in school. As a result, they often can help their child with the successful techniques which they used themselves.

One specialist with a public school LD teaching background declared in writing, "An LD child can succeed in the home school environment. Indeed, there is no better place for many children to realize their full potential."

At Seton, we long ago made a decision to support families with learning-disabled children, so that homeschooling could be available to as many

families as possible. Your friend can make a phone appointment with our LD specialist, Stephen Costanzo, by calling 540-636-9990, Ext. 151, to set up an appointment. He can answer her questions about how Seton can help her and her child.

*Summer is a great
time for reading, and
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prizes for reading.*



My son has not finished his work for this past year. Should I order the books now for the next grade level?

Sometimes when parents order the next grade level before the previous year's work is finished, the student starts doing the work with the new curriculum and never finishes the previous year's work. We have seen this happen especially in high school, when a student is preparing to graduate but, when looking back, we discover a course or two that was never finished from a previous grade. Sometimes parents will enroll all the children together to get a discount. If you do this, Seton can wait to ship a box for a student until we are notified by the parent that the student has finished the previous grade and is ready to start the next grade. That way, there is no temptation to start the new courses before the current ones are completed.

We parents need to establish proper discipline for our children. Children need to learn to finish one job, and finish it well, before starting the next. This applies in all areas of life, whether it be schoolwork, sports, music lessons, college, or a job.

I am in the middle of a serious family problem and, though I am dedicated to schooling my children at home, I don't see how I can continue.

There are certainly issues which can come up which make homeschooling difficult or virtually impossible. But you might consider that it is in the middle of a serious family problem when your children need you the most. Your children will be looking for answers to help them get through the situation. You need to be with them to give them the proper answers and to reassure them

that they will be safe and cared for. At a school, no one understands the total situation, nor will they have your Catholic perspective and reliance on spiritual help. Hopefully, you can find a priest or a religious who can help you spiritually to solve your problem.

Also, don't be afraid to ask for help from friends or family. We don't want to be a "burden" to others, but usually others don't think of helping as a burden, but rather are glad to have a chance to help. It is by helping others that we show our Christian love one for another and lay up graces in Heaven. No one is self-sufficient, and we all need help from time to time.

Why don't you have Catholic science books in every grade level?

It takes time to find Catholic science writers who can write at the lower levels for younger children and at higher levels for high school students. We are using Christian books in grade levels for which we don't have a Catholic book. We currently have a 3rd grade teacher, a 5th grade teacher, and a 6th grade teacher writing Catholic science textbooks. These books should become available in the summer of 2015.

The high school science books are very expensive to produce, so we have put a Catholic Earth Science course and a Catholic Biology course online. We have had some difficulties with a Catholic Physical Science course, but we are working on producing an online Physical Science course by a Catholic science teacher.



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who participated in our Parent and Student Accreditation Surveys.

Your time is valuable, and the fact that so many of you made the effort to help us with this accreditation process is greatly appreciated.

We are happy to report that we exceeded the number of survey responses required by AdvancED, which is truly amazing! But also rest assured that these surveys are not just another item to check off in the accreditation process.

We will be going through your feedback over the next few weeks to find ways in which Seton can continue to improve, while still offering the high standard of educational services you expect from us.

May God bless you and your families, and may you have a peaceful summer!



Running the Good Race



by Becki Agar

Well, we did it! After 12 years of homeschooling, we reached our goal—the golden ticket if you will. Our son and daughter graduated from Seton Home Study School this past May. If you would have asked me several years ago if this achievement were possible, I would have stared at you in disbelief.

Introduced to Seton

I was not a teacher, but I was a mom who wanted what was best for my kids. Our son, Johnny, has cerebral palsy. When he was seven years old and in the first grade, he asked me if he could play the piano. My husband and I looked at each other and thought, “When does he have time to play the piano?” Between occupational therapy, physical therapy and school, there was just not enough time in the day. He was already falling asleep at the dinner table as it was!

Then a dear friend of mine introduced me to Seton. As a timid homeschooling Mom, I felt comfort in the fact that there was a whole curriculum for us to follow which was accredited. I loved the fact that I knew what to do on each day of our school year. All I had to do was open up the syllabus and there it was, spelled out for me. It also comforted me to know that there were Seton staff members ready to help me on the other end of the phone line if, or whenever, I needed it. Most importantly, we loved the fact that the curriculum was Catholic. Our faith is a very important part of our lives and it made sense to us that our children’s school should help to form their Catholic faith. We were sold!

My husband, Jeff, and I decided to homeschool our two children: Johnny and his two-year younger sister, Annie. When that first, brown, square box full of the kids’ books was delivered at our doorstep, they ripped it open with excitement. Meanwhile, I was in the background with my heart racing, probably more with nerves than anything. Homeschooling is a big step for a family, and I was nervous. All sorts of questions went racing through my head. What if I did not know the material to teach them? What if they hated it and in turn hated me? What if they missed their friends from school? However, having a son with cerebral palsy had taught us a valuable lesson: anything worth having required some risks.

Keeping the Baton

It is a risk that a family takes when they decide to homeschool their children. It is so much easier to pass that baton off to someone else. When we were trying to decide on taking that big step toward homeschooling, a friend of mine had just begun to homeschool her children. I saw a wonderful transformation in their family dynamics and had that in the back of my mind as she talked to me about their experience. Then she said something I will never forget, something that eased all of my insecurities and doubts about homeschooling. She said, “You will never regret spending more time with your children.”

She knew me. She knew that I was scared to venture out into the unknown. She also knew I might regret never giving homeschooling a chance. She was spot on. All of those questions and doubts that had been racing through my mind were put to ease at that moment. The benefit of more time with my kids far outweighed the insecurities I was dealing with. After all, you can only eat



Johnny Agar

an elephant one bite at a time. All of those questions I had lingering would be dealt with as they came. It was a risk, yes, but anything worth having involves risk. The Seton counselors made the signing up process so easy and reassured me that we were doing the right thing. Their caring attitude on the phone was a God-send.

Because our son and daughter were just two years apart, and because Annie loved doing things with her brother, we decided to combine a lot of the subjects from the start. Although we did not know it at the time, this was one of the best decisions we made for many different reasons, the first being that it was much easier on me to teach one subject to two students. It also freed up our time in the day. Combining subjects allowed us to enjoy more field trips and leisure time. The kids loved it because they could “compete” (Did I mention we are a competitive family?!) against each other as they learned. Spelling is a lot more fun when you can recreate the Scripps Spelling Bee in your living room practicing the same words!

Scheduling It In

Early in our homeschooling venture, it became clear that one of the biggest challenges had to do with me. I became stressed because the house started “crumbling” before my eyes. The laundry stockpiled, the dishes got stacked, and, let’s just say the house was not the cleanest it had ever been! Then it occurred to me that I needed to schedule time in our homeschooling day to get those things



Annie Agar

done—a simple idea that worked like a charm for us. When preparing our daily schedule, we would reserve a time for me to have a half an hour here or there to get the laundry done, for example. The kids liked that idea and so in our day we blocked off their free time as well. I cannot tell you what a lifesaver this was for us.

Spending forty minutes in math was less daunting for all of us when we knew there was a scheduled break for free time. I was less stressed because I knew that I had time to get done those things that were falling by the wayside, and the kids were happier because there was a light at the end of their tunnel for a play break. Later, as they became older, chores such as the laundry and preparing dinner became their chores as well.

Seton Home Study School not only helped our children with their ABC’s and their multiplication tables, it guided them in their journey toward living a more God-centered life. Yes, they had a religion class with pages steeped in beautiful artwork depicting the life of Christ, but every subject they learned through Seton centered on their Catholic faith. Their vocabulary and spelling words were rich in Catholic teaching. Every book they had reminded them to pray to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for guidance with the familiar J.M.J on the top of the pages. In the syllabus, I was reminded that Jesus was walking this homeschooling path with me and that I was never alone in the process. As Johnny and Annie became older, they learned so much about their Catholic faith.

Seton’s rich Catholic teachings not only helped them to live a Christian life, but it “armed” them with the knowledge they needed to better understand their Catholicism and go out into the world as part of Christ’s army. Because of Seton, they understood the “why’s” and “how’s,” which strengthened their commitment to their faith. Seton’s teachings through the study of the Bible and through the lives of the saints helped them to appreciate all the more the gift of their Catholic faith.

12 Years in a Flash

It seems like just yesterday that we were facing all the questions and uncertainties of being new members of the Seton Homeschooling family. It is hard to believe that it was twelve years ago! They say time flies when you’re having fun. And I can honestly say that it did. Here we sit proudly now with two graduates of the Seton Home Study School (graduating with honors, I might add). One will be heading off to Aquinas College in the fall and one will be going to Grand Valley State University; both will be studying Sports Management. Were there frustrations along the way? You bet!

Were there times when I wanted to slam the books closed and send them off to our local school? Absolutely! Would I do it all over again? I wouldn’t hesitate. Homeschooling Johnny and Annie through Seton was one of the best decisions of our life. They are ready to meet the challenges that college will bring them. They are armed with the intellectual knowledge that Seton provided to them in their syllabus every year, but more importantly, they are armed with the spiritual fortitude Seton gave them. They are ready to venture off into their life with the knowledge that God is with them every step of the way.

Thank you, Seton.



Congratulations Class of 2014



*"Remember! Christ
is calling you.
His Church needs you!
The Pope believes in you,
and He expects
great things of you."*





You graduates may not realize it, but most of our graduates could not make this graduation ceremony because they live at a great distance. Seton students come from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

And while it may seem like we are all separated by very great distance from each other,

In truth, we are all very close. We are separated from one another but only by mere distance. In truth, we are all united... by Jesus Christ.

May Graduation Speech, by Dr. Mary Kay Clark





Chaos Theory

BY JOHN CLARK

At this time every year in America, most of us are required to attend at least one graduation ceremony. And commencement addresses seem intent on informing students that they will somehow stand out in the world—or even (gasp) to “change the world.”

Some jaded souls might regard this as absurd—the idea that people can change the world strikes them as well beyond the pale. When it comes to world-changers, they think of kings, great educators, and inventors, never accepting or even considering the fact that the common man might lead a more meaningful life than these people. For my part, I have little doubt that each of these students will change the world. In fact, even butterflies can change the world.

A recent branch of scientific study known as chaos theory has posited a concept referred to as the “Butterfly Effect.” The “butterfly effect” hypothesizes that something as seemingly insignificant as the flap of the wings of a butterfly can cause a hurricane thousands of miles away. That can be a pretty depressing thought—the idea that this colorful little insect seems to be just minding its own business, yet could be causing so much global turmoil.

Of course, I don’t want to be the guy who forever influences your enjoyment of butterflies, so I want to consider its inverse: by the same logic, the flap of a butterfly’s wings could prevent a hurricane as well. So the next time you see a butterfly leisurely making its way across your garden,

consider that God may have created that little guy not only to brighten your day, but to save countless lives.

Chaos theory is a concept that reminds me of an idea that Catholic theology has long taught: namely, that all action has consequences. For instance, a single sin can cause a ripple effect throughout the world, damaging many people in its wake. But our actions can have immeasurably positive effects as well. Consider the following.

One small sacrifice for the souls in Purgatory can help many souls immediately enter into the glory of Heaven.

The human mind has found it impossible to grasp the benefit of a single recitation of the Holy Rosary.

One worthy reception of the Eucharist has an incomprehensibly beneficial impact on everyone and everything on earth.

Even if the assertions of chaos theory are completely accurate, and butterflies do have that kind of effect, here’s another irrefutable: we are certainly meant to have a greater impact than butterflies.

The truth is that all of us are changing the world. The question is how are we changing it? That part of the equation is up to us. We should recognize a reality: as little as our actions seem, everyone we come in contact with every day will have a better or worse day because of us.

St. Therese offered us the advice that it is the small things in life that make a difference—those things that are remarkably unexceptional. And yet, her “Little Way” was never really little at all. It was towering, magnificent, and majestic. It was beautiful. We need to pay more attention to these “little things” every day of our lives.

No, we don’t flap our wings.

We do more important things—things with impact.

We smile.

We understand.

We give.

We hug.

We help.

We pray for the suffering.

We thank God.

We utter a kind word to a stranger.

We comfort others.

We buy lunch for a friend.

We read to our children.

We sacrifice for others.

We listen to a friend who’s having a tough day.

We listen to the dreams of others, and dream with them.

We let others know we believe in them.

We show our love for our spouse.

We thank someone.

We forgive someone.

We forgive everyone.

We love everyone.

We should stop considering that changing the world is impossible. It’s harder not to change the world. But while the world offers us “chaos theory,” we need to offer the world “beauty theory.” We are Christians, after all, and ours are not the things of chaos. Ours are the things of God.



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.



The College Fine Arts Requirement

by Bob Wiesner

More colleges are adding a fine arts requirement for high school applicants. In addition, many states now require fine arts in order to attend in-state institutions. There are a few ways Seton students can fulfill this requirement. Right now, this would need the Seton Independent Study system.

Students can take advantage of several options in Independent Study. Seton Educational Media offers basic drawing courses with Ginger Hines, which can be used for Independent Study. Music, dance, drama and art lessons, even if with private teachers, can be recognized for credit as long as the appropriate information is registered with Seton. Regular participation in choirs might also qualify.

For students interested in the more technical aspects of music, Theory in a Box is a great and inexpensive option. Their web site is www.theoryinabox.org. This also would qualify for Independent Study.

An excellent music history course is available at www.professorcarol.com. This course goes a bit beyond the music to integrate trends in general culture and history as well. Dr. Carol Reynolds is always fascinating and entertaining! Also on offer is a course in the history of American Music, again qualifying for Independent Study.

Through Skype and other on-line tools, many musicians are now offering instruction via the Internet. This option would obviously save time and travel for the family while still affording full private lessons in voice or instrument. A general search of "music lessons on-line" will result in a multitude of opportunities. Of course, parents will wish to monitor such lessons closely until it is certain that instructor and web site are safe for young people. Be sure to check with an Independent Study counselor before enrolling in any on-line course.

For more information on Independent Study and the application form, go to My Seton, then to the Resources tab. Independent Study is the fourth item down.



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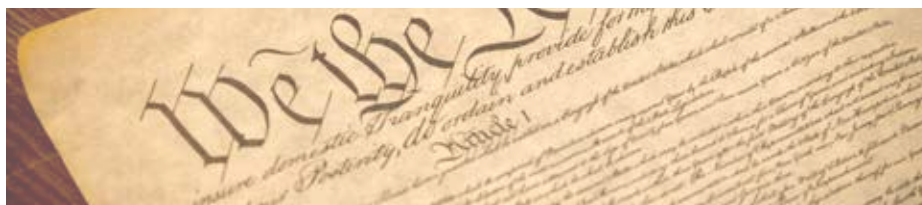
THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
OF LIBERAL ARTS



Wyoming
Catholic College
Wisdom in God's Country

Facts are what Make History Important.

BY NICK MARMALEJO



The gatekeepers of higher education have now leveled their red pens to one of the last vestiges of objectivity and scholarship in national social studies: the AP exam.

According to a recent Breitbart article by Jane Robbins and Larry Krieger, a new course framework for teaching AP US History is being rolled out in schools across the country. This framework, created and tested by the College Board, will focus not on the standard bearers of American achievement, such as George Washington and James Madison, but primarily on political hallmarks, such as the oppression of racial minorities and women.

In spite of the new focus, the framework's authors insist the new standards offer teachers flexibility about what is taught. Yet when we see the College Board's suggested examples for covering topics such as "new voices for national identity," those voices belong to political activists such as Lydia Maria Child, the Sierra Club, and Gloria Steinem. Traditional American heroes are overlooked.

A deeper look into the framework confirms the shift in historical focus and is even more revealing. Promotion of "historical thinking skills" and "thematic learning objectives" are the new criteria on which the student will be tested. What does this mean? No longer will an impressive knowledge of actual facts—dates, characters, events, and the stories they create—be considered the defining mark of a budding scholar. Instead, facts are being de-emphasized, with the result that important knowledge will become whitewashed and eventually, culturally lost. I daresay that this is the goal.

After gazing at the new AP framework,

I am left with three distinct impressions:

First, there is an implicit assertion throughout that one can know much about history without knowing much about what actually happened.

Second, this is not just about knowing a specific set of facts. The framework is designed to control how one thinks about history.

Third, thank God for Seton.

Seton's high school history courses, while not designated "AP," are universally challenging. They are designed with the intent that the student approach history, not from a mechanical point of view that avoids the deeper questions, but from a Catholic and personal narrative perspective. Emphasis on actual stories and their accompanying facts give resiliency and life to our perennial study of history and helps shape who we are as Catholics and Americans. Accurate historical knowledge is becoming less and less common among people in our society, and so it is up to Seton families to educate them.

The College Board has set a dangerous precedent and taken the country, in the world of education at least, one step further past the guidepost that marks the decline of our civilization. A culture's health is measured in some way by how it honors its stories, heroes, and traditions. In redefining what history means and which history is important to prospective college students, the College Board begins an Orwellian rewrite of our national heritage.



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

My 12 Tips for Catholic Homeschoolers

BY FR. CONSTANTINE

1. Consider using “pre-tests,” such as for spelling and vocabulary. Then focus on the words your child still needs to learn.

2. While any home-graded assignment may be omitted at the discretion of the parent/teacher, a home grade likely will increase the final grade.

3. Look at the book and test questions which focus on important points. Prepare your student for Seton-graded assignments and tests.

4. Don't send Seton a test if you know your child did not do well and Seton is likely to recommend a redo. Have your child restudy and redo the test, then send it to Seton.

5. Provided that all of the Seton-graded assignments are submitted, Seton will give a quarter grade without a home grade. The quarter grade will be based only on the Seton-graded assignments.

6. Consider having an older sibling help by tutoring a younger sibling. It takes stress off of you, promotes fraternal charity, and serves as a review for the older sibling.

7. Consider having an older sibling in high school help with the grading of objective tests.

8. At the high school level, it may be easier to focus on only two or three

subjects at a time rather than doing a little of five or six subjects each day. Some students take only two subjects and finish them up before taking two more subjects and doing the same.

9. In elementary grades, during the week, focus on the major subjects: religion, reading, phonics, English, and math. Other subjects may be covered in the evenings with Dad, or an older sibling, or on weekends.

10. You may choose to spend extra time (over the summer, for example) to finish a difficult course, especially in important subjects such as reading, English, and math.

11. For an older student: Let your child prepare one lesson and teach you. In preparing to teach the class, your child will teach himself the lesson.

12. Have your child do some daily activities orally, especially in easier subjects.

Seton is here to serve you! Please do not hesitate to email or phone a Seton counselor if you have any questions. As always, you and your family are in our daily Mass prayers!



Father Constantine, a counselor for Seton since 1995, obtained his Master's in Divinity from St. Mary's University, Halifax Nova Scotia. Father was ordained as a Melkite (Byzantine Catholic) priest in Cairo, Egypt.

Stay the Course

Regard the lesson plans, answer keys, and tests as a safety net for you.

Realize that you are the principal and the primary teacher of your children. You have 12 months to arrange your own schedule, using the Seton schedule as a suggestion.

Take advantage of being at home. Set your own schedule around:

- the Calendar of the Church
- the Holy Rosary and Sacred Scripture
- the Sacraments, and
- Holy Mass.

Suit the Program

Be creative with finishing the courses in a timely manner.

Suit the program to the child, not the child to the program. The important thing is for your children to learn not to be “tied” to a schedule.

Keep it Holy

Never for a moment forget God. The home school atmosphere should be orderly, disciplined, peaceful, and quiet. Prayer must be a definite part of the day for you and your children.

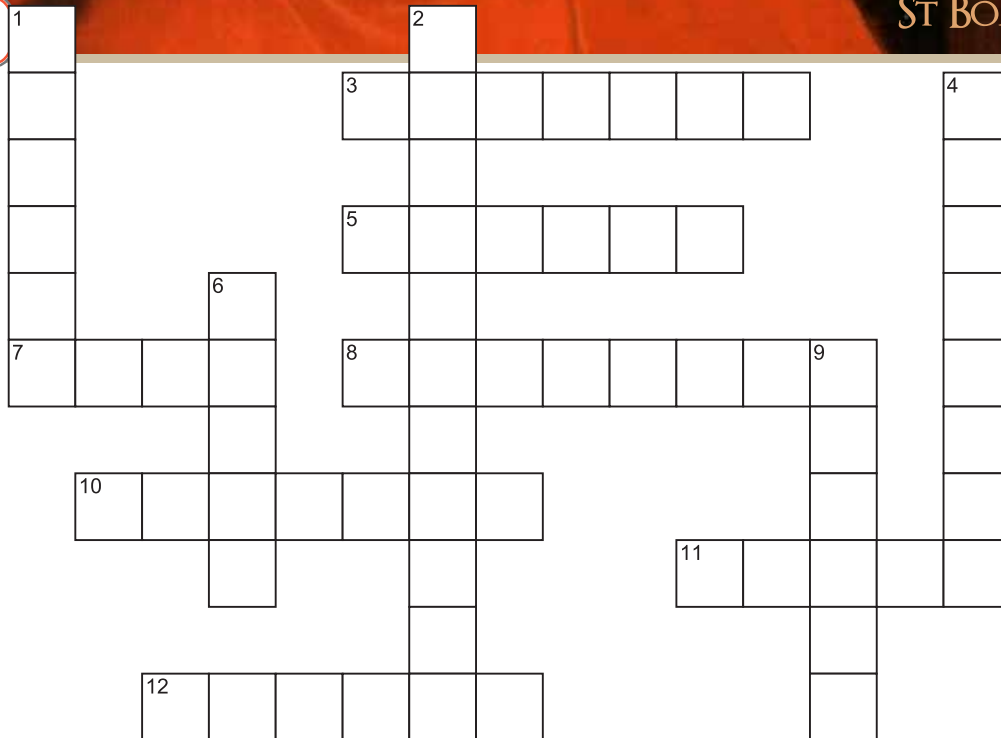
Remember: the ultimate goal is raising saints, then scholars.

If you are feeling overwhelmed, consider one or more of these twelve tips as a temporary means of relieving stress.

SAINTS FOR JULY

ST BONAVENTURE

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3 He was the father of the Blessed Virgin.
- 5 The Feast of Our Lady of Mount ____ is on July 16th.
- 7 She was the mother of the Blessed Virgin.
- 8 He is known as the Father of Western Monasticism; his feast is July 11th.
- 10 St. Maria ____ was a model of purity.
- 11 He was the brother of St. John the Beloved Apostle.
- 12 St. ____ Plunkett, Irish bishop and martyr.

DOWN

- 1 She was the sister of Mary and Lazarus.
- 2 This Franciscan saint was known as the "Seraphic Doctor"; his feast is July 15th.
- 4 St. ____ of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus
- 6 Bl. Junipero ____ baptized and confirmed many Native Americans in California.
- 9 He is known as the "doubting" Apostle.

SOLUTIONS: Anne, Benedict, Bonaventure, Carmel, Goretti, Ignatius, James, Joachim, Martha, Oliver, Serra, Thomas

Summer Reading List

Are you looking for something for the kids to read during the Summer? This will help get you off to a great start!

Up & Coming Reader



My Guardian Angel
P-RLPK-20 \$8.50

The Saint who fought the Dragon
P-RD01-36 \$10.00

St Catherine Laboure: Mary's Messenger
M-RDB3-13 \$6.50

Read-Aloud Book of Bible Stories
P-RD01-37 \$19.00

Once Upon a Time Saints Series
P-RD01-30 \$30.00

Grades 3-5



Gospel Time Trekkers
P-RD03-50 \$34.95

Catholic Tales for Boys and Girls
P-RD04-48 \$19.00

Claire's Costly Cookie
P-RD04-56 \$9.95

St. Thomas Aquinas
P-RD03-25 \$10.00

St. Angela Merici
M-RDB3-11 \$6.50

Grades 6-8



The Alvin Fernald Series
P-RD05-81 \$25.00

Becky Landers, Frontier Warrior
P-RD07-22 \$11.00

Crossbows and Crucifixes
P-RD07-51 \$14.00

Crusader King
P-RD06-18 \$11.00

St. Philomena
P-RD05-29 \$12.95

High School



The Robe
M-HSEN-45 \$15.95

Belisarius 2 Book Set
P-RD08-51 \$25.00

The Light in the Forest
M-HSEN-23 \$6.95

Set all Afire
M-EN10-35 \$13.95

Joan of Arc
M-HSEN-20 \$4.95

Student Achievements



Daniel | I graduated from Seton this past May and received several scholarships, including a \$500 Knights of Columbus Scholarship and a \$500 Dollars for Scholars Scholarship. I plan to attend Benedictine College and play college baseball.



Abi & Jay | Homeschooling gave both of us the flexibility and time we need to practice our music. We performed our first ever musical recital on May 31, 2014.



Dominic | I received a power pilot scholarship through the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. I'm joining both of my older brothers in obtaining a glider's license and pilot's license through the air cadets.

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www.setonmagazine.com/students

You can submit your photo, your achievement and what you love most about homeschooling.

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The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children. Marriage now tends to be viewed as a form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will. But the indispensable contribution of marriage to society transcends the feelings and momentary needs of the couple. As the French bishops have taught, it is not born "of loving sentiment, ephemeral by definition, but from the depth of the obligation assumed by the spouses who accept to enter a total communion of life".

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 66

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