

Seton



MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

SETONMAGAZINE.COM | JULY 2016



From Skating to Seton

An Interview with the Williams Family

pg 6

Celebrating Seton High School Success | pg 8

The Joy of Accomplishment

John Clark | pg 10

4 Reasons to Finish High School

Ginny Seuffert | pg 11

'SETON GRADUATION' ISSUE

Executive Editor

Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editors

Kevin Clark
Christine Smitha

Marketing Director

Jim Shanley

Design & Layout

Dominic de Souza

Contributing Writers

Marc Postiglione
The Williams Family
John Clark
Christine Smitha

Vol. 7, No. 4, July 2016

www.setonmagazine.com

Seton Home Study School
1350 Progress Dr.
Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: (540) 636-9990

Fax: (540) 636-1602

info@setonhome.org

www.setonhome.org

Subscription Information:

Subscription is included with your enrollment.

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

Cover photo:
Emily Williams

Daily at Seton, we gather before the altar at our noon Angelus and offer prayers for our families and friends. We encourage you also to pray for other homeschooling families, especially those suffering from illness, unemployment, or other crosses. United in the Communion of Saints, God allows us to uphold, support, and console other members of His Church through our prayers. Let us pray for one another as we walk the path of homeschooling, so that we may someday all join together in prayer in Heaven.



Letter from the Editor

Congratulations to all our 2016 graduates! The July issue of *Seton Magazine* is a continuation of the celebration you had over Memorial Day weekend here in Front Royal, and a way for those who couldn't make it to participate in the happiness of that day. We hope you enjoy all the pictures and recaps.

As Dr. Clark mentioned in her commencement speech (reprinted in part here), these are trying times for our country, times when commitment to prayer and patriotism is even more important than it has always been. However, as John Clark notes, Seton graduates are a cause for hope. So thank you to all our families for taking the journey with us. We couldn't be more grateful or more proud!

Undoubtedly, our graduates are all busy, preparing for college, squeezing in overtime at summer jobs, and trying to catch up with family before leaving the nest. Be sure to spend a little time smelling the roses, though. As Bob Wiesner puts it, spending time with nature "opens the human heart to a whole new way of appreciating the Lord's works and can only lead to a greater love for the God Who made so many wonderful things for us to enjoy." In these dark times, such experiences are even more important for us, as they help us retain the joy needed for witnessing Christian truth to an embittered world.

May all within our Seton family experience God's goodness this summer!

Christine Smitha

Seton Directory



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

Seton Educational Media
540-636-9996

Standardized Testing
Patty Graham
540-636-1250

Admissions
540-636-2039

Elementary Grading
Bruce Hacker
540-622-5524

General Counseling
Cecilia Sauer
540-622-5526

High School Academic Counseling
Gene McGuirk
540-635-4728

Special Services
Stephen Costanzo
540-622-5546

Kathleen Hunt
540-622-5542

Elementary Counseling
Sharon Hassett
540-636-1429

Carin Delancey
540-636-2342

Rose Herlihy
540-622-8474

Transcripts, Records, and Extensions
Betty Valaike
540-635-1937

High School Grading
Rhonda Way
540-622-5525

High School English
Walker Solis
540-636-1755

Elizabeth Wagner
540-622-5555

High School History
Nick Marmalejo
540-622-5571

High School Math
Tom Herlihy
540-636-1846

High School Math / Science
Don Valaike
540-636-1396

High School Guidance / Course Approval / Independent Studies
Christopher Smith
540-636-2238

Bob Wiesner
540-622-8478

Religion / Sacraments
Father Constantine
540-636-1527

Make America Good Again

2016 Graduation Speech

Each one of these graduates represents an achievement for a student, an achievement for parents, an achievement for a family, and a wonderful achievement for the Catholic Church. So this graduation day is a time to be happy and grateful.

This Memorial Day Weekend is also a time to thank God that we live in a country in which we can celebrate our family and our Catholic Faith at an event like this in a public building. Not every country has this luxury. We do because brave young American men and women love liberty and have sacrificed for it.

Among the most important of American liberties is religious liberty. Young American men and women, have fought across the world for religious liberty. The lives and memories of these heroic men and women is an enduring lesson in patriotism.

Patriotism means loving your country, loving the land of your birth. For us Americans here today, patriotism means loving the United States of America. That doesn't mean you can't be disappointed with its people or its leaders sometimes. But when you see a parent sick, you don't hate the parent. You love the parent more. And when you see your country sick, you don't respond with hate or discouragement. You respond with love and prayer and sacrifice.

We can also respond by trying to make America better, that is, by trying to make America good! Participate in political life. For some of you, that might eventually mean being elected to political office. That would be a really good thing.

Our country needs good Catholic leaders at every level of American government. There is no better group of young men and women to determine the future of America as a good nation, than you Catholic graduates. Your Catholic education gives you the tools to meet the demands of public office, to help others to seek the common good, to serve America and Americans well.

There is a wonderful, homeschooled saint

we should ask for intercession to help our country to return to good Catholic values. Her family's nickname for her was Jennette.

By all accounts, Jennette's early life was very ordinary. One day at about 13 years old, she starting hearing voices from Heaven. From that moment, her life never stopped being amazing.

Saint Michael the Archangel recruited her for a mission to save her country by fighting in battle. Jennette objected with a very reasonable response: "I am a poor girl; I do not know how to fight." But the heavenly voice responded by saying: "It is GOD who commands it."

Immediately, Jennette stepped forward to obey the call from God. At the age of seventeen, she was appointed Supreme Commander of her nation's military!

Her sword was not her trusted companion in battle. In fact, Jennette never used it. Instead, she carried a banner into battle. It bore several images: it depicted God in the Heavens, the Annunciation, and the Crucifixion. Jennette said: "My banner I love forty times as much as my sword!"

Miraculously, Jennette and her faithful soldiers drove the enemy away in a conflict that has mystified historians and generals ever since. In human terms, it was impossible for her to win. But nothing is impossible with God. Jennette saved her Catholic nation. And thus she changed the world.

But her victory came at a terrible cost. Jennette was captured by traitors, and then prosecuted in an enemy court that amounted to a show trial. To the eternal shame of her prosecutors, she was illegally sentenced to death.

One author wrote the following about her: "She was honorable in an age which had forgotten what honor was. She was a rock of convictions in a time when men believed in nothing. She was of a dauntless courage when hope and courage had perished. She was spotlessly pure, in mind



and body when society in the highest places was foul in both." That biographer was Mark Twain. And though her family affectionately called her Jennette, history remembers her as Saint Joan of Arc. This Monday is not only Memorial Day, it is the feast of St. Joan of Arc.

As we pray for our American heroes on Memorial Day, we need to ask St. Joan of Arc to pray for our nation because many people have forgotten that true patriotism means desiring the good—the true good—for our country. Many of our leaders seem to have forgotten that truth and justice and goodness are the American way. Graduates, America's greatness has always sprung from America's goodness.

Our America is sick and suffering, and seems to have lost its way. To find her way back, she needs young men and women and families to rise up, like Saint Joan of Arc, with prayer, with heart and soul and mind and strength. America needs young Catholic men, women, and families to fight again for life, liberty, and the right to practice our faith; to fight again for the rights of God, Who has given us our rights.

Are you graduates, parents, and families ready and willing to carry that Catholic banner of Faith? Graduates, parents, and families, our Catholic mission is simple: We Must Make America Good Again!

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

My children don't seem interested in reading books. They like to go on the computer. Can you recommend some appealing literature?

The computer offers continuing movement and change, so they will want similar action books: adventure fiction books, biographies of adventurers and explorers, historical novels, mystery, and even science books. These books, especially biographies and classics for children, will intrigue them to find clues to further events, discover personalities and actions resulting from certain events or experiences, recognize the relation between cause and event, develop thinking and analysis skills practical for everyday life—not to mention entertain them with descriptions of exciting events.

In our national culture today, we are desperate for thinkers, desperate for rational and Christian approaches to problems. Reading the works of great and honorable writers can help students to think about solutions already found by others.

Seton has a list of recommended books which is available on our website under Parent Resources. Summer is a good time to encourage reading these books. Some parents “reward” their children with ice cream for each book read from this list. You can check the Seton website under www.setonbooks.com/summerreading for fun summer reading books.

Don't neglect reading yourself. Parents who never read will have children who never read. Perhaps you can schedule an hour before bedtime for everyone to read. Also, members of the family can relate something at the dinner table about the book they are reading. You will be surprised how interested your children will become in reading good stories reported on by brothers or sisters. Several children could read the same book and discuss it at the

dinner table. This develops thinking skills as well as reading skills and contributes to self confidence in speaking, analyzing, and defending a position.

Homeschooling gives us parents the opportunity as well as the responsibility to train our children to be obedient to God's laws.

I struggle with disciplining my children, both at home and at church.

Our society is sending messages through the air waves, through television and the internet, that everyone including children, should have freedom, meaning freedom from all boundaries, rules, or authority.

Homeschooling gives us parents the opportunity as well as the responsibility to train our children to be obedient to God's laws. Our children must be taught, contrary to society's opinion, that they need to obey God's commandments, especially the Fourth Commandment: Honor thy Father and thy Mother. We parents are commanded by God to train our children to obey God's laws.

If we don't train our children to obey us in our homeschooling and to be obedient at church, ultimately they will disobey us in later situations where they can be physically or morally hurt, perhaps suffering the consequences for a lifetime, as some have sadly learned.

Soldiers returning from the battlefield have learned discipline because they know their physical lives are at stake. Children need to learn that their physical and spiritual lives are at stake if they do not obey their parents, who are teaching them God's laws.

For more information on this topic, visit our SEM bookstore. Dr. Ray Guarendi, a homeschooling father and child psychologist who regularly speaks at Catholic homeschooling conferences, has written a number of practical books about disciplinary issues, which can be located through SEM. Seton also sells excellent books by the educator James Stenson, as well.

My children's tests are being graded twice!

Some parents are sending in their children's tests twice. First, they are sending tests over the internet, and those tests are graded either automatically or by an online grader. Then, the same tests are being sent again by mail to be graded by a local grader.

This causes problems in many ways. Please be sure to send your children's work one way or the other. Online is usually preferred since there are fewer problems with any mail being delayed, going to a wrong address, or damaged by post office mailing machines.

My husband is not helpful at all with the homeschooling. Is there anything I can do to encourage him to help?

Some husbands have jobs that are physically so demanding that they can only “rest” while they are at home. Many husbands have jobs where the office or job situation is unfriendly, unpleasant, or filled with anxiety and frustration.

Your husband may not be able to accept the fact that children can be taught at home because the norm in our society for the past several generations has been to send children to a school. His parents, siblings, or fellow workers, may think he is “crazy” to let his wife homeschool. Try to find out why he cannot or will not be involved with the homeschooling. Take him with you to some homeschooling events, especially where he can meet homeschooling fathers who are

Our Catholic Children's Literature Collection



Learn more about these books online at

setonbooks.com/childrensliterature

more involved with the homeschooling.

Ask him to help, but start with something not too demanding, such as listening to a child read his science book, or helping with a math assignment, on a Sunday afternoon. One thing fathers learn is that being involved with their children will ultimately bring a higher level of happiness and personal satisfaction, even accomplishment. Studies have shown that fathers cannot reach a high level of happiness if they neglect spending time with their children during the few precious years they are growing up.

My friend is hesitant to phone a counselor with her questions. How can I encourage her to phone?

There are many reasons why families don't call the counselors, some of them because they are not sure that they can, or that they will be able to communicate their issues clearly, or that they will be bothering the counselors. All these fears can be laid to rest. Seton's team of counselors are proficient in their fields, and extremely understanding, often able to help you phrase your question and give you valuable insights. Every enrolled family is paying for access to counselors, an extremely valued aspect to homeschooling with Seton. We strongly encourage you to use this resource regularly.

Remind your friend that if a student is not able to solve a problem fairly quickly, waiting often frustrates the student. You can

also recommend collaboration between the parents. This is important whether or not families are calling the counselors. Frequently, if both mom and dad try to work out the problem, it can be solved, especially if it is a math or science problem.

Often if a mom has trouble teaching a concept to a particular child, Dad can explain it in a different way, perhaps an easier way for the student to understand. However, if mom and dad both try teaching and the student is still confused or not understanding, please be sure to call the counselor for that grade level and/or subject area.

Some parents seem interested in homeschooling and are asking me questions. Where should I begin?

You might consider asking them over for a picnic or cookout, and explaining how your family accomplish such a wonderful feat. Show them the Seton lesson plans. Emphasize that homeschooling is as much about caring for each other as it is about the techniques for teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. With the caring comes the working together.

Most parents believe they cannot teach their children, but they need to realize that what is best for their children is their own interaction with their children. You can tell them that the first year they may not accomplish all they wanted to in relation to the assignments, but they will come to realize that they have discovered the value and happiness of family members working and living together in a very special way.

I want to be more involved in the upcoming elections, but I am afraid we will get behind in our lessons.

Children can learn so much by participating in the election process. They become involved in discussions with older people and candidates about important issues and about the future of their country and what it will mean to them. They learn to think and to speak, or argue "on their feet." Most parents have seen their children mature and become better thinkers and better defenders of their beliefs after being involved in an election.



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



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



CHRISTENDOM
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



NORTHEAST
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



A Catholic University of Distinction



Wisdom in God's Country

setonhome.org/colleges



From Skating to Seton

An Interview with the Williams Family

An interview with Emily Williams

When my parents think of a scene that sums me up, they think of me at three years old, dancing through the zoo in a red checkered dress. That was just months before I put on my first pair of ice skates. It was an accident really, getting into figure skating. I was supposed to go roller skating, but Dad had chosen to take a shortcut instead of the main road, which meant passing the ice rink. As we drove past the building, I pointed and asked my father, “What’s that?”

“It’s an ice skating rink.” He replied.

“Oh...I want to go there!”

Everyone thought it would be a one-time event, but within a week I was enrolled in Learn to Skate, and a couple years later, I had entered my first figure skating competition. As the years went by, I traded in the red checkered dress for a frilly skating costume, and later traded that for a Swarovski-crystalled figure skating dress. Now I travel from Williamsburg to Northern Virginia almost every day for training, often staying with families for weeks out of the summer. There have been many injuries, from broken ankles to dislocated knees, racking up a total of eighteen broken bones over the years, but none of that has kept me off the ice for long. After years of competing, though, I’ve switched my focus to coaching and ice shows, hoping to be traveling with a show by the end of the year.

Why choose Seton?

I had been homeschooled through another program for several years before joining Seton. After struggling with keeping a schedule, juggling training, and finding it almost impossible to get in touch with the school staff for assistance, I started looking for another homeschool. While staying with a family in Fairfax, Virginia during training, I discovered one of the daughters was enrolled in Seton. She expressed how much she enjoyed the classes and coursework, so I did some research.

My parents had also heard about it through a longtime family and work friend, whose son had just graduated from Seton. He talked about how helpful the office staff at Seton was and how they were willing to accommodate and adjust various programs to help with his son's ambitions. Knowing that I would be able to get in touch with the staff instead of getting an answering machine, as well as knowing they would help to adjust and work with my needs as a student, was crucial in our family's decision to switch. It was one of the best educational decisions we could have made.

What does it mean to you to be a Catholic and what role does the faith play in your life?

The Catholic faith has helped my family and me grow close to one another, to stay devoted to each other through everything, and to help each other, no matter the struggle. My faith has taught me not to ask why, but rather to focus on how I can help others. It has shown me how to be compassionate, to help and teach others. Everything I have learned about my faith has helped me in my coaching, has aided my family, and helped me to be supportive of those around me.

What are your plans and dreams for the future?

I will continue figure skating for as long as I am capable. The immediate plan is to enter an ice show, with Disney on Ice being the main goal. I'm also planning on training to become a USFSA technical specialist, meaning I will be able to read, level, and score a figure skater's elements in competition. After performing in skating shows, I hope to go to college for criminal psychology and continue coaching aspiring figure skaters.

Do you have advice for other homeschooling families?

Try to keep on top of your school work. Don't let it pile up so you have to scramble the last few months before the year ends to finish. Read your teachers' comments and listen to their advice; they are there to help you.



A Word from the Parents Laura & John Williams

Why did you choose to homeschool?

Trying to skate competitively while going to school full time was a constant uphill battle. In order to get good training, traveling great distances was often necessary, which caused Emily to fall behind in her assignments. We needed the flexibility that homeschooling could give us. To continue figure skating, go to competitions, and travel as needed, homeschooling was the ideal choice.

Have there been any challenges to homeschooling that you worked through?

We struggled with keeping a set schedule. Often times with all the running around from the rink, to off-ice, dance, and other various forms of training, school work sometimes took a back seat. It took a lot of effort to make sure that schoolwork became a priority. There was a lot of adjusting, such as constantly carrying a computer and finding a quiet corner of the rink to work. Emily also found that learning a language outside of a classroom setting was a struggle, but she overcame that challenge with some outside assistance.

How has homeschooling with Seton been of benefit to you?

Seton allowed Emily to continue figure skating while providing her with a more personal school experience. She was allowed to work at her own pace, which gave her the flexibility needed to continue training and traveling from rink to rink to see her out of town coaches.

Do you have advice for other homeschooling families?

Be a part of your children's education. Keep up with their grades, stay updated, and help your students when they are struggling. Try to find a clean, stress-free environment for them to work in to help keep them focused.



"I cannot wait to get out there and move forward with my life, super excited for the college courses I'll be taking next year!"
Paige M.

CONGRATULATIONS

Seton Graduates of 2016

"My favorite thing about graduation was finally getting to meet in person all of the wonderful people I knew from Seton's online forums. The friendships that I have made through Seton have been unforgettable!"

Emily C.





"I am preparing to attend college in the fall. I'm excited about starting my college life and starting my career as a pilot."
Stephen L.



"My favorite thing about graduating this year was being able to see a girl I had met through the Seton Message Boards in real life. We have been talking for two years and she has become one of my best friends!"
Sarah C.

"As a twelve year Seton Home Study School Alumni, I became accustomed to my demanding work schedule. I know that I've been well prepared, no matter what happens in the future. I am looking forward to my next adventure, DeSales University, ready to charge forward toward the bright light of my future."

Bobby M.





The Joy of Accomplishment

BY JOHN CLARK

Seton Home Study School began having graduation ceremonies about ten years ago. We wanted the students and their families to feel the joy of accomplishment. We knew they deserved a day to look back and appreciate their prayers, works, joys, and tribulations: all the ingredients that go into the homeschooling recipe.

Judging by the happiness so evident in the auditorium this most recent graduation, it has been a great success, both in ways we expected and in some we didn't.

One of the most amazing things you see at a Seton graduation is the friendships among the graduates. When you see the graduates interact with one another, you immediately forget that most of these graduates have never met each other. You see them talking, smiling, laughing, and dancing with each other, as if they have known each other their whole lives. One may be from Texas, another from Ohio, and a third from Florida, but you might guess that they grew up on the same street. But it is not the street that unites them; it is the familiar avenue that each one of them took to get there that day. In a way, though they have never met, they have been on the same path; somehow, instinctively, they know this. I see it happen every year and it always leaves an impression on me.

Another great moment was Dr. Clark's

powerful speech. In front of a crowd of about 700 people, Dr. Clark gave a rousing address in which she challenged the graduates to love their nation and make a powerful change for good. It's hard to predict what you will remember after an event. But seeing your mother receive a standing ovation—you don't forget that.

After the graduation, I went outside and watched dozens of the graduates taking pictures with their families, complete with smiles, hugs, and tears. You don't forget those images either. In a culture that is increasingly rejecting the very notion of family, I remember a warm, spring afternoon in which hundreds of people were clinging to family, celebrating family, and being thankful for family. This scene was a great reminder for me that finding purpose in life is a powerful thing, and finding that love and happiness is that purpose is remarkable, indeed.

One last thing. Beginning with the first person I met that day all the way up until the last, I received very kind words about my blogs and columns. One of the graduates told me how much she liked my columns; a young brother of a graduate told me how well I made my points and how funny the columns were. A mother of one of the graduates commented that I was able to put

the things she was thinking into printed words; another told me how much she loved my recent Canada article. One mom told me how much a certain column meant to her; in fact, she said that she often read it to inspire her to keep homeschooling.

It was almost overwhelming to receive such kind words. The life of a writer is a funny thing because, unlike in some other professions, you don't have much personal contact with those who like your work. And although people do occasionally thank me on my blog, it is a far better and different thing when they say "thank you" and you see the gratitude in their eyes. My hope is that they saw the gratitude for them in mine.

All in all, a wonderful day. As the saying goes, graduation is an ending but also a beginning. And as Seton graduated its 70,000th student during this year's ceremonies, I couldn't help but think that tomorrow will be even brighter. See you next year!

Read John Clark's weekly blog at setonmagazine.com/johnclark



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.

4 Compelling Reasons to Graduate from High School

BY GINNY SEUFFERT



Most parents find teaching primary-grade students to be fun and gratifying. Generally little ones are excited to do their schoolwork, and catch on quickly, rewarding their teacher with happy grins. As the years go by, however, and schoolwork becomes more demanding, more than a few students give their parents a hard time, and at times just wear mom and dad down. When students are not as academically inclined as others their age, or are interested in entering a community college or trade school, parents sometimes allow them to prepare for a GED and end formal study. If the plan is for the teen to someday take over a family business that does not require college, or the teen already has employment, some families even skip the equivalency diploma. Prematurely ending high school studies and forgoing an accredited diploma may not be the best course of action for several reasons.

1. A Post Christian Culture

The most essential is that the United States is now a post-Christian society and every Catholic needs solid formation in the Faith in order to live a moral life and to spread the Gospel. No matter which profession, trade, or vocation your children aspire to, they need to understand Catholic doctrine, and be able to apply it to practical life situations. Four years of advanced religion study, reading high quality English-language literature, and studying the principles and movements of history will prepare them to live as patriotic citizens and Catholic Christians.

2. A Deeper Appreciation

Parents should also keep in mind that as our teens mature into adulthood, they often gain a deeper appreciation of academic subjects, and so might wish to pursue a four-year degree farther down the road. Then too, circumstances change; sometimes, whole industries disappear, or a four-year degree becomes a new requirement in a particular

field. Solid academic preparation in high school gives students the background they need to adapt to changing times. A high school diploma is often the entry ticket to greater opportunity.

While most colleges and workplaces accept the General Equivalency Diploma, it is not given the same level of respect as a high school issued diploma. College applicants with a GED have the same SAT or ACT testing requirements, and often lack academic preparation needed to attain a high score. Adults with a GED earn almost a quarter of a million dollars LESS over their lifetimes than high school grads, and the vast majority will not graduate from college if they do decide to seek a degree. While the military accepts the GED, applicants need to score higher than high school grads on the Armed Forces Qualifying Test, and for some branches, on vocational testing. Some branches also require additional screening and training. The GED is often not the best option for young adults.

3. Not the Best Option

A sizeable number of homeschooling families grant what some call the “Mom Diploma.” Parents issue their own diploma and/or transcript, often following the general course of study for high schools in their region. While parent-issued diplomas are gaining increasing acceptance, it is always wise to verify exactly how your children’s potential colleges would view one. Be aware that colleges might also place greater weight on SAT and ACT testing as they realize educational standards can vary wildly among families.

4. The ‘Mom’ Diploma

A parent-issued transcript should clearly list the name of the course, for example: “Algebra 1” and a parent issued grade, with a brief explanation of the grading system, for example a four-point system or a five-point

system. Parents may include the primary text if it is generally recognized; Algebra 1 by Saxon, for example, or if the title is self-explanatory as in Prose and Poetry of England for a British Literature course. It is not necessarily wise to include long lists of course readings, such as foundational documents for American History, or works of C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton in British Literature. Parents may be proud of the depth of learning they required, some schools will give greater weight to more contemporary reading material.

The Homeschool Option

A final option for homeschooled high school students is to earn a diploma from an accredited school such as Seton Home Study School. Accreditation means that an independent outside agency has examined Seton’s standards and procedures regarding academics, record keeping, accounting, and business practices and found them to be acceptable. Schools are periodically reevaluated and must demonstrate that they are continually upgrading and improving their programs and practices. A diploma from an accredited school allows colleges to have confidence that schools like Seton are committed to excellence and produce graduates ready for college-level studies.

Parents can have confidence, too. They know a diploma from Seton means that their children have been given superior academic and faith formation, while having the benefit of knowledgeable guidance counselors and teachers to help them reach their full potential.

No matter which route parents and students choose, students will never regret earning a high school diploma.



Ginny Seuffert has been a leading writer and speaker about homeschooling and family management for more than two decades. She has given hundreds of talks at conferences and has written scores of articles on everything from discipline to home management.

3 Lessons to Teach our Youth from St. John Paul II's 'Redeemer of Man'

BY MARC POSTIGLIONE

During his long pontificate, John Paul wrote fourteen encyclical letters that can help us teach our youth about the beauty and truths of our Catholic faith.

1. The Fundamental Dignity of the Human Person

John Paul helped draft the Second Vatican Council's document *Gaudium et Spes* and the Pope cites this document often in *Redemptor Hominis*:

"The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light... He fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his most high calling" (RH 8). "Human nature, by the very fact that it was assumed, not absorbed, in Him, has been raised in us also to a dignity beyond compare. For, by his Incarnation, He, the Son of God, in a certain way united Himself with each man" (RH 8).

In a century that has featured unimaginable crimes against the dignity of the human person, John Paul teaches us that man has an incredible majesty that cannot be removed by any government or institution. That God became man speaks of God's immense love for each one of us and of the inconceivable splendor and eminence of every human being. When we encourage our children to perform the corporal works of mercy, we can reinforce this theme of the dignity of man. Man was created in the image and likeness of God and redeemed by a God that became a man like us in all things save sin. That Christ became a man demands a response from each of us regarding our treatment of our brothers and sisters.

For instance, we are pro-life because the God Who created us and formed us in the womb became one of us to redeem mankind from sin and death. As we speak with our children about performing works of charity, we remind them that we do these good works because the least among us has an unimaginable amount of dignity in the eyes of Christ.

One of the most beautiful lines in the encyclical reflects on the dignity owed to man: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it" (RH 10). The Pope states that every authentic humanism is closely connected with Christ.

2. Human Freedom Lived in Truth

The horrors of the 20th century stem from a fundamentally flawed understanding of human freedom. John Paul states that man's true freedom is not found in various systems and what individuals propagate as freedom. Christ is the One Who frees man from what curtails, diminishes and breaks off freedom at its root in our soul (RH 12). In reflecting on Christ's words that you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free, the Pope states there is a fundamental requirement and a warning – the requirement is an honest relationship with freedom lived in truth. The warning is to avoid all of the illusory freedoms that fail to conform to the truth about God and man (RH 12).

We can mistakenly think that if our children are raised in good Catholic homes, the culture can be locked out. However, we cannot padlock the culture out of our homes, especially in an age of instant communication. We must constantly teach our children that freedom must be allied to what is true and good. In choosing the good, authentic use of human freedom will allow human beings to be truly happy in this life and in the life to come. There are so many illusory freedoms. People will abuse drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, pornography

and unbridled materialism, thinking that this "freedom" brings happiness, but these lies and illusions do not quench our thirsts. This is because we have separated freedom from truth. Freedom has come to mean either whatever I want to do I must be allowed to do or whoever holds the most power decides the limits and boundaries of freedom. John Paul preaches that Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, stands with every man who has been judged for the sake of the truth.

3. The Right to Religious Freedom

In a country in which the debate about freedom of conscience and religious freedom rages on a daily basis, examining John Paul's discussion of religious freedom is essential. The Pope states that the curtailment and violation of religious freedom are in contrast with man's dignity and his objective rights.

Today, in our own time, religious liberty is under attack by those that want to force Christians to do things that oppose our moral conscience. Society continues to take religion out of the public sphere and wants to confine believers to a separate plane of existence. The late Father Richard John Neuhaus wrote a book titled *The Naked Public Square* in which he prophetically called out modern culture's attempt to banish all religion from public life and discourse. We must teach our young people that religious freedom is an inherent condition of humanity. We must not accept as fact that we will be shut out of the public square and our convictions marginalized as irrelevant to the modern world. We cannot



abandon the public square and leave it entirely to those who would destroy it.

Like our Savior, we cannot abandon the world and hide in our own bunker waiting for things to change. We need to be the heart and hands of Christ out in the soup kitchens, protesting at abortion mills and in our communities shouting that our voices will not be removed from public discourse.

In John Paul II we have the model of truth lived in freedom. He lived through failed ideologies that suppressed freedom and truth. He warned about the new totalitarianism that separates freedom from truth and believes freedom to be only what brings one the greatest pleasure. We need to boldly and without fear remind the world that this view of freedom has brought about indescribable amounts of unhappiness and despair.

John Paul II closes his first encyclical by placing his pontificate under the maternal protection of Mary. He links the maternal love of Mary with the love the Church has for each and every man. "Through her maternal presence the Church acquires certainty that she is truly living the mystery of the Redemption in all its life-giving profundity and fullness" (RH 22).

We must teach our young people to bring their hopes and desires to Mary and place them at her feet. She will help draw us closer to her Son, a Son that so loved the world that he became man to save each one of us from the chains of sin and death.



Marc Postiglione is an Assistant Professor of Business and the Coordinator of the Sport Management Program at Union County College in New Jersey. He lives with his wife Sarah, son David, and daughter Clare.

SUMMER & CREATION: TAKE TIME TO ENJOY IT

Recently I have had occasion to look deeply into the meaning of the Byzantine icon depicting the Creation. Adam is confronted with the myriad glories of God's limitless imagination; as the first human, Adam is tasked with naming and ordering the enormous output of the divine utterances. Through our descent from Adam, the same task falls to every human being on the planet. To whatever extent we are able, we too must delve into the universe and order, define, know and name those things which come into our orbits. During the school year, a student's orbit is likely to revolve around Language, History and formal Theology. These things are important; God did, after all, at some point say "Algebra" and there the pesky thing was!

But God has also said "hiking" and "sunrise" and "butterfly" and so many other things which so badly need to be investigated. Certainly truth derived from Scripture and Catechism is essential knowledge, but a practical study of the world as spoken by God feeds the soul in a different sort of way, one which leads to greater health of soul, mind



and body. Looking at a certain creature with the question, "Why did God say mockingbird?" opens the human heart to a whole new way of appreciating the Lord's works and can only lead to a greater love for the God Who made so many wonderful things for us to enjoy.

No one has yet attempted a comprehensive theology of the duck-billed platypus, but such a work is possible; God meant something by saying it, and we can learn something of the Creator by a close study of even His most outlandish ideas!



Bob Wiesner earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Christendom College and his M.A. in Theological Studies from Maryknoll School of Theology. His passions include classical music, iconography, and history.

SETON SUMMER QUARTER CONTEST

DEADLINE JULY 31ST, 2016

Open to Seton high school students, grades 9-12. Select one of the novels you are reading this year for your high school curriculum, and **create a short story around one of the characters**. All submissions will be judged by grade level, with the potential for first and second place finalists for each grade. More details and free registration available online.

Prizes: 1st place: \$50 | 2nd place: \$35

bayleybulletin.com/contest





2016 Catholic Homeschooling Conferences

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

FL, Tampa July 7-8, 2016 (Thu.-Fri.) IHM Tampa Homeschool Conference

St. Lawrence Church – Higgins Hall
5225 North Himes Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614
Thu.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Fri.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

OH, Cleveland July 8-9, 2016 (Fri.-Sat.) IHM Cleveland Homeschool Conference

St. Adalbert's Parish — Keller Center
66 Adalbert Street
Berea, OH 44017
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

IL, Chicago July 14-15, 2016 (Thu.-Fri.) IHM Chicago Homeschool Conference

Bobak's Signature Events & Conference Center
6440 Double Eagle Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517
Thu.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Fri.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

OH, Dayton July 22-23, 2016 (Fri.-Sat.) IHM Dayton Homeschool Conference

St. Peter's Catholic Church
Family Life Center
6161 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

MA, Lowell July 29, 2016 (Fri.) IHM New England Homeschool Conference

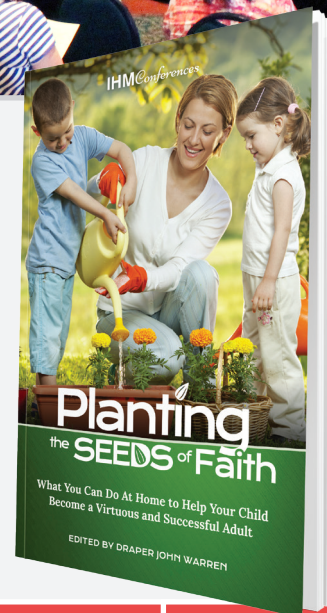
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
50 Warren Street
Lowell, MA 01852
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
www.ihmconference.org

TX, Arlington July 29-30, 2016 (Fri.-Sat.) IHM North Texas Homeschool Conference

Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way
Arlington, TX 76011
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org

NY, New York August 5-6, 2016 (Fri.-Sat.) IHM New York Homeschool Conference

Mercy College – The Rotunda of Mercy Hall
555 Broadway
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
Fri.: 12 noon – 6 pm
Sat.: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
www.ihmconference.org



Get it
FREE!

Valued at
\$7.99

Attend an IHM Homeschool Conference
in 2016 to receive your free copy!
(Limit of one book per family)

Planting the Seeds of Faith

*What You Can Do At Home to Help Your Child
Become a Virtuous and Successful Adult*

The wisdom and advice contained within these pages are the fruit of a hundred Catholic homeschooling conferences.

The 10 expert authors contributing to this book—priests, academics, and veteran homeschool mothers—travel all across the country speaking to parents, spreading the word about the benefits of keeping children at home and providing them with a doctrinally solid Catholic education.

Their knowledge and insights have been gathered together in this incredible book to aid you in your mission as a parent—to help your child become a virtuous and successful adult.

Softcover • 5.5 x 8.5
124 pages • M-FMBK-66

For additional contact information, conferences, venues, and vendors,
visit www.setonhome.org/conferences



NORTHEAST CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Northeast Catholic College
is known for its:

- Great Books curriculum, rooted
in faith and reason
- Fidelity to the Magisterium
- Strong community and life-long
friendships

Apply Today!
northeastcatholic.edu

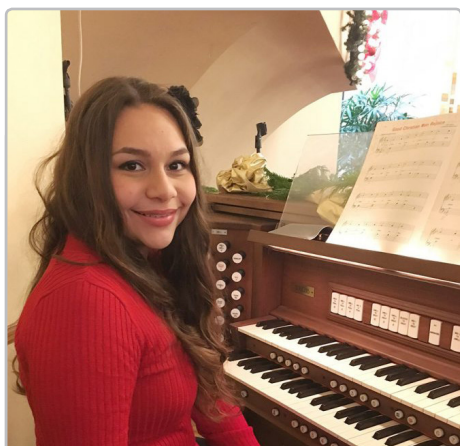


NOW OFFERING
All Homeschooled Students
A \$20,000 Scholarship.
(over 4 years)



Seton Student Achievements

SHARING SUCCESS WITH THE SETON COMMUNITY



Naya | I participated in two separate auditions to earn scholarships to study organ. I received a scholarship from the Palomar and San Diego chapters of the American Guild of Organists.



Elizabeth | In October of 2015 I entered a nationwide Patriotic Poem Challenge. I wrote a poem titled "The Old North Hero" The challenge was judged on creativity and talent.



Robert | I won third place in a state-wide (Nevada) poetry contest. The organization that sponsored the contest was Tahoe Star Tours. I won four tickets to one of their star tours in North Lake Tahoe.

Submit your photo, your achievement and
what you like most about homeschooling.

setonmagazine.com/students

Seton Home Study School

1350 Progress Drive

Front Royal, VA 22630

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 19
Elizabethtown, PA

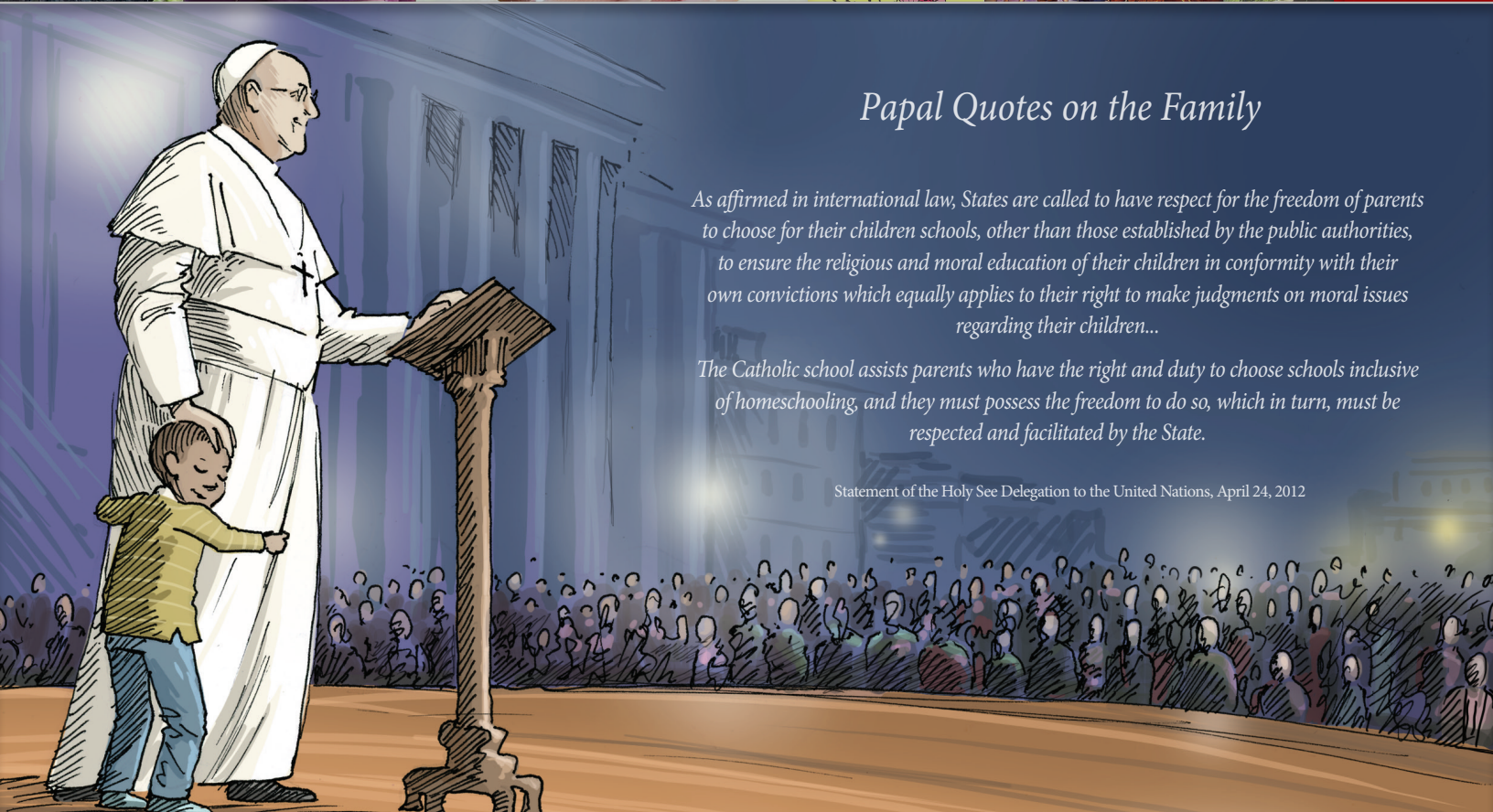


THE SETON
SUMMER
READING CLUB

Summer's Never Been
So Much Fun!



 bayleybulletin.com/readingclub



Papal Quotes on the Family

As affirmed in international law, States are called to have respect for the freedom of parents to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions which equally applies to their right to make judgments on moral issues regarding their children...

The Catholic school assists parents who have the right and duty to choose schools inclusive of homeschooling, and they must possess the freedom to do so, which in turn, must be respected and facilitated by the State.

Statement of the Holy See Delegation to the United Nations, April 24, 2012