

# Seton MAGAZINE

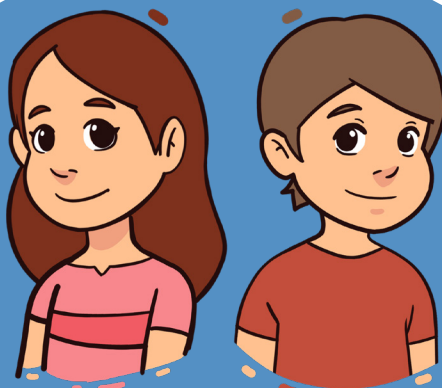
Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

SETONMAGAZINE.COM | JULY/AUGUST 2020



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## JULY/AUGUST 2020

Vol. 9, No. 4

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The Yost Family



Dear Readers,

I hope this finds you all happy and healthy. With this issue, we are officially halfway through the year, and what a year it has been so far. Usually we are happily showing photos of graduation weekend in this issue, but sadly, we had to cancel the festivities for this year. It was more than a little heartbreaking for everyone.

Since this year's students missed their moment, we are planning to allow graduates of 2020 to participate in the 2021 graduation ceremony if they would like to do so. Information will be available in 2021.

That all being said, we are so happy to shine a spotlight on a few of our graduates. Maria, Zachary, Ben, Jacqueline, and Franklin are all poised to begin their post high school lives with a solid Seton education, a love of faith and family, and great enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to get to know them, and I am delighted to share them with all of you.

Please be aware of our daily prayers for all of you during these stressful days. We stand ready to help you navigate your children's education in any way we can and ask that you let us know how we can be of assistance.

Blessings,

Mary Ellen Barrett

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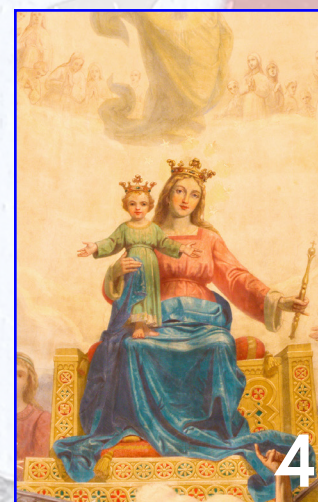
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Seton Home Study School, an international Catholic institution, is to ensure that all of its students thrive intellectually and spiritually using a Christ-centered, educational program that empowers them to live the Catholic Faith while embracing the academic and vocational challenges of the twenty-first century.



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## THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



SHARE YOUR "WHY WE HOMESCHOOL" ON **FACEBOOK**

### Why Do We Homeschool?

We love how flexible it is and that we get to spend more time with our girls. They learn and discover things on their own, find solutions to problems, and are building their character.

Seton Home Study School is an answered prayer.

Rovie Gonzales





# Our Lady Queen of Apostles

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

**Saturday** May 23 is the wonderful Feast of the Blessed Mother of Jesus under her title Our Lady, Queen of Apostles. After the crucifixion and death of Jesus, His Apostles gathered with His Blessed Mother in The Upper Room. The Apostles wanted her to give them hope and courage as they were to go forth to be Apostles for Jesus.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles can help give us homeschooling mothers the graces we need to teach our children to be good practicing Catholics and to carry the Good News about Jesus to others. We want our children to learn what Jesus taught, to believe in what His Catholic Church teaches, and to live the Catholic life.

Jesus certainly sees homeschooling parents as special Apostles as they teach their children in a sick and suffering world. He certainly wants us to ask His mother for help. All of us parents and children need to remind ourselves that Our Lady Queen of Apostles loves us for our homeschooling.

As Apostles of the Queen of Heaven, we need to pray for those who are desperate to hear about the total and eternal love of Jesus and His Mother, especially now for those suffering physically and spiritually... not just from the coronavirus itself, but from the sufferings of its consequences: the separation from family and friends, the loss of jobs, the closing of churches, the sickness of children.

Let us all ask Our Lady Queen of Apostles to help us homeschooling mothers, and to help all mothers and fathers, to be good Apostles for Jesus, as we teach our children and others through our actions about the deep and eternal love and concern Jesus and His Mother have for all of us.

We realize that our daily duties sometimes come with unexpected difficulties. Yet whatever difficulties we are given along our homeschooling journey, we travel with acceptance, in prayers and in sacrifice. We follow the path of homeschooling, in order to obtain our final heavenly reward, for our children as well as for ourselves.

Let us ask the Blessed Mother, Queen of the Apostles of Jesus, for the grace to carry this message to our children: that Jesus loves them so much, that whatever burdens they bear, He will give them an eternal reward in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, help us to realize that teaching our children is our most important work as an Apostle for Jesus. Most Loving Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.



**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*.



# Turning To Mary In Tough Times

BY JOHN CLARK

**Years** ago, I faced a very difficult stage of my life. The circumstances—the hows, whys, and whats—don't particularly matter. That is a story for another time perhaps. What matters is the who and where.

Back then, at the end of each day over the course of several weeks, as things grew increasingly difficult for me, I stopped in a little chapel. I slowly walked in, blessed myself, fell down on my knees in the back of the church, stared at the statue of Mary, and sobbed. Gazing upon an image of my Heavenly Mother, I imagined myself to be a small boy, sitting on her lap, crying to her. In a world of poor listeners, I knew that a mother hears the tears of her child—no matter how big or little that child might be.

As a man of nearly fifty years of age who prides myself on how much I can bench press, this personal account is not necessarily a “manly” thing to admit, yet, in the years following, I have come to realize that this was the perfect response of an imperfect man. It's no secret that in tough times, modern men often turn to the false consolations of alcohol and pornography, yet I found myself inebriated by the very face of purity. Mary led me closer to her Son, and I became—I hope—a better man in the process.

## Stay Focused on Mary...

There is a saying that “Tough times don't last; tough people do.” Not to depress you, but I don't necessarily agree with this aphorism on either count. Tough times might last your whole life. I know people who have experienced tough times since the 1970s. Poverty, illness, and legal troubles—these are not always things that quickly vanish. And then there are the spiritual assaults of the world, the flesh, and the devils who envy our happiness and joy. These can endure also.

And as for tough people, I would counsel you that if your primary goal in this world is to be tough, you won't have much of a life at all. Your toughness may simply form calluses on your heart and soul to the point where you can no longer feel a human touch, or a Heavenly one.

It wasn't toughness that got Jesus through the flight to Egypt, or His scourging at the pillar, or His crowning with thorns. It wasn't due to toughness that Jesus embraced His cross. It wasn't an exhibition of toughness when Jesus—covered in wounds and thorns and dirt—picked up His blood-drenched cross for the third time. It wasn't toughness at all.

It was love.

It was always love.

And it's a dangerous theology that suggests otherwise.

The whole world encourages you to be tough, to be hardened. Fight against that. Use every ounce of love to fight against that toughness. Use every grace of God to respond to the hardness

of the world with the softness of love. Because however long the tough times last, it is love that sees us through them.

We will all face tough times. You will experience physical suffering. Friends will betray you. Strangers will exhibit inexplicable malignance. Despite your best efforts, some people will cheer your misfortune. Each of these things happened to Jesus. And yet, there was Mary at the foot of the cross.

And that made a world of difference.

The world keeps revolving and many of her inhabitants keep turning away from God. But whatever revolutions might occur in your life, stay focused on Mary who knows you, loves you, and understands you. As Bishop Sheen phrased it, “As the mother knows the needs better than the babe, so the Blessed Mother understands our cries and worries and knows them better than we know ourselves.” Whatever life throws at me, I'm taking Jesus' counsel to another man named John, some two thousand years ago: “Behold thy Mother.”



**John Clark** is a homeschooling father, author of *Who's Got You* and *How to be a Superman Dad*, a speech writer, an online course developer for Seton, and a weekly blogger for *The National Catholic Register*.





# your Questions ANSWERED

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

## Is it okay to enroll my children in only a few courses?

Yes, absolutely, you can enroll in only a single course or only a few courses. Families usually choose single courses for one of two reasons.

First, families sometimes choose single courses because even though they are mostly homeschooling on their own, they want a more formal program for some core subjects, such as math and language arts. Second, parents often enroll in single courses when they do not have the particular expertise to teach a subject (such as advanced math, science, foreign language, or computer programming) and they want lesson plans, grading, and counseling available.

Although we think our full program is great and would love to see every student fully enrolled, we understand that the needs of every family and student are different. So, we're here to help, whether with a full program or just a single course or two, to address a family's particular needs.

## Is it okay if I grade my children's tests before I send them to Seton?

It certainly is a great idea for parents to look over or even grade their children's tests. By looking over the test, you can usually see if the student has learned the material.

If a student clearly has not learned the material, then we would generally suggest that the student re-study the material and then take the test again if possible. (Retaking a test under such circumstances is not considered cheating as long as the retake is the student's own work and reflects the student's real ability.) Remember, the point of study is to learn, and if a student isn't learning, then testing alone isn't necessarily going to help.

Of course, a parent can simply submit a failing test for grading anyway. Most tests and assignments can be redone once after being submitted. In some cases, it might be a "wake up call" for a student to receive a poor grade to understand that he needs to put in more work on a specific subject.

## Can my 8th grade daughter do the schoolwork on her own? I am so busy with the younger children.

The ability to work independently varies widely from one student to the next, based upon ability, situation, and the specific courses being studied. An 8th grade student who has been homeschooled for a few years should be able to do most of her work independently in most subjects; however, a student just starting to homeschool in 8th grade will likely need more direction.

## What Are Study-Help Websites and Why Should I be Concerned?

BY SEAN O'CONNOR,  
Seton High School English Counselor



**The** internet continues to be a great tool and resource for your students. It is especially useful in that the internet allows Seton students to access MySeton and SetonOnline.

Seton Online is a robust online resource that contains all the information of a physical

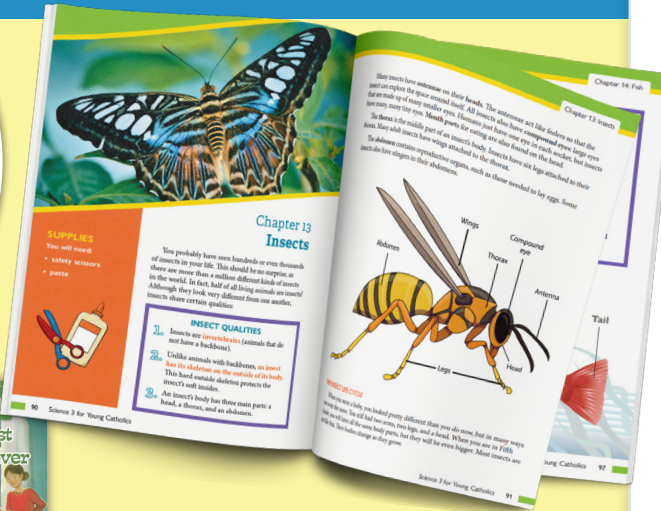
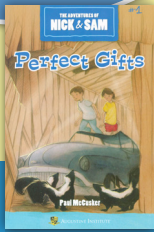
course manual plus additional resources like lecture videos, study guides, interactive quizzes, etc. Students who are enrolled in our courses that have a SetonOnline component have access to the resource. Additionally, the internet can be useful for students when researching various topics, finding informative videos, communicating with counselors, and interacting with other students via Catholic Harbor.

However, the internet also can be a stumbling block for learning as it can be a vehicle of plagiarism and cheating. Study-help websites are one example as they provide a tempting opportunity to plagiarize or cheat. These websites offer the means for anonymous users to post test answers and essays from graded coursework. These websites appear to be legitimate and helpful resources, claiming they are an "online learning platform" with practice problems, study guides, etc, students however frequent these websites to cheat and plagiarize.

Alarmingly, study-help websites consistently provide a platform for students or others to post essays or test answers for Seton's graded work. Among the many essays and tests I have requested these websites to remove, some even include our Seton graders' comments. For students who either is not willing to put in the work or is behind on their assignments, these posted essays can be seen as an alluring way to get a quick and easy grade.

Not only do these posted tests and essays violate Seton's copyright, but they also erode the integrity of our assessments.





## STARTS ON PAGE 22

We send detailed lesson plans for all the courses. The lesson plans are technically directed toward the parent, but any student who can follow simple directions should be able to use the lesson plans independently.

Of course, there may be subjects in which the student needs some direction and explanation of the material. This is often true in math. For example, a student taking Algebra I may be perfectly capable of reading and studying the lessons, but some of the concepts are not easily understood, which

would necessitate a parent (or other teacher) explaining and reviewing the concepts until the student understands what is being taught.

As in many areas of life, there is no set rule here, and what works best for each student and family will need to be determined through experience.



**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 Parents*.

## Here is what you can do...

- 1 If you have an internet filtering service on the devices your child uses for the internet, be wary of the study-help websites they visit. If you find those websites provide answers or essays from graded work, you can use the filtering software to block your child's access to them.
- 2 Do not use Online PDF converters. Third-party individuals could potentially acquire the uploaded document and post it on a study-help website without the student knowing. A safer option is to use either our Seton PDF converter or your word processor; most word processors can save files as PDF's.
- 3 Emphasize to your children the seriousness of plagiarism and cheating. A Seton assignment that contains plagiarized material is subject to a grade of zero which could lead to the failure of a course. Explain to your high school children that when or if they attend a college or university, plagiarism or cheating can lead to expulsion or permanently mar their academic record.



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



**Belmont Abbey**  
COLLEGE



**UNIVERSITY**  
OF DALLAS



**CHRISTENDOM**  
COLLEGE



**UNIVERSITY**  
ST. THOMAS  
HOUSTON



**BENEDICTINE**  
COLLEGE



**JOHN PAUL THE GREAT**  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



**MAGDALEN COLLEGE**  
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



**WALSH**  
UNIVERSITY  
*A Catholic University of Distinction*



**AVE MARIA**  
UNIVERSITY



**THOMAS AQUINAS**  
COLLEGE



**Wyoming**  
Catholic College  
*Wisdom in God's Country*



**OUR LADY**  
**SEAT OF WISDOM**  
COLLEGE



# Congratulations!

## Seton Class of 2020

### We Are Proud to Introduce Five of Our 2020 Graduates!

These fine young people represent the variety of post high school choices available to Seton graduates, from the military to seminary to local university. Seton students are well prepared to succeed in their endeavors, and we are grateful to have been a part of their lives thus far. May God bless and keep all of our wonderful graduates as they go forward helping to build the kingdom of God.

**T**he Seton Home Study program has been incredibly fulfilling for me. It has helped me to connect with other homeschoolers using the program and has opened up endless opportunities.

Overall, the Seton program has provided the foundation for me to grow stronger in my Faith. I've gained insight and better understand aspects of my Faith that were previously hard to grasp.

I plan to pursue a career in law enforcement to serve and protect the people of the community. It's a way for me to give back for the support I received through my high school experience. In today's times of trial, both

### BEN BAKER

in the home and outside, a well-rounded education is one of the essential tools to succeed. Seton has given me those tools which I'm sure will continue to assist me beyond the halls of graduation. I will always be grateful for that.



### ZACHARY EDICOLA

**S**ince third grade, Seton has enriched my life in many ways but particularly, the fantastic English courses, which have helped in many other pursuits.

Last year, I participated in the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars program. This online course sponsored by NASA required a research paper every two weeks for several months.

With my Seton preparation, I succeeded and was invited to spend a week at a NASA research facility. I was also accepted into two Engineering Programs with offers of academic scholarships.

Through Catholic Harbor, Seton's online student forum, I've made lifelong friends around the globe, and serving as a Student Moderator provided invaluable leadership experience.

All in all, Seton has well-prepared me for college in my chosen field of study, Aerospace, at Virginia Commonwealth University.





**H**i! I am from Front Royal, Virginia, the second oldest of six siblings, and a Seton student K-12.

In March 2020, one of my major dreams was fulfilled when I was accepted into the U. S. Air Force Academy.

Seton's flexibility has given me the time to balance academics and being active in my community. It also has helped me develop a passion for what I learn. Most importantly, homeschooling has given me the best foundation for life, a strong Catholic education, and has shown me the value of family and the importance of a good work ethic.

At the Academy, I plan on majoring in History or Foreign Area Studies. After graduation from the USAFA,

## JACQUELINE KELLY

I hope to qualify for a slot in undergraduate pilot training and eventually fly the F-22 or the F-35. To my fellow Seton students: if you have a dream, set goals and take the initiative to give yourself the best possibility of fulfilling it.



## FRANKLIN SOSA



**I** am 19 years old, was born in Union City, New Jersey, and am the youngest and the only son of seven children.

My parents emigrated from the Dominican Republic about 30 years ago. My education began

in the public school system but in high school, I felt isolated. It was like I was in a bottomless pit.

Then Seton Home Study School came along, and God completely turned my life around. There have been challenges, but they have forced me to lean on God and helped me develop my faith. About five years ago, I received a calling to the priesthood. My Seton educators made it possible to answer that call.

God willing, I'll be on to seminary this summer to begin my 1st year of Philosophy. Seton has given me the basics that I need to begin philosophy and the spirit and patience that I will need if the good Lord allows me to become a Priest.

**L**iving on Long Island, New York has provided me with a homeschooling experience like no other. I have been blessed with a wonderful Catholic homeschooling group, where I made lifelong friendships and partook in unique academic opportunities including field trips to the finest museums, theatres, and oratorios.

Seton's accredited and authentically Catholic education prepared me for the rigors of college-level academics and shaped me as a person, spiritually, and in character.

Serving as a student moderator on Catholic Harbor, Seton's online community for students and alumni, has helped me develop essential skills. Through my participation on Catholic Harbor I discovered Ave Maria University.

## MARIA TUMMINARO

At Ave Maria, I plan to major in Psychology with a minor in Shakespeare in Performance. I am thrilled to be continuing my studies in a truly Catholic environment.





# New Dynamics in Education: Responding to the Virus

BY NICK MARMELEJO

**I**t would be a vast understatement to say that “the world has changed” since I last put pen to paper (or fingers to keys) for *Seton Magazine*.

While there are many opinions about the coronavirus, one thing is patently clear: the virus’ world-wide impact and its consequences are far-reaching and are only just now beginning to be more understood.

## Traditional Education?

In education, we have a new normal and a series of completely new dynamics. Where does one even begin? For starters, the coronavirus has shattered the paradigm of the traditional brick and mortar school.

With the quarantine caused by the virus, thousands of teachers from grade school through university were suddenly forced to teach their students online. For many instructors, this closure has proven a serious hardship, bringing frustration and an adjustment in thinking. At best, this distance learning has allowed students to finish out their year, but the results, according to everyone with whom I have spoken, have been largely unsatisfactory.

Indeed, the assumption that teachers “can just go online” and “do class” does a major disservice to learning and the idea of education as a whole. Whether by paper, online video, or a combination of the two, distance education takes a great deal of forethought and planning. The dynamic of teaching at a distance is certainly not the same as that of a conventional classroom.

At Seton, we are keenly aware of this reality as we develop and evaluate our curriculum and use the new tools modern technology affords us. Curriculum development is not something one does off the cuff or throws together on the fly, particularly when technology is involved. Curriculum development is a combination of science and art, and balancing both demands a great investment in time, energy, and resources.

## Homeschool Legitimacy

The sudden push to go online in education, however, has been a definitive nod to the legitimacy of homeschooling and the concept of learning at home.

The fact that so many municipalities, districts, and schools instinctively defaulted to the paradigm of distance learning—even if it was not well-carried out—demonstrates that there is now a widespread recognition that learning does not always have to be done at the schoolhouse.

In Seton’s case, quarantine or no quarantine, homeschooling families are still able to receive the delivery of their education as initially planned. The stress of having to worry about whether students will actually finish and learn the remainder of their course’s content is a non-issue. Their educational schedule is already personalized and flexible enough to adapt to life’s curveballs.

Many students from brick and mortar schools were not so fortunate. A common approach by their teachers there was simply to give “reviews” of content already learned when times were normal. They taught no new

## "Distance education takes a great deal of forethought and planning."

content in those scenarios, placing those students at a distinct disadvantage moving forward. As a result, many public and private schools have fallen short in meeting their students’ needs.

Given this lockdown, it is ironic that Harvard University law professor Elizabeth Bartholet published a paper this spring in the *Arizona Law Review* on the so-called risks of homeschooling. “Homeschooling is a realm of near absolute parental power,” she begins, one that “is inconsistent with important rights supposedly guaranteed to children under state constitutions and state legislation throughout the land.” She calls for a general ban of the practice of homeschooling, declaring that lack of state oversight places most children at risk because parents are basically unfit and thus cannot be trusted to educate their children.

This level of arrogance relies on a great many assumptions, assumptions, I daresay, that are fundamentally at odds with the lived experience of most parents and individuals. The idea that the state will always have a greater interest in the child, a greater capacity to act on behalf of the child, and will always act on that child’s best interest is deeply flawed.





Especially in education, the state is not infallible. The state can fail children. In fact, state and federal efforts to improve education, such as by creating “Standards of Learning” and “Common Core,” have effectively ruined the experience of classroom learning altogether at each grade level. Such attempts to create a universal standard in education have driven parents and students out of the public school system.

Contrary to the viewpoints of statisticians such as Bartholet, Seton Home Study School stands as “a city on a hill.” Seton and schools like it believe in a personalistic, God-centered approach to education. Parents opt to use Seton and homeschooling in general to give their children the best advantage to succeed in college and life. From the perspective of the Seton Guidance Office, this belief is well-founded.

Colleges and universities are extremely grateful to admit a Seton student to their fold, and the latest screed of a Harvard elitist on homeschooling far from captures the general sentiment of the entire academic community in higher education.

## College Admissions

Of particular interest to Seton students is how the virus has had a ripple effect in college admissions. Every college admissions process differs, and so, too, have the responses of schools to the challenge of COVID-19.

The short version is that colleges have become far more accommodating with the applications process. Because an understandable concern exists that a new wave of the virus

may hit universities in the fall, colleges have removed any potential roadblocks to enroll, such as by waiving fees and extending deadlines.

Some schools have gone to “test optional” status, whereby one can enroll without having taken a standardized test such as the ACT or SAT. Indeed, another reason for going “test optional” is that it has also become much more difficult to sit for these tests, since social distancing guidelines have led to widespread test center cancellations.

So, even though the above steps might seem temporary, the long-term effects of how overall college admissions will change, remains to be seen. One outcome may be that schools permanently ditch the idea of the SAT or ACT in lieu of other assessment criteria. Another may be that better assessments appear to qualify students for college. It is even conceivable that college costs may begin to go down—rather than up—to attract students and keep them from sitting out a semester or two.

**At** Seton, we will continue in our role to support you in your efforts to educate your children at home and brave the virus and life’s other vicissitudes. If you have questions or concerns about the future with respect to your child’s education, please do not hesitate to reach out to the counseling and guidance departments.



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





# What Professors Say About Homeschool



Inevitably, when a faculty or staff member learned of my new role as Benedictine College's Homeschool Outreach Coordinator, they shared with me one of two types of responses.

Some shared encouragement, telling me how homeschoolers are succeeding in college and contributing in the classroom. Others shared advice, asking me to pass along to homeschool families tips and hints that would help their students thrive after high school. As a former homeschooling mom, I recognized the value of both types of feedback, and I am happy to share with Seton families some of what I learned!

## What Homeschoolers Get Right

Let's begin with how homeschool graduates are impressing Benedictine College professors.

Karen Wood, professor of Criminology and Sociology and longtime homeschooling mother, explains that homeschoolers "were taught to value learning for its own sake. In contrast, traditional students often think about education as a series of hoops to jump through."

Dr. John Romano, History Dept. Chair, notes homeschoolers "don't have to be forced to read. Some of the people I know who are best read, in fact, are those who have been homeschooled." High praise indeed coming from a 2018 recipient of the Rome Prize, called the Pulitzer Prize for the humanities.

Homeschooling father and professor of Theology Dr. Matt Ramage observes that homeschoolers "are often very mature, know how to relate to adults, and have discipline in their schoolwork." In fact, he estimates that 7 out of 10 of his "best students" were homeschooled.

After years of teaching in public school settings, Dr. Angela Broadus of the Math and Computer Science Department encountered homeschooled students at Benedictine and saw for herself how their positive traits translate into classroom success. Now a self-proclaimed "homeschool convert," Dr. Broadus finds that homeschoolers "are responsible for their part of learning, do assignments thoroughly, review the syllabus carefully, and seek help to resolve problems."







# Students

BY MEGAN FASSERO

## What We Need to Work On

Dr. Broaddus added this surprising caveat: “Some experiences that students have in high school need to be truly difficult so that they learn with their parents how to navigate something that was hard for them.”

**TIP:** Encourage your high school student to tackle a challenge outside their comfort zone. Even if it means failure, the more experience your student has with challenges, the better-prepared they will be to work through difficulties in college.

\*\*\*\*\*

Director of Benedictine’s Student Success Center Mrs. Janet Wilcox finds that some homeschool students may be “unprepared for a lecture setting and related note-taking requirements.”

**TIP:** Give your student opportunities to grow skills such as identifying the speaker’s structure and main points and writing quickly and legibly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Stephen Mirarchi of the English Department reminds homeschoolers that “piety doesn’t make up for not doing homework.”

**TIP:** Emphasize to your student that balancing his faith life with his academic pursuits is glorifying God in all things and living out his primary vocation.

\*\*\*\*\*

A piece of friendly advice comes from Fr. Marion Charbonneau, a monk of St. Benedict’s Abbey and professor in the History Department. He notes that “among students who don’t put their names on papers or tests - there’s an astoundingly high percentage of homeschool students who will be the ones who do that!”

**TIP:** Request Benedictine’s free “Catholic Homeschool Student and Parent Guide to Preparing for College Admission” at [www.benedictine.edu/homeschoolguide](http://www.benedictine.edu/homeschoolguide).

## Putting It Into Practice...

Seton Home Study School graduates are experiencing success in the college classroom at Benedictine, and they credit their Seton education with preparing them well for the transition from homeschool to college.



“You may always feel behind in one class, in another, way ahead. Have patience with yourself in the former, and patience with the professor and peers in the latter. Invite God into the studying, work hard and persevere!”

Clare Cipolone of Brooklawn, NJ, **Seton Class of 2019 Benedictine** Sophomore, Economics Major



“I recommend taking notes on the video lectures provided with some Seton courses, such as Saxon math, to help build this important skill. I was surprised how available the professors are to help with a homework problem you don’t understand.”

Maximilian Davy of Parker, CO, **Seton Class of 2017 Benedictine** Senior, Mechanical Engineering Major



“Make it a priority to get on top of things. In college, the only person who will make sure you stay on track at school is you, so start building that habit now.”

Thomas Kai, Pilot Hill, CA, **Seton Class of 2017 Benedictine** Senior, Finance



“With Seton, I learned how to learn and gained a love of learning which I can now broaden and apply when I am learning with a deadline in college.”

Olivia Shingledecker, Concord, NC, **Seton Class of 2019 Benedictine** Sophomore, Undecided



“The Seton curriculum prepared me for the amount of homework I have in college. My greatest ‘rookie’ mistake at college was focusing on my classes too much! I am learning that time in college is too short to choose studies over friends too many times!”

Hannah Tichy, Laurie, MO, **Seton Class of 2017 Benedictine** Elementary Education, minor in Spanish

Professors acknowledge that the solid preparation being provided by homeschooling families and curriculum providers like Seton Home Study School is paying off. Developing the habits and dispositions needed in college during high school will help you and your student breathe a sigh of relief as you picture your student stepping into the college classroom! See more of the students in the article online at [www.setonmagazine.com](http://www.setonmagazine.com)



Megan Fassero is the Homeschool Outreach Coordinator for Benedictine College, a Seton College Partner and Newman Guide-recommended college in Atchison, Kansas. She can be reached at [megan.fassero@benedictine.edu](mailto:megan.fassero@benedictine.edu).





# Time To Party: Your Fun-Loving Sanguine Child

BY JEFF MINICK

**I***n* *The Temperament God Gave Your Kids: Motivate, Discipline, and Love Your Children*, Art and Laraine Bennett discuss the four classic temperaments of human beings—choleric, melancholic, sanguine, and phlegmatic. According to the Bennetts, when we identify these temperaments in our children, we are better equipped to raise and educate them.

When introducing the sanguine personality, the Bennetts offer these initial observations: “The sanguine child is eager, bright, sensitive, funny, fun loving, and enthusiastic. In short, the life of the party and the center of attention. He is a quick learner, equally quick to react, and rarely bears a grudge...Fun and attention are prime motivators.”

That description perfectly fits my second son.

As a child and teenager, Jon Pat made every day a new adventure, both for himself and for my wife and me. He embraced the world and those around him, and sought out entertainment wherever he could find it. He was daring, kept his siblings in stitches with his humorous take on life, and as a teen loved hanging out with his buddies.

Meanwhile, JP, as his friends called him, often shocked my wife and me by his misadventures. One example will suffice. Once Kris and I were sitting in the kitchen talking with a friend when 10-year-old Jon Pat walked past us holding one hand over his mouth. “Everything okay?” I asked.

“I’m just going upstairs for a while,” he mumbled.

About an hour later, he passed back through the kitchen, still covering his mouth.

“Okay,” I demanded. “Let’s have a look.”

With great reluctance, Jon Pat removed his hand and revealed a bloody mouth with two teeth knocked slightly sideways. He had tried to jump his bicycle from the back deck to the driveway and smashed face first into the gravel.

But here’s the real kicker: the dentist gave Jon Pat the remote to the television and told him to pick a show he wanted to watch. While the dentist repaired his teeth, Jon Pat happily entertained himself by watching dirt bikers roaring over hills and shooting over fences.

## Make Learning Fun

As an adult, Jon Pat has retained this sanguine personality. He deeply loves his Catholic faith and his family, he loves getting together with friends, and I can’t remember the last time I saw him down or depressed. He’s also very successful in sales for a software company, no doubt a further reflection of his enthusiasm for life.

Particularly in regard to the education of this sanguine son, I wish now I’d possessed the Bennett’s wisdom about temperaments. Here is what *The Temperament God Gave Your kids* suggests for home educators:

“If you are homeschooling, be aware that sanguines will enjoy art projects, kitchen science projects, field trips, going to the library for story hour, supermarket trips for applied math, museums, firehouses, and so on. Make learning fun.”

My wife and I offered our children some of these things—story hour at the library, field trips, some kitchen science lessons—but for the most part Jon Pat, like his siblings, did most of his schoolwork seated at a table.



## Learning the Hard Way

Art and Larraine Bennett also remind us that our sanguine children “simply cannot contain their enthusiasm for new adventures, new friends, new fashions, or new toys.” In terms of discipline, then, we need to “set limits and expectations ahead of time.”

“Be forewarned,” the Bennetts tell us. “The sanguine temperament is the most likely to learn from experience—in other words, the hard way—and the least likely to simply abide by the rules or take a parent’s advice at face value.” When he was a teenager, Jon Pat enjoyed the music of DC Talk, and their song, “The Hard Way,” with its refrain, “I have to learn the hard way,” might have served as his anthem. Trouble came his way on several occasions but in college, he straightened up and found the right path.

Our sanguine young people are also easily distracted and need help staying on task. Sent to clean their rooms, for example, you may find young Sam playing with the Legos he’d forgotten were under the bed and his older brother texting a friend. These distractions are rarely signs of rebellion or disobedience; it is simply in the nature of sanguines to seek out entertainment.

Provide order and structure for your sanguine child, the Bennetts tell us, set clear expectations, and encourage him to choose his friends wisely, but treasure his friendliness, enthusiasm, initiative, and love of fun.



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

## Insight From A Seton Mom

I have always been determined and goal oriented, always ready to tackle the challenge head on, after a lot of reading, research, and organization that is.

Homeschooling was no different; I did months of research before tackling our first year. Here we are now, just finishing up year fifteen, and a few things have changed, as I’ve gone from homeschooling one child to homeschooling six.

As a mom with a choleric temperament, I love schedules, routine, and order, which means I love binders, checklists, planners, and all those great tools designed to make life “easier”.

Every fall I love planning out the school year, so I know where we are starting and where we are ending. I am always thankful for the detailed lessons plans and course resources Seton provides; they really make planning the year and teaching my children how to be independent learners so much easier.

In the early years, I used to have many “bad” days simply because I didn’t get as much done as I had planned, and it took years before I realized that it was fine if we didn’t get to every project or assignment.

Finding the balance between being organized, driven, and goal oriented, and being flexible and letting a few things go, is an ongoing process for me, but one that has really helped not only our homeschooling, but our family life in general.

**Rachel Lindner, Franklin, New Hampshire**



**The best encouragement  
for a Seton education is from  
our wonderful, faithful families.**

## Are You Called to be a Mentoring Mom?

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the **NEXT GENERATION** of homeschool moms.

Email Mary Ellen Barrett at  
[magazineeditor@setonhome.org](mailto:magazineeditor@setonhome.org)





# Homeschooling Through Hard Times

By Elizabeth and Chris Yost

**EVERYTHING** is a gift from God. Everything? Even a wife and mother dying of lymphoma when her children are still babies? The Lord asked us to trust Him completely as the biggest curve ball we have experienced thus far in our marriage slammed into our lives six months ago.

## A Little about Team Yost

“Team Yost,” as we would affectionately call ourselves, is comprised of two young parents Chris and Elizabeth and four children ages seven, five, three and one. We have lived in Columbus, Mississippi, for a couple of years having called Texas and California home in the past. Although Chris is a

Seton graduate himself (sixth through twelfth grade), we consider ourselves ‘newbie’ homeschooling parents with only two years of teaching under our belts. We’ll enter the major leagues when we have high schoolers! We love camping, bike riding, and the occasional night out under the stars taking photos of distant galaxies (while our youngest team members are asleep in bed of course).

We were nearing our tenth year of marriage when our faith was majorly tested in the form of cancer. Elizabeth, who had been blessed with very good health up until this point, found out she had a tumor the size of a softball in her chest and lung. After being told it was inoperable, she began a very aggressive chemotherapy regimen. Fast forward six months, and Elizabeth is now done with treatment with no sign of cancer in her body - Praise God! Her immune system still needs a lot of recovery, but she is getting stronger each day.

We knew life was going to change after being diagnosed with lymphoma, but what we didn’t expect was how much homeschooling and help from others would be the two rocks that would anchor us through this storm.

## Homeschooling: Stability and Flexibility

Homeschooling with Seton kept our children’s education on track even in the midst of the many demands of Elizabeth’s health issues. Our oldest two (our students) were accustomed to the morning routine and what was expected of them. The Seton books and lesson plans made it easy for dad or grandma to “run school” when mom’s strength was severely affected by the chemotherapy. At the guidance of our Seton counselor, there were many days when we cut back to what we called ‘survival mode’ where the girls would focus on the ‘three Rs’ (reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic), then cuddle up in bed with mom to do religion together. When many other aspects of life were uncertain, homeschooling provided our kids stability.





In addition to daily stability, homeschooling gave us enough flexibility to really get the most out of our time together. Faced with what could be a terminal illness, we wanted to spend time making memories...and that we did.

The girls could knock out their schooling early in the day or even work ahead when we knew Elizabeth was feeling better. We flew kites, played board games, did the dishes together, and a million other small things that added up to a great day because it was time spent together. We also took major Catholic feast days off from school, including all of Holy Week. This really reinforced the importance (and joy!) of our Catholic faith.

## Help From Others

People reaching out to us made a big difference. Our mailbox, inbox, and cellphones quickly overflowed with words of encouragement, support, and prayers. Particularly touching was hearing about Masses being offered on our behalf and other families offering their Lenten sacrifices for us. It was also just nice to hear from others and talk about anything other than cancer.

With people who lived near us, we were quick to turn a “let me know if you need any help” offer into specific ways of helping like making a grocery run, driving Elizabeth to a doctor’s appointment, or making a meal. Friends also came up with some pretty creative ways of helping.

One friend who lives two time zones away ordered us pizza one night and had it delivered. Another friend offered to snatch all of our dirty clothes and return them laundered and folded. Some even volunteered to mop the kitchen floor and scrub bathrooms once a month. The help from the community was absolutely incredible and brought tears to our eyes.

Our extended family also played a major role in keeping our family afloat. At the beginning of our journey, we were searching for a nanny to help Elizabeth during the daytime hours while Chris was at work. God had other plans. Elizabeth’s ‘Aunt Ness’ and Grandma ‘Hunny’ came to the rescue. They drove from out of state and took turns staying a week at a time to care for the kids and run the household. Much of Elizabeth’s recovery can be attributed to those two amazing women.

## Trust in God

We don’t know what the future holds, but we know God has a plan. We are incredibly thankful for the gift of homeschooling and those in our community that rallied around us in our time of need. May God continue to bless us in any form that He sees fit.



## A Word from Chris

After we received the diagnosis, to say I was overwhelmed by the uncertainty of what the future could bring would be an understatement. With a nine month old who suddenly had to stop nursing, maintaining the normal daily routine for the older three was crucial to keeping the household under control.

Homeschooling played a big part in that, and while some days were a bit ‘lighter’ on schooling than before, keeping a level of ‘sameness’ for the school-age children definitely helped them feel less uneasy about the situation.

As I look back, two unexpected blessings come to mind. One, my relationship with our youngest son is much stronger at this age than it was with any of the other three, as I abruptly became his sole source of food and comfort for those first several weeks of cancer treatment.

Two, the incredible outpouring of support from family, friends and colleagues was simply overwhelming. I often found myself asking, “What did we do to deserve such generosity?” Without a doubt, it would have been a much more difficult few months without it.

## A Word from Elizabeth

I do not want to paint a picture that everything went smoothly or that we were some sort of super heroes. There were a lot of days of darkness--a lot. But, I experienced firsthand that God will bless whatever effort you put forth into your family.

I honestly don’t know how we got through the school year save a quiet miracle similar to the multiplying of the loaves and fishes, but we did. Among other things, the Lord wanted to teach me humility. I lost control of my health, my freedom, and even being in charge of my domestic duties.

It was humbling to let doctors decide my treatment options and to step aside as someone else took over the care of my kids. As painful as it all was, I am thankful for everything that has happened to our family because I know God’s Providence is best.





# Homeschool Space

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

**B**ack in the olden days, when I started homeschooling, I was wildly curious as to how people made space for the books, papers, and projects that went with this lifestyle. Back then, a few blogs, mine included, existed to encourage homeschooling mothers, but there was no Pinterest or Instagram to gaze at. Now that there are these social media sites, I often wonder if they do more harm than good, inviting us to feel badly that somehow our spaces are not special enough.

I am here to tell you, after all these years, that the best space in which to homeschool your children is the one that works best for you. It is the space in which you feel comfortable, creative, and happy. If that is the kitchen table, then that is the best space for you. If you have a dedicated room with a door you can shut at school day's end, wonderful.

I have, over the years, had a dedicated space, a sprawling around the house space, and, as my children aged up, desks in their rooms with the dining room table as central command. Each has worked for that time of life.

Recently, we asked on social media for our moms to share their homeschool spaces with us. The response was wonderful! Seton moms are so creative in their use of space. It is our pleasure to share some of their photos. If you would like to share your homeschool space, please send me an email at [magazineeditor@setonhome.org](mailto:magazineeditor@setonhome.org).

To see more great homeschool spaces, please visit the article online at [www.setonmagazine.com](http://www.setonmagazine.com)!

## The Best Space Is One That Works For You!



Thank you's to the generous ladies who have shared photos of their "homeschool spaces".

**Left:** Ana Miller, **top:** Anna Maria Denny, **center:** Erin Barvick Henry.





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Photos in the right column, **from top to bottom:**  
 Kayleen Corrigan, Ruth Green, and Kerri Ann.  
 Go to **SetonMagazine.com** for more photos  
 and comments.

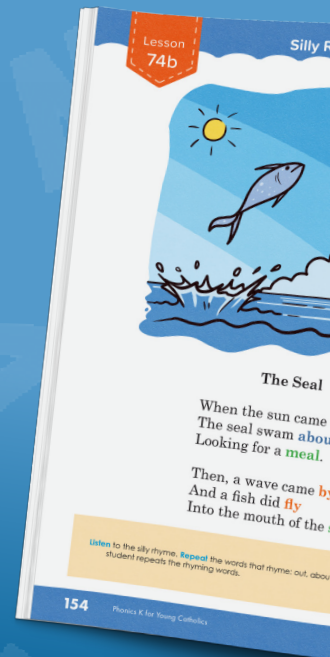


# PHONICS K

## FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS



BY SETON STAFF WRITER



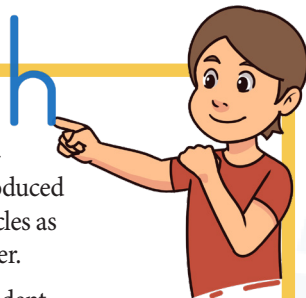
**Do you remember** learning to read? It involves a process. The first step is to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds of the letters. Then, the sounds of the consonants and vowels combine to form words. Next, the words combine to form sentences that combine to create a story. This is how you begin to read!

### Phonics - Step One of the Reading Process

The cornerstone of Seton's Kindergarten Phonics and Reading program is the revised *Phonics K for Young Catholics*. In the workbook, the student's journey begins with a cast of young characters that accompany him throughout the course. The pages are filled with colorful drawings in an inviting format. Each letter of the alphabet is studied for its name, form, sound, and association with a key word.

**Heavenly Writing**, a multi-sensory learning technique, is introduced and used to engage the child's muscles as he learns the formation of each letter.

In the exercises in the book, the student hears, listens for, and writes the sound of each letter. The book provides other activities for review and comprehension that reflect Catholic values.



### Other Important Components:

**Alphabet cards** reinforce the name, form, sound, and key word for each letter.

**Online video resources** on MySeton provide correct pronunciation for each letter as well as guiding tips from a speech therapist to correct common pronunciation problems.

**Little Books** - Your child has his own series of little books featuring the cast of phonics friends. Each little book focuses on a vowel sound. Your child remembers that Ken has the short sound of e, and Pete has the long sound of e as he advances from one word on a page to reading two and three word sentences.

**Little Reader** - *Phonics K for Young Catholics* introduces some frequently used words that do not follow phonetic rules or represent sounds not taught in the Kindergarten program. As your child travels along with his phonics friends, he combines simple phonetic words and frequently used words to read a collection of stories in his book *I Can Read, Kindergarten Reader*.

**Lesson Plan** - Completing the program is the lesson plan that includes teaching tips for parents and several games, such as Alphabet Memory, Go Fish, Consonant Bingo, and Sort the Vowels. Games are a fun way to reinforce lessons presented in *Phonics K for Young Catholics*.

### A Lifelong Journey

Beginning to read, a child embarks on a journey into the world of the written word that provides access to limitless knowledge and adventures. Seton is excited to share this phonics and reading





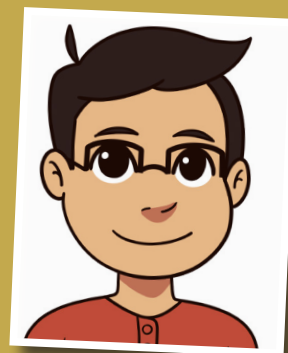
program with young students and their families on their first steps in this lifelong journey.



This updated phonics and reading program was designed under the direction of Patricia Walker, a senior member of Seton's Curriculum Development, with participation by Nan Alcott, a retired teacher of young children and author of Seton's book *Early Literacy for Young Catholics*, and Susan Anderson, a speech therapist who works with young children. Pat, Nan, and Susan have been homeschooling moms. The cast of characters was drawn by Nathan Puray and graphic design layout was done by Emily Prause.

# STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those who serve you!*



## Nathan Puray Illustrator

Nathan Puray, age 24, is a busy man.

In addition to his work in graphic design and illustration for Seton, Nathan is a White Belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu—"I usually go five times a week," he says. He is also a full-time student at nearby Lord Fairfax Community College, where he is earning a degree in fine arts, and loves painting in oils.

A native of Front Royal, Virginia, Nathan grew up with a Seton education. In high school, he joined fellow homeschoolers at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church's Aquinas Academic Center, now renamed Padre Pio, where again he used a good deal of Seton material for his education.

After high school, Nathan decided to become a freelance graphic designer and audio engineer. He became an expert designer and illustrator, knowledgeable in different computer programs.

In July, 2016, Nathan joined the Seton staff in the shipping department. When Jim Shanley, Seton's Director of Marketing, discovered Nathan's design talents, he began working part-time as a graphic designer, and eventually became Seton's full-time illustrator. One of his most recent projects has involved the development of the illustrations for the kindergarten phonics program.

When asked what he most enjoyed about working for Seton, Nathan thought a long moment, and then said: "There is a genuine moral good in working here. Seton is a very strong example for the modern day education system. It puts the power back into the parents' hands so that they know their children and know the Catholic faith.

It's a great good to participate in that, just knowing that you're able to help someone and help a family. The youth are our future. Seton provides an anchor for many families, which is nice."





# AMERICA'S CONSPIRATOR

BY BRUCE CLARK

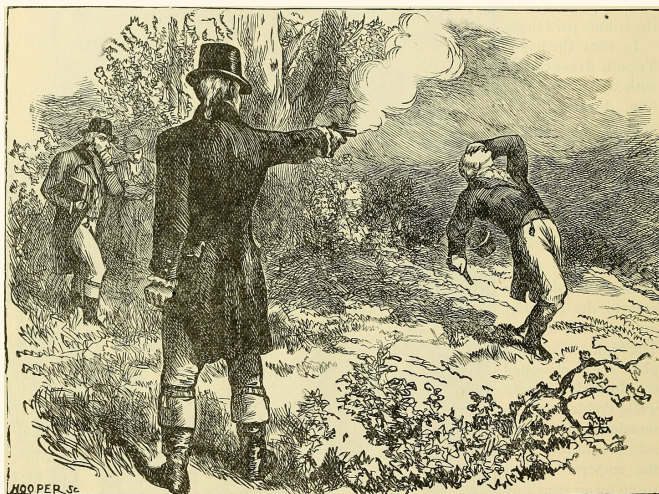
Aaron Burr is a most interesting historical figure because he was the key player in the Burr Conspiracy, an attempt to extract the Western states and the Louisiana Territory from the American Union. Being Vice President under Thomas Jefferson was a political disaster for Aaron Burr. Burr's political career had resembled a shooting star. It had been vivid and bright early, but had burned away with the killing of Alexander Hamilton in a duel on July 11, 1804. This was not perceived as an appropriate act of a new country looking for high values of freedom and respect for all citizens.

Aaron Burr thought he could rebuild his life and find fame and fortune in the West, particularly in the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. Most of that area still was unsettled, in part because the United States and Spain were in a continuing heated dispute about the borders of the Louisiana Purchase. Many settlers in the area even talked openly of secession from the United States. Aaron Burr was confident he could disconnect Louisiana from the United States, and then establish his very own Louisiana empire. All he needed was determination and a small but well-trained and well-armed military unit.

## Putting His Plan in Motion

Burr put his conspiracy in motion by recruiting General James Wilkinson, the same James Wilkinson who had been an aide to General Gates at the Battle of Saratoga. Wilkinson was an arrogant, self-important, committed whiskey drinker. With Wilkinson in his control, Burr's next step was to convince President Jefferson to make Wilkinson Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army. That presidential

appointment gave Wilkinson control of all military personnel, particularly those in the West. For the next two years, Burr recruited influential people, including U. S. Senator Jonathan Dayton and the affluent owner of Blennerhassett's Island, a small island situated in the Ohio River near Marietta. Burr quickly fortified the island and established his headquarters.



Burr's scheme for power and control started to unravel on December 9, 1806, when nearby federal militiamen raided his two strongholds in the Ohio River. In February, 1807, Burr was arrested, charged with treason with an illegal military operation, and transported to the Federal Court in Richmond, Virginia, to be tried for treason. The trial was a sensation, as lawyers for the government and Burr's defense team battled for Burr's life.

Ultimately, in the end, Supreme Court Justice John Marshall explained that the Constitution defines treason in very specific terms. Therefore, in absolute adherence to that strict definition of treason, Justice Marshall ruled that Burr's actions did not meet those specific criteria. Burr was acquitted. Once freed, to escape the pent up fury of a great many Americans, Aaron Burr fled to France and later to Great Britain. He eventually returned to New York in 1812 and lived the rest of his life in obscurity.



**Bruce T. Clark**, has been the Seton Historian since 1989. A homeschooling father of seven, Mr. Clark served as a Green Beret Captain in U.S. Special Forces and is the author of five historical novels: *The Custer Legacy*, *The Castro Conspiracy*, *The Blood-Red Flag*, *Redcoats and Rebels*, and *The American Renegade*, all available from Seton.



## Seton Student Achievements



**Joshua** | If not on the piano or competing in virtual piano contests, Joshua might be studying math or history, his favorite subjects. Or maybe he's outside distance running!



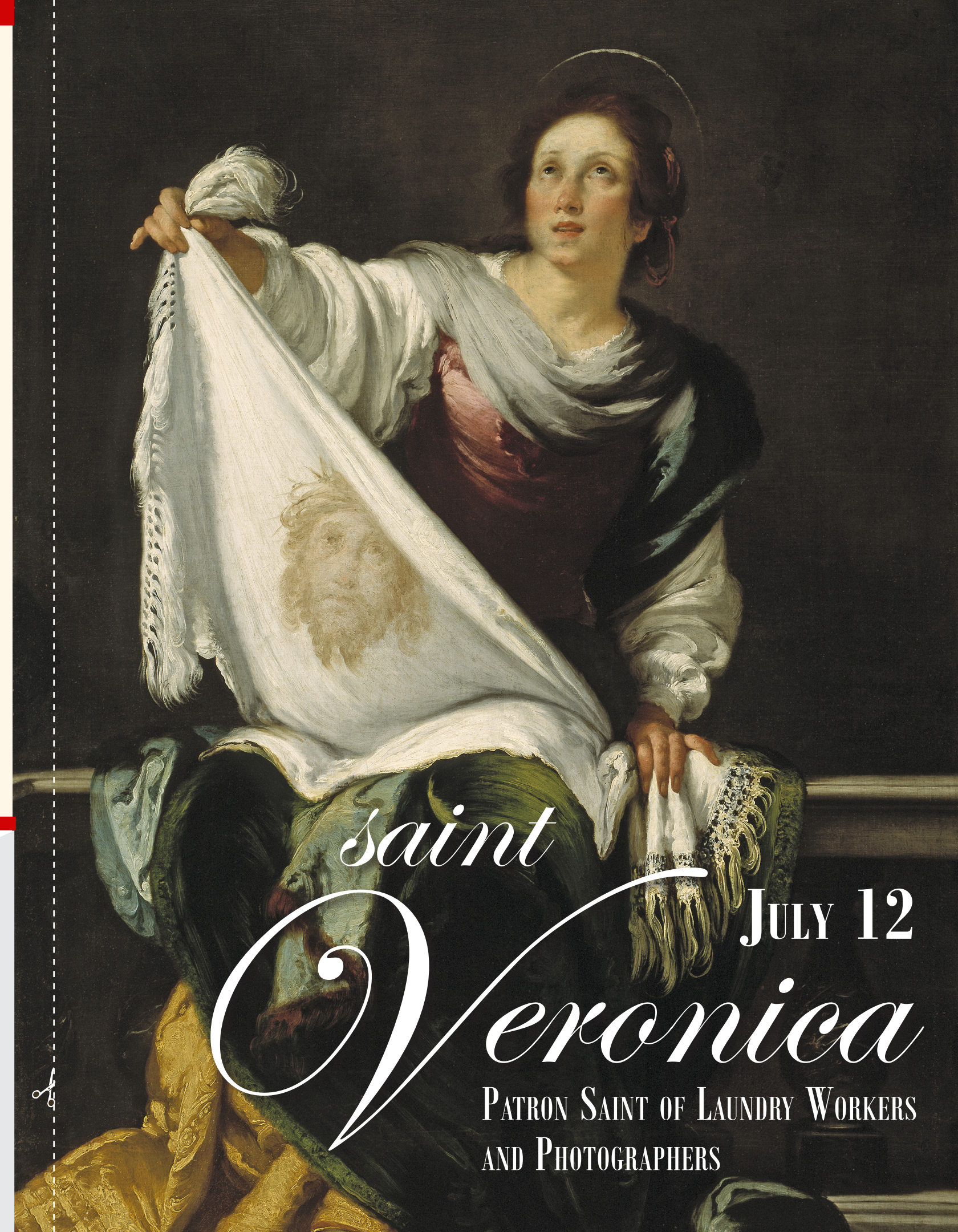
**Grace** | Grace won first place at the Bluegrass Winter Tournament Horse Show for her age group and wants to be a World Cup saddle seat competitor when she grows up.

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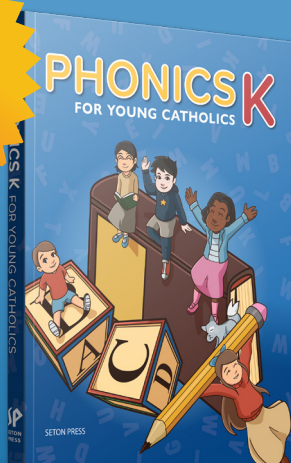
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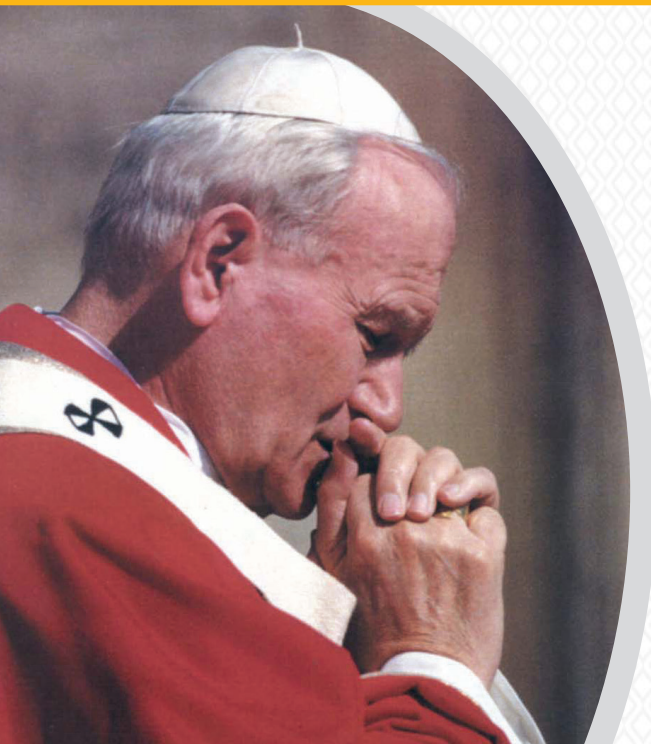


# PHONICS K

FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS



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New Website!



## *You Are Never Alone*

“Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives!

He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to him in prayer and in love. Ask him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always.

Walk with him who is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life!’”

**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II**

**23 August 1997**