

Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

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"It Lets The Children Breathe"

Ballet, Boats, and Books in Britain

The Pierlot Family Pg 12



Seton
Home Study School

IN THE **PHILIPPINES**
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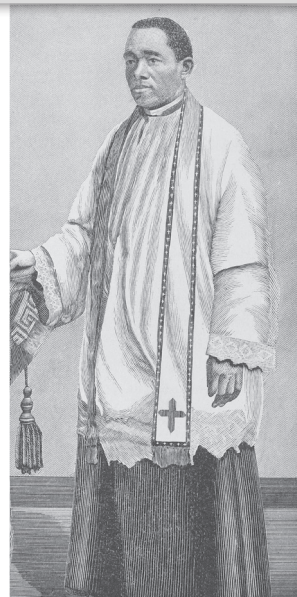
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Dear Readers,

New beginnings! For so many families, homeschooling this year is a brand-new idea, a whole new lifestyle. With God's help, this could be a chance to build something new within your family, to bond in a whole new way, and to deepen your faith in His providence.

Even for those of us who homeschool all year, September and October have a fresh feeling about them. I think I will always want to buy school supplies in September.

As is our tradition, we have tried to include in this issue much useful information about using the Seton curriculum. Please make a note of the suggestions from our counselors about submitting work; it will make for a much smoother school year.

I would like to encourage you to read about Father Gus on page eight. His story is one that resonated deeply with me, I have been following the cause for his canonization for several years. I think his story is uniquely American and an example of profound holiness.

When it comes to publishing this magazine, we could not do it without your help. We always are looking for your input, so please email me to share your photos and advice at mbarrett@setonhome.org or contact Julia Clark, our social media contact, at juliacklark@setonhome.org.

Upload your Student Achievements at: students.bayleybulletin.com/submit.

Blessings,

Mary Ellen Barrett

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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?

Homeschooling allows us to spend more quality time together as a family and foster a better relationship with God.

And as a military family, we can home school wherever we're stationed.

The Bacomo Family

”

Keys to *Homeschooling Success* for New and Returning Families

BY SETON STAFF



YOUR LESSON PLANS

Please take time to read the introduction to each set of lesson plans. They vary with each grade level and offer a great deal of information for homeschooling a student in that grade.

Important Pages in Your Lesson Plans:

- Grading scale pages
- Guidance about re-doing assignments
- Curriculum exchange forms, attendance sheets (for your use, not to be submitted)
- Quarterly checklists to help keep you organized

Become familiar with these pages and you will avoid confusion and save yourself time during the year.

On the quarterly report forms, you will see that there are spaces for parent grades to be entered on the top half of the sheet. Below that is a list of tests and assignments which need to be submitted to Seton. You also will find the percentage of the grade assigned to each test.

The next step would be to review each subject and highlight assignments which are to be submitted to Seton for grading. Those assignments are necessary to have a complete transcript, therefore it is important to note them. They are also on your **MySeton** page (see the sidebar).

Among the key elements for getting organized are the **Quarterly Report Forms**. You have four for each subject, except half-credit high school courses, one for each quarter. These serve as cover sheets for your student's submitted work and grades.

SUBMITTING YOUR STUDENT'S WORK

Grading electronically-submitted work is faster and easier for graders than grading mailed-in work. This is particularly the case with English classes in high school because of the essays and research reports.

Families may submit work to be graded either by mail or electronically. If families submit work by mail then we ask that elementary student work be submitted when the entire quarter is completed. For high school level courses, we suggest that the items for each individual course be sent when a quarter's work is completed, although you can send multiple courses at once.

Put each student's work in a separate envelope and please include the quarterly report forms. Mark all of your papers with the student number and the student's name. (If it is possible for you to do so, we suggest that you make copies of student papers are submitted, to guard against the possibility of items being lost in the mail.)

If you are submitting work electronically, which Seton highly recommends, then each item can be submitted as it is completed, rather than waiting for everything in a quarter to be completed. For example, as soon as a student completes a book analysis it can be submitted. Seton recommends electronic submission (or taking tests directly online when that is available), for several reasons:

- the work is received by Seton immediately and is returned immediately after being graded, so no time is spent in transit
- there is no chance of anything being lost in the mail
- a copy of the graded work is stored online, so students can review graded work at any time
- faster grading means students can see and correct errors more quickly

Sometimes families wait to gather together multiple quarters—sometimes the whole year—and send in all the work at once. This is not a good idea, because if multiple quarters are sent in at once then it's impossible for students to learn from grader feedback in a timely manner.

If you use your **MySeton** page, make the time to update it weekly, inputting your grades and uploading any tests or essays which the graders need to see. Keeping a folder for each child and saving their work as it is done makes uploading or organizing to mail quick and easy.

MySeton Page

The **MySeton** page is part of the Seton Home Study School website that is exclusively for your family.

You can access it from the homepage: www.setonhome.org/myseton.

Using your family number which is on the packing slip and your password you can access many tools to help with your homeschooling.

On the **Home Page** you can find articles from *Seton Magazine*, a link to connect you with other Seton families in your area, advice about signing up for Seton emails, a link to the staff directory, and special announcements from Seton.

The purpose of the **MySeton** page is to save busy homeschool moms time by making it a one stop for your Seton needs. It pays to be as familiar as possible with all the features, so we ask that you spend some time, becoming acquainted with all that is there.

5 USEFUL MYSETON TOOLS

COURSES. To the right of the Home tab is the one to which you will refer. Clicking on “courses” will bring you to the personal page of your student.

This is where you can enter parent grades, upload work, and access online tests and course resources. Hovering over the icons will tell you their meaning, and there is a key at the bottom if you scroll down a bit.

RESOURCES is where you will find all the forms that are in the physical lesson plans as well as many links to other useful information

VIDEO TUTORIALS is just that: A link to helpful videos in a variety of subjects.

HELP links you to a list of FAQs which is a quick way to find information.

RE-ENROLL - This tab will bring you to our admissions system, and allow you to easily re-enroll your student when you are ready.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The Seton counselors are available to help in any way that they can. They are truly invested in your child’s education and care deeply about all our families having a happy homeschool experience.

We want you to have the best educational year ever! To that end, if you need help or advice, we encourage you to contact us at counselors@setonhome.org.

Has Your High School Student?

- Read through the lesson plans to familiarize themselves with the workflow?
- Set up a quiet space for work?
- Completed the process for course approval for any outside classes?
- Joined Catholic Harbor?
www.catholicarbor.com

Need Help Using Seton's Online tools?

Go to setonhome.org/online-help for:

- Clear instructions for **MySeton** and **SetonOnline**
- Helpful video walk-throughs
- Easy contact form for tech support

your Questions ANSWERED

BY DR. MARY KAY CLARK

Can you help me explain to my son why he should learn a foreign language?

There are several good reasons why the learning of foreign languages is critical for young Americans.

First, we live in an interconnected world in which communication between people of different nationalities is essential. People who make important decisions in churches, businesses, and the government need at times to read documentation or to speak to people who use languages other than English.

Second, the structure of our language, such as the use of parts of speech, sentences, and idiomatic expressions, can be understood better when a foreign language is well known.

Third, knowing another language also enhances logical thinking and is known to help students achieve higher scores in college placement testing.

Finally, the Catholic Church is universal, and the knowledge of another language and other cultures is an excellent tool for helping people develop their Faith or for bringing them into the Lord's fold.

Why is the American Literature course for juniors and seniors only?

American Literature pairs best with American History and American Government, the social studies courses most students take in their junior and senior years. Also, the course's readings require interpretive skills best reserved until after a student has mastered sophomore-level skills.

For a sophomore who is an avid reader, World Literature is a perfect elective. The poetry, short stories, and essays in the World Literature textbook include rich classics like *"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"* and a host of entertaining, frequently moving pieces, difficult to find in other anthologies.

The level of challenge can be increased by enrolling in the honors version of World Literature, which adds essay assignments on two books from a list of options as various in difficulty and interest as *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Song of Bernadette*. "Honors World Literature" looks attractive on a high school transcript in terms of college entrance, and as with all our honors courses, students receive a five-point bonus to their final grade (up to a total of 100).



Submitting Your Work in a Timely Fashion

BY RHONDA WAY, GRADING SUPERVISOR

As we start a new school year, we want to encourage all of our families to send in their students' work in a timely manner. This allows your graders to identify issues in a student's work and allows students to fix them before it's too late.

If multiple quarters of work are sent in at the same time, students can't learn from their mistakes and do better the next quarter.

Bottom line, having work graded as it is completed helps students by giving them timely feedback on their work.

This is especially important for high school students; low grades will affect their GPA, and therefore their college admissions.

Thousands of Catholic Homeschooling Books and Resources



on our Redesigned Website!
www.SetonBooks.com

The Catholic, intellectual, and entertainment value of the World Literature textbook (available for purchase on its own through setonbooks.com) makes it likely to become a cherished part of the family library, even if no students take the course.

I've noticed that all three high school diploma tracks require some electives. Is there a list of electives to choose from?

Some Seton courses are not required to meet specific diploma requirements and might be called electives, or enrichment courses. However, any course that is not individually required can be taken as an elective.

For example, in the General and Academic diploma tracks, a student needs three science courses. If the student takes a fourth science course, that fourth one has become an elective. Courses like *Computer Programming*, *Logic*, and *Shakespeare*, and a few others, could be labeled "pure" electives and are available as enrichment courses.

Can my daughter take a foreign language starting in 8th grade, but obtain high school credit?

Yes. Seton will allow an eighth-grade student to take a ninth-grade course, as long as the student has grades which give evidence of obtaining good grades for a ninth-grade course.

If a student cannot finish the course in 8th grade, the student may continue to take it the following year. The student will obtain high school credit whenever the course is completed.

Editor's note: The cost for an 8th grader to enroll in the High School Latin course is \$210.00 or \$245.00 to enroll in a Rosetta Stone Online Course (Spanish, French or German).



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 Home Schooling*.



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



CHRISTENDOM
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



BENEDICTINE
COLLEGE



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



MAGDALEN COLLEGE
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



A Catholic University of Distinction



AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



Wisdom in God's Country



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE

setonhome.org/colleges

Good Father Gus: A Man for Our Time

— BY JEFF MINICK

The year 1886 marked the first time in the history of the United States an African American was ordained a priest.

Baptized Augustine Tolton, John Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) was born a slave in Missouri. Though accounts vary on how he won his freedom—he and his family either escaped or were set free at the beginning of the Civil War—once they had gained their liberty, several of the family members worked in a tobacco factory in Quincy, Illinois making cigars.

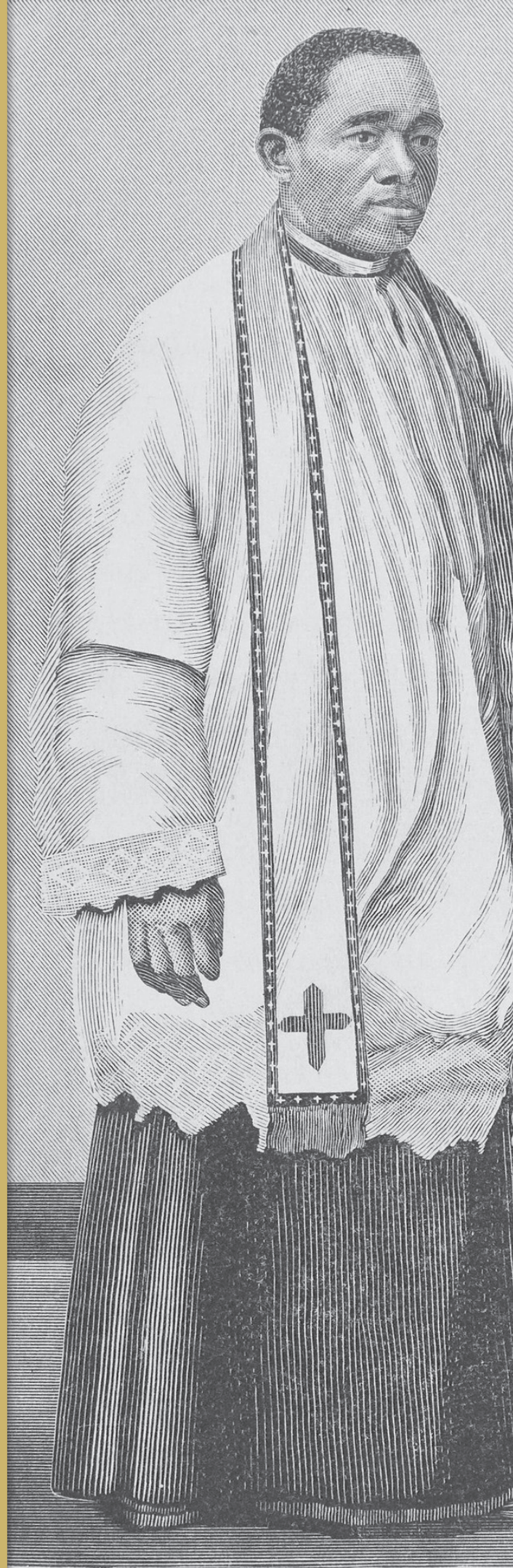
There an Irish immigrant priest, Peter McGirr, took an interest in young Augustus, and despite some protests by white parents, enrolled him in Saint Peter's parochial school during the winter months when the tobacco factory was closed. Later, Tolton studied various subjects under the guidance of several priests.

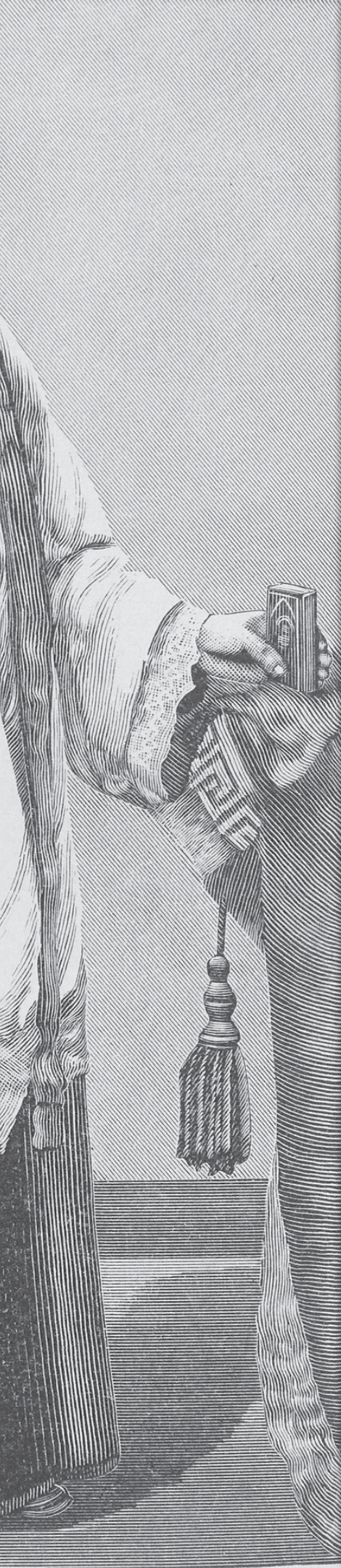
Finding His Way

Determined to become a priest himself, but refused admission to the American seminaries to which he had applied, Tolton entered Rome's Pontifical Urbaniana University on the recommendation of Father McGirr. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 31 and returned to the United States to minister to the black community."

Back in Quincy, he encountered opposition to his efforts to open a parish and a school, not only from whites, but also from some African American Protestant ministers who feared he might steal away their members. Eventually, Father Tolton landed in Chicago, where various benefactors, including Katharine Drexel, who was canonized in 2000, helped the young priest found and build St. Monica's Catholic Church. As St. Monica's attracted more and more parishioners, Father Tolton's reputation grew among the laity and the American Catholic hierarchy.

An 1893 article in the "Lewiston Sun" said of the priest, "Father Tolton... is a fluent and graceful talker, and has a singing voice of exceptional sweetness, which shows to good advantage in the chants of high mass. It is no unusual thing for many white people to be seen among his congregation."





Father Tolton suffered from an undiagnosed disease and died at the age of 43, his condition perhaps exacerbated by the fierce heat wave that struck Chicago that summer. In 2010, Chicago's archbishop, Francis Cardinal George, advanced the cause for Father Tolton's canonization, and in 2019 Pope Francis declared him "venerable," the first step toward sainthood.

So what lessons can we take from the life of this remarkable man, especially given the times in which we now live?

First on the list is perseverance. Here was a man who encountered extensive racial prejudice and who had to battle his way into the priesthood, yet who never lost sight of the goal he had set for himself and who kept his faith in the bargain. Like another great African American of that time, Booker T. Washington, Father Tolton worked until his death to bring whites and blacks into harmony and to improve the lives of those who were former slaves or the children of slaves.

We also should note the lack of bitterness in Father Tolton. Surely most of us would have felt resentment had we lived in those times of legal segregation and prejudice, but from what we know of Father Tolton, or "Good Father Gus" as some called him, he kept his eyes on God, loved the Catholic faith, and never gave way to anger about the obstacles he would need to overcome. Led by his example of love, other young African Americans soon were entering the priesthood.

"We also should note the lack of bitterness in Father Tolton."

Finally, in so many ways, Augustus Tolton embodies the American Dream, the idea that in this country, people have the freedom to make of themselves what they wish, to follow and to fulfill a vision. Were he alive today, I suspect Father Tolton would give all credit for his success to Jesus Christ, and rightly so. But as all true followers of Christ know, we work in tandem with the Lord, bringing our talents to the table, and using those talents for the good, the true, and the beautiful. In Father Tolton, we have a grand example of faith and discipleship welded together to overcome seemingly impossible odds.

At the moment I am writing these words, all too many Americans are divided, one from the other, gripped by an ugly hatred for those with whom they disagree about politics and culture. We as Catholics must conduct ourselves otherwise. "Keep the Faith" is our age-old battle cry, and keeping that Faith in today's embittered clashes means using all the tools of reason, prayer, and belief in Christ and His Church.

We have as our examples all those holy men and women who have gone before us, those saints who kept their eyes on the prize—the heavenly kingdom—who fought their earthly battles with honor, dignity, and truth, and who inspire in us the courage to do what is right and, as Saint Paul said, to "finish the race."

Father John Augustus Tolton is one of these figures deserving our deep respect and worthy of our emulation.



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.

Voyages in Homeschooling

BY JOHN CLARK

“...in the final analysis Christ is our navigator, and He is directing us to a place of perpetual happiness.”

“You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.” These are reportedly the words of Christopher Columbus, but whether he actually uttered them is of little import; these words define his experience as he ventured to the “New World.” There is a lesson in these words for all of us, although we often resist that lesson.

There’s something comforting about the shore. The shore is safe, familiar, and constant. It’s what you’ve known and seen your whole life. Sure, better things might lie beyond that sand and surf, but since you can’t see what lies ahead— and since you lose sight of the shore on your way—it’s...well...scary.

Of course, “the shore” is not meant literally; rather, it is a metaphor for various areas of our lives. For some, the shore is the town they grew up in. For others, it is a job or profession. For still others, the shore is a particular school their children attend.

Whatever your shore might be, it is wise to sometimes consider that better lands and better opportunities might lie beyond.

I know, that’s not easy. And I can tell you that firsthand.

Insofar as few of us really enjoy change, I would guess that I like change far less than most others. I’m the kind of person who drinks the same coffee for breakfast every morning (half-shot vanilla latte with grass-fed cow’s milk) and—despite the laments of my children—watches the same shows (*Rockford Files*, *Magnum*, *P.I.* and *Columbo*) every night. After all, why take a chance on a new coffee drink or a new show?

So it surprised my friends when our family recently announced our intention to move from Virginia to Florida. And truth be told, I second-guessed myself for weeks before we left the town that my children and I had grown up in. As we pulled out of the driveway and drove down the street, my rear-view mirror lost sight of my house—my shore. Neither could I yet see what was ahead.

And that can be the most difficult part of the journey—the transition from old to new.

I was on a voyage of uncertainty.

Maybe that’s how Columbus felt.

But in my travels, I also thought about the constants that



accompanied me in my voyage—my wife and children, my Catholic Faith, the hope and love and grace of God. Jesus has promised us His ocean of mercy, which is everlasting and more important than any shore on which we find ourselves. I wonder if Columbus also thought about that.

Many of you reading this have just begun a journey toward homeschooling. Very likely, you intrepid souls are still feeling a sense of trepidation as your children have left the schools they may have attended for years. That's an understandable response. But, when you encounter that pit-of-your-stomach "Oh my goodness! What have I done?" sensation, look for the constants that I looked for: faith, hope, and love. Because in the final analysis, Christ is our navigator, and He is directing us to a place of perpetual happiness.

Don't look at the waves.

Don't look at the shore.

Look at the beautiful and consoling eyes of Jesus.

And never stop looking.

Wherever we go, that is the answer.

And as you make this transition, let me assure you that life in the homeschooling world can be truly wonderful. Space will not allow me to go into much detail here, but (with apologies for the shameless self-promotion), I would direct you new homeschool families to two books I have written about my family that highlight the fulfillment and joys of the homeschool life. (*Who's Got You: Observations of a Catholic Homeschooling Father* and *How To Be A Superman Dad In A Kryptonite World, Even When You Can't Afford A Decent Cape*, both available from **Seton Educational Media**). Both books have very short chapters that I hope provide a quick reminder of the reason for your journey, as well as a laugh or two.

And to those of you voyagers who have just arrived in the land of homeschooling, please accept my humble greeting: Welcome to the New World.



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*.



"It Lets The Children Breathe" Ballet, Boats, and Books in Britain — *The Pierlot Family*

Let's head across the pond to Great Britain and meet the Pierlot family.

Cedric, husband and father, was born in Concarneau in the north of France. During his teenage years, he lived in Africa in Namibia, where his father worked as a pilot. At age 19, he came to England to complete his studies, where he met Francesca, who would eventually become his wife. Today he works as a compliance manager and is also the Detachment Commander for their local Royal Marines Cadets Unit.

Francesca, known to her friends and family as Cesca and whom Cedric calls Cesca Bella, is also no stranger to international travel. Twice she deferred her university education to travel the world, visiting Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, France, and Spain. On her return from these travels, she studied in London to become a personal trainer, and until her fourth child was two years old, worked part-time at that job. Today she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honors History Degree.

Cedric and Cesca are the parents of five children: Elodie, 18; Lucia, 16; Dominique, 14; Rafael, 11; and Thea, 3.

Following in the footsteps of Cesca's mother, the Pierlots have homeschooled their children for the past fifteen years. "My mother homeschooled four of my siblings, and I was interested in the lifestyle and the freedom it would give my children," Cesca reflected. "I wanted them to become who God intended them to be without the constraints of peer pressure with all that that entails and with state-run educational expectations."

As in the United States, homeschooling in Britain brings certain challenges in the public square. "We're very lucky with our local county council," Cesca reports. "They're very supportive and really just allow us to get on with our lives. Recently there has been a huge national uptake in homeschooling, which leads me to believe that government policy may change in the future to 'contain the situation,' but so far, so good."

In regard to the Seton Home Study program, Cesca writes "Seton has provided such a solid Faith backdrop for my teenagers. It has given them the confidence to know how to defend and love their Faith as they go out into the world and make their mark on it. I'm exceedingly grateful to Seton for this."

In the Pierlot's homeschool, Elodie and Lucia for the most part study independently until about 4 P.M. Cesca works with Dominique and Rafael, and tries to include little Thea in some of these lessons. And then, with academics out of the way, "It's all systems go with me taxiing them to dance and their Royal Marines Cadet activities."

All Systems Go

"The three older girls do a combined 21 dance classes per week, including ballet, tap and jazz. Elodie and Lucia recently passed their Grade 8 Royal Academy ballet exam and are now working towards their Advanced Two, which is their final vocational exam. Lucia hopes to go the Royal Academy of Dance in London to pursue a career as a ballerina. Rafael is in his fifth rugby season with Amptill Rugby Club and is a Blue Tag in taekwondo. Three of the children take guitar and ukulele lesson, and Thea, our baby, has just started ballet!

"All four older children are Royal Marines Cadets or Sea Cadets so they are lucky enough to sail, kayak, row, and drive power boats. Elodie was the Senior Girls Rowing National Champion in 2018, and she was also selected to become Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Cadet last year. As a result, she met Princess Anne and the Queen's cousin, and was the first Royal Marines cadet in the county to become a Lord Lieutenant Cadet. She loves everything about Spitfires—the World War II airplane!—and hopes to become a Weapons Officer in the Royal Air Force.

"Lucia was nominated for the National Westminster Award and has so far passed two of three selection days. If she is selected in the final phase she will go to South Africa to help a community there for two weeks. Last year she sailed a square rig galleon, the TS Royalist, to the Channel Islands. In October, Dominique will be doing her first offshore voyage on the Solent.

"As the only boy, Rafael takes his role very seriously! He is always climbing trees or teaching his baby sister taekwondo. Thea loves giraffes, books, and wearing her backpack.

The Best Decision I Ever Made

"We live in a beautiful village in the countryside," writes Cesca, "with the ruins of a church dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. We are 10 miles from Bedford. We live next door to Woburn Safari Park so on a quiet night we can hear the lions calling!"

The Pierlots attend Christ the King Catholic Church in Bedford, a new parish that Cesca's sister and her sister's husband helped found. Here the Fraternity of Saint Peter offers a Latin Mass, and the community there is growing rapidly, offering catechism for the children, training for altar servers, and a new choir. "My children are meeting new friends and finding their feet in the community," says Cesca. "It's a true blessing."

As to what she considers most valuable in homeschooling, Cesca wrote, "It lets the children breathe! They have time and space, and they are free from pressure. They blossom into who they actually are, not who society might mold them to be. It is the best decision I ever made."





Easy-Going, Patient, Serene, and Calm: The Phlegmatic Child

BY JEFF MINICK

During a recent supper with my daughter and her family, I raised this question: “Who is the wisest person you’ve ever met?”

For a long moment, that question stumped everyone. My son-in-law mulled over some teachers from high school and college. One of the twins pointed to me and said, “You are, Grandpa,” which made me smile. (I need to make sure she gets a bonus gift at Christmas.)

Then 10-year-old William quietly said, “I am.”

Laughter followed that response, in part because of his answer but also because of William’s personality. He is the reserved member of this boisterous crew of seven children, the boy who rarely engages in emotional drama, who speaks less than the others but who asks questions at times that do indeed seem wise beyond his years.

If William took the test to see which of the four temperaments best fits his personality—sanguine, melancholic, choleric, and phlegmatic—I’d bet the bank he would qualify as the last on that list.

The Ancient Greeks ascribed the quality of water to phlegmatic personalities. Like water, phlegmatics go with the flow, and as water fits a container, they adapt to various situations more easily than others do.

In *The Temperament God Gave Your Kids: Motivate, Discipline, and Love Your Children*, Art and Laraine Bennett tell us that

phlegmatics tend to be placid, “averse to conflict, especially interpersonal conflict,” often have trouble making decisions, and are usually reserved in their communications.

As the Bennetts point out, all these qualities can be strengths. Whether in a marriage or in a board room, phlegmatic men and women are often those who seek reconciliation during a conflict, diplomats who bring peace and harmony to disagreements or negotiations. They weigh possibilities before making decisions, and their inner sense of calm and equanimity can make them invaluable during times of stress and chaos.

“The phlegmatic,” write the Bennetts, “is the classic ‘easy’ baby. He sleeps well, rarely cries, and doesn’t make a fuss over his food. In a large and busy household, the phlegmatic baby is a true gift.”

Like water, phlegmatics go with the flow...

As phlegmatics enter adolescence, they frequently strive to end arguments among their siblings, play well with other children, and take pleasure in a calm household. As the Bennetts tell us, “The peace-loving phlegmatic would rather sacrifice his own desires, agree to unreasonable demands—even take unjust punishments—to keep the peace.”

Though I knew little about the temperaments when my children were small, I realize now that my oldest son fits this personality type. As a boy, he was obedient, faced adversity calmly, and liked routine and order.

Those qualities have stood him in good stead as an adult. He is a successful attorney, bringing to his work a sense of objectivity and a quiet demeanor that are invaluable in and out of the courtroom. When he is at home, he is a rock for his wife and a devoted dad to his seven children, six of whom are adopted. Like his sister's home, the house often resounds with laughter, shouts, and tears, but amid the chaos, my son remains unperturbed.

Guiding Your Phlegmatic Child

Like children with the other personality types, phlegmatics need parental guidance to avoid the possible pitfalls that come with this temperament. As “people pleasers,” phlegmatic children may grow into adults who, in their wish to get along with others and to see others do the same, may give in to others with negative consequences. When they hesitate to question a decision or to take a stand on an issue, they can bring harm to themselves and to others.

Because they are docile in a classroom, dutifully doing as the teacher asks and answering questions only when called upon, phlegmatic students are also in danger of being overlooked or ignored. *The Temperament God Gave Your Kids* warns us that phlegmatics then fulfill that expectation by “becoming apathetic, dull, and slothful... Because they are not naturally confident like choleric, nor gunning for attention like sanguines, they can underestimate themselves and unwittingly set themselves up to be ignored by teachers and other adults. If they are not encouraged—with much loving praise—they might never find their own talents, strengths, and interests.”

The Bennetts also warn that “nagging, lecturing, and yelling will cause the sensitive phlegmatic to withdraw in discouragement.” These young people need encouragement, praise, gentle criticism when criticism is due, and reminders of past successes.

When my attorney son, who was homeschooled like his other siblings, joined our local Little League baseball team at the age of ten, the coach never let him swing a bat at the ball during the games. Always, he told Jake to try to get a walk. When an extra game was added to the schedule at the end of the season, Jake was so discouraged, he refused to play. I took him on the morning of the game to a batting box at the American Legion field and threw pitches to him that he soon consistently hit. “If you decide to play today,” I said as we walked home, “no matter what the coach says, you swing at that ball.”

The kid played and hit a double on the first pitch, and I was the proudest parent in Haywood County that day.

Forging Leaders

The Bennetts call the phlegmatic “the underestimated temperament,” meaning that others may fail to see certain talents in this placid, quiet child, particularly in regard to potential leadership skills. This attitude is wrongheaded, but again, without guidance and encouragement, the phlegmatic may miss out on developing these skills. The Bennetts write that phlegmatics actually make excellent leaders with “their ability to work well with everyone... their willingness to work hard, their levelheadedness under pressure, and their dedicated service to

others.” Particularly valuable is “their natural humility: the ability to ask for help and to seek guidance is a key quality in leaders.” In short, the phlegmatic personality makes it ideal for the role of “servant leader.”

Treasure your easy-going children, guide them to engage life and responsibility, and you will bestow on the world a fine gift: a cool, calm, collected, and wise human being.



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.

Temperament as a Homeschool Mom/Teacher

My melancholic temperament is a major benefit to our family in our homeschool journey. Some of the qualities of my temperament are my loyalty, persistence, calmness, patience, and ability to plan and organize.

When we first decided to homeschool, our oldest was barely three years old. I chose Seton after a couple of years of research, speaking with a few veteran homeschool moms, and the support of my husband.

Of course, we did not start Seton until he was ready for Kindergarten, but we have been loyal to Seton since the beginning, and this year we have our first Seton high schooler! I am a very persistent person and, even on difficult days, I'm grateful that God has called us to homeschool our children. As a homeschool mom, the calm and patient aspects of my temperament help get us all through the day and complete Seton's quarters in a timely manner.

Being patient also comes in handy when a child needs extra help with a particular subject, activity or motivation to complete a chore. I believe the most important trait of my temperament that helps in homeschooling is my ability to organize and plan.

Planning the day (block scheduling works best for us) and keeping everything and everyone organized (including violin lessons, choir practice, adoration hours, and Junior Legion of Mary meetings) is essential to running a successful homeschool. Our youngest starts Kindergarten this year with Seton, and I am looking forward to many more years with Seton!

Maranda McElwee, Eunice, Louisiana

AMELIA EARHART:

A Very Special Lady

BY BRUCE CLARK

There are thousands of unsolved mysteries to ponder over. As one might expect, men are the major subjects of these enigmas. Strangely enough, a 40-year-old lady is the principal player in America's most famous disappearance. She was the first female pilot to fly across the Atlantic, and she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937. Her name was Amelia Earhart.

At a California air show in 1920, Amelia took her first ride in a plane. It was a ten-minute ride for a ten dollar bill, but it changed her life. Amelia learned a great deal about aviation that year, when she was not busy at her truck driver job. She saved almost every dollar she earned that year. She also cut her hair short and bought a leather jacket like the ones the female pilots wore.

All she needed then was an airplane and a pilot's license. In the summer of 1921, Amelia purchased a second-hand, bright yellow biplane, that she nicknamed "The Canary." Amelia became the 16th woman to receive a pilot's license from The Federation Aeronautique.



In May, 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. At that time, women were becoming active and accomplished, in many fields of endeavor once dominated by men.

Consequently, the need for a woman to match Lindbergh was urgent. In 1930, Amelia set a world altitude record of 18,415 feet. In 1932, Amelia soloed across the Atlantic, when she flew from Newfoundland to Ireland, after fighting thick fog and a faulty engine. She also flew from Hawaii

America's Most Famous Disappearance



to California, and became the first person to fly across the two great oceans. In 1935, she joined Purdue University's Department of Aeronautics.

An Ending Clouded in Secrecy

We now leave the world of facts and dwell in probability. In June 1937, Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, left California on their around-the-world adventure and landed in Florida. They waited while a covert crew exchanged the plane's engines with 1,000 horse power Rolls-Royce Merlin engines, with top speed of 400 MPH.

On July 1937, Amelia and Fred flew out of New Guinea and set out for the Japanese island of Truk. President Roosevelt was eager to know what the Japanese were hiding. At 400 MPH, cameras recorded the Japanese war materials. Mission completed, they sped toward the Itasca, a ship anchored at Howland Island, sending strong radio signals to guide Amelia.

Unfortunately, she was unable to hear those homing signals. Their plane crashed near a Japanese-held island. In 1944, when US Marines captured Saipan, an elderly lady told the Marines she had known Amelia during the war, before the Japanese took her away.



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

SHARING SUCCESS WITH THE SETON COMMUNITY



Benjamin | While visiting the relics of Sts. Hyacinth and Maximianina on his family's Lenten pilgrimage, Benjamin was notified his Right to Life Poster won first place.



Isabella | Isabella participated in 4-H, a week-long achievement conference and youth meetings at her parish. Her hard work studying also rewarded her with a 3.9 GPA!

Submit your photo, your achievement, and how homeschooling has helped you succeed!

setonmagazine.com/students

A Pause to Discern

BY NICK MARMELEJO

Many moons ago, in what seems like “a galaxy far, far away,” I set out from rural Virginia back to college to finish my final year.

I had begun my college journey with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm—I was certain that I wanted to be a history teacher. I loved academics and was intoxicated by the idea of spending my life immersed in history books and retelling the world’s past.

I am happy to report that the thrill of creating, and adding to my personal library, and studying history, has never left. However, the summer in between junior and senior year proved to be a game-changer for me. It was my first time on my own, and I had spent it working to support myself.

As I drove back to school on a crisp mid-August morning, I knew that the year ahead would be different than my previous years. I also knew that I now desired something different for my future. It was at that moment something both memorable and mundane occurred—and it was an event that I will never forget.

Message in the Passing Lane

Passing me in the left lane whizzed a car with a personalized license plate. Here in Virginia, it is not an uncommon feature. Every state has a motto, and I have often thought that Virginia’s could be “the land of the personalized license plates” since there

seems to be a disproportionate amount of them compared to other states. Most of them are self-aggrandizing or contain some element of wit, much like a riddle.

I too am guilty of creating such license plates, to the extent that I have had people try to harangue me at 65 mph to find out what they mean. Yet the license plate that sped by in mid-August was a departure from the norm. It simply read “SERVE.”

I was stunned. Answers to life questions seemed to suddenly click for me. It was as if a ray shone from the heavens to spotlight the road ahead. Prayers I had made that summer for direction and what was next for me in my life, felt answered with this simple message. The smug thought also came to me that a person’s lame license plate was actually giving me life direction and purpose.

Be that as it may, my entire senior year, the idea of service permeated my mind. To my shock, I had senior-itis worse than anyone I had ever met. I was both restless and sad—restless to get busy with work outside of a classroom, and sad that I was not finding the joy I once found in academics. Not in a million years did I ever think I’d cross that threshold, but I did.

Fast forward to today, and the world at large finds itself self-reflecting on the value of education, college, and what matters



in life. By being forced to slow down in the world of COVID lock-down, many individuals are taking the important step of reconsidering their assumptions and desires. Students are taking gap years, extending their senior year, and giving further consideration to their vocation. They are not rushing to college, but giving themselves more time to develop their knowledge base and experience while pondering their future. This is time well spent.

Time to Check Out Jobzology

At Seton we support you in your vocational discernment, aspirations, and academic preparation. We encourage you to leverage any extra time to your advantage. And if you haven't already, now would also be a good time to take advantage of Seton's Jobzology questionnaire available through your MySeton page. The results will assist you with assessing your vocational direction.

Whatever path you choose, we at Seton pray that it will help provide you with a fulfilling future and will help glorify God's kingdom.



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.



STAFF SERIES

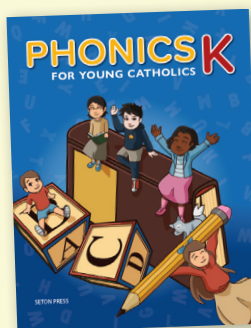
*A chat with those
who serve you!*



Emily Prause Graphic Designer

Emily Prause is a soft-spoken graphic designer who takes great delight in her work redesigning some of Seton's textbooks.

Born to parents who were both serving in the Marine Corps and a self-described "military brat"—her mother decided not to reenlist in the Corps and to stay at home with her daughter while her father retired after 20 years of service with the rank of gunnery sergeant—Emily moved along with her parents and four younger brothers to various bases, but best remembers their stay in Tampa, Florida, and in Virginia Beach, where her parents now live. "I'm an ocean girl," she says, and though she lives in Winchester, she maintains her love for the sea.



Emily spent grades K to 5 in public school, and then was homeschooled for the rest of her elementary and secondary school. "I liked to take my time learning," she says. "I would go to school, come home, and take a while doing homework, and then it would be bedtime. There was never enough time to play." Following the advice of a friend, Emily's mother began homeschooling her so that she could set her own pace for learning.

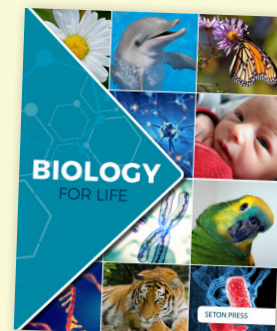
When Love Becomes a Passion

After graduating from Seton in 2009 and earning an Associate's Degree from Tidewater Community College, Emily enrolled in the graphic design program at James Madison University. In 2015, she graduated with a degree in fine arts, and two years later joined the Seton Staff. "I love books and reading, and now I'm combining that love with design and publishing."

In addition to reading, in her spare time, Emily enjoys painting, bookbinding, swimming, and the company of friends.

When asked what brings her the greatest satisfaction working for Seton, Emily thinks a moment, and then smiles and says, "The fact that I get to redesign all these books so that they look fresh and up-to-date, and help the students enjoy learning."

A passion for books, artistic skills, and an eye for beauty: these are the gifts Emily Prause brings to Seton and to its families.





Seton

Home Study School

IN THE P H I L I P P I N E S

BY CAI ACUÑA

The Philippines, considered as the Pearl of the Orient Seas, is the third largest Catholic country in the world. It is an archipelago composed of more than 7,000 islands in Southeast Asia.

Aside from its rich natural resources, it prides itself on being a Christian nation with more than 80% of its population as Catholics. Catholicism has become a cornerstone in the people's lives which has contributed to the nation's growing faith.

A PERFECT MATCH

Religion has played a crucial role in the educational choices of the families, especially in the inculcation of values and passing on the richness of the Catholic faith and traditions.

It is no wonder a growing number of families are drawn to Seton Home Study School's curriculum and have found a secure home study education which not only enriches the

Catholic faith but provides an academically excellent and flexible program.

This flexibility has paved the way for homeschoolers to pursue their passions and helped parents raise holistic and well-rounded individuals. Seton has perfectly matched a Catholic family's educational needs.

Seton Home Study School has become a popular option for homeschooling among Filipino families. Even before homeschooling became an acceptable option in the country's educational system, several families had already chosen to homeschool with Seton.

Aside from the Philippines, there are many Seton Filipino families in the U.S., the Middle East, and Asia. I'm happy to report there are also families in Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Vietnam, and Singapore who are using the Seton curriculum and their number is growing.





Over the years, Seton graduates have successfully entered major Philippine universities such as the University of the Philippines, Ateneo De Manila University, De La Salle University, and the University of Santo Tomas. A number of the graduates have been granted scholarships from universities outside the country.

ROOTED IN FAITH

Seton's rigorous curriculum has helped the graduates prepare for college life. Seton's excellent program coupled with parental guidance has resulted in independent, self-motivated, and discerning graduates.

Seton Home Study School is an answered prayer and a great blessing to its Filipino families. It has provided a quality education that produces not only academically excellent graduates but students with a strong values system who are deeply rooted in the Catholic faith.



9 Years Homeschooling

NOLASCO FAMILY (Cebu, Philippines)

Parents: Samual & Sheila Nolasco

Children: Inna Viktoria - Seton Graduate,
& Patricia Samuelle - 11th Grade

The start of our daughters' formal schooling went the traditional way. However, it soon became apparent to us that schools do not hold the same values and beliefs we have as a family. Furthermore, the children were burdened with homework that left us with little time to bond as a family.

Daily occurrences in school which often had moral and spiritual implications on our children, were not addressed immediately or not at all. Incidences were often forgotten by the time our girls got home or took a back seat because homework and studying for tests needed to be addressed first. It became difficult to keep up and process their experiences in school. Academic training also left a lot to be desired, much more the spiritual training.

A SOLID CATHOLIC CURRICULUM

Seton Home Study School attracted us because of its solid Catholic curriculum. It is the primary reason we choose it for our family. Seton is also a well-established homeschool provider.

We fell in love with Seton's superior academic curriculum that demands the best from our girls and, at the same time, offers the flexibility that allows our children to explore other interests outside academics.

In addition, Seton has excellent customer service and a very responsive team of counselors ever ready to assist us in our homeschooling need. Most stellar, of course, is their treatment of Catholic truths which are incorporated in every subject, training my family to regard and judge things from the right Catholic perspective.

All these make our family most grateful to God for leading us to homeschool with Seton.

Continued on pg 22.



15 Years Homeschooling

Catan Family Quezon City, Philippines

Parents: Moses & Dondi Catan

Children: Noah, Michael & Raphael Catan (Graduates)



7 Years Homeschooling

De Los Reyes Family Qatar

Parents: Arold & Maria Cecilia De Los Reyes

Children: Arcelio, Jonathan (Graduates),
Faustine Angeli - 9th, John Joseph - 3rd, Arold Francis - Kindergarten

We are a family who revolves around mission and ministry, with a high educational priority. As Mission Directors of a Catholic community, Elim Communities, we oversee 180 branches across the Philippines and abroad.

We homeschooled our children because of the flexibility of the schedule that fits the missionary orientation of family. It also matched our educational and spiritual values.

We chose Seton Home Study School because of its Catholic orientation and superior competence in English as well as its personal and caring faculty. We also work with Living Saints Homeschool Support and Tutorial Center, which is one of Seton's partner centers in the country to help provide academic support to enrolled Seton families.

Because of our work, our children were tutored by competent teachers at Living Saints, which helped in the success of our homeschool journey.

My husband was impressed with the idea of studying at home when he learned about homeschooling. We decided to give Seton a try. My kids were reluctant at first, but when they realized that they did not have to wake up at 4:00 AM anymore, they agreed.

Fast forward to the present, we can say that home schooling has been a huge blessing for us. In 2018, we were able to the visit United States for Arcelio's Seton graduation. Arcelio was also accepted at Texas A&M University, Qatar, which for us is spectacular. Jonathan, our second child, recently graduated this year and is going to study at Christendom College this fall.

What we truly treasure as our biggest blessing is that our family has become much closer to the Faith and with each other. We no longer need to persuade them to attend Mass because we now love to attend more frequently. They also serve as altar servers and members of a choir.

TEACHER CAI

Cai Acuña, known as Teacher Cai to most Seton families, is Seton's Philippine representative. She is based in the Philippines where she conducts weekly orientations to interested families, helps manage Seton Facebook pages, and has a Master's degree in Secondary Education.

Over the years, Teacher Cai has initiated and organized various events and activities for homeschooling families, such as Seton families' meet-ups, field trips, outreach programs, student clubs, and Independent Study classes for Filipino and Philippine History



subjects. She is also passionate about raising up student leaders and providing them with opportunities to serve the community.

"I find Seton Homeschooling a great blessing to our Filipino families. Aside from the excellent curriculum, the Catholic teachings infused in the entire program have provided a solid foundation to our students and for parents to pass on their faith. The Seton program perfectly strengthens and supports our Filipino value system and culture.

I have also witnessed how Seton homeschooling has strengthened family bonds as well as developed the homeschoolers' independence and love for learning. I feel so honored to be part of Seton community and to guide parents to choose Seton in their homeschool journey."



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Parents are the First Evangelizers of Children

Today more than ever, the Christian family has a very noble mission that it cannot shirk: the transmission of the faith, which involves the gift of self to Jesus Christ who died and rose, and insertion into the Ecclesial Community.

Parents are the first evangelizers of children, a precious gift from the Creator (*cf. Gaudium et Spes n. 50*), and begin by teaching them to say their first prayers.

In this way a moral universe is built up, rooted in the will of God, where the child grows in the human and Christian values that give life its full meaning.

Pope Benedict XVI – Letter on Family Life

From the Vatican, 17 May 2005