

Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

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**THE
GARCIA
FAMILY**

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NEW!

The Stay-at-

PG 14

HOMESCHOOLING MOM

Podcast

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Teaching the Gospel

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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.

**LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR**

Dear Readers,

I just love this month's cover. Our featured family, the Garcias, kindly share a slice of their well-traveled life with us and how homeschooling has helped them overcome some of the challenges of settling in a foreign country. Every issue reveals to me how unique each of our Seton families experiences is and it is truly a gift to be able to share a few with you here each issue.

Don't miss the announcement on page 14 regarding my new endeavor with my dear friend Ginny Seuffert. Seton is sponsoring our ***NEW Stay-at-Homeschooling Moms Podcast*** and we would love to have you subscribe so you do not miss any episodes: **www.setonhome.org/podcast/** We are laughing a lot, sharing a lot, and encouraging families in their homeschooling journey. Please join us.

This issue we are featuring our College Partner, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, one of the very few options for a faithfully Catholic college in Canada. It is both academically rigorous and faithful to the magisterium as well as being a beautiful campus. Check it out.

These winter months can seem so long for homeschool parents. In many places it is cold, dark, and a little dreary. Remember that spring is coming and in the meantime do not forget to find time to have some winter fun when you can. Winter hikes, snowball fights, board games, and hot cocoa build great memories while we wait for the sun to warm us up again.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Barrett".

Mary Ellen Barrett

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for us!

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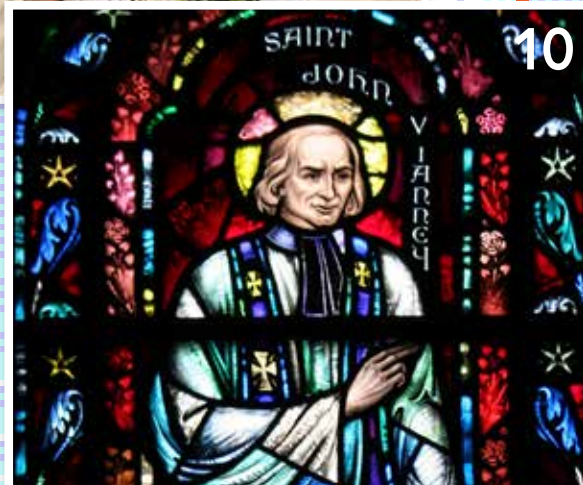
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The stay-at-
HOMESCHOOLING
MOM
Podcast

See more on Pg 14



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What do we do if our Rosetta Stone or Teaching Textbooks license expires?

Rosetta Stone software licenses and Teaching Textbook software licenses both last for 12 months. If your Rosetta Stone license expires, contact our Admissions team, and we can help you purchase a new software license. If your Teaching Textbooks license expires, you can get a 60-day extension from Teaching Textbooks.

To receive the 60-day extension, contact Teaching Textbooks and tell them that you are a Seton Family. Once you are beyond the 60-day extension, you can contact Seton's Admissions team to purchase a new software license if you still need more time.

Amy Nutt, Admissions Counselor

Does Seton offer extensions when our school year runs out?

Yes, Seton does offer extensions. Enrollment terms for Grades 2-12 last 12 months (plus a 2-month grace period) from your chosen start date. When the enrollment term expires, families need to either re-enroll or purchase an extension to continue to use the lesson plans and

submit work for grading. Extensions are six months each, and families can buy up to 2 extensions.

The fee to extend a single course is \$25 and a full grade level extension is \$75. If more time is needed, the student must re-enroll in the course.

Families can purchase extensions after the date on which their enrollment expires.

Amy Nutt, Admissions Counselor

When will our work be graded?

Many things can affect the time it takes to grade an assignment, but generally, any item sent electronically is graded more quickly than a mailed-in item.

Our goal is to grade electronic items within one week and mailed-in items within three weeks. We can keep to this schedule for most of the year, but the wait can be significantly longer in October/November and May when a large number of items are received in a short period.

For online tests or assignment uploads, your MySeton page can help you estimate when the item will be graded. From your MySeton page, choose a student, click on Courses and then click on either Uploads or Online Tests.

For any ungraded item, the "queue status" will be displayed. Queue status indicates how many days an upload will take to be graded. For example, if you uploaded an item on July 28 and the queue status says July 27, the uploaded assignment will likely be graded in the next day or so.

However, if you uploaded on July 28 and the queue status says July 20, it will probably be a week or so until the item is graded. If your family's email address is on file, an email notification is sent as soon as an assignment or test grade is posted.

Kevin Clark, Seton Admin

Can I drop a course?

Yes, but we ask that you contact the counselors at counselors@setonhome.org.

In elementary school (K-8), Seton provides a family whatever courses they want to take. If you don't want to take specific courses, Spelling or Science, for example, you do not have to. Religion is the exception; as a Catholic school, Seton must enroll students in Religion.

Before contacting a counselor and asking for an elementary subject to be dropped, check your state requirements.

What's the Best Preparation for High School English Essays?

The student's first step is to review the assignment guidelines in their course manual or SetonOnline to verify:

1. Which books they can read to complete the assignment. We will not accept book analysis essays on titles not listed in the assignment guidelines.
2. For what kind of essay(s) is the assignment asking.

The second step is to download or print the chapter note questions on SetonOnline. The chapter notes are reading questions that help focus the student's attention on important parts of the text (plot, characters, theme, conflict, etc.).

I suggest students read the chapter note questions before reading the chapter. Additionally, I recommend viewing the sample essays on SetonOnline. The sample essays can help the student see what the organization and format should look like.

The third step is highlighting, flagging, underlining, or annotating while reading. Writing a character sketch essay will be easier if the student has marked relevant text sections related to the main character's traits.

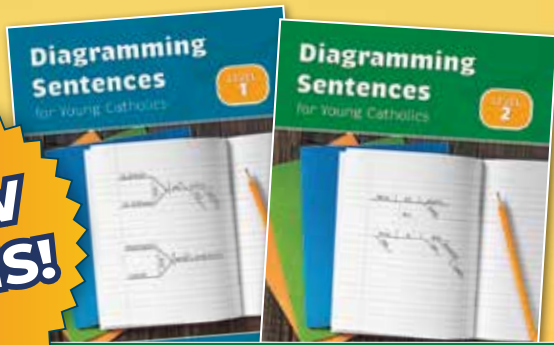
Lastly, students are encouraged to call or email the HS English Counselors (540-622-5560; hsenglish@setonhome.org) to see if the core aspects of their essays (traits, theme statement, climax, etc.) are on the right track.

Although we cannot pre-grade their essay, we are happy to let students know if they are on the right track.

Sean O'Connor, Academic Counselor



Diagramming Sentences for Young Catholics



**NEW
ITEMS!**

By Seton English Counselor
Sean O'Connor

**Find These and More
Homeschool Essentials on Page 22.**

While we don't require courses, some states do have subjects they mandate. If you drop out of a mandated subject with us, you must do that subject at home or with another program. Check state-mandated subjects for high school, as well, before you contact the counselors.

If a student is seeking a Seton diploma, there are courses that we require to be taken with us and which cannot, therefore, be dropped. We also require a specific credit count. Ask the counselor if dropping a course will put your student behind on credits.

Lastly, if Seton has already graded two quarters' worth of a high school course, the course can no longer be dropped. Instead, we may award a half credit (if merited) and close the course out. If you anticipate dropping a course because a student is failing, don't wait until after they've completed half the course. Reach out to the counselors before you reach that point. We're here to help.

Theresa O'Connor,
Academic Counselor

Can I order standardized testing?

Yes! You can order from Seton Testing Services, our standardized testing department. We offer standardized ability and achievement tests, including the CAT, Stanford, Iowa Achievement, and others. Test prep and practice tests are also available. To order standardized

tests or to learn more, please visit the Seton Testing Services website at www.setontesting.com. During business hours, our testing consultants are available on the website via live chat and will be happy to help you.

Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor
Should I be concerned that my students have completed most of their first and second-quarter work, except their English and Reading writing assignments?

Yes, this can be a matter of concern. Writing assignments can be a challenge for some students. Many students complete their "easiest" coursework first, leaving their writing assignments to be completed at the end of the school year. This causes anxiety to build as another writing assignment fails to be completed by the end of the quarter.

Make it a habit to complete at least one writing assignment from the first or second quarter before beginning the next quarter's work. Consider completing the book reports at the beginning of the quarter instead of the end for your elementary students. Knowing that a major assignment has been completed may relieve some anxiety during the rest of the quarter. For your high school students, check in with them regularly to make sure they are on pace to complete writing assignments on time.

Laura Fusto, Academic Counselor



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



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



MAGDALEN COLLEGE
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
OF STEUBENVILLE



THOMAS AQUINAS
COLLEGE



THOMAS MORE
COLLEGE



Holy Apostles
College & Seminary



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DALLAS



UNIVERSITY
OF ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON



setonhome.org/colleges



Ask the Experts:

How do you ensure prompt and cheerful obedience in your children?

Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience

Do All Tasks with a Grateful Heart...



Let me be completely honest; I don't know the magic formula for getting children to respond always with prompt, cheerful obedience.

However, I know there are definite steps to lead children in the right direction.

First and foremost, parents need to lead by example. When I complete my chores promptly and cheerfully, I lay the foundation for my household.

For example, I make my bed every morning, throw in the laundry, and tidy up the living room couches. I do all those tasks with a grateful heart because I recognize that clean, well-organized spaces benefit all of us.

My children don't all follow my lead every day, but they understand my expectations based on my example, so they more readily complete their chores when asked.

Of course, good results don't always follow good examples, so parents need to set clear expectations and back those expectations up with consequences. And then follow through on enacting those consequences without debate or drama.

“*Parents need to lead by example...*”

Conversely, if your child knows she has 50 chances to clean her room this week before you make good on your threat to take away a privilege, then she is likely to wait until your 49th command to pick up her bedroom. And if it takes 49 reminders to get her moving, no one is likely cheerful in the household—prompt, joyful obedience results from clear, consistent, long-term parenting. First, we teach by example, and then by established rules.

Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina

Build the Habit of Obeying...



First of all, I keep in mind “discipline” means “to teach,” not “to punish.” Second, I think of how Our Lord lived and interacted with and taught His disciples.

With my children, I focus on the relationship. If I take the time to develop a rapport with each child, if each child knows for a fact I come from a place of love and genuine concern and that I have a reason for all I ask them to do, they are FAR more likely to respond in kind than if I approach them as a drill sergeant barking out orders.

This being said, my kids are older now; my youngest is eight. When they were toddlers and would not listen, say, would not clean up their toys, I would absolutely do hand-over-hand and MAKE them clean up. If they did disobey, I really tried (and still do!) to

have logical consequences. If I ask them to put their bike away and they don't, I don't do it for them. And then they must deal with a wet and rusty bike.

“Take the time to develop rapport with each child...”

Another thing I did was “catch” them being good. Everyone had ten little magnets across the fridge. When I “caught” them obeying with a good attitude or helping their sibling without being asked, I would give them a magnet.

When they filled their chart with magnets, they got a date with me, an ice cream, or a special treat. The idea was to get them to build the habit of obeying and other virtues.

Kristin Brown, Virginia

We Reap the Behavior that We Sow...



Obedience is an essential virtue to instill in children, so we begin from the time they are walking on their own. I have always been a present and attentive mother to their needs and their formation. Bad behavior is not tolerated and is dealt with immediately and in a way that they will understand based on their age.

As for being cheerful, that falls onto the parent to show the children cheer when they are doing chores, which may not be fun. Mom does not give her children a bad example of behavior because children will imitate what they see.

Also, we do not let our children watch TV other than previewed movies. We will not let them watch anything that undermines the parental authority or shows bad attitudes or disobedience from children where there are no just consequences.

Children learn bad behavior, and I think we have done a very good job of setting clear expectations, giving good examples, and eliminating bad examples.

Susan Brock, Virginia

THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



“

We love the flexibility that homeschooling provides and the bond it creates by being home and learning together. We are able to go to Mass during the week as well!

The greatest benefit of homeschooling?

We are learning our faith in every subject and teaching values and morals that we hold so dear to us in a broken world.

The Botelho Family, Warwick, RI

”



TEACH THE GOSPEL

BY BOB WIESNER

Only knowing “about” theology is somehow to miss the mark...

Satan knows much more about theology than any human being could in this life. He also knows more about loving God, as well as about serving Him.

There’s something about that word “about”...

Certainly, Satan knows all about the mechanics of theology; after all, he has been in the direct presence of God in ways we, in time, can comprehend only in the vaguest way.

But the devil’s knowledge does him no good. Despite his superior intellect, he insists on loving himself more than God and refuses to serve Him. Satan can do no other; he made his disastrous decision in eternity, and, quite literally, he has no time to repent of his misstep.

Only knowing “about” theology is somehow to miss the mark; treating theology as simply some advanced intellectual exercise does not further the interests of either God or the human person. In short, there are missing components to the salvific equation in such an approach.

St. Thomas Aquinas is considered the greatest theologian ever produced by the Western (Roman) Church.

On the far other end of the intellectual spectrum are the curious figures of St. John Vianney and St. Joseph of Cupertino, the flying friar.

Near the end of his life, St. Thomas reflected on his work and realized that in comparison to the reality of the awesome God, his work was akin to straw or chaff blown by the wind.

Thomas’s Summa is a colossal work of service to God and His Church, but equally, the saint came to know the true worth of theology produced merely on an intellectual level. In so concluding, St. Thomas lifted his status from religious philosopher to the heavenly plane of true theologian.

On the far other end of the intellectual spectrum are the curious figures of St. John Vianney and St. Joseph of Cupertino, the flying friar. A somewhat reluctant bishop ordained the Curé of Ars under what most would consider miraculous

circumstances and immediately sent him to an obscure parish where it was thought he could do little harm to souls or the Church. As it happened, his subsequent career proved to be of immense value to enormous crowds of penitent sinners and a direct refutation of demonic intellectual pride. A priest of strictly limited intellectual resources, the holy Curé was a spiritual warrior of the highest caliber.

St. John and St. Joseph were terrible theology students, but both proved to be superb theologians in the end.

Similarly, St. Joseph was never able to master the intricacies of academic theology; in fact, there seems to be some evidence indicating that he was a bit mentally challenged!

The holy friar was ordained after years of living in several Franciscan monasteries and strict investigations by many spiritual authorities, including the Inquisition.

He was suspected of witchcraft by some due to his unusual habit of levitating at times of “prayer and sly trickery” in the interests of living off the charity of his brothers in the friary. In the end, there was no denying his genuine devotion to prayer and service despite his lack of understanding of academic theology.

St. John and St. Joseph were terrible theology students, but both proved to be superb theologians in the end.

The Seton curriculum offers students a great deal of knowledge about God, far greater than virtually any parish program. Indeed, learning about God is valuable, and studying Doctrine, Scripture, Apologetics, and all the other branches of academic theology should be undertaken with zeal, energy, and even joy.

But all should realize that the intellect is really but a springboard. A Christian must utilize the will to dive from that springboard into the deep waters of true theology and travel beyond merely knowing “about” God and come to know intimately the Three Persons Who IS God.



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



A Life Well-Lived and Traveled

BY VANESSA HAYDEY GARCIA

We are a family of three, gifted with one child, our son, Rafael. I am 43 and have been a SAHM (Stay At Home Mom) since I married. Having a family is a dream I am thankful God has fulfilled for me. My husband, Emmanuel, is 45, the head and the sole provider in our family. I am so grateful for his job and that he can provide for us.

Approaching our 13th year of marriage, I enjoy and continue to focus on dedicating my whole heart and time to take care of my husband and son's welfare.

Rafael is now 11 years old and currently finishing 6th Grade with Seton. He also attends as a 6th grader in a traditional Spanish school here in Argentina. Yes, he has been enrolled in 2 schools for four years now, Seton and his Spanish school "Pablo Pizzurno."

The Best of Two Worlds

He enjoys doing both, starting his day at Spanish school and finishing his day homeschooling. His brick and mortar school has helped Rafael learn and improve his Spanish, develop social skills, make friends, and become disciplined. His time there is more enjoyable too because he studied the work in advance with Seton.

We began with Seton in 2019 and are very thankful for how Seton has helped us in many aspects of our lives. It was a challenge at first because, having no experience with homeschooling, we were hesitant about our decision to homeschool our only son.

We've been living in different countries, which made it difficult for us when it comes to the education of our child.

It was not an easy decision, but we chose to try the Seton curriculum as it is parallel to the educational program of our country, the Philippines. Moreover, we were attracted by the religious involvement of its teachings as we were educated in Catholic schools.

As mentioned earlier, my husband is the only provider. He has a good job but relocating has been challenging. It became more





complicated when Rafael started schooling, but we never considered living apart from each other. We've always thought the best solution was for us to be together.



Rafael began schooling at age 4 in a traditional school in the Philippines. We have lived in Havana, Cuba; Guam; the Philippines; and now, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The challenge started when we moved here. The language barrier was the main hurdle we had to deal with since schools require students to speak their language. Argentina is a Spanish-speaking country, with only 15% of the population able to speak English.

It's been challenging to not only learn and adapt to the culture but to the language too. However, we lifted everything to God and prayed for His will for us. We accept and trust that He will continue to guide us in any situation. Fortunately, Rafael was able to enter the school. Adjusting was challenging for him, and we noticed that the curriculum was not as advanced as we had in the Philippines. That is when we began considering homeschooling.

A Guided Path

My husband and I are products of the traditional schools. We had no homeschool experience, so the idea of teaching Rafael at home intimidated us. However, Seton helped me overcome my fear.



The precise and concrete explanation of their materials helped guide me. I know that no matter where we go, my child's education will always be sufficient. We also needed help with time management, but with the sample schedule provided by Seton, it became easy to prioritize the duties that we must accomplish.

I never thought that I would become a teacher for Rafael. Initially, I was hesitant and intimidated, but with prayer and patience, my confidence grew and Rafael excelled in academic and non-academic subjects.



Now, I am confident and can guarantee that my son has the finest education, and I am grateful that he is growing up with the values we want to instill in him.

The experience of being his teacher has been my ultimate satisfaction knowing I could fulfill my duties as a mother.



The Stay-at- HOMESCHOOLING MOM



Podcast

A little over twenty years ago, a friend and I sat in a room in the Dulles Conference Center in Virginia and listened to Ginny Seuffert speak about homeschooling. My friend had just finished her first year of homeschooling, and I was about a month away from beginning my first year.

We left that conference having listened and met with Ginny, Dr. Mary Kay Clark, Laura Berquist, several pro-homeschooling priests, and many other moms, some of whom became friends, and we still keep in touch.

That day began a journey that would see me eventually writing and speaking about my homeschool experiences and having the great good fortune of working with Ginny at Seton Home Study School. I have been very blessed to be able to learn from her years of experience. In our travels, emails, and long phone conversations, our work relationship has become a genuine friendship that I value and cherish.

We would like to include all of you in some of those conversations, and Seton and some of our College Partners have been kind enough to sponsor our new endeavor, The Stay-at-Homeschooling Mom Podcast.

Ginny and I will be talking about our experiences in homeschooling, keeping a home, raising children, family life, Catholic family life, and anything that has to do with any of those things. Our goal is to encourage, inspire, and hopefully amuse homeschooling parents, and we are open to hearing suggestions of topics to cover, so chime in and let us know.

You will quickly discover that once we start talking, just about anything can come up, and we always have opinions.

Mary Ellen Barrett



STAFF SERIES

*A chat with those
who serve you!*

Laura J. Clark - Elementary Counselor

I started using Seton when my oldest daughter Erin started 1st grade. Eight kids and 28 years later, I'm still using Seton – my youngest is currently in high school. Also, Erin's oldest two children are now enrolled in Pre-K and 1st!

Seton is a family affair!



My husband's mother is Dr. Mary Kay Clark, who has run Seton for many years! My husband has been with Seton since its beginning as well. My mom homeschooled my younger siblings beginning in the 80s. Only a few people did back then!

When I met my husband, and he told me he was homeschooled, I felt like an expert because

I knew what homeschooling was. We are both from large families, and we have 74 nieces and nephews, almost all of whom are homeschooled. We joke that other families get pressure from their extended families when they tell them they are going to homeschool. We joke that if we ever DIDN'T homeschool, we would hear about it.



I came to work at Seton as an Elementary Counselor in 2020 when Seton's enrollment skyrocketed during the virtual schooling crisis.

My greatest satisfaction at Seton is helping parents realize that homeschooling is NOT re-creating a school set-up in the home.

It's a way of life. Grades and tests are not the most important things – cultivating a love of learning that lasts a lifetime is far more important.



If you haven't already done so, consider joining homeschooling FB groups like "Enrolled Seton Families." It's a great way to learn from other moms, who might have ideas about things you never thought about, and who can talk you down when you're worried about something. I've been a member of those groups for years and still participate in many discussions, only now as a Seton representative.

I would like to share one piece of advice. Good grades and getting into college are important, but the most important thing we can give our children is knowledge, appreciation, and love of their faith.

Our ultimate goal in homeschooling is to make sure they get to heaven. Everything else is secondary.



OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE



Classical & Early Christian Studies at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College

BY DR. KY HEINZE

A Unique College Experience

Are you looking for a faithfully Catholic residential college in Canada? One of your only options is Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, located among the countless lakes and vast forests of the beautiful Madawaska Valley, two-and-a-half hours west of Ottawa.

Here you will be taught by 100% Catholic faculty who yearly take a lengthy oath of fidelity. Here, you will live and work with other Catholic students in one of the college's houses, scattered throughout the tiny town of Barry's Bay.

When you move into your house (inhabited by a mixture of first-, second- and third-year students), your RA and Proctor lay out the rules for house life and chores; but your first few days are also likely to include a group run down the hill in flip-flops to jump in the lake.



As your dripping group walks back, perhaps the church bells ring out over the valley, and your house stops to say the Angelus. You aren't far from the college campus, which is perched on a hill overlooking Kamaniskeg Lake, only a few hundred feet from a beautiful parish Church with a Polish heritage.

What will you study at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College? The curriculum covers the liberal arts, with a focus on the Western tradition and the Catholic heritage.

You will take courses such as Christian Doctrine, Biblical History, Magisterial Thought, Fundamentals of Philosophy, Ethics, Shapers of Modern Thought, Classical Literature, Dante, Tolkien, History of Western Civilization, History of the Middle East, Latin, Logic and many more.

At present, the College offers a three-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies, in which students can choose to "concentrate" in Classical & Early Christian Studies, Philosophy, History, Literature or Theology. The College is in the later stages of its application for a four-year degree program with BAs in four of these fields of study.

A Unique Program

Today I want to explain what it would be like to concentrate in one of these fields, that of Classical & Early Christian Studies (CECS). This program focuses on the Roman Empire in the first few centuries AD, with a special emphasis on the development of Christianity.

Through the core curriculum at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, all students acquire a basic knowledge of the history, literature,

and philosophy of the Classical world. CECS builds on this knowledge with courses such as Classical History and Cultures and Religions of the Roman World.

In addition, students in the program finish their study of introductory Latin and can take a full two years of Latin reading courses.

In these courses, they work their way through ancient Latin texts such as the account of Aeneas' journey to the underworld in Virgil's *Aeneid*, the story of Naaman the Syrian in Jerome's Vulgate, Orosius' description of Christian soldiers whose prayer saved the army of Marcus Aurelius, and the pagan Pliny the Younger's letters to the Emperor Trajan on how to treat Christians in Asia Minor. You might even get to play Latin Bananagrams with your professor and fellow students at the end of class!

The study of the history, literature, culture, and language of ancient Rome sets the stage for an authentic study of early Christianity.

In the course "Patristics" students encounter many of the most influential books and homilies from early Church Fathers such as St. Irenaeus, St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, and St. John Chrysostom, to name a few. In addition, specialized courses are available such as Augustinian Thought, The Cappadocian Theologians, Byzantine History, Late Antique and Early Medieval Papacy, and Late Antique and Early Medieval Monasticism.

In these and other courses, students discover how to use their knowledge of the Roman world to better understand the early Church.

Learn, for example, how the Roman patron-client system (Latin: *clientela*) helps us understand the interaction between Jesus, the centurion and the Jewish elders in Luke 7.1-10. Or find out how the brand that identified Roman soldiers (Latin: *character*) provided St. Augustine with an analogy to explain how the mark of baptism is valid, even when received outside of the Catholic Church.

Even from a secular perspective, the transition of the Roman world from paganism to Christianity is one of the most fascinating and instructive events in history: grappling with it leads one to grapple with the basic questions of the human condition.

But for Catholics it has a special significance. The patristic tradition is a lens through which we are to read Scripture and a well of life that has periodically revitalized the Church.

The program of Classical & Early Christian Studies at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College is one of the few of its kind in North America. It is playing a role in equipping the Catholic scholars and teachers of the next generation. Come join us in the fall of 2023!



Dr. Ky Heinze is an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Classical & Early Christian Studies at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College. He can be reached at kyheinze@seatofwisdom.ca.





OUR LADY
SEAT OF WISDOM
COLLEGE

Student Profile: Christa Zwicker

My first-year experience at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College has been anything but dull thus far.

As I reflect upon my first semester of studies here in the little town of Barry's Bay, I realize just how blessed I am to have come to a place of such life, devoted Catholicism, and academic excellence.

Living in residence with eight other female students, just a few steps from beautiful Kamaniskeg Lake, I have learned first-hand the joys of home and campus life.

Whether those joys be through the college's many student-run events, late-night shenanigans with my housemates, which continue into the wee hours of the morning, or spontaneous jumps into the lake, which continue even now as it freezes over!

There is order and faith in all we do as students at the college: an academic and clean environment is maintained through specific rules and chores, and many opportunities are provided to us which benefit our spiritual lives, such as the chance to attend daily morning Mass at the parish, to pray compline together with our houses, and much more.

The academics at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College are challenging.

As a student who came to college just after graduating high school, the shift for me was a major one: here, teachers grade harder, there are new standards to meet, and things are more fast-paced. However, this is a natural progression from high school to college, one most students must experience in post-secondary studies.

Why Seat of Wisdom?

As students, we can only achieve excellence if pushed beyond our limits. However, few high schools today push students to greatness.

This is also why an education such as the one that Seton Home Study School offers is valuable for preparing students to enter post-secondary studies, especially if they plan on attending a college like Seat of Wisdom.

I received a classical, liberal arts education in high school. While I did not attend Seton, I can attest to the utility of a rigorous high school academic preparation for my first semester at college.

Consider, for example, certain things that Seton offers, such as studying the ancient and classical world and learning Latin. These studies greatly benefit a student at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College who aims to concentrate in a related field, such as Classical & Early Christian Studies.

In this concentration, we can study the Classical world's transformation from a pagan to a Christian society in the centuries following Christ's coming.



Students study Classical texts in Latin, the original language of their creation, and take history courses introducing them to the environments in which these texts were written. This program is one example of the many unique studies offered by Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, for which a Seton student would be prepared.

My Recommendation

The missions of Seton Home Study School and Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College are the same. Both institutions strive to provide a valuable education that is coherent and in accord with the truths of the Catholic faith.

As a first-year student at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College, I highly recommend Seat of Wisdom to the Seton student!

The education you are currently receiving is a valuable one. Cherish it. Nurture it. Moreover, consider extending it. An education at an institution such as Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College would continue the education you have already received and would prove invaluable academically and in life in general.



Ms. Christa Zwicker is one of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College's two Student Writers. Christa is a 1st-year student at Seat of Wisdom College.



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The Long Island Catholic.

Mary Ellen Barrett is a mother of seven children and two in heaven, wife to David, and a lifelong New Yorker. She has homeschooled her children for eleven years using Seton and an enormous number of books. She is the editor of *Seton Magazine* and also a contributor to

in the **Schoolroom** **Winter Poetry**

**I love the snow,
it seems to glow,
it turned to rain,
what a shame.**

This was my first published poem. It's no Emily Dickinson, I know, but it was not too bad for a second-grade effort.

My elementary school literary journal included it, and my mother was very proud. Since then, I have published a few poems, but my talents lie mainly in other literary directions.

However, I love poetry, and it is important that young people read and write poems.

It is hard to call yourself well-educated without at least a passing knowledge of Shakespeare, Donne, Rossetti, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Byron, Dickinson, and I could go on and on.

Having your children enjoy writing poetry can be as simple as having them look out the window. You might start them with something as basic as the weather and then give them a head start by providing some rhyming words.

Snow/glow
white/light
ice/nice
cold/hold

Rain/main/train
wind/pinned/skinned
tree/free/we
yard/guard/hard

When they have written a few lines, then have them decorate the page. You could put together a literary journal for your homeschool group. Having the high school kids do it will look good on college applications. In the meantime, here is a wintry poem for you to read by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Winter-Time

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.

When to go out, my nurse doth wrap
Me in my comforter and cap;
The cold wind burns my face, and blows
Its frosty pepper up my nose.

Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.



Robert Louis Stevenson



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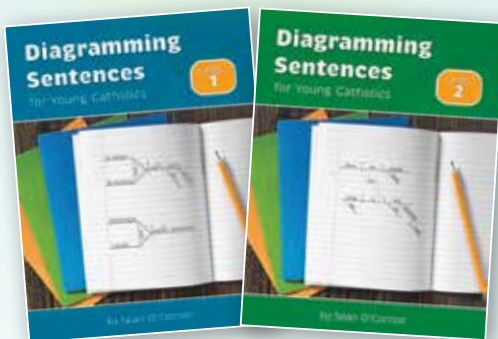
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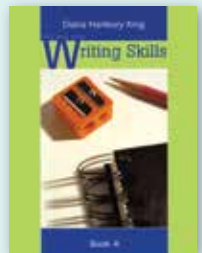
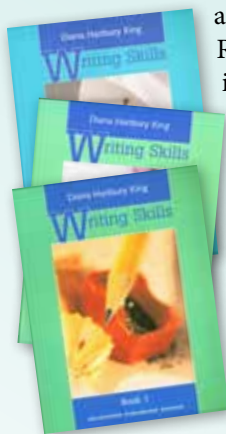
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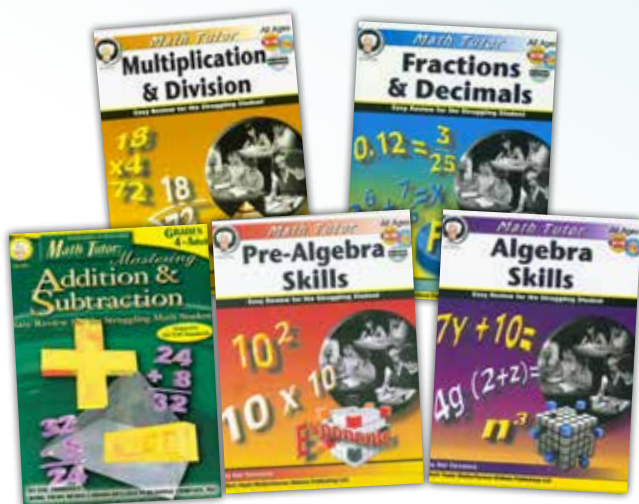
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI APRIL 16, 1927 - DECEMBER 31, 2022



The Secret of True Peace



Dear friends,

A number of you are surely asking in a more or less conscious way: What is it that God expects of me? What is his plan for me? Wouldn't I like to proclaim to the world the grandeur of his love in the priesthood, in the consecrated life or in marriage? Might not Christ be calling me to follow him more closely? Think about these questions with confidence and trust.

Take time to reflect on them and ask for enlightenment. Respond to his invitation by offering yourselves daily to the Lord, for he calls you to be his friends. Strive to follow Christ wholeheartedly and generously, for out of love he redeemed us and gave his life for each one of us. You will come to know inconceivable joy and fulfillment! To answer Christ's call to each of us: that is the secret of true peace.

Pope Benedict XVI
Address to Young People, September 15, 2012