

# Seton



# MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church  
setonmagazine.com | July/August 2023



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is on Today's Schedule*

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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,*

“Always preach the Gospel and, when necessary, use words.” This quote, often attributed to St. Francis although there is no record of his ever saying it is not my favorite. As a writer, I think words are important, and as a Christian I believe proclaiming our faith boldly and unequivocally is just as important as living the faith.

I’m not alone in this belief, as you will see when you read about our Featured Family, the Langs. Not only is this lovely family living a faith-filled life, but Mr. Lang has also taken his faith out of the home and onto the radio.

This issue is dedicated to those evangelizing in their daily lives in the unique ways God calls them. From providing rosaries to children around the world, battling cancer while homeschooling, and even winning a gold medal in gymnastics, all these people are living Jesus’ exhortation to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28. 18-20). It is a gift to be able to share their stories with you.

Let us know how you are living the Gospel these days; we know homeschoolers are changing the world and would love to hear your stories. You can send your photos and comments to [rhibl@setonhome.org](mailto:rhibl@setonhome.org).

I hope that your summer has been filled with happy times and relaxation.

Blessings,

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

Mary Ellen Barrett

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for us!*



#### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dr. Mary Kay Clark

#### EDITORS

Mary Ellen Barrett  
Kevin Clark

#### MARKETING DIRECTOR

Jim Shanley

#### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Robin Hibl

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mary Ellen Barrett  
Sarah Bolton  
Tara Brelinsky  
Susan Brock  
Kristin Brown  
Laura Fusto  
Dr. Blythe Kaufman  
Nathan Lang  
Ancilla Lucia Mari Manzano  
Catherine Marquez  
Amy Nutt  
Christina Nutt  
Theresa O'Connor  
Annie Outman  
Emily Prause

#### COVER PHOTO:

The Lang Family

## SETON PHONE DIRECTORY

SETON HOME STUDY SCHOOL  
540-636-9990

SETON EDUCATIONAL MEDIA  
540-636-9996

STANDARDIZED TESTING  
540-636-1250

ADMISSIONS  
540-636-9990, ext. 1

GENERAL COUNSELING  
540-622-5526

*Cecilia Sauer*

ELEMENTARY COUNSELING  
540-636-1429

*Cecilia Sauer  
Christina Nutt  
Theresa O'Connor*

*Laura Clark  
Heather Hibl  
Laura Fusto*

ELEMENTARY GRADING  
540-622-5569

*Jacinta Black*

TRANSCRIPTS & RECORDS

540-636-1324  
*Betty Showers*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

540-635-4728  
*Deacon Gene McGuirk*

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
COUNSELING

540-635-4728

*Deacon Gene McGuirk*

540-685-8439

*Theresa O'Connor*

HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER  
COURSES

540-622-5536

*Kevin Clark*

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

540-622-5560

*Sean O'Connor*

*MaryRita Trzybinski*

*Mary Connolly*

*Theresa O'Connor*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADING

540-622-5525

*Rhonda Way*

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY,  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

& GEOGRAPHY

540-692-7023

*Aidan Callegari*

GUIDANCE & RECORDS

540-636-2238

*John Thorp*

GRADUATION COUNSELING

540-622-8478

*Bob Wiesner*

HIGH SCHOOL LATIN

540-692-7023

*Aidan Callegari*

HIGH SCHOOL MATH

540-622-5557

*Tom Herlihy*

*Vasily Vasilyev*

*Manuel Vicente*

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION

540-692-7023

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*Bob Wiesner*

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540-622-5537

*Manuel Vicente*

*Tom Herlihy (Physics)*

*Deacon Gene McGuirk*

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH

540-622-5537

*Manuel Vicente*

SPECIAL SERVICES

540-622-5576

*Stephen Costanzo*

*Mary Healey*

*Silvia Maresca*

#### ADDRESS

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

#### CONTACT INFO

Phone: (540) 636-9990

Fax: (540) 636-1602

info@setonhome.org

www.setonhome.org

www.setonmagazine.com

#### SETON EMAILS

CUSTOMER SERVICE

custserv@setonhome.org

COUNSELORS

counselors@setonhome.org

ADMISSIONS

admissions@setonhome.org

GRADING

grading@setonhome.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

info@setonhome.org

MY SETON

myseton@setonhome.org

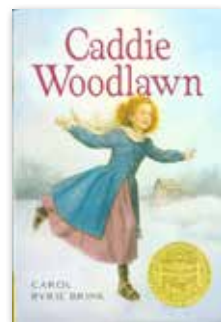
STANDARDIZED TESTING

testing@setonhome.org

SPECIAL SERVICES

SSDept@setonhome.org

## FROM THE Counselor's Corner



### Caddie Woodlawn

by Carol Ryrie Brink

“It is 1864 in Wisconsin and Caddie Woodlawn, age 11, is more interested in Indians than in sewing and in fixing clocks than in baking. Learning the ways of a young lady seems both intimidating and boring to Caddie when compared to the great outdoors. Thin ice and raging prairie fires, school bullies and prankster uncles: adventures—and life lessons—abound for Caddie and her brothers!

275 pp. \$7.99 Each

Recommended by  
Theresa O'Connor,  
Academic Counselor



## Grades 4-6

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# your Questions ANSWERED

FOR HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

## Does Seton have a list of suggested school supplies?

Yes, we do! You can find our suggested school supply lists on your MySeton page. When logged into MySeton, make sure you are on the Home page.

On the right side, under the Seton Staff Directory, you'll see **Suggested School Supplies Pre-K - 12**. "Daily Supplies" are recommended, "Supplemental Supplies" are optional.

Stock up on notebooks, paper, and writing supplies (pencils, pens, crayons, erasers, and highlighters). 3-ring binders and folders are a great way to organize lesson plans and schoolwork.

Use divider tabs to separate each subject. For younger students, chalkboards or hand-held whiteboards are good for practicing letters. Every family should keep a schoolroom copy of the Bible, Catechism, and a reference dictionary.

It is helpful to have a place to store each child's school books - consider using

plastic milk crates, cloth storage cubes, or large plastic bins/Tupperware containers. Or, get creative, and let each child decorate a large cardboard "book box" where they can keep their Seton books.

*Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor*

## Is my high schooler on track to receive her diploma?

When you enroll your high schooler with Seton, admissions does not automatically send out their order. All first-time and returning high school students have their course selection and records reviewed by an academic counselor to ensure that they are on track to receive their diplomas. (Yes, we review thousands and thousands of high school course selections every year!)

If your student is transferring to Seton from a different school, including homeschool or a homeschool co-op, the counselor will need transcripts from that school. Then they will review the transcripts and other relevant

documentation and determine which courses the student should take to get them on track for a Seton diploma.

If the family's course selection at the time of enrollment is what it should be, the counselor will approve the order and send it to our shipping department.

If the counselor notices anything amiss, such as repeated courses, missing courses, or documentation, etc., they will contact the family. We will only send a high schooler's courses to shipping once you and we are satisfied that all is in order.

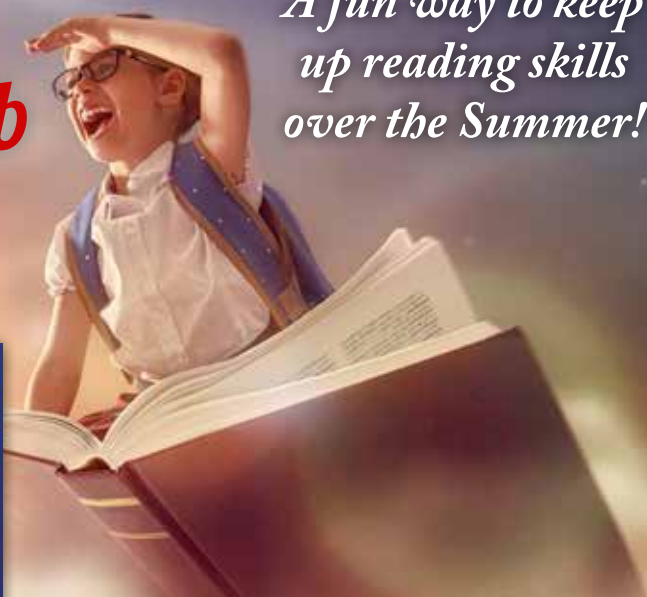
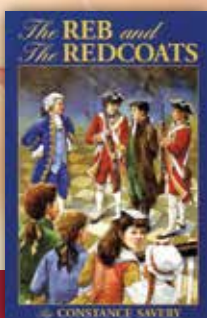
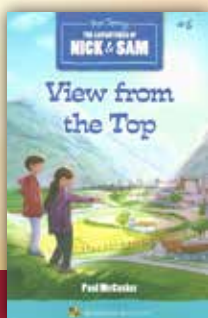
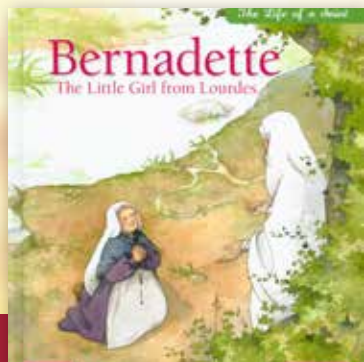
There is one case in which a counselor does not review a high schooler's courses. This is when a full-year student is enrolled for fewer than four credits. Such students are considered not fully enrolled and not seeking a Seton diploma. Admissions will ship their orders without consulting a counselor.

If you have any questions regarding your high schooler's progress toward a diploma, contact us at [counselors@setonhome.org](mailto:counselors@setonhome.org).

*Theresa O'Connor, Academic Counselor*

# The Seton Summer Reading Club

Is Now Open through August 31, 2023

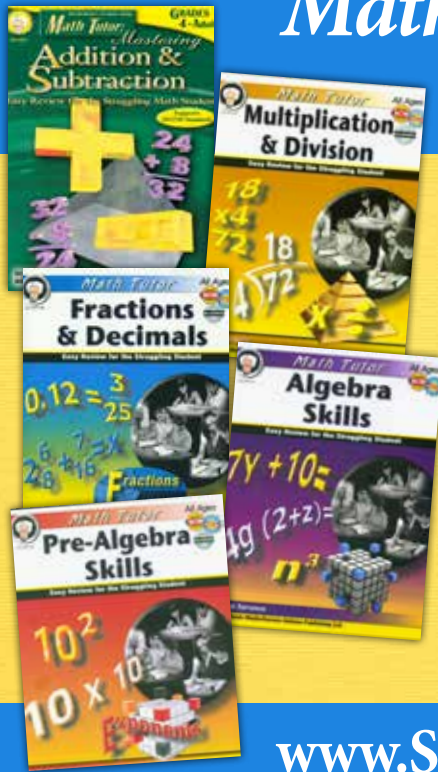


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[www.SetonBooks.com](http://www.SetonBooks.com)

## Can we use alternate math programs?

Yes, Math is one area where families can use programs other than what is provided in the curriculum. With Math, the important thing is finding a program that fits your student since each student has their unique learning style.

If you find a program and would like to use it as an alternate, you can just let us know when you enroll that you are using an alternate program for Math. For elementary grades, you will submit samples of work and grades once per quarter to our Grading Department.

For High School students, families will need to submit an Independent Study request. The form for this can be found under the Resources tab of your MySeton page.

Once the Independent Study is approved, the family will send quarterly reports of the student's work, progress, and grades, which will be added to the student's transcripts. If you have any questions about using an alternate math program, our counselors are always happy to help! You can reach them by emailing [counselors@setonhome.org](mailto:counselors@setonhome.org).

*Amy Nutt, Academic Counselor*

## When will my test be graded?

When you upload an assignment for grading, the assignment enters a grading queue. Items are then graded in the order they were received.

Our graders do their best to get work back to students promptly, but we ask that you allow two weeks before reaching out to ask about an assignment. In the busy months towards the end of the school year and in early November, when everyone submits assignments at once, the wait time may be longer.

How can you avoid a long wait? We always recommend uploading assignments as soon as they are completed. Do NOT wait until the end of the year or even until the end of the quarter. When too many families do this, it creates a grading backlog, much like a traffic jam.

For the fastest turnaround, please submit your work online; do not mail it in. Mailed-in work always takes longer. If you urgently need an assignment graded, you may order rush grading (there is a fee) by contacting our grading department at [grading@setonhome.org](mailto:grading@setonhome.org) or 540-636-1324 ext 255.

*Theresa O'Connor, 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.



**BENEDICTINE**  
COLLEGE



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CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



MAGDALEN COLLEGE  
OF THE LIBERAL ARTS



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY  
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THOMAS AQUINAS  
COLLEGE



THOMAS MORE  
COLLEGE



Holy Apostles  
College & Seminary



OUR LADY  
SEAT OF WISDOM  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DALLAS



UNIVERSITY  
ST. THOMAS  
HOUSTON



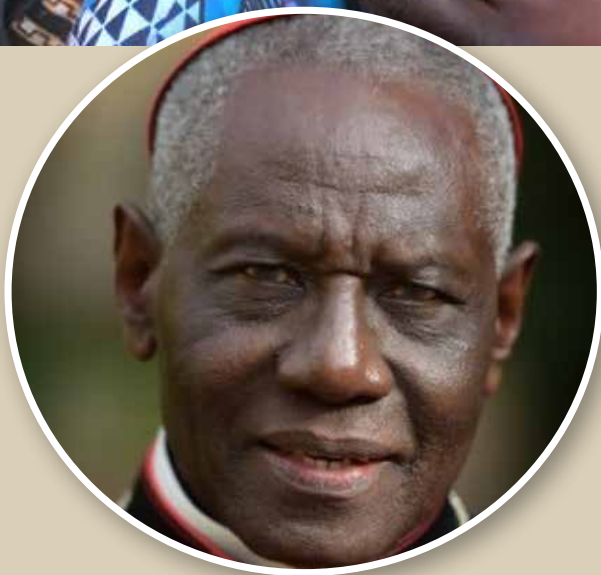
UNIVERSITY  
of MARY



WALSH  
UNIVERSITY  
*A Catholic University of Distinction*

[setonhome.org/colleges](http://setonhome.org/colleges)





“

The graces that are so evidently springing from the Children's Rosary through the powerful intercession of Our Lady gives me great hope not only for Africa but for the many countries worldwide that you are engaged in and where the Lord wishes you to venture. Please know of my fervent support for your apostolate.”

***Robert Cardinal Sarah,  
former Prefect for the Congregation of Divine Worship  
and the Sacraments***



# THE ROSARY to the RESCUE

BY DR. BLYTHE MARIE KAUFMAN

It is surely not easy to raise holy children today. Yet throughout history, Holy Mother Church has responded to the trials specific to each age with particular assistance to help the faithful remain on the narrow path.

One tool is the rosary, an instrument proven throughout the centuries to guard souls in trouble and find solutions to that which seems not to have an answer.

## The Children's Rosary Group

One method of promoting the Rosary is to support the Children's Rosary®, an international prayer group movement dedicated to supporting children's prayer lives and helping them grow in holiness.

Founded in 2011 in West Hartford, CT, the Children's Rosary has expanded with groups in 43 countries. The Vatican and many Church leaders promote and advocate this apostolate supporting our young people and families.

The Dicastery of the Laity, the Family, and Life at the Vatican even has a section about the Children's Rosary on its website. Bishops are shown this site to learn how to support youth and families in the faith when they visit the Vatican.

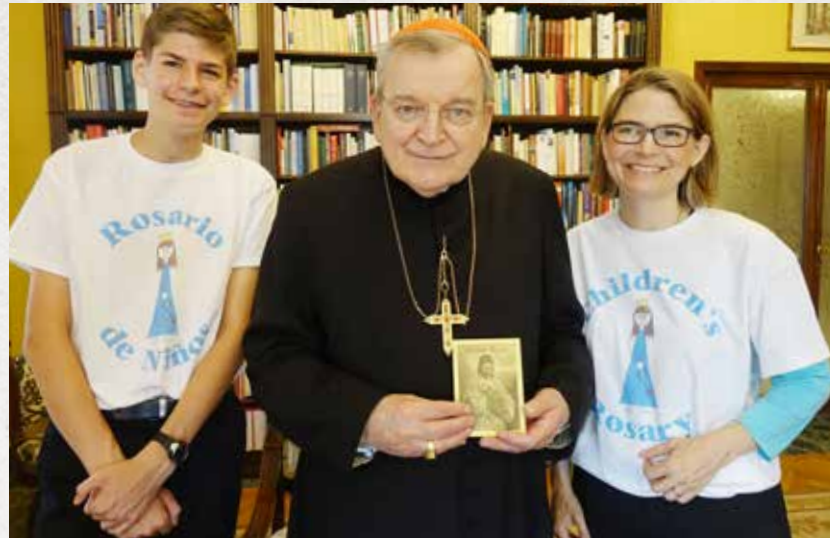
With the charism of prayer, the movement covers its members in a tapestry of prayer as they are joined by others across the globe each day. In 2023 alone, 113,827 handmade rosaries have been sent to Children's Rosary groups across the globe and to Seton families.

## Your Seton Rosary

Each Seton Home Study School enrollment includes a handmade rosary from the Children's Rosary and a booklet that explains how to start a group.

Chip Hibl, Director of Seton Educational Media shared this with me, "The Children's Rosary Group is a fantastic organization that helps spread devotion to the Rosary worldwide. We are incredibly grateful to them for making it possible to provide Rosaries to each student who enrolls in the Seton program."

We hope these seeds bring a harvest of fruit for our world so in need of a generation firmly rooted in following the true way, which is Our Lord.



“One of the most important and most beautiful gifts that we can give to children is the life of prayer, to teach them to pray and to help them to express what is in their hearts, namely a desire to know God and to have communion with Him.

For this reason, I am so pleased to commend and to promote in any way that I can the Children's Rosary and to encourage parents . . . and other institutions to make possible the work of the Children's Rosary so that our children will receive the great gift of a life of prayer. I am very happy to recommend the Children's Rosary to you today.”

***Cardinal Raymond Burke, a member of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura***



**Dr. Blythe Marie Kaufman** is a wife, homeschooling mother, dentist, and Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. She is an author and the founder of the Children's Rosary, an international prayer group movement for children.



# in the **Schoolroom**

BY MARY ELLEN BARRETT

## ~ Create a Spiritual Powerhouse in Your Parish! ~

“The Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results.”  
- St. Josemaría Escrivá

Twenty-five years ago, a nice lady I had met at my parish's mom and tots group invited me to pray the rosary on the coming Friday night. It was a family rosary night that occurred every Friday, and it centered on teaching their very small children how to pray.



It was a joyful prayer time in which toddlers and babies behaved like toddlers and babies and young children offered intentions for their friends and families. It was not a particularly quiet prayer time, but it was so very beautiful.

That rosary group has been life-changing.

Our group has dwindled to mostly adults, those babies and toddlers having grown up and left the nest. Many of those older children have their own children and have started their own Friday rosary group even as ours continues. To say that the fruits of this group are both visible and eternal is an understatement of epic proportion.

### *Teaching Children to Pray*

Starting a children's rosary group in your parish is a perfect way to teach children to pray the rosary and encourage friendships among young people who are learning to love their heavenly mother.

**If you wish to convert  
anyone to the fullness of the  
knowledge of  
Our Lord and of  
His Mystical Body,  
then teach him the Rosary.**

**Venerable Archbishop  
Fulton Sheen**

When you gather children to pray, their natural piety has an opportunity to flourish and grow, and their inclination to love God becomes a desire to be with Him all of their lives. It is that powerful and that important.

Asking your pastor to allow a children's rosary can ensure his parish's growth for years and years. When you ask, be sure to tell him that each week the intentions of the parish and priests will be prayed for, and he is sure to see the fruits of these prayers.

### *The Fruits of Prayer*

Children praying will change the character of your parish, making it more of what God wants and what your community needs.

Through this group, your parish will become stronger and more vibrant and attract the lost, the needed, and the fallen ones, and what else is a church for if not to pull in those in need of God's everlasting love and mercy?

The apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima make clear that Our Lady is calling upon children to pray the rosary. The world is so fallen; these are dark times, but all can be saved by gathering children and praying together. Think of how many miracles have been obtained through the rosary: the battle of Lepanto, the Philippine Revolution, the miraculous cure of Father Peyton, the rosary priest, from tuberculosis, and many more.

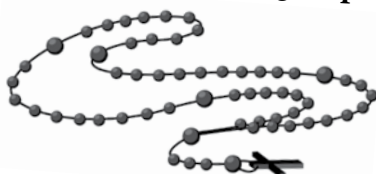
Our Lady made fifteen promises to St. Dominic for those who recite the Rosary faithfully. These include the defeat of sin and heresy, the special protection of Our Lady during life, and the assurance of not dying without the sacraments of the Church. Gathering to pray the rosary together will ensure your children and parish all the promised benefits of devotion and a firm place in the heart of Our Loving Mother in heaven.





## How to Start a Children's Rosary Group

1. Obtain permission from your Pastor to begin a Children's Rosary group.



2. Choose a location, usually in a church or parish center. The Children's Rosary Group asks that the groups not meet in the homes.



3. Choose a regular meeting time (monthly or, if interest exists, weekly or daily).



4. Invite a group of families and children to your first Children's Rosary and consider putting a notice in your Church bulletin. (Usually, these groups begin small, and with time, they will increase in size.)

5. Register your Children's Rosary at [childrensrosary.org](http://childrensrosary.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 271743, West Hartford, CT USA







Ask the Experts:

## How Do You Teach Children to Evangelize?

*Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience*

### *Evangelize with Words if Necessary...*



Whether or not St. Francis of Assisi offered the instruction, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words,” is debatable, but the instruction is not.

To be effective evangelists, to spread the Gospel, requires both a vocal and silent proclamation. I strive to form my children to become knowledgeable in the precepts of the faith, courageous in speaking Truth, and faithful in daily duties.

Before sharing the Gospel, one must encounter it and come to grasp its meaning. To that end, I chose a homeschool curriculum that aligns with our Catholic faith and presents readers with stories of the most effective evangelists, the saints.

Evangelists also need to develop basic skills of effective communication. I instruct my sons and daughters to speak and write well. And I give them opportunities to exercise those skills. (Okay, occasionally, I thrust them into those opportunities.)

Learning to communicate well begins simply: writing thank you cards, speaking to the cashier, answering a phone call (that is becoming a lost art!), applying for a job, and introducing yourself to a new person.

Lastly, but most importantly, I show my students how to live the Gospel by fulfilling my daily duties: praying, laundering, and tidying the house. Without words, I do those things that love demands of me as a wife, mother, teacher, and friend. And I require them to meet their obligations (aka chores).

Though I am not always successful, I work hard to do all this with patience, charity, and joy. And as much as I can, I attempt to elicit the same virtues from my children.

To preach the Gospel is to make Jesus Christ known in the world. It is to evangelize with our lives, in words and deeds.

As Catholic homeschoolers, we are obligated to form tomorrow’s evangelists, and we have the privilege of knowing how to achieve that goal: by using faith-filled educational resources, teaching effective communication skills, and modeling the virtues in silent action.

***Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina***



## Evangelize by the “Pouring in” of Christ



Education and witness go hand in hand when teaching children to be evangelists.

My husband and I made a conscious choice to choose a solidly Catholic, solidly scholastic education program with which to educate our children. We wanted them to see the Faith in every subject, to know it is not a one-hour-a-week-on-Sundays kind of thing.

Secondly, we model. Daily prayer, weekly Mass, and monthly confessions are all part of our lives. The Church is the center of our lives. Our kids have all helped at faith formation classes, and they have grown up seeing us teaching others the Faith. They are active in youth group, holy hours, and the yearly diocesan work camp.

Like a cup overflowing, we have seen the effects of this constant “pouring in” of Christ. Our oldest recently completed a Catholic apologetics course as part of his scouting award. He loved it, and we all learned a lot talking through it with him.

No idea is off limits to discuss in my home, and we are not afraid to spend time with others with different views. Our scout troop is heavily Protestant, which has led to many interesting conversations and witnessing moments, both for our children and us.

One of the most memorable was when our thirteen-year-old daughter recently asked us to take her to a program at church. In her words, it was time for her to “own my own faith.” With gentle guidance, a solid foundation, and open and honest communication, evangelizing will naturally flow out of who they are, and they will all find their unique way of spreading His message.

*Kristin Brown, Virginia*

## Evangelize with Planting Seeds...



In our family we call evangelization “planting seeds.”

We know that we are servants who plant the seeds, but the Holy Spirit is the One who will let those seeds be fruitful. We know those seeds are those little things we do and say as Catholics that others witness from us.

“*The Holy Spirit... Will Let These Seeds be Fruitful.*”

We have taught our children not to be afraid of sharing their faith with their friends. We are blessed to be in a homeschool co-op that is Christian but not exclusively Catholic. One example that we give is that we make the Sign of the Cross when we come together for group prayer at lunchtime.

I speak openly with my non-Catholic friends about what we do at church and share my faith when giving advice to other members. My example shows my children how to share the Catholic faith with their friends. My teen daughter has shared with me that her non-Catholic classmate has asked her questions, to which she gave good responses.

My children have learned a lot of apologetics through the Seton Religion courses, and seeing their parents confidently share their faith with others has given them the seeds they need to plant in the garden of their friends’ souls.

*Susan Brock, Virginia*

## THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



“

What I love most about homeschooling is being with my children, and as an older mom, I want to be involved in as much of their lives as possible.

**Why did I choose Seton Home Study School?**

I like the flexible schedule. Everything is planned for us, and I trust the course selections.

The Marquez Family, Hillsboro, OR



”



# Living Life Fully is on Today's Schedule



BY NATHAN LANG

**Back** in early 2020, schools were among the many entities being shut down across the county. Our two oldest children, Brianna and Bridget, began learning from home using the Chromebooks that were sent home along with them.

They found themselves doing their work virtually and emailing pictures of their assignments to their teachers for grading, all while we were caring for our newborn son, Blaise. A couple of months later, the school year was finished and the computers returned. We had made it through a never-before-seen paradigm shift in modern society.

As the summer was quickly approaching and the next school year was preparing to begin, our family had a decision to make.

On the one hand, we had to face the possibility of sending our children back to school only to follow strict masking and social distancing guidelines. On the other hand, we had already successfully “home-schooled” for two months and felt like we could do this again.

## Our Prayerful Decision

After conducting online research and praying over our decision, we were led to Seton. Knowing several other homeschool families in our area who also use Seton and being devout Catholics ourselves, it was mostly a no-brainer.

In Kansas, the requirements to homeschool are quite simple. We simply had to go online to register our home address as a “school.” After deciding on St. Anthony Academy for our school name, we ordered our books. How easy it was to set up lesson plans! The kids were excited to try something different.

*“After conducting online research  
and praying over our decision,  
we were led to Seton”*

In the beginning, things were very informal. We were looking for routines we wanted to keep and those we wanted to change or discard.

The kids would complete their morning rituals of eating breakfast, brushing their teeth, and making their beds. But now, instead of loading up in the car to drive to school, we would begin the school day in our own home with our morning offering and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our work schedules allowed us to teach together. How rewarding it was to teach our children things like multiplication, cursive, and their catechism! We could spend more time on subjects we determined they needed while we spent less time on subjects that came easier for them.

We saw our daughters growing in knowledge and love of Jesus and their neighbor by leaps and bounds. We incorporated things such as trips to our local Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel and First Friday Devotions into their curriculum.







## The Phone Call

Then, in mid-2022, I received a phone call out of the blue asking if I'd be interested in applying for a new job.

After much discerning, I ended a fifteen-year career in law enforcement to work in Catholic radio. I began working in September 2022 for Divine Mercy Radio, a network of five Catholic radio stations which spans much of northern Kansas.

This abrupt schedule change meant that I would teach my portion of the classes in the afternoon while Jennifer continued to teach in the morning.

Then, while I was teaching, Jennifer could work from home in the afternoon, making rosaries and rosary bracelets as her Etsy-based business, Mary's Ropes of Hope, was taking off. It seemed that devotion to Our Lady's Psalter was growing across the country.

The children were adapting to our new schedule with ease and were soon exceeding expectations in academics, their catechism, and becoming disciples of Christ. God had been good to us.

Three years after first researching the possibility of homeschooling, we had two daughters in Seton and a son growing up before our eyes. Brianna and Bridget were finding themselves loving homeschooling more and more.

They were growing into their roles as big sisters. We still were doing things we used to do before we began homeschooling. But now we doing them as a family and on our schedule.

We took field trips to the pumpkin patch and even the zoo. Once, we took a field trip to our local Fort Hays to learn how and why it was built in the 1800s. This turned into a history assignment, of course.

Most recently, because we homeschool and set our own schedule, we were able to make an impromptu five hour pilgrimage to neighboring Missouri for a literal hands-on experience venerating a hopefully soon-to-be saint, Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster, who was found to be incorrupt upon exhuming her body four years after her death. We would not have been able to experience this if we had not chosen to homeschool.

Seton has been a blessing for us over these past three years. It has allowed us to grow closer as a family, grow in our knowledge as we learn with our children, and grow in our faith.

To anyone considering homeschooling, Seton is easy to use, challenges our children, and incorporates our Catholic Faith into every aspect of learning, which can help lead us all to become saints someday.



# A NEW GENERATION OF FAITHFUL NURSES



BY SARAH BOLTON

**Belmont Abbey College**, located outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, is committed to exceptional, ethical healthcare through professional nursing education, formation, and practice.

The Abbey's nursing program develops well-rounded professionals with critical thinking skills, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of ethical and cultural considerations in healthcare.

## Faculty Excellence

The success of any nursing program lies in the expertise and dedication of its faculty members.

At Belmont Abbey College, our #1 ranked nursing faculty comprises experienced professionals who bring a wealth of clinical knowledge and real-world experience to the classroom.

“Discover the unique “Abbey difference.”

Our professors are committed to providing personalized attention and mentorship to students, ensuring they receive the support necessary to excel in their studies and future careers.

Nurses are privileged to witness life's most intimate events when patients, families, and communities are at their most vulnerable. Belmont Abbey's nursing faculty teach the practice of nursing's art and science to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and faith.

Fundamental beliefs concerning pedagogy, critical thinking, respect, nursing science, and the Rule of Saint Benedict guide the faculty's endeavors. Emily Nishiyama, Assistant Professor of Nursing, shares, “I love teaching in a faith-based institution that allows me to pray with students and outwardly share the Christian values important to the nursing profession.

I value the support from the monastic community and how high-quality ethical education is important to our leadership. Plus, I love the small class size and making teaching a more personal experience for my students.”





“ I love the small class size and making teaching a more personal experience.



## Clinical Experience and Partnerships

One of the distinguishing features of Belmont Abbey College Nursing is its strong emphasis on clinical experience. Through affiliations with prestigious healthcare institutions and partnerships with local hospitals, clinics, and community health organizations, students gain practical experience in various healthcare settings. These clinical rotations expose students to diverse patient populations and healthcare specialties, fostering a well-rounded understanding of the nursing profession.



## Commitment to Service and Faith

As a Catholic institution, Belmont Abbey College Nursing instills a sense of service and ethics in its students. The program emphasizes the importance of ethical decision-making, compassion, and empathy in nursing practice. Caring for the sick is a hallmark of Benedictine values.

With a dedicated focus on the hallmarks of virtues and steadfast adherence to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, Belmont Abbey College possesses a unique ability to address the healthcare needs of our community and society.

## Holistic Approach

Belmont Abbey College Nursing strongly emphasizes holistic care, recognizing that patients are more than just their medical conditions. The program teaches students to view healthcare holistically, considering the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of patients' well-being. This approach enables graduates to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that promotes healing and improves outcomes.

Local provider CaroMont Health is building a hospital in Belmont, on Belmont Abbey Monastery land next to Belmont Abbey College.

This facility will adhere to Catholic principles and have everything from an emergency department and inpatient units to a labor and delivery unit, along with top-notch diagnostic services like lab work and imaging. The addition means that students will have an incredible chance to learn the best nursing practices and leverage their compassion to make a real difference in people's lives.

Students in Belmont Abbey College's nursing program will discover the unique "Abbey difference," characterized by exceptional faculty, a focus on holistic care, and learning rooted in Catholic tradition.

The college will play a crucial part in shaping the future of healthcare by equipping empathetic professionals with the necessary skills to impact their patients and communities positively. Rooted in truth, this transformative journey guides and forms the next generation of faithful nurses.



**Sarah Bolton** is Marketing Project Manager at Belmont Abbey College. A Belmont Abbey alumna, Sarah loves to share the Abbey's mission "that in all things God may be glorified" in every aspect of her life. She lives in Mount Holly, North Carolina, with her husband Nate, son Finnan, and dog Apache.





# SETON ALUMNA ANNIE OUTMAN

**My** name is Annie Outman and I graduated from Seton Home Study School in 2020. I am entering my senior year at Belmont Abbey College and will be graduating this year with a major in Parish and Pastoral Ministries and a minor in psychology.

I am in the Joan of Arc household, in the Hintemeyer Catholic Leadership program, and entering my third year as the head of Saint's Club.

## The Right Place

I found the Abbey through the Newman Guide Recommended College list that Seton provided, and we requested more information about the school. I remember looking at the website for Belmont Abbey and thinking it could be the right place!

I visited Belmont along with a local state school, one week before the world shut down. I immediately knew there was something special about the Abbey that I couldn't find at a bigger, secular college. The Catholic identity of Belmont Abbey really drew me in, and I've been astounded by the community I have found here.



Belmont Abbey seeks to educate and nourish the entire person in mind, body, and spirit, and I have received that here. My education at the Abbey has been incredible. From the core curriculum and the professors to the classroom size, Belmont Abbey has met my educational needs.

## Nourishing Mind, Body, and Spirit

I've learned so much about the world around me at the Abbey. The core curriculum is well-rounded and helped me understand the basics of subjects I wouldn't have been interested in otherwise.

*The Catholic identity of Belmont Abbey really drew me in, and I've been astounded by the community I have found here.*





The theology and psychology departments encourage me to dig deeper into truth, beauty, and goodness in everything I do, and I've truly begun to love learning here.

*Seton gave me a lot of basics I needed to succeed in college.*

My spiritual life has been fed by the presence of the monks on campus and their continuous support and guidance. They never turn down walking with someone in faith and friendship.

Belmont Abbey is great for many reasons, but I think our greatest attribute is our remarkable and God-given community and friendships. These friendships nourish the heart and soul and are an essential part of how the Abbey builds up the body.

There are so many wonderful people here, and I feel inspired by others every day! Even though I'm not involved in athletics here, it's easy to see how the athletes on campus give their all and build up this community.

It is wonderful to be around a group of people who push themselves and use the gifts God has given them.

## How Seton Prepared Me for College Life

As a Seton grad, I've realized I could think deeply about what I was learning and how I was learning. Seton gave me a lot of basics I needed to succeed in college.

I particularly grew to appreciate the skills I had learned in writing papers. I quickly learned that outlining, researching, and thumbing through books are vital to writing a good paper.

I also appreciated the religion classes I received through Seton. Things like the *Baltimore Catechism* helped me build a foundation and love for theology, which made me realize later on how much I enjoyed learning about the Church and sharing my faith with others – to the point where I hope to make a career out of it!

# How Does Your Family Evangelize?

## What did you do?

We organize a family pilgrimage to a Marian shrine an hour from our place.



Joseph and Ruby Phillion  
Sarnia, Ontario



This is our second year organizing the family Marian pilgrimage as a little gift to Our Lady.

Last year we had 7-8 families who joined, but this year since it was Mother's Day weekend, there were only three families who joined. After praying the three sets of mysteries, we go through the saint's trail.

Want to share how you and your family evangelize in your community?

Send your photos and comments to  
[rhibl@setonhome.org](mailto:rhibl@setonhome.org)



# The Unexpected Gifts of Difficult Journeys

BY LAURA FUSTO

**In** April of last year, I was diagnosed with cancer. I endured a year of treatments and one major surgery. I climbed a mountain of doctor appointments. I learned to live with side effects. I got gravely ill and spent a month in bed. I prayed to God for just a normal day. It was not easy. Only now can I look back and see the unexpected gifts this journey has given me.

God provides unexpected gifts when we need them most – during the unforeseen bumps in the road. And as a homeschool mom, I know that the highway can get pretty bumpy. Illness, a big move, a new baby, a defiant child, losing a job, losing a loved one – all of these and bring our homeschool to an abrupt stop.

## Wait, there's More...

Then, on top of one stress, we build others. We start to worry. What if we get too behind? Will we have to homeschool through the summer? Will our child graduate by June? These anxieties grow until we are almost ready to give up. We are locked up inside of an anxiety box, and we cannot get out. We cannot see the big picture. At these times, we need to remember that God does.

I recently listened to a sermon by a priest about how the disciples did not understand the different events in Jesus' life and where these events were leading. He compared Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, and ascension to puzzle pieces in Jesus' life and that the disciples





were trying to put the pieces together without the benefit of a finished picture to guide them. The disciples only saw puzzle pieces, whereas our Lord already knew the completed picture. Not until Pentecost did they begin to understand how the pieces fit the puzzle of Jesus' life.

God sees our entire picture from the beginning and already knows how each piece fits perfectly into our lives. Some pieces fit in easily, and some are much more difficult. Sometimes the more difficult pieces bring the most satisfaction when placed; these are often the events that bring the most surprising gifts.

God gives those who homeschool special gifts, especially during times of stress. We start realizing that time is of the world and not of God—we are not behind if we are learning; graduation does not have to occur on an arbitrary date.

We learn that family is important and that we get to spend more time with them than do “normal” brick-and-mortar school families. We learn that God triumphs over our day, and if we love and obey him, He will become the principal of our homeschool. This Principal will never let our homeschool fail.

I am often asked the question, “Is homeschooling hard?” My answer is always, “Yes, it is.” But I always follow up with the more important question, “Is it worth it?” Most homeschool parents will answer with a resounding “yes” to this question, and so do I.

## Step Back for a Better View

This year, my youngest child became a high school graduate, a year later than planned, but that is okay. My homeschooling road has successfully ended, and so has my cancer journey. Praise be to God, I have been declared cancer-free.

Have there been unexpected gifts? Definitely. I now know that every day God gives me is a special gift, and I will never take for granted any future normal, uneventful days that He provides. I better realize the importance of loved ones. I know now that God does indeed answer prayers.

We should never forget the unexpected gifts God brings to us and our homeschool, especially when it is hard. We homeschoolers are tough because God makes us this way. We know that He sees our bigger picture. We are ready to take on the rocky homeschooling road less traveled because we have God to help smooth the bumps along the way.



**Laura Fusto** received her BA in Communications from McDaniel College. She and her husband, John, have been blessed with three daughters. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, golfing, shopping with her daughters, and playing pinochle with her husband and their friends.

## Be At Peace

*Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life;  
Rather look to them with full hope that as they arise,  
God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely  
through all things.*

*And when you cannot stand it,  
God will carry you in His arms.  
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;  
The same everlasting Father who cares for you today  
Will take care of you then and every day.*

*He will either shield you from suffering,  
Or give you unfailing strength to bear it.  
Be at peace,  
And put aside all anxious  
thoughts and imagination.*

*St. Francis de Sales*

## ANCILLA MAKES HISTORY AS PHILIPPINES WINS GOLD



**A**ncilla Lucia Mari Manzano is making history and wants to inspire others to develop their God-given talents.

I won a Gold Medal in the Team Event for Women's Artistic Gymnastics during the 31st Southeast Asian Games held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in May 2022.

I also qualified for the Event Finals in Vault and Balance Beam, where I placed 5th in the Vault Event. The SEA Games was my first competition as a member of the Philippine National Team, and I was the youngest gymnast on the team!

Together with my teammates, we won for our country the first Gold Medal for Team Event in Women's Artistic Gymnastics in over 30 years, making history for the Philippines.

### Presidential Recognition

The Southeast Asian Games, also known as the SEA Games, is a biennial multi-sport event involving participants from the current 11 countries of Southeast Asia.

The games are under the regulation of the Southeast Asian Games Federation with supervision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The President of the Philippines also recognized the athletes who won medals during the SEA Games by awarding us with the Order of Lapu-Lapu, "in recognition of invaluable or extraordinary service in relation to a campaign or advocacy of the President."



## A Homeschooling Advantage

Preparing for the competition was challenging because it required much of my time. Training hours last more than half of my day. I flew to the United States and stayed for three months to train with amazing coaches in Texas and Arizona.

With homeschooling, I could adjust my study time to my convenience and according to my training schedule. I have ample time for rest and recreation; hence, I can perform my best in every practice. I also look forward to studying because I love learning new things, which gives me a break from the fast-paced world around me.

***“I want to inspire others, especially younger kids.”***

Aside from gymnastics, I love to take photos, mostly portraits and sunsets. I also like reading Young Adult literature and listening to indie-pop music.

When I am not snapping photos or reading, I love to make coffee and experiment with new recipes.

At four years old, I saw girls at my school doing flips and tricks, and I wanted to do it, too. Little did I know that, 12 years later, I would still be doing gymnastics, becoming part of the National Team, and making history for my country.

## Using Our God-given Talents

As an athlete, I want to inspire others, especially younger kids. Through this role, I want to let children know that we each have our God-given talents, and we should share these gifts because only He knows what each person is really capable of and the path you are going to pave for the world.

My favorite subjects are Mathematics and Science. I like Math because I love challenging my mind. I also enjoy studying Science, most especially astronomy, because the universe is a beautiful and astonishing creation.

The photo was taken at the Training Center of the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines, where I trained for many hours for the competition. The stuffed animal, the Saola, is an endangered mammal in Vietnam and the mascot for the 31st SEA Games.



## Seton Student Achievements

SHARING SUCCESS WITH THE SETON COMMUNITY

[setonmagazine.com/students](https://setonmagazine.com/students)



### ***Trail Life USA Freedom Award to Thomas***

For his Trail Life USA servant leadership project, Thomas designed, built, and filled carts with items to help those with special needs.



### ***Eloise Wins Award and Dairy Goat Medal***

Eloise enjoys reading, playing flute, and working with her goats; she finds science interesting and might be a nurse or a veterinarian.



# FROM THE *Counselor's Corner*



## Summer Reading Picks

Available from Seton Educational Media  
[www.SetonBooks.com](http://www.SetonBooks.com)

**New!**

## The Letzenstein Chronicles

by Meriol Trevor

“History, danger, adventure, a little bit of mystery... These are the ingredients that make *The Letzenstein Chronicles* an enjoyable summer read! In Book 1, *The Crystal Snowstorm*, meet 13-year-old Catherine Ayre and her scruffy, lovable, prince-turned-artist cousin, Rafael le Marre.

Throughout the series, they are joined by a memorable cast of characters - brave, gentle Constant, who loves the outdoors; fiery Jeanne, a former dancer who braves the dangers of a revolution to help others; and the villainous Julius Waldemar, who will do anything to seize the government and take over the tiny kingdom of Letzenstein.

191-220 pp each. Four Book Set | \$54.20

Recommended by  
Christina Nutt,  
Academic Counselor

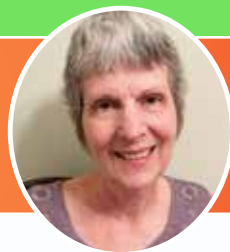


Grades 6-8



## Pre-K - Grade 2

Recommended by  
Laura Fusto,  
Academic Counselor



# Catholic Children's Treasure Box

Edited by the Maryknoll Sisters



Our family loves the Catholic Children's Treasure Box books written by the Maryknoll Sisters. The books were saved for special daddy/daughter reading in the evenings. They are geared toward three to six-year-olds, filled with Catholic-themed short stories, poems, and activities.

Our girls are now grown, and we passed our book set onto another young Catholic family. However, we will certainly gift a set of these books to each of our girls as grandchildren arrive.



Catholic Children's Treasure Box (1-10) Set 1 ..... \$53.50

Catholic Children's Treasure Box (11-20) Set 2 .... \$53.50

Catholic Children's Treasure Box Sets 1 & 2 ..... \$99.95

## High School, Grade 12

Recommended by  
Theresa O'Connor,  
Academic Counselor



# Out of the Silent Planet

by C.S. Lewis



In this first book of C.S. Lewis's unforgettable space trilogy, protagonist Dr. Ransom finds himself kidnapped and transported to the planet Malacandra. His experiences and conversations with the planet's inhabitants challenge many of his basic assumptions about how the world works.

Here, Lewis gives us a picture of what life might be like on an "unbent" (unfallen) planet which, unlike our own, silent planet, still communes with the divine.

154 pp. \$15.00



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## "God is found in all good things.

And all these things have made me a better person, and my relationship has grown so deeply with the Lord." ~ Anthony, Honors College, Senior

The Honors College at Belmont Abbey provides an unparalleled combination: a four-year Great Books curriculum rooted deeply in the Christian tradition and the option of choosing any of our strong academic majors.

We equip students with the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom conducive to a happy life of genuine flourishing. A life of leisure and learning amidst the natural grandeur of the Abbey, in stunning North Carolina, will ignite a passion for knowledge and invite gratitude to God.

*Learn. Seek. Thrive.*

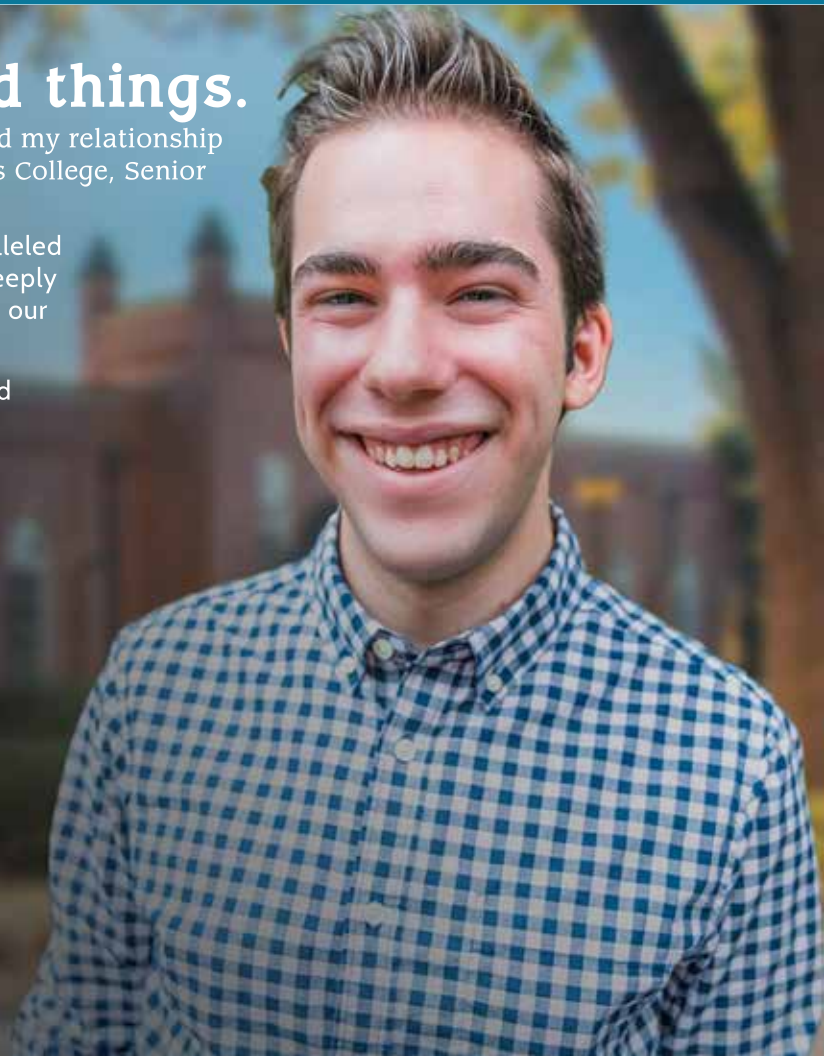


**Join us. Take the next, best step.**

Contact the Dean of the Honors College,  
Dr. Joseph Wysocki, at [JosephWysocki@bac.edu](mailto:JosephWysocki@bac.edu)  
[www.bac.edu/honors](http://www.bac.edu/honors)



**The Honors College**  
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## *When Do We Proclaim the Good News?*

*Our proclamation begins today, there where we live. And it does not begin by trying to convince others, not to convince: but by bearing witness every day to the beauty of the Love that has looked upon us and lifted us up. And it is this beauty, communicating this beauty, that will convince people — not communicating ourselves but the Lord himself.*

*We are the ones who proclaim the Lord. We do not proclaim ourselves, we do not proclaim a political party, an ideology. No: we proclaim Jesus. We need to put Jesus in contact with the people, without convincing them but allowing the Lord to do the convincing.*

**Pope Francis - General Audience - Wednesday, 11 January 2023**

*Beginning a new series of catechesis, "dedicated to an urgent and decisive theme for Christian life: the passion for evangelization."*