

# Seton MAGAZINE

Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church

setonmagazine.com | March-April 2024



## *Building Bonds*

The Stengel Family - Pg 16



## From Uganda to Ave Maria

Fr. Joseph Lugalambi

### **Getting it All Done**

Laura Clark - pg 8

### **Not Just for Kids**

Literature Favorites - pg 10

### **Angelina Succeeds with Angel's Toy Chest**

Student Profile - pg 19





# 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,*

As I sit and write this letter, the sun is shining for the first time in weeks, and, thanks be to God, it will be light past 6:00 pm. Spring is coming.

This season, full of the joy of the Resurrection, which makes all things new (Rev. 21:5), is also challenging for homeschool parents. You might be at the “throw up your hands and give up” stage of the year because you feel behind, and now you must wedge four soccer practices a week into your life. Laura Clark has been there. We prevailed upon her to share some of her best practices for getting it all done so that we feel more in control and at peace.

In this issue, you also get to meet the Stengel family, who have a deep heart for mission work and Mother Teresa’s “Gospel in five fingers.” You also get an update on John Clark’s family, who we have watched grow up in these pages. John will write for the magazine regularly after a break to work on his book, and I will be grateful to have him back.

This month’s College Partner feature was particularly interesting since Father Lugalambi is one of my son’s favorite professors at Ave Maria University. He is just one of the many reasons to consider AMU for your Seton graduate. Check out Gabriel Mellino’s article to see how he feels Seton prepared him for his college career at Ave Maria.

On behalf of the employees here at Seton, it is my great joy to use this space to wish you the most joyous Easter celebration; remember, it’s an octave, so eight days of celebration is your duty!

Blessings,

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

Mary Ellen Barrett

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



#### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Mary Ellen Barrett

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Jim Shanley

#### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Robin Hibl

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mary Ellen Barrett  
Tara Brelinsky  
Susan Brock  
Kristin Brown  
John Clark  
Laura Clark  
Cheryl Hernandez  
Leonor Jubilan  
Fr. Joseph Lugalambi  
Angelina Melendi  
Gabriel Mellino  
Amy Nutt  
Christina Nutt  
Emily Prause  
Kaylie Schloemer  
Marcela Stengel

#### COVER PHOTO:

The Stengel Family

## SETON PHONE DIRECTORY

SETON HOME STUDY SCHOOL  
540-636-9990

SETON EDUCATIONAL MEDIA  
540-636-9996

STANDARDIZED TESTING  
540-636-1250

ADMISSIONS  
540-636-2039

GENERAL COUNSELING  
540-622-5526  
*Cecilia Sauer*

ELEMENTARY COUNSELING  
540-636-1429  
*Cecilia Sauer  
Christina Nutt  
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*

HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER  
COURSES  
540-622-5536  
*Kevin Clark*

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH  
540-622-5560  
*Sean O'Connor  
Mary Connolly*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADING  
540-622-5525  
*Rhonda Way*

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY,  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
& GEOGRAPHY  
540-692-7023

GUIDANCE & RECORDS  
540-636-2238  
*John Thorp*

GRADUATION COUNSELING  
540-622-8478  
*Bob Wiesner*

HIGH SCHOOL LATIN  
540-692-7023

HIGH SCHOOL MATH  
540-622-5557

*Tom Herlihy  
Vasily Vasilyev  
Manuel Vicente*

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION  
540-622-8478  
*Bob Wiesner*

540-635-4728  
*Deacon Gene McGuirk*

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE  
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

## Seton Home Study School



# Seton 2024 Graduation

**Is June 22, 2024 at Skyline High  
School in Front Royal.**

**REGISTER  
NOW**

**Deadline for registration is May 15, 2024**  
**setonhome.org/student/life/graduation-2024/**



22



16



19

# Contents—

- 6** **Your Questions Answered**  
*For Homeschooling Families*
- 8** **Secrets to Getting It All Done!**  
*Laura Clark*
- 10** **Not Just for Kids**  
*Staff Favorites for Moms*
- 12** **Seton Literature for Moms**  
*Seton Educational Media*
- 14** **Let's Celebrate the Immaculate Conception**  
*In the Schoolroom with Mary Ellen Barrett*
- 15** **Student Achievement**  
*Vincent and Joanna*
- 16** **Building Bonds: Our Family's Mission**  
*Marcela Stengel*
- 19** **Angel's Toy Chest**  
*Angelina Melendi*
- 20** **Ask The Experts**  
*How Does Your Family Carry Out the Mission of Living the Gospel?*
- 21** **This is Why We Homeschool**  
*The Jubilan Family*
- 22** **Catching Up**  
*John Clark*
- 24** **From Uganda to Ave Maria University**  
*Meet Fr. Joseph Lugalambi*
- 26** **Seton Alumnus Profile**  
*Gabriel Mellino*
- 28** **Stanford Online**  
*Seton Testing Products*
- 30** **Staff Profile**  
*Kaylie Schloemer*
- 31** **St. Pius the V**  
*Saint Poster by Emily Prause*



## Featuring Three Answers from Seton Special Services

### What if my child needs more time for high school-level coursework?

Homeschooling allows parents to make several accommodations more flexibly than in a classroom setting.

For example, you can give your student extended time to complete assignments, use visual/audio aids and learning tools such as calculators and speech-to-text, and arrange your child's workspace and schedule to fit his needs and abilities.

Our Special Services Department can further assist you by offering curriculum modifications. No matter the age or level of your student, our goal is to tailor the curriculum as much as possible to your student's needs, ability, and academic level.

We have several options for adapting and modifying high school classes that vary case by case. Please get in touch with us to discuss your specific situation and find out if a Special Services curriculum plan is the right fit for your student.

### Does Seton offer dyslexia evaluations?

Seton offers the Diagnostic Online Reading Assessment (DORA) by Let's Go Learn. The DORA test is a K-12 test designed to test a student's word recognition, phonics, phonemic awareness, and spelling, common in dyslexia screeners, especially in the primary grades.

This test goes further and tests oral vocabulary, reading comprehension, and



fluency. This fully adaptive test responds to your student's answer to each question by adapting the next question to an easier or more difficult question.

While this test cannot diagnose dyslexia, it gives a comprehensive picture of the student's reading skill level and identifies areas the student may struggle with.

### My son's lesson plans have extra assignments. Do we complete all of them?

In the Special Services Department, we design a curriculum for each student. Often, this requires an approach that is unique to your child. We have standard and adapted lesson plans, but not all curriculum designs are the same, and your child may have different assignments than you see in the lesson plan.

Your student must only complete the assignments discussed during your curriculum call with Special Services. When meeting with your counselor, it is a good idea to note which classes will have modifications and what those modifications will be.

To confirm the assignments your student needs to complete, you can always refer to the SS Quarter Report Forms or your MySeton page for an outline of assignments that need to be completed.

- Special Services Staff

For Special Services questions: 540-522-5576 or [ssdept@setonhome.org](mailto:ssdept@setonhome.org)

## Why I Love Seton's Online Printable Lesson Plans

Seton's Online Printable Lesson Plan Creator can make your homeschool day run so much more smoothly and help students with independence and accountability.

Over the course of 28 years, we have enrolled our nine children with Seton Home Study School, with five graduates. That tells you we are big fans of the excellent curriculum Seton provides.



If you are not using this feature, I would encourage you to do so.

### To Use the Online Printable Lesson Plan Creator:

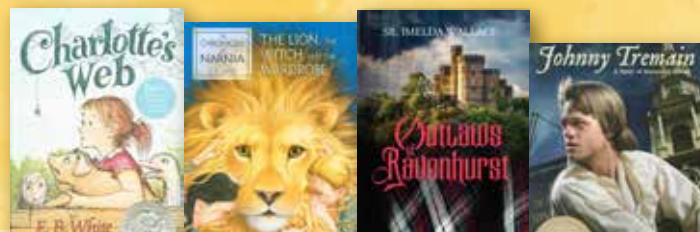
- **Go** to your MySeton page, click on the Courses tab, and then on the Print Lesson Plans tab.
- **On the Daily Lesson Plan Creator**, you can choose to print either weekly plans or daily — just click on the tab you would prefer.
- **Select** the courses to be printed (and the week you would like), then select 'Create Lesson Plans'.
- **Edit** and customize the plans for each student before you print them, if desired.

Cheryl Hernández,  
Dade City, FL



# Staff Favorites for Moms Who Love to Read!

## Recommendations for Seton Literature Begin on Page 10



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

### Our 7th-grade daughter's lesson plans reference *Voyages in English*. Do we need to buy this book?

You do not need to purchase the *Voyages in English* book. Everything you need from *Voyages in English* to complete English 7 can be found in your lesson plans.

Whenever an English assignment includes a quote from *Voyages in English*, the student should read the quote in the lesson plan and then do the work assigned in the lesson plan.

*Voyages in English* was part of an older series of Catholic English grammar books. These were used successfully for many years in Catholic schools and are used by many Catholic homeschoolers today. We occasionally include excerpts from the *Voyages* books in our lesson plans to explain specific grammar and composition topics further. Seton gives credit to these ideas by listing the page number and the title of the *Voyages* book whenever we quote from it - citing the source.

*Christina Nutt, Academic Counselor*

### What high school electives can we choose as we prepare for next year?

In the Seton high school course schedule, students must take certain courses in specific subject areas to graduate.

There are also "free spaces" in the student's list of HS credits that need to be filled with courses of the student's choosing, which can be from any subject category. These "free spaces" are elective courses.

**Electives enable students to earn academic credit towards their diploma while studying subjects that interest them.**

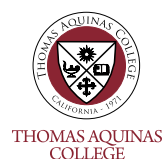
Students taking the Academic Diploma need three elective credits to graduate. Seton does not have a set list of electives. Students may choose their electives from any of Seton's courses that are not already required for the diploma.

Independent Study courses that have received approval from Seton can also count for elective credit. If you or your students have any questions, feel free to contact our HS Counselors: [counselors@setonhome.org](mailto:counselors@setonhome.org)

*Amy Nutt, Admissions Consultant*



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



OUR LADY  
SEAT OF WISDOM  
COLLEGE



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

# Secrets to Getting It All Done!

## Success Strategies of a Large Homeschooling Family

BY LAURA CLARK



*This* is the time of year when we start to see many comments and questions from moms, especially moms of large families, who seem overwhelmed and worried that they are getting behind.

They may have started out okay, but as the school year progresses, they find that they are getting behind—or what they

consider behind. It may be that their students are moving along okay in the books but haven't done the tests or papers that need to be turned in. Sometimes, the moms are feeling overwhelmed with grading.

Other times, they think some of their students are doing okay, but others feel neglected.

I have eight children, each about two years apart, so I homeschooled seven children at once for several years! I know it can be overwhelming, so I have a few ideas that hopefully will help!

### *1. Focus on the Essentials*

The lesson plans are an ideal, but not everything needs to be done. For all grade levels, the only things we are required to do to receive a grade for the course are the Seton-graded assignments. Otherwise, you can adjust Seton's daily lesson plans in any way you want.

You can adjust your daily work so your child can focus on the Seton-graded work. If your child needs to do all the pages in the workbook to prepare for the tests, do them, but if he doesn't, it's okay to skip some once you're sure he's mastered the concepts.

Our motto is "Fit the program to the child, not the child to the program!"





## 2. Use Parent Grading Options

Remember, too, that certain subjects are parent-graded, and it is entirely up to you to proceed with them. These are art, music, and PE for all grades, handwriting for grades 1-5, Science and History for grades 1-3, and all of Pre-K and Kindergarten.

My girls all took ballet classes several days a week, and my boys played soccer, so that was our PE program. We loved going into Washington, DC to see free or reduced-rate shows and concerts, which can count toward the art or music program.

Whatever you decide to do for these subjects, you are still entitled to submit your parent grades for their report card. By entering your parent-determined grades, you are just telling us that you have done something for those subjects.

## 3. Combine Classes if Possible

Next, if you have children in similar age ranges, consider working with them together as a group.

If you have 1st and 3rd graders, consider doing 2nd grade religion with both. Or if you have students in grades 4 and 5, but your 4th grader is extremely good with her language arts skills, consider moving her up with her sibling so they can work on English, Reading, Spelling, and Vocabulary together.

## 4. Complete Assignments Online

Another time and energy-saving technique is to have your child complete as many assignments as possible online. For 4th grade and up, many tests can be taken online on your MySeton page. The advantages to this are that you don't have to worry about losing the test either before or after the student has taken it, and you don't have to scan it or mail it in; you just hit submit!



Online tests are graded much faster than those mailed in, so you get your grades back in a fraction of the time. As the teacher, you may still look at the test to help your child prepare to take it. For the younger children who don't have online tests available, I suggest scanning the paper test as soon as they have taken it and uploading it immediately. Then it's done – nothing more to worry about!

# SUCCESS STRATEGIES

## 1. Focus on the Essentials

## 2. Use Parent Grading Options

## 3. Combine Classes if Possible

## 4. Complete Assignments Online

## 5. You're the Boss

As far as daily work and grading, I would always have my younger children bring me their work as they finished, and it usually only took 30 seconds to look over it and give them a “grade,” which I would indicate by making a big check mark on the page if they got everything right.

At the end of the quarter, when I had to submit a parent grade for the home assignments, rather than trying to average the grades for all their workbook page, I would give a grade based on my sense of how they had done the entire quarter – attitude counts, too!

## 5. You're the Boss

Finally, you should realize that for the elementary grades, Seton does **not require** anyone to submit anything. Some years, we felt like we were in “survival mode.” We just did the basics: math and lots of reading and language arts skills. It's okay for an elementary student to skip science or vocabulary for a year – it won't make a lasting difference. In that case, you would just get grades for the subjects you are turning in.

However, we know that many families enroll just to get the materials and lesson plans and never turn anything in – that is certainly an option. Of course, Seton cannot issue a report card or grades in that case, but many parents are happy to create their own transcript for record-keeping purposes. You should check your state homeschooling requirements to ensure you meet them. As long as you are confident that your child is ready for the next grade level, Seton does not require the completion of the previous grade to move on to the next.

I hope these hints help you! We want you and your family to do well and your students to learn and grow.

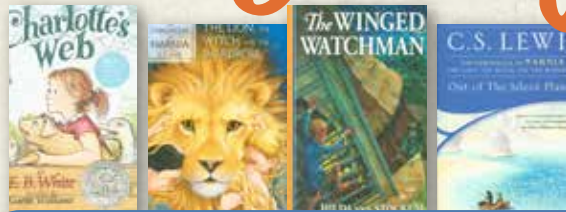
We do not want the program to be a burden, so if you feel it is becoming so, please try some of these tips and reach out to us for help!



**Laura Clark** is a 28-year homeschooling veteran, mother of 8, and grandmother of 9. She was a stay-at-home mom until she began working at Seton as an elementary counselor in 2020. Laura volunteers at her parish by heading the homeschool support group and helping run the teen drama club. She loves directing musicals and watching soccer games – at least, she must since that's what she does with her free time. She lives with her family in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia.



# Not Just for Kids -



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

## Staff Favorites for Moms Who Love to Read



**Seton** mom **Zoe Harke** posted on the Seton Coffee House Facebook page about reading and loving the literature choices for Seton. She asked other members of the Coffee House, “Does anyone else love reading Seton’s literature choices? I seriously just read *The Outlaws of Ravenhurst* in a single day. I could NOT stop. That book is SO GOOD. I was (unfortunately) raised secular, so this is the first time I’ve ever seen these amazing Catholic titles. What are your favorites? I want to make sure I don’t miss any others!”



Zoe later shared with the *Seton Magazine*, “*The Outlaws of Ravenhurst* is the kind of powerful Catholic literature that I was deprived of in my secular education. This captivating novel opened my eyes to the enormous sacrifices of our Catholic predecessors and renewed my gratitude for religious freedom in the United States. It was also a thrilling read!”

**Stephanie Ebelke** added in the Coffee House, “*Number the Stars* was, in a word, inspiring! The protagonist and her family were brilliant examples of Christian charity in the worst of circumstances.”

Other Coffee House favorites from Seton’s curriculum and book store were *The Winged Watchman*, *The Hidden Treasure of Glaston*, and *Crusader King*.

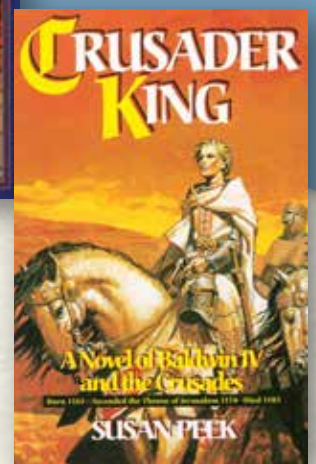
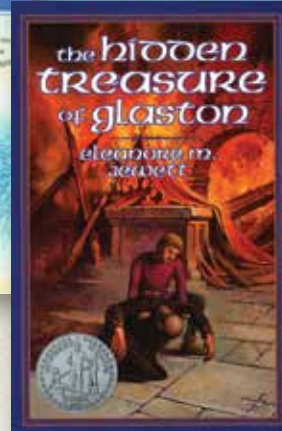
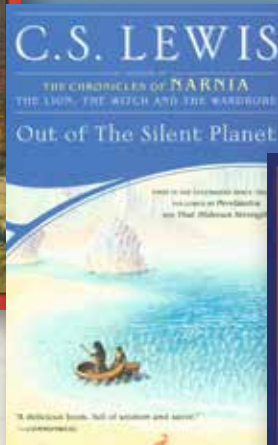
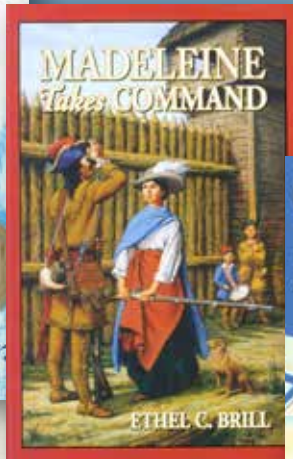
Seton Academic Counselor Laura Clark thought we could help Zoe and other moms and dads with Seton staff suggestions of books that parents might enjoy. We asked Seton Staff for their help, and this is what they had to say:

*A Tale of Two Cities* is a story set during the French Revolution that delves into the contrast between the aristocracy and the oppressed common people. The character Sydney Carton’s redemptive sacrifice always resonated with me, and Dickens’ depiction of that period in history is very interesting. - **Andrew Briggs**





“I Love books where kids are the Heroes.



## So Much More



I love *Anne of Green Gables* and *Johnny Tremain*, but my favorite Seton literature book is *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White. Your first response may be, “This is a little kid’s book.” It is so much more.

It is a story about life and death, growing up, friendship, and sacrifice. I loved this book when I read it in elementary school and even more when I read it as an adult.

- **Laura Fusto**

I love books where kids are heroes. *Johnny Tremain* and *Madeleine Takes Command* are among my favorites.

- **Ginny Seuffert**

One of my favorites is *The Good Master* by Kate Seredy. The wide beauty of the Hungarian plains, Kate’s antics, and her uncle’s gentle firmness: this story made a lasting impression on me as a child. The illustrations, by the author herself, are alive and beautiful. Any adult would enjoy this book, as well.

- **Theresa O'Connor**



Two of my favorite books from the Seton choices are by C.S. Lewis: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Out of the Silent Planet*. They are both the first novels in their series, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and the *Space Trilogy*. I particularly love how Lewis sets these novels in other worlds, but they are obliquely about our world.

The Incarnation is integral but never mentioned by name in either book.

I hope students reading these books will want to go on and read the rest of the series! I re-read both series every couple of years! In fact, I am right now re-reading the 3rd book of the *Space Trilogy*! - **Laura Clark**

One of my favorite Seton books is *The Lilies of the Field* by William Barrett. For those who have only seen the movie, I would definitely recommend reading the book because the characters are portrayed differently, and the story is a little bit different.

I love this story’s vivid descriptions, joyful outlook on life, touch of humor, and realistic and unique characters. The story shows us how much simple faith in God can accomplish and how God will provide for all of our needs beyond what we can even imagine.

- **Amy Nutt**

*Johnny Tremain* is my favorite of the Junior High books.

- **Draper Warren**

## So Grateful

My favorite of Seton’s selections and probably one of my all-time favorite books is *Anne of Green Gables*. The story has such a special place in my heart, cemented by a trip to Prince Edward Island when I was young.

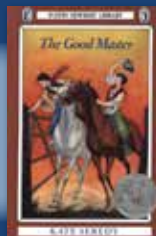
I am so grateful Seton allowed me to share it with my children as part of the curriculum.

- **Mary Ellen Barrett**





# Seton Literature for Moms

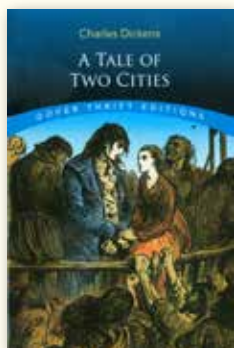


## A Tale of Two Cities

Dickens's dramatic story, set against the fury of the French Revolution, and pervaded by the ominous rumble of the death carts towards the guillotine. The tale of a heroic soul in an age gone mad.

**\$6.00**

Softcover | 293 pp



## The Lilies of the Field

It is a modern-day fable about the power of faith and determination. It is a story about German nuns and an itinerant black ex-soldier, but also about God's mysterious ways.

**\$5.95**

Softcover | 127 pp

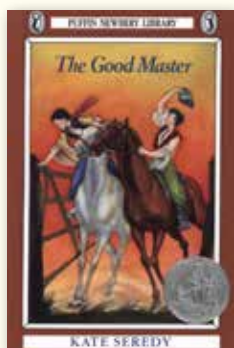


## The Good Master

Jancsi's summer proves more than he had hoped when his headstrong cousin Kate arrives. They share horseback races across the plains, country fairs and festivals, and a dangerous run-in with the gypsies.

**\$7.99**

Softcover | 196 pp

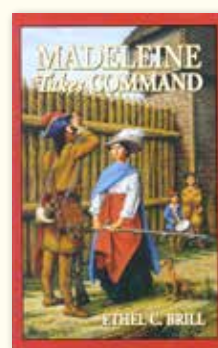


## Madeleine Takes Command

Based on a true account of colonial French Canada of the 1690s, 14-year-old Madeleine is left alone with two younger brothers and a few others when the Indians attack.

**\$14.30**

Softcover | 204 pp

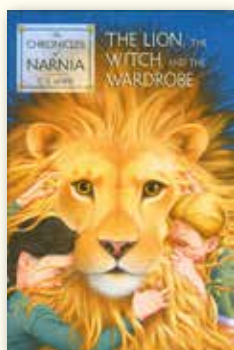


## The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Book two in the classic fantasy series The Chronicles of Narnia. This edition features black-and-white illustrations by the series' original illustrator, Pauline Baynes.

**\$8.95**

Softcover | 189 pp



## Outlaws of Ravenhurst

Danger, faithful servants, evil characters; who could ask for more? A high-tension story of God's "outlaws" fighting for their Catholic Faith in 17th-century Scotland.

**\$11.00**

Softcover | 208 pp

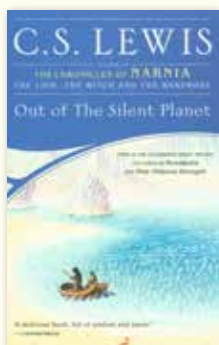


## Out of the Silent Planet

The first book in C.S. Lewis's acclaimed Space Trilogy begins with the adventures of the remarkable Dr. Ransom, who is abducted and taken via spaceship to the red planet.

**\$15.00**

Softcover | 160 pp



## Anne of Green Gables

When red-headed orphan Anne arrives at the Cuthberts' home, Green Gables, she feels sure she's found the home she has longed for. They, however, are less certain.

**\$7.95**

Softcover | 307 pp





*"Does Anyone Else Love Reading  
Seton's Literature Choices?"*  
- Zoe H.

More titles available at

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

### Charlotte's Web

Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These words are in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern.

**\$9.90**

**Hardcover | 184 pp**

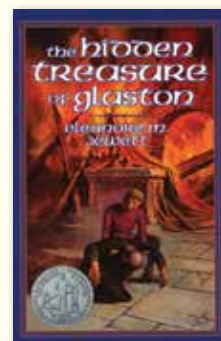


### The Hidden Treasure of Glaston

Legends of Arthur and the Holy Grail, old forgotten passages, a mad hermit, and a mysterious manuscript lead Hugh and his friend Dickon through adventure and danger.

**\$15.40**

**Softcover | 340 pp**

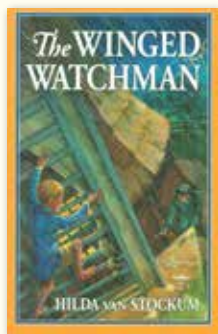


### The Winged Watchman

The Winged Watchman tells the story of the Verhagen family's experiences of the German occupation of Holland during World War II. The giant wings of a windmill over the Verhagen home visibly signify an angelic guardian presence.

**\$14.30**

**Softcover | 191 pp**



### Number the Stars

In Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal-winner, a Danish girl's bravery is tested when her best friend is threatened by Nazis in 1943. We watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles the Jewish population of Denmark across the sea.

**\$8.95**

**Softcover | 139 pp**



### Angels in Iron

Angels in Iron is based on the events surrounding the Siege of Malta in 1565. A tale in riveting and graphic prose, sharply brings the extreme heroism of the knights and the unimaginable horror of combat into focus. Softcover. 292 pp.

**\$16.95**

**Softcover | 292 pp**



### Johnny Tremain

In this Newbery Award-Winning historical novel from Yearling Books, Johnny Tremain, a young apprentice silversmith, is caught up in the danger and excitement of Boston in the 1770s, just before the Revolutionary War.

**\$8.99**

**Softcover | 300 pp**



# in the *Schoolroom*



## Let's Celebrate the Immaculate Conception

I love finding ways to honor and celebrate our beautiful Blessed Mother in our homeschool. April 16th is the feast of St. Bernadette Soubirous, to whom Our Lady revealed her Immaculate Conception at what was to become the grotto in Lourdes.

St. Bernadette's story is a beautiful one of faith, perseverance in prayer, and devotion—all virtues we wish to impart to our children.

Of course, there is no reason not to have cake while practicing these virtues, and St. Bernadette's feast is a wonderful opportunity to read about her and celebrate Our Lady at the same time.

This cake has all the virtues children enjoy: it's brightly colored, a little gooey, and in no way good for you.

Enjoy!

## Dressed in Blue Cake

Start with a baked round white cake completely cooled. To make your life a little easier, cut a round piece of parchment paper and place it into the cake pan before buttering it; the cake slides out so much easier. A boxed cake mix is fine for this, but look on the opposite page for my white cake recipe.

- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 package (4-serving size) JELL-O Berry Blue Flavor Gelatin

When the cake is completely cooled, pierce the cake with a bamboo skewer at 1/2-inch intervals. Stir the gelatin into the boiling water in a heat-proof measuring cup for at least two minutes until completely dissolved. Carefully pour gelatin evenly over the cake layers. Refrigerate for three hours. Remove the cake and unmold it onto a serving plate frost cake. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until ready to serve. Decorate as desired. Store leftover cake in the refrigerator.







# White Cake Recipe

## Ingredients:

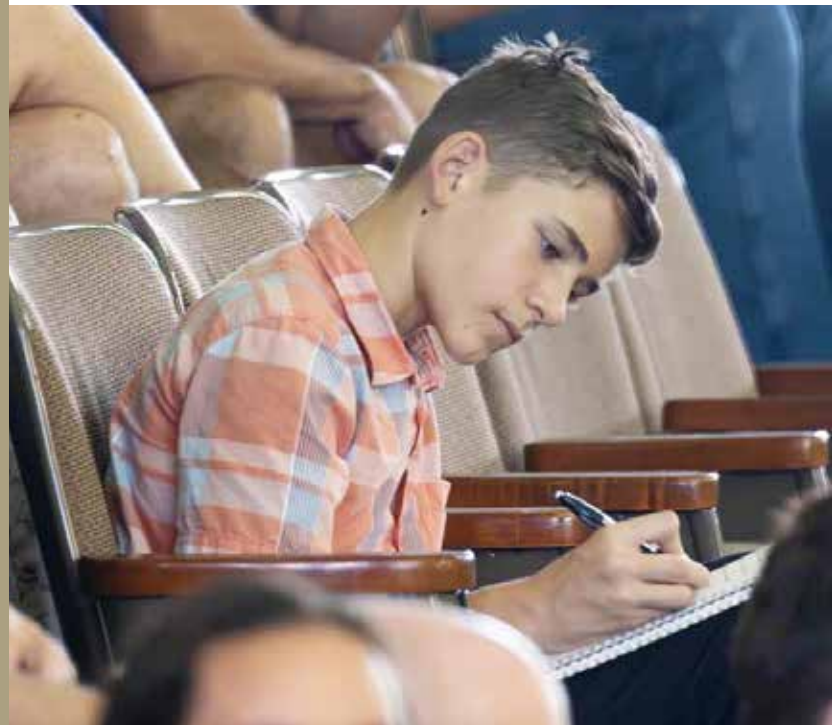
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 1/3 cups buttermilk
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 egg whites

## Directions:

Add all the ingredients except the egg whites to a mixing bowl and mix until combined. Add the egg whites and whip at medium-high until combined. Pour into a greased 7x2-inch round cake pan or two 9-inch rounds. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes until it tests done.



**Mary Ellen Barrett** is 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 amount of books. She is editor of the *Seton Magazine* and also a contributor to *The Long Island Catholic*.



**Vincent Covers Trial for Grand Enclave Bugle** | Vincent covered the impeachment trial of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton for the neighborhood newspaper he created, *The Grand Enclave Bugle*.



**Joanna is Our Lady for "Las Mañanitas"** | Joanna's interests include playing guitar, drawing, and reading and she is inspired to become a lawyer, ultrasound technician, or journalist. Her brother Emmanuel Alvarado is on the left.

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

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





# Building Bonds

## Our Family's Mission at Home and Abroad

BY MARCELA STENGEL

My husband Adam and I met while doing mission work in Honduras with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. We were married and lived there for several years. I am from Honduras, and Adam is from Arkansas.

Adam and I have a heart for the missions, and we want our kids to experience the joy of the Gospel through serving others. Often, we think doing mission work is to help others, but in the end, every experience makes us grow as a Christian and see each person as a child of God.

### INSPIRED TO HOMESCHOOL

We were inspired to begin homeschooling because we have known many homeschooled families and saw their strong family bonds. We wanted our family to have that experience, too. We also wanted the flexibility to continue to travel on mission trips, visit family in Honduras, and be more able to develop and cultivate our God-given gifts.

Besides the flexibility, we have found homeschooling's greatest benefit is discovering how each of our children learns best.

Individualized education made it so that each one can recognize their gifts and explore those fields more, and at the same time recognize their weaknesses and overcome them. Also, it gives us more freedom to live the year liturgically, celebrating the various seasons and feast days.

In our discernment to homeschool, we attended multiple homeschool conferences led by Seton. We spoke with people who were using the curriculum, and we were able to explore what they offered at the conferences.

What we love most about Seton Home Study School is its wholesome and challenging education, and Seton's books in every class are full of Catholic content. The lesson plans are very easy to follow, and the counselors are always helpful when needed.

We were looking for something true, good, and beautiful, and the ability to do it from home as a family. We found all that in Seton.





## AT HOME

We live on a farm, so our homeschooling day begins with the kids going out with their grandfather to feed the animals around 7:30 am. At 8:30 am we do morning prayers and read aloud. Adam comes in for breakfast at 9 am, and we have breakfast together.

School will start around 9:20 am and continue until noon. At noon, Adam comes home for lunch. We pray the Angelus before eating, and school continues after lunch until about 3 pm.

## WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT SETON IS ITS WHOLESOME AND CHALLENGING EDUCATION.

After schoolwork is finished for the day, we do our afternoon chores (feeding the chickens, cleaning the house, etc.). Then, it's free time until supper. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we attend Holy Hour and Mass in the evenings. If the weather is nice, we do Rosary walks down our country road after supper.

The flexibility of homeschooling and the Seton Home Study School curriculum has also allowed us to fulfill our love for the missions.

"YOU DID IT TO ME," the words that Mother Teresa called the "Gospel in 5 fingers." God is the center of our lives and our family; we want to reach out to Him by helping and working with the poor.

We have done many missions, fundraising for them through the sale of crafts and donations from friends, family, and members of our local parish.

Ours is a small but incredibly generous parish in Arkansas, with everyone willing to help through donations or craft sales whenever we have a project or mission. For the sales, our son Thomas made wood-engraved Rosaries and key chains. Our daughters Maria and Ana made candles, crochet bookmarks, and jewelry.



## AND ABROAD

Our first big Honduran project was in 2005. Our US parish helped us build a small home for an impoverished mother expecting triplets. We provided formula, diapers, and food for one year. Mom was able to go to college and has a teaching job, and the triplets all graduated High School two years ago.

Our second big project with our parish was in 2011. We helped build two classrooms and a covered outdoor area for a parish in a remote community called El Paraiso in the mountains of Comayagua, Honduras. The following year, we furnished the classrooms with 100 desks and bought school supplies for the kids.

Continued on Next page...





In 2014, we took clothes, toys, and shoes to poor families in the mountains of the same location where the school was built. In 2016, we helped two families that had lost their fathers—single moms with 5 and 6 kids each. One of the moms was pregnant when the husband passed.

In 2022, we helped the Missionaries of Charity with a First Communion Retreat. Three hundred kids were preparing their hearts to receive Jesus in the retreat. The following year, we provided food to 17 families; school supplies, uniforms, and shoes to 43 kids; outfits and formula for six babies; and food and money to the Poor Clares and the Missionaries of Charity.

We are hoping to do another mission trip in the summer of 2025. That is the summer before Maria, our oldest daughter, goes to college and our 20th wedding anniversary.

## FINDING YOUR FAMILY'S MISSION

Our advice for homeschooling families that want to do something like we have done is that you don't have to go to another country to serve the Lord. We need an open heart to listen to the Holy Spirit about what we need to do.

Since we live in rural Arkansas, we discovered that many people don't have a reliable vehicle or are too sick and weak to leave their homes. That moved our family to help start and run a food program at our parish. Now, our parish delivers an average of 65 boxes of food every month to needy homebound people in our community.

You can start by visiting a nursing home. Maybe there's an elderly neighbor with no relatives nearby. You can volunteer at a homeless shelter, help a family with young kids, etc.

Pray and ask God to show you what you are called to do. Don't be afraid!





# Angelina Succeeds with Angel's Toy Chest



*Our daughter Angelina founded and ran a toy and baby supplies drive called Angel's Toy Chest. Local media picked up the story and the drive was an overwhelming success.*

## *What organization recognized the achievement?*

The local papers and churches acknowledged the achievement. The local newspaper, local magazine, and the *Paterson Beacon* are publishing articles about the accomplishment and helping to promote it for next year.

## *How did homeschooling help you achieve your goal?*

Due to homeschooling, Angelina was able to easily and flexibly adapt her schedule to collect and drive donations to their new homes. She had the opportunity to gather such experiences that others her age may not be able to.

## *What are your interests?*

Her interests are teaching, reading, and website design.

## *What are you inspired to do with your life?*

She intends to become a high school History teacher.

## *What are your favorite subjects and why?*

Her favorite subjects are History and English. When reading about history, one can look back in time like a time traveler to understand how things may have functioned and see what caused us to do certain actions the way we do.

In the photo, on the left is Angelina Melendi, and on the right is Corinne Apor, who helps gather volunteers in her school.



Ask the Experts: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Does Your Family Carry Out the Mission of Living the Gospel?

*Three Veteran Homeschooling Moms Share Their Experience*

And whatever you do,  
whether in word  
or deed, do it all in  
the name of the  
Lord Jesus.

Col. 3:17

### Teaching the Faith...



How does my family live out Col 3:17? To answer that question, I went back one verse to 3:16, "Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom."

Our family is a family of Parish Faith Formation teachers. My husband has taught for 22 years, and I have taught for four years. Our eldest son is a priest, so his whole life is dedicated to teaching the faith. Our next son is a substitute teacher for Faith Formation.

Our third son taught Faith Formation last year. Our fourth son teaches a monthly altar server training class. Our daughter teaches Faith Formation this year and has been an assistant in past years.

Our fifth and sixth sons are assistants in the Faith Formation classes this year and altar boys for daily Mass and Sundays. God has given our family so much. Teaching the youth of our parish is our way of living out St. Paul's instruction found in Col. 3:17.

***Susan Brock, Virginia***



## Through Deeds of Service...



You can discern a person's devotions by the way they speak: their topics, vocabulary, and references. Therefore, our family consciously incorporates our faith into every aspect of our lives (in words, in deeds, and on bumper stickers).

We serve the Lord Jesus through deeds of service like providing our neighbor with childcare, donating to a worthy charity, and volunteering wherever needed. We serve Him by picking up after one another without grumbling (we're working on that one), checking in on loved ones, and extending hospitality to friends.

**“You can discern a person's devotions by the way they speak.”**

We keep His Name on our lips by praying aloud together, whether in private or public and by talking about the tenets of faith in relation to everyday circumstances. We offer God thanksgiving by telling others how He provides, sustains, and blesses our family.

We aren't doing or saying anything extraordinary to carry out the mission of the Gospel. Instead, we are infusing the mission into our movements and speech so that our day-to-day lives explain our reason for hope to anyone looking or listening.

**Tara Brelinsky, North Carolina**

## Do Some Good Wherever You Are...



“Do not let a day pass without doing some good in it.” - St. Phillip Neri

This has become my life motto. I knew from an early age I wanted a life of service. I was an old-fashioned candy striper in high school, and after graduating from Christendom College, I moved out to south central Los Angeles to volunteer with the Vincentian Service Corps.

I lived and worked among the poorest in the nation, teaching first grade at a Catholic school. It was life-changing. When I started my own family, my husband and I deliberately cultivated a service mindset in our children. They are required to do service hours every month the way some children are required to practice music or sports. For it is in serving that we learn to love. They have done yard work for widows, made blessing bags for the homeless, gone to work camp, served at the homeless shelter, and much more.

**“For it is in serving we learn to love.”**

These service hours not only serve as a chance to practice the corporal works of mercy, but they bind our family together and give my children a chance to know what a blessing it is to serve someone. If this feels like too much for you, start small. Smile at the checkout cashier. Compliment your neighbor on her flowers. Tell that stranger in the post office you like their hat. Do some good wherever you are.

**Kristin Brown, Virginia**

## THIS IS WHY WE HOMESCHOOL



Seton Home Study School has deepened our Catholic faith. We believe our son will grow with a loving heart and strong faith in God.

The extensive curriculum and Seton's support in our son's homeschool journey are wonderful! Seton Home Study School has always been a blessing to our family.

We hope that many families will get to know Seton Home Study School.

The Jubilan Family – Quezon City, Philippines

# Catching Up: God's Generosity is Beyond Measure



*When* I started writing a monthly article for *Seton Magazine* sixteen years ago (it was a “newsletter” back then), I wrote quite a bit about my children. Over the past years, however, I haven’t mentioned my children as often in columns, so I thought I’d provide you long-time faithful readers with an update.

Lisa and I have been blessed with nine children here on Earth. (We also suffered three miscarriages, so we believe that there are three Clark children in Heaven right now, patiently waiting for Mom and Dad to come home.) From oldest to youngest, they are named Athanasius, Veronica, Demetrius, Tarcisius, Philomena, Dominica, Bonaventure, Immaculata, and Mary Katherine.

During the summer of 2020, Lisa and I made the decision to move our family to Kissimmee, Florida. When some of my adult children heard the idea, they loved it, so they came with us. We gave away about 90% of our material possessions and made the drive a thousand miles south with whatever we could fit in the back of a Honda Odyssey and the trunk of a Ford Mustang. We’ve lived here ever since.

## First Day of School

When I first started writing my columns, Athanasius was playing high school baseball, and I wrote a lot about sports. Some of you might also remember that I wrote an article about Athan’s first day of school, which—as a homeschooler—was his first day in college. Today, Athanasius works in the communications field. Over the past years several years, he has learned the Korean language fluently.

My oldest daughter, Veronica, lives on the west coast. You might remember that I wrote a story about Veronica, in which I described her walking through a Christmas store as a toddler in amazement. She now works as a store manager.

Perhaps you remember a story about my desire to have Demetrius’ level of the virtue of humility. Demetrius is working towards entering the seminary in the coming months and becoming a priest.

Fifteen years ago, I wrote about Tarcisius enjoying golf. He now works as an assistant manager in a golf store. He has better innate instincts about finance and economics than almost anyone I’ve ever known, so I’d expect him to be a famous Wall Street expert before too long.



Back in 2009, I wrote a story about Philomena's sense of wonder and love of questions. It is said that "wonder is the beginning of philosophy," so it comes as no surprise that

Philomena is going to graduate from Ave Maria University in May with a degree in Philosophy. She is planning to obtain her Masters Degree in Theology after graduation.

## Insight from the Kid's Table

Whereas Philomena has been blessed with questions, Dominica has been gifted with answers. You may remember a 2013 column I wrote about my preference for sitting at the kid's table rather than the adult's table. "Why the preference?" I asked my children. Dominica knew the answer. She said: "At the adult table, they talk about money and paying rent and bills. That just makes you worry. At the kids' table, we talk about unicorns and lollipops and monkeys and coloring books." That's a pretty impressive insight for a ten-year-old. Today, Dominica has a dance scholarship at Ave Maria University and is double-majoring in Literature and Theology. (And still sitting at the kid's table.)

In 2010, I wrote about Bonaventure's love of *Star Wars* sound effects. He recently submitted a composition for a young composers' challenge. I'm not sure what the movies are going to look like in the coming years, but I'm confident that Bonaventure will be writing the soundtracks for them.

Also, in 2010, I wrote about a time when Immaculata was scared because the power went out due to a storm. I went into her room and told her, "I'm with you, Immaculata. I'm watching over you. Nothing bad will happen to you tonight." That was enough reassurance for her, and she dozed off.

## Who's Got You?

Of course, it would have been fair of her to echo Lois Lane's comment to Superman: "You've got me? Who's got you?" Though she intuited it then, she can explain it now: "God has me."

As part of her homeschooling, Immaculata has been intensely studying music and learning guitar. Though I never received my father's musical talents, I'm happy to see that his talent only skipped one generation.

In 2009, I wrote a column celebrating the birth of Mary Katherine called *Eight Isn't Enough*. Much like her mom, Mary Katherine can read an entire Louisa May Alcott or Jane Austen novel in just a few days. She also loves French. I'm guessing she's going to major in French Literature at the Sorbonne. When Mary Katherine was born, I wrote that I was truly overwhelmed by the immense generosity of God.

Looking at my family, I still am.



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

# Seton 2024 Graduation

## What You Need to Know:

To participate in the Seton 2024 Graduation held in Front Royal, Virginia on June 22, 2024, students must:

- Be enrolled in 12th grade.
- Be taking courses that will fulfill the Seton graduation requirements.
- Have earned a minimum of 15 high school credits.
  - Expect to complete all high school work within 2024.
- Be current on any payments due to Seton.



Students who completed the Seton diploma requirements on or after June 15, 2023, are invited to join us. Families must have paid the registration fee and be registered by May 15th, 2024, to participate in the 2024 Graduation.

## Can't come to Virginia?

**Participate in the Virtual Graduation!**

**Register at:** [setonhome.org/student-life/virtual-graduation-application-2024](https://setonhome.org/student-life/virtual-graduation-application-2024)

**For more graduation information:**  
[setonhome.org/student/life/graduation-2024/](https://setonhome.org/student/life/graduation-2024/)





AVE MARIA  
UNIVERSITY



# From Uganda to Ave Maria — Meet Fr. Joseph Lugalambi

BY FR. JOSEPH LUGALAMBI

**F**r. Joseph Lugalambi has been a light to AMU's campus since he arrived in 2017. Quickly becoming a fan favorite among students, Fr. Joseph exercises care for our community daily, hearing confessions, giving spiritual direction, and even celebrating many of our alumni's weddings and baptisms!

As we reflect on our years as a University, Fr. Joseph shares his story of coming to Ave Maria and how he found a deeper joy in his religious vocation through choosing Our Lady's University.

*Ave Maria Magazine, April 26, 2023*

## Coming to Ave Maria

In the fall of 2017, I began my doctoral studies in theology at Ave Maria. Only two weeks ordained, I was afraid of beginning my priestly life in an anti-Catholic community. Growing up in Uganda, the United States, I knew it was mainly from Hollywood movies.

Ave Maria University was nothing I could have ever imagined — Deo gratias! I chose AMU because of the recommendation of my late Bishop, John Baptist Kaggwa, who served on the Pontifical Committee for Life with Dr. Michael Waldstein, a theology professor at Ave Maria at the time. My seminary professors also knew about AMU's faithfulness to Christ, the Church, and Truth. Thanks to the admissions committee and our benefactors, I began my journey at Ave Maria University.

## My Experience as a Student in the University's Doctoral Program

Ave Maria has become my second home. I found the graduate theology faculty to be special because of their commitment to the saving truths of Jesus Christ taught in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

Within graduate theology, I developed good friendships with a common goal: seeking to understand the mysteries of our faith. All my doctoral seminars were directed towards growth in wisdom personified in Jesus Christ.

The saving truths learned in the classrooms climax the hymn of praise sung during the Mass, which is celebrated seven times a day in Ave Maria.

## Teaching Theology of the Body

I have taught Theology of the Body at AMU since the Spring of 2019. With my students, we read the Wednesday audiences of Pope St. John Paul II delivered between 1979 and 1984. John Paul lays out God's plan for human love in these audiences.

With my students, we seek to understand and appreciate the God-given dignity of the human body, God's plan for marriage, and how we can respond to God's call of love. I also use the material from Theology of the Body to prepare our engaged couples for marriage. As a result, the Catholic bishops in





Uganda asked me to prepare a curriculum of chastity education for all Ugandan primary and secondary schools based on John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Teaching this class has been an amazing opportunity for me to grow with the students at AMU while preparing this good work for the ecclesia in Uganda.

## Campus Ministry

In addition to my doctoral work, I am a spiritual director for AMU's Campus Ministry. It is a privilege to minister to young people on fire with the faith!

Like many other priests, my spiritual sons and daughters challenge me daily to be more faithful to my priestly vocation. These men and women intentionally seek the Lord through frequent reception of the Sacraments (Penance and the Eucharist), spiritual direction, retreats, household life, and other forms of Catholic culture on campus.

AMU students understand priests are Christ's instruments of sanctification and encourage us in our priestly work. I have heard brother priests in schools and other institutions say they

miss parish life, but for me, Ave Maria University is my parish. With three Masses and two (busy) hours of daily confession, it feels like I'm in a real parish at AMU. In the past three years, I have prepared 36 couples for marriage and officiated at 13 AMU weddings!

## Mission Trips to Uganda

Since the Summer of 2018, I have led mission trips to my home country of Uganda. Before Covid-19, the AMU missionaries and I would stay and work with the Missionaries of Charity in Kampala, Uganda.

Since the partial closure of the MC sisters' convent due to the pandemic, I have taken the missionaries to Our Lady of the Rosary Orphanage and Primary School in my home village of Nabutongwa-Masaka. In 2019 with the support of friends from Ave Maria, I founded Our Lady of the Rosary Orphanage and Primary School which now has 548 children.

The AMU missionaries pray and play with the orphaned children, teach classes, serve meals, etc. We also make house visitations to the elderly and sick. We pray with them and minister the sacraments of Confession, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion. During these visitations, students experience authentic home life in Uganda, and many of them often say they will never complain about the few luxuries they sometimes lack in the US.

## A Note of Gratitude

I am so grateful to Ave Maria University for giving me the opportunity to pursue my doctoral education and exercise my priesthood at AMU.

The solid theological education and friendships I have acquired from Ave Maria will help me be a faithful, intentional, and joyful servant of Jesus Christ and contribute to the well-being of the body of Christ in my home country of Uganda.





**AVE MARIA**  
UNIVERSITY

## Seton Alumnus

# Gabriel Mellino

I am Gabriel Mellino, an Ave Maria University junior from Olivet, MI. I graduated from Seton Home Study School in 2021.

I chose Ave Maria University because I wanted to surround myself with a faith-filled community while I was in college.

I trusted in the Cardinal Newman Society's Guide for Recommended Catholic Colleges, and AMU's place in it filled me with confidence that AMU was a place where I could grow and be formed to become an even better version of myself.

Seton provides an authentically Catholic education, and I was so excited to find a college that provided a continuation of that authentic Catholic education and formation.

The integration of our Catholic Faith into the entirety of the curriculum was stressed at Seton, and I have been so impressed to find the same at AMU. Seton's religion courses provided an excellent foundation for pursuing my minor in Theology and my Communications major.

### Seton Prepared Me Well

As a Communications major, I am almost always writing, and Seton's emphasis on paper writing has helped tremendously.

My writing assignments at Seton forced me to learn to think critically and then effectively communicate in writing, which is exactly what I do now at Ave Maria. My time at Seton has prepared me to do this well.

Beyond my academics, I cannot stress enough the quality of the community and the friendships I have found at Ave Maria, specifically those rooted in the Catholic Faith.

### *Take Real Ownership of Your Life.*

I have met so many incredible men and women at Ave Maria who are striving for excellence and holiness, particularly through my men's household (Ardens Virtuos), the drama club, the rugby and ultimate frisbee teams, and the shooting club that I helped found.

### What I Want to Share with You

To any Seton students considering their next step after graduation, I encourage you to take real ownership of your life.

Be structured, be disciplined, and manage your time well while learning to be flexible.

Ave Maria is a place where you can do all this.

Surrounding myself with the community here, where I have constant access to the sacramental life of the Church, has been one of the best decisions I've ever made.

God bless you!



# **I Chose Ave Maria.**

**The Blessed Mother opened  
the door for me to come,**

so how could I say no to her? As Mary made her yes to serve  
Christ, I made my yes to Christ by coming to Ave Maria.

– Gabriel Mellino '25



# Measure your student's academic success - **overnight!**



## FOR GRADES 3-12!

A nationally-normed standardized achievement test taken online from your home. Meets state and national standards. Formatted to facilitate student engagement and test completion. Full color. Untimed. Seton is the test administrator.

**No degree required.  
Results within 1 business day.**

(For Homeschool & Private School Use)



## Seton Testing Services

- Affordable, Valid & Reliable Testing for over 30 years.
- K-12 Tests & Test Prep Materials.
- Year-round Services.
- In the Convenience of Your Home.

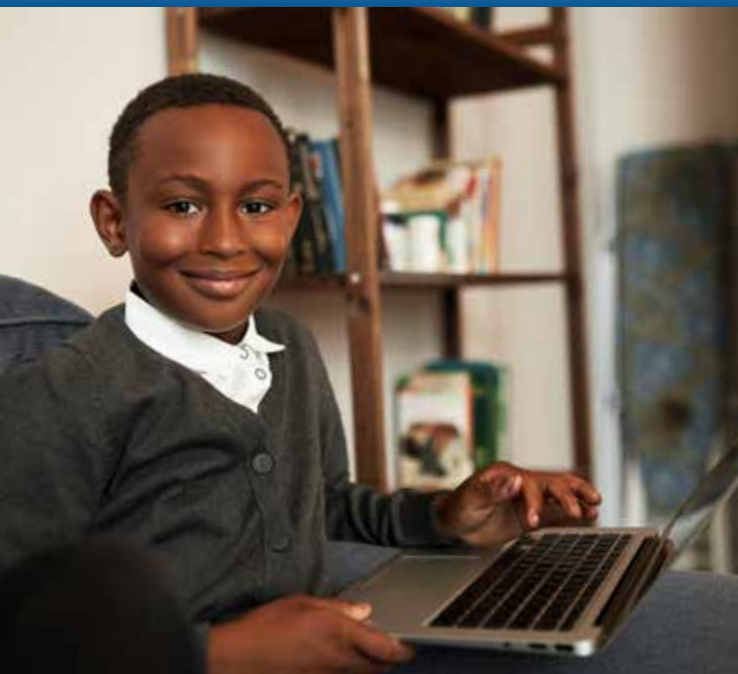
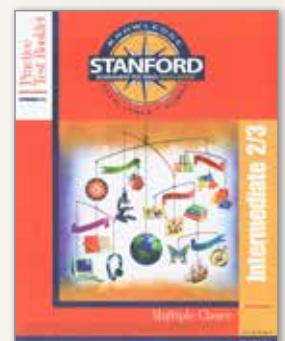
 **800-542-1066**

 [testing@setontesting.com](mailto:testing@setontesting.com)

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

## STANFORD 10 PRACTICE TEST (GRADES 3-12)

The Practice Tests contain questions (about 3-14 per subject area) that are similar in format and content to the questions in the regular tests. The correct answers are provided in the Directions booklet. The practice tests clarify the test-taking process and prepare students for the Stanford 10 test.





# Seton Educational Media

Let Seton provide the solution  
for your student's test  
preparation needs.

Go To: [SetonBooks.com/TestPrep](http://SetonBooks.com/TestPrep) ►

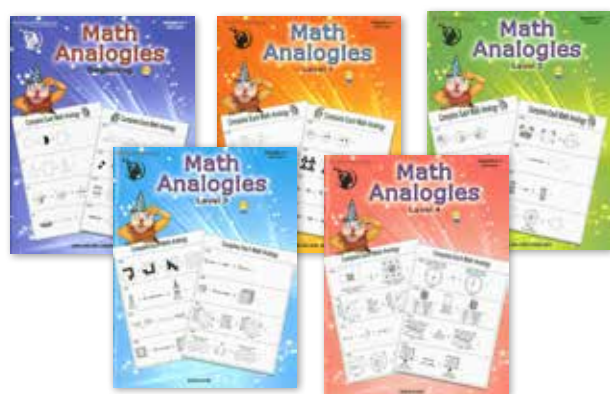


## Spectrum Test Practice

Practice makes perfect! This is the case with standardized tests, too. Spectrum® Test Practice Reproducible Workbook includes comprehensive and "real" practice tests in **reading, language arts and math**. Each test simulates the actual testing experience by including directions, examples, test questions, and a separate answer sheet with "bubbles" to be filled in for the answers. **Grades 1-7.**

**\$16.99 Each**

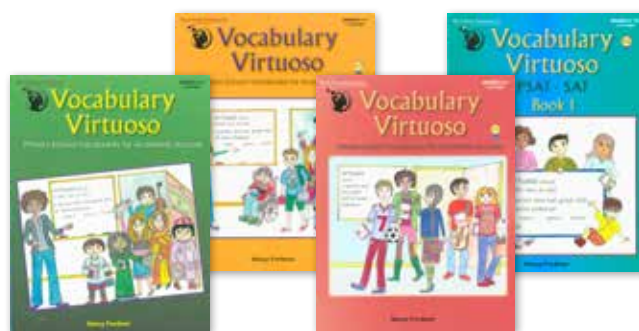
## Math Analogies



Understanding analogies and the ability to reason are important problem-solving skills which are an essential part of mathematical development. Designed around grade-appropriate standards. **Grades K-9.**

**\$11.99 & \$12.99**

## Vocabulary Virtuoso



Vocabulary Virtuoso increases vocabulary, stimulates imagination, and boosts standards-based language arts skills. A highly effective and fun vocabulary resource! **Grades 2-12.**

**\$19.99 Each**

## Brain Quest

Jam-packed with a whole year's worth of curriculum-based activities, exercises, and games in every subject, the Brain Quest Workbook series for grades K-6 reinforces what kids are learning in the classroom. The lively layout with original full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow explanations makes learning fun, interactive, and concrete. **Grades K-6.**

**\$12.95 Each**







# STAFF SERIES



*A chat with those who serve you!*

## Kaylie Schloemer - Graphics Designer

After completing my degree in graphic design at James Madison University, I searched for opportunities in book design. Seton offered me the ideal job.

It's funny looking back; I was so nervous, but I've never felt so welcomed or loved a job more. I enjoy my work and take pride in contributing to children's education within the homeschooling and Catholic communities, which hold a special place in my heart.

I come from a traditional Catholic family, right down to our size. I have seven siblings, and we're very close. Part of the reason for our closeness is that we were homeschooled.

### Family Influences

My parents have been a massive influence on why I do what I do. Mom introduced us to art at a young age – some of my earliest memories involve painting and drawing at our kitchen table with her. As for Dad, you might not see his creative side as often, but he's been known to build a dragon or two when it snows enough.

I feel fortunate to have been homeschooled; the experience was incredible. My mom was an amazing teacher, especially

when explaining math and helping with Latin. Homeschooling's flexibility allowed me to go at my own pace, explore my interests, and have the freedom to pursue those interests.

Homeschooling taught me to learn and comprehend much faster than most traditional education systems. I was reading books at 13 that most kids wouldn't even consider touching for another three years – classics like *The Odyssey* and *Paradise Lost*.

### The Nudge

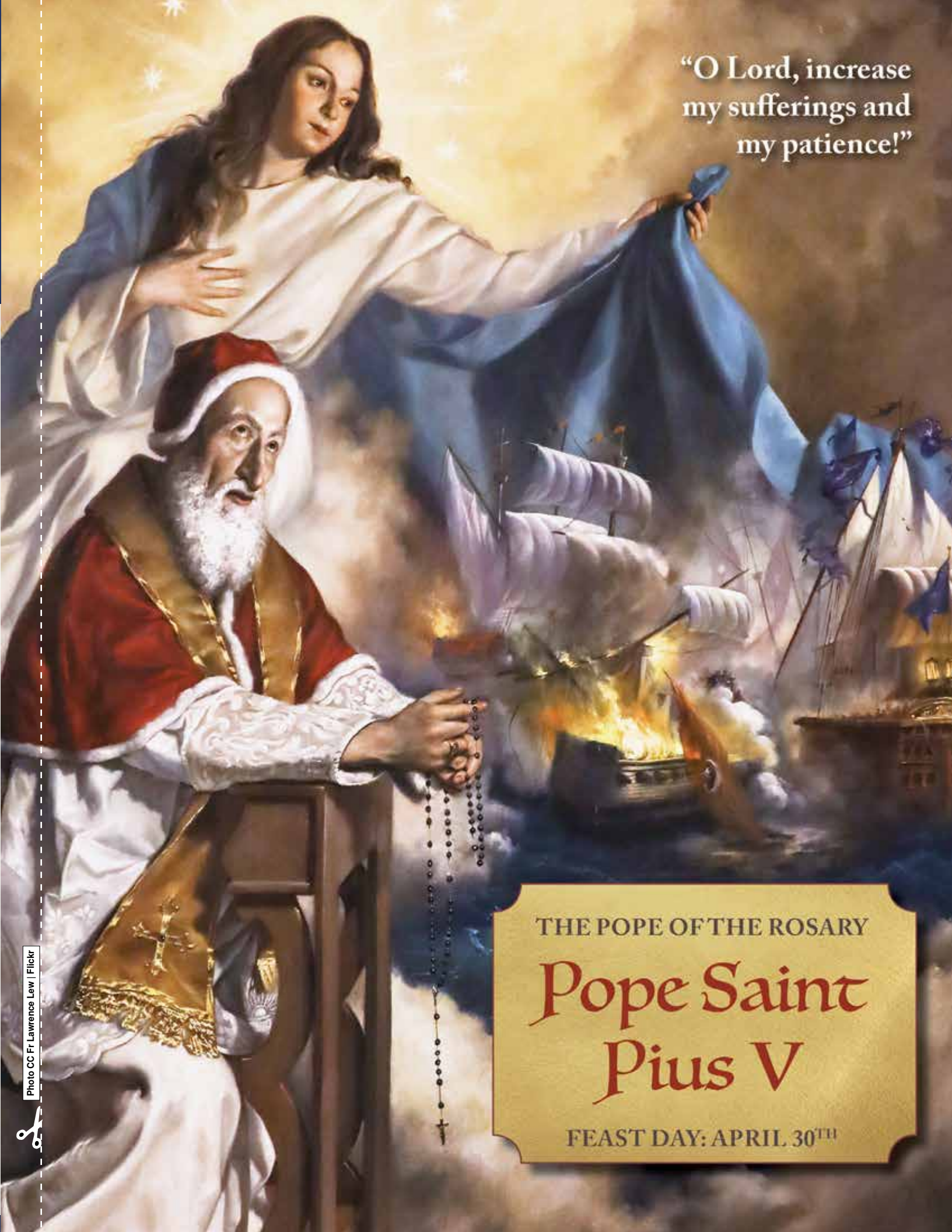
Graphic design wasn't initially part of the plan. What truly nudged me toward it was my Uncle Eric. He pursued art in school and is one of the kindest and most talented men I've ever met. I wanted to be like him, diving headfirst into the world of art. From there, I loved reading, so I thought how cool it would be to design books. The rest is history.

I like experimenting with various illustration styles. I've dabbled in comic book illustration, line art, and realism and found the Chibi art style particularly fascinating. It's a playful and simplified form that makes emphasizing basic shapes and composition a breeze. Working with Chibi illustrations has been loads of fun for me, and they're perfect for creating stickers, hence my collection of chibi saint stickers.

The best part of my work at Seton is knowing it's being used for something good. I love God, I love books, and I love art. This job combines all three. What's not to like?







“O Lord, increase  
my sufferings and  
my patience!”

THE POPE OF THE ROSARY

# Pope Saint Pius V

FEAST DAY: APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>



# Seton Home Study School

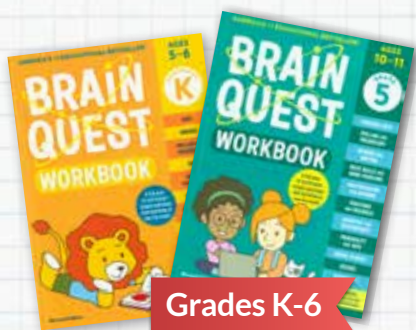
1350 Progress Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

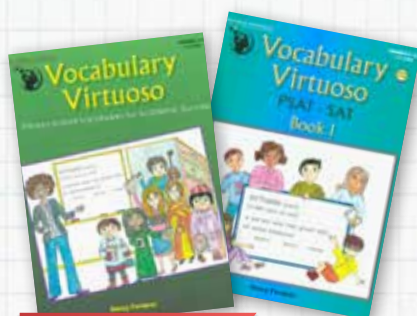
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 35  
Front Royal, VA

## Test Prep Materials on Page 29

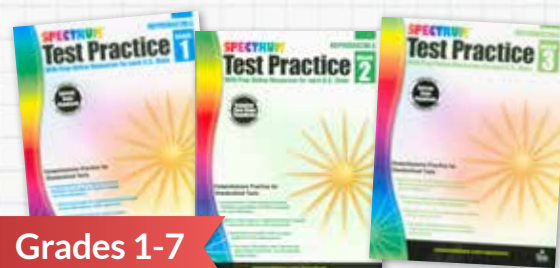
 **Seton**educational media  
Everything For Your Homeschooling Needs



Grades K-6



Grades K-12



Grades 1-7

Let Seton provide the solution for your student's test preparation needs.



## The Authors of Education

*Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking.*

*Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered. Hence the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs.*

**Pope Paul VI**  
**Gravissimum Educationis**  
**The Declaration on Christian Education**  
**October 28, 1965**