

BAYLEY BULLETIN

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seton Home Study High School

Issue 1

Volume II

SPOTLIGHT STORY

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

The Incredible Power of Prayer as a
Communication with Heaven



Introducing the
**HOMESCHOOL
SPIRIT STORE**



WHERE'D YA GO?



PRAYER AND COLLEGE PREP

SETON HOME STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

BAYLEY BULLETIN
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Seton Home Study High School

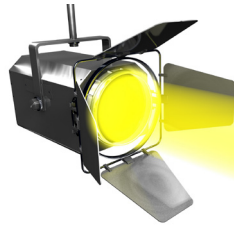
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Cover photo of St. John at St.
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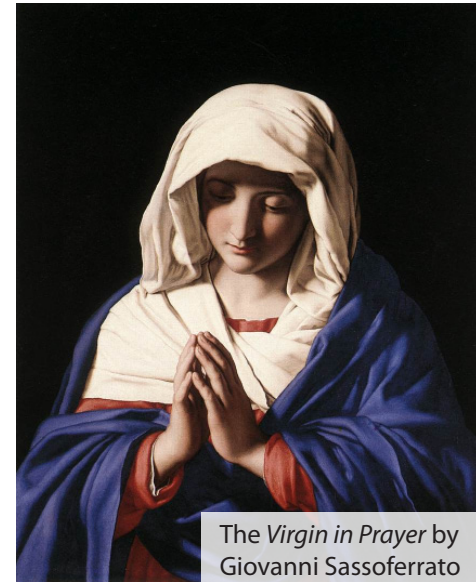
The Importance of Prayer

Fact: We can't get to know someone better without talking with them and the same is true for Jesus, Mary and the saints. Prayer is how we converse with Heaven, so let's take a minute to remind ourselves what prayer is and does.

St. Paul exhorted us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). While on earth, the saints followed this command and prayed as often as they could. For example, Padre Pio said 40 rosaries a day because he wanted an unceasing communication with our Blessed Lady. Recall how important prayer was in Jesus' own life. He spent forty days in prayer in the desert. He offered prayer before the raising of Lazarus. He prayed all night before the most important trial of His life. Christ knew that prayer was the key to communication with the Father, and so He taught His disciples to pray likewise: "Our Father who art in Heaven..." The apostles were waiting in prayer when they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Prayer is the channel that leads us closer to our Heavenly destination and so we cannot save prayer for only the most important events or difficult experiences in our life.

Prayer is not just an unexciting, repetitive formula we recite when we can. No, prayer is the battle call to muster the Heavenly troops for aid. Prayer is the shield of defense against Satan's attacks. Prayer is God's email which He reads constantly. Prayer is the safe harbor in the storms of life. Prayer remains when all else fails and prayer is the one thing which never fails. Prayer should never be an afterthought but should begin all pursuits, end all pursuits, and sanctify all pursuits, including school work.

Consider this. God allowed the Israelites to keep winning the fight over the Amalekites as long as Moses kept his arms raised in prayer. St. Monica persistently prayed for decades for Augustine's conversion. The reciting of the rosary in Rome helped the Christians win the improbable naval victory at Lepanto. When a bomb hit the Cathedral of Zaragoza in Spain during World War II, it did not explode because town residents were inside praying. As we see, prayer is the answer to trials, but more importantly, it is the tapping into the inner life of God. St. Rose of Viterbo summed it up perfectly: "Prayer reveals to souls the vanity of earthly goods and pleasures. It fills them with light, strength, and consolation; it gives them a foretaste of the calm bliss of our Heavenly home."



The Virgin in Prayer by
Giovanni Sassoferatto

St. John the Evangelist and his brother James the Greater were the sons of Zebedee and were originally fishermen before being called by Christ. John was a privileged apostle who was only one of three to witness Jesus' Transfiguration. He was the only apostle present at the Crucifixion and was referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Under the persecution of the early



St. John Receiving the Revelation on Patmos

Church, John was once thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but was protected from all harm. Under the terrible reign of Emperor Domitian, John was exiled to the island of Patmos where he received and wrote down his Revelation, the last book of the Bible. John passed into his Heavenly reward at age 100, being the only apostle to undergo a natural death.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

CORNER COLLEGE PREP

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Mr. Bob Wiesner

Many home school graduates have some hesitations about heading off to college. Some of these fears are justified, since the beliefs and conduct of some students may vary from your own family's values. Still, your time at Seton has taught you that God really does have matters in hand. He is not likely to forget the predicament of a student in an unfamiliar atmosphere. The solution is simple, of course. Stay close to the sacraments, pray and find friends and companions who share your Catholic beliefs and values. Your situation also gives you an excellent opportunity to evangelize. Many, maybe even most, of the students you will encounter, even if they are Catholic, have not had the advantages of a solid religious education. Their knowledge of the Faith could be deficient in some regards. You will be in an excellent position to bolster the Faith in others while performing a vital spiritual work. Seton has taught you all the basics of Catholicism you would need to speak plainly and effectively to fellow students who may be a bit lost and seeking more foundation for their life. Go get 'em!!

Bob Wiesner is Seton's Graduation Counselor. He can be reached at (540) 636-2238 or bwiesner@setonhome.org



Seton Sophomore Amanda Kenney has recently written and published her first novel for preteens titled *Dragon's Heart*. Visit www.tatepublishing.com for more information on Amanda's novel!

WHERE'D YA GO?



In 2009, I went to the Holy House of Loreto in the Marche, Italy. Loreto is a quiet hillside town with a slower pace of life and warm and friendly people. Its famous basilica sits at the top of the town on a bluff overlooking the Adriatic Sea. In the basilica itself, I remember the beautiful side chapels, each dedicated to a different country. My favorites were the French and German chapels. I also remember the Capuchins hearing confessions and, unlike in other pilgrimage sites, successfully shushing the tourists. Most importantly, however, I think about how the basilica of the Santa Casa

retains the walls of the house in which our Blessed Mother with St. Joseph raised the Child Jesus. These stones were miraculously transported from the Holy Land by angels during the time of the crusades. I can never describe how it felt to stand within the same walls that housed the very cause of our salvation, to touch with my own hands the same stones upon which the hands of our Blessed Lady rested, and to know that I was within the very building in which God Himself had chosen to live. That was an experience I'll never forget, and someday I hope to return and stand again in the shelter of the Santa Casa of the Holy Family at Loreto. - Mrs. Christine Smitha



Submit your **WHERE'D YA GO?** stories to us at shshighschool@setonhome.org

ALUMNI PROFILE

*The Bayley Bulletin caught up with Seton Alumnus Fr. Brian Nolan, FSSP.
Thank you, Fr. Nolan!*

Where did you go to college?/grad school?/seminary?

I got a job straight after high school working as a computer technician for a small company in Oklahoma City. But after eight years of this, I began to get disillusioned with the business world and decided to enter seminary and seek the priesthood. All of my post-high school studies were done at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, NE.

What did you most like about Seton?

In terms of what I liked, Seton gave me the ability to work at my own pace and study subjects that I was most interested in. I didn't have to waste half the day travelling back and forth from a local high school or be tied down to a limited class schedule. In terms of what I think was of most value was the important truths of the Catholic Faith that were communicated to me through my studies. I came to a much greater knowledge and appreciation of my faith through the Seton program.

What do you do/work for now?

I was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 2008 for the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter and I am now serving as the assistant chaplain for the St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Latin Mass Community in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas.

Tell us about yourself.

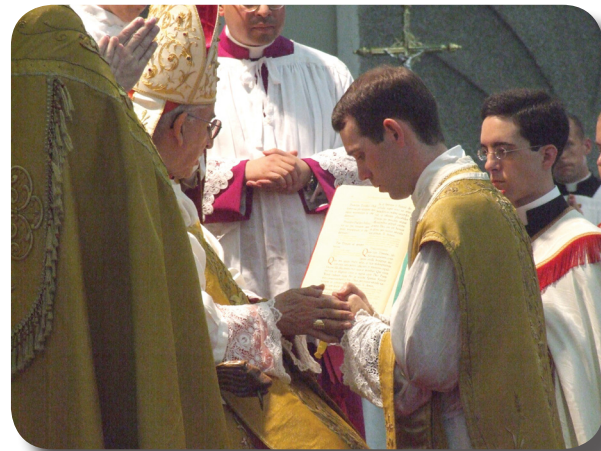
I grew up Catholic in a small town in Oklahoma, the eldest child of a homeschooled family of thirteen. Leaving home at eighteen, I had big plans for myself. A vocation was definitely not part of them. I wanted the American Dream. Ironically, that dream took me overseas where I helped start up a successful telecommunications enterprise in Great Britain. But as a 25 year old CEO, worldly fortune and success failed to bring me the happiness it promised. My big plans accomplished, I was instead lonely and miserable.

But God also had big plans. And all this time, He patiently waited for me. When I finally consented to listen to that still, sweet, nagging voice deep within my soul, I was filled at last with the happiness I had so ardently sought in the world.

The priesthood is a supreme gift. To those to whom it is given, it is joy beyond measure. But it is a gift that God gives only to those whom He chooses. What fool counts as cheap to be chosen by God? I was that fool for eight years thinking a vocation could only lead to unhappiness, and yet I was unhappy. But when at last, defeated, I embraced my vocation, I was given all my soul had ever wanted.

What advice do you have for current Seton high school students?

Don't fear your vocation in life. Follow God's will. It is only by doing what He wants, and not in seeking yourself, that you will become happy.



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