



# Seton Home



# Study School

Volume XVI, Number 4



*“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”*



April 1999

## *Resurrection Homily of St. John Chrysostom*

Let all pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast. Let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord. Let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward. Let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late, for the Lord is gracious, and He receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first. Yes, He has pity on the last and He serves the first. He rewards the one and is generous to the other. He repays the deed and praises the effort.

Come you all, enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward. You rich and you poor, celebrate the day. You who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today.

All of you enjoy the banquet of faith, all of you receive the riches of His goodness. Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave. Let no one fear death,

for the death of our Savior has set us free.

He has destroyed death by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of His flesh.

When Isaiah foresaw all this, he cried out: “O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether world.” Hades is angered because frustrated. It is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed. It is angered because it has been reduced to nothing, it is angered because it is now captive.

Hades seized a body, and lo! It discovered God. It seized earth, and behold! It encountered heaven. It seized the visible, and was overcome by the invisible.

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are abolished. Christ is risen and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead. For Christ being risen from the dead has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

“Christ is risen from the dead. He has crushed death by His death, and bestowed life upon those who lay in the tomb.”

For us home schooling parents, the conquering of the consequences of death by Our Lord Jesus Christ can give us peace and reassurance. No amount of difficulties in our family is too great. They have been overcome by Jesus already. In a way, we continue to participate in overcoming them by making sacrifices of our crosses, and by raising our children in His light and life. Hades is angry with us, but we know it will not prevail, and it will not have victory over us.

As we celebrate the Resurrection in our home schooling family, let us be strengthened in our determination to bring our children to eternal life through our home schooling with His teaching.

“We bow in worship before You, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your Resurrection, for You are our God, and we have no other.”

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*Questions We Are Asked*  
 by Dr. Mary Kay Clark  
 Director, Seton Home Study School

*My husband doubted that I could home school but he agreed to try it anyway. He is slowly learning to accept the fact that this is best for our children. However, he is very upset when household chores are not done each day. How can I do everything?*

Of course, you cannot do everything, but he wants to have a perfect house and home while you struggle with "your" home school project.

In young families, when fathers are busy about the business of developing their careers, trying to make more money to provide for the family, and perhaps being pushed around at work, husbands often are unsympathetic with the children, family, and home schooling issues.

Try to understand your husband's problems and point of view. You and your children should be praying together for your husband all the time. Children need to realize that their father is providing for them, that his work is important, and that they must help make things easier for him by keeping the house tidy.

When their father comes home, the children should rush to hug him, to show him their schoolwork, to share their day's activities with him, and to help him be comfortable. Children can plan art projects or other creative things to give to their

dad when he comes home. Dad's homecoming should be a big event of the day.

Dad's heart will eventually turn to his children and to their interests and home schooling, and he will put less emphasis on the appearance of the home. Hopefully, he may even want to be more involved in the home schooling, maybe even want to teach his favorite subject.

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Steve Wood spoke at our Seton conference in Tampa last month. He publishes a good newsletter for fathers called *St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers*. His address is P.O. Box 6060, Port Charlotte, FL 33949. Steve now has a weekly show on Mother Angelica's EWTN. Steve's apostolate for fathers can be instrumental in helping your husband understand his role as a Catholic father.

A few years ago, Steve wrote an article in his newsletter called "Seven Steps in Preparing to be a Homeschool Father." His first step is Building a Vision, and he recommended that fathers read my book, *Catholic Home Schooling*. Secondly, he recommends that fathers get their finances in order so that their wives don't have to work. He points out the importance of disciplining the children, of learning more about the Catholic Faith, and of establishing a special devotion to the Sacred Heart.

*How do you motivate a child who wants a perfect grade every time and gets angry when he does not get it?*

*How do you motivate a child who is lazy? ... a child who is a very slow worker? ... a child in sixth grade who is easily distracted and takes hours and hours to finish his work?*

Whatever problem we have, we should always start with prayer. We should be praying with our children, and openly express the specific problem in prayer, with your children praying for help. Pray to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, as well as to the children's patron saint; pray to the saint for the day. Pray to St. Therese, the Little Flower, (who was just made a Doctor of the Church) for your little girls. Pray to Padre Pio, who is about to be beatified in Rome by the Pope, for your little boys.

Be sure to develop your children's spiritual life. Many of these problems will disappear as your children mature spiritually. Insisting on a perfect grade, being lazy, being slow, being unmotivated, and being distracted are usually signs of spiritual and emotional immaturity.

It is important to teach children, according to their age level and understanding, that God asks us to make sacrifices for His greater honor and glory, and also to make sacrifices to help others. We might tell our children, for instance, that today we will work without complaining and do our best to offer up sacrifices like a prayer to help someone ill we know, so that God either blesses her with health, or blesses her with the ability to offer up her sufferings.

We recognize, of course, that some children may have specific learning problems, and these can be discovered through time, personal observation, possible evaluation, and so on. In most cases, however, these attitudes are normal signs of

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childhood. You should not be overly quick to look for a medical condition behind what is usually normal behavior.

Also look for a variety of techniques in teaching. Be sure to invest in a computer and find ways your child can do work on the computer. Help your children to find related topics on the Internet. Try to incorporate your child's interests into the lessons as much as

possible. Learning should be fun and interesting. Cultivating a love of learning, a love of finding things out, and a thirst for knowledge will be a lifetime gift for your child.

Remember, too, that one of the wonderful things about home schooling is the opportunity to get out and go places. This might be to the library to find books, to local museums, or to famous churches. Be sure to use the resources that are available in your area.

***Does the socialization issue still come up?***

Yes, it does, but not as often as ten or twenty years ago. The problems in the schools are so rampant, most people don't talk about it anymore. Grandparents, teachers, husband's co-workers, and priests are likely to bring it up, but not too many parents. The social interactions in the schools today are at an all-time low. Just when you think you have heard the worst, you hear something even worse!

Remember that piety is more important than socialization. "Religion must not be taught to youth only during certain hours, but the entire system of education must be permeated with the sense of Christian piety. If this is lacking, if this holy spirit does not penetrate and inflame the souls of teacher and pupil, small benefit will be derived from any other sort of education; instead damage will be done. ...A wide knowledge should go hand in hand with care for spiritual progress; religion must permeate and direct every branch of knowledge..." (*Militantis Ecclesiae*, encyclical, 1897).

***I saw that Ginny Seuffert, mother of twelve children, gave a talk on purity***

***at the recent conference in Los Angeles. Can you give me her main ideas?***

Here are a few relevant quotes: "Home schooling families do not need and should not purchase or use so-called chastity programs... The problem is that not all teaching is appropriate for any given situation. ... Do Catholic home schooled children really need to have their minds littered with details that should have very little relation to their daily lives?"

Ginny believes that "These programs, in the home schooling setting, actually interfere with the natural flow of graces between you and your child." As St. Augustine said, "You do not teach people about the flesh or how to subdue it; you train souls to submit their wills to God, subduing the flesh will follow."

### ***Donations***

Seton has historically received very little money in donations. This is both a good and a bad thing. The lack of donations has allowed us to survive without depending on the donations that drive so many apostolates. However, it has also meant that we have very little extra money for special projects.

We believe that Seton is doing vital work in the world, and we know that many people agree. We often say that home schooling is providing the raw materials for other apostolates--the students at Catholic colleges, the protesters at abortion clinics, and workers at pro-life apostolates.

So, we ask you to consider making a donation to Seton part of your charitable giving program. Anyone making a donation of \$100 or more by June 1 will receive a copy of Seton's new *Art through Faith* book (seek p. 4).

## *Home Schoolers at College*

As you may know, we have had two of our Seton Home Study graduates earn perfect SAT scores. Most schools cannot boast of even one student with a perfect score.

We just received a certificate from one of our graduates, Stephen Karl Strubing, who was on the Honor's List for his first semester at college, while working 25 to 30 hours per week. His mother writes that "the professors in the public college are impressed with his demeanor, conscientiousness, and his high degree of searching for truth and justice in causes. He expresses and writes from the foundation of his Roman Catholic Faith, which really influences his fellow students and associates."

In February, Seton sponsored a home schooling conference in Front Royal. We asked Dr. Douglas Flippen, who heads up the Philosophy Department at Christendom College, to speak about the former home schooling students who are now attending Christendom. Dr. Flippen gave us interesting statistics, as well as comments from individual students.

Of the 175 students in the Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior classes, 54 are home schoolers. The Freshmen entering in 1998 scored an average of 1205 on the SAT test, while the homeschoolers scored an average of

1228.

Dr. Flippen asked if the home schooled students thought they could have been as well prepared for college by going to a regular school. The majority said no and made the following comments:

"Most of my friends and relatives who were in public and Catholic schools are lost at much less challenging colleges."

"I believe home schooling was more than adequate to prepare me for college."

"Seton prepared me well for Christendom College."

"The best benefit of home schooling for me was that I could make efficient use of my time. I learned much more than I could have elsewhere."

Dr. Flippen asked, "Did you have any trouble adjusting from home schooling to college?" Most answered no. The students made the following comments:

"Only at the very beginning, the first few days. Taking notes was a bit of a problem. I don't feel I am competing with others. I can get along with others in the same way I learned to get along with my parents and siblings."

"The personal motivation that is needed in home schooling is also needed in college. Hence that preparation was beneficial."

"With home school, it seems that you have more of a substantial and essential education, and that makes it great preparation for college."

"It made college easy compared to it."

"The first semester in college seemed like a review."

"I think it is very important to use a curriculum. Those who do not are often lazy students and ill-prepared for the demands of college."

"With a good curriculum and some incentives from my mom, home study has made for an awesome preparation for college."

"I think when taken seriously and when done with some sense of timing and deadlines, home schooling is excellent preparation for college."

"It [is] different to have so many activities available to do. ...I like the activities but with so many things to do, I'm finding it more difficult to get homework done as compared to when I sometimes did it at home..."

### *The Latest Full-Color Book from Seton Publishing ...*

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## *Art Through Faith*

## The Baltimore Catechism

Let's face it. Many professional religious educators do not want home schooling parents using the *Baltimore Catechism*. Such officials and educators, while not exactly fond of the new universal *Catechism*, may use the new *Catechism* as an unwitting "club" against the *Baltimore Catechism*. They know that all publishers have to give at least lip service to "updating" their materials in light of the universal *Catechism*. So they may say that parents must use such "updated" materials because they are in "conformity" with the *Catechism*. However, if parents are faced with this situation, they should understand that they still have a right to use the *Baltimore Catechism*.

It is clearly spelled out in Canon Law that parents have the right to use any means that is in keeping with the doctrine of the Church, the moral law, and their particular situation. The *Baltimore Catechism* and the materials associated with it all have been approved by the bishops in the past. How could such materials suddenly no longer be acceptable?

Parents who reject new materials have a reasonable basis for doing so. A committee of bishops recently issued a report saying that there are grave and widespread deficiencies in most catechetical materials in use today. The bishops identified ten areas of grave deficiency, including such fundamental areas as the Trinity, the divinity of Christ, the nature of sin, and the Christian moral life. New materials from mainstream catechetical publishers, even if they are allegedly based on the new *Catechism*, must necessarily be suspect. How can parents trust them to suddenly produce good Catholic materials when they have been producing bad catechetical texts for the last thirty years?

In contrast to these new materials, the *Baltimore Catechism* is a known quantity. Parents can trust that it gives the basics of the Faith. It has the same four-fold catechetical structure as the new *Catechism*: Creed, Sacraments,

Commandments, and Prayer. Parents should be able to use a time-tested catechism that had been approved by the bishops of the United States and was widely used for almost 100 years.

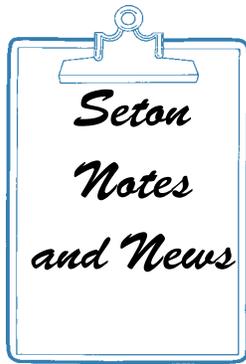
Many Catholics fondly remember the *Baltimore Catechism*. Usually when the *Baltimore Catechism* was taught in a Catholic school and a student came from a devout family, it had a positive effect. If there were any complaints against the catechism, these complaints were perhaps from teachers who had to deal with students who did not come from devout families or from these students themselves. Such teachers and students would, indeed, give the impression that it was a useless and boring exercise to study the *Baltimore Catechism*. That sense of uselessness and boredom, however, does not come from the *Baltimore Catechism*, but from students who have not been nurtured in a true atmosphere of faith. Certainly the Faith would appear boring and useless if a student has witnessed parents who do not show in the way they live a reverent adherence to the doctrines of the creed, a regular and devout reception of the sacraments, earnest attempts to live the commandments and beatitudes, and daily prayer. In addition, where parents do not show their children that faith is more than a social routine and a convention, and where parents do not talk positively about Catholic things in the home, the *Baltimore Catechism*, as well as any other program or text for that matter, is simply not going to work.

Some say that faith is caught, not taught. This statement is true if it is understood properly. Faith first comes, not through a transfer of information, nor an entertaining game, nor an artificial "faith" experience in a classroom, but through the witness and testimony in everyday life of those who already have faith. Children are going to first see everyday life with their parents. Through the importance that devout parents give the Faith in the way they live and speak, they show it is a great good of life, a valuable thing, a grace. Through their

earnest attempts to live uprightly, devout parents show their children that certain ways of living and acting are unacceptable. Such ways are under judgment; they are wrong. Children catch the Faith by the parents exuding an atmosphere of grace and judgment. Once the children catch the Faith, then they can be taught the Faith. However, if the Faith is not first "caught" through parents' everyday witness and testimony, no amount of teaching, no amount of creative methodology, no amount of slick packaging in colorful audiovisual formats is going to make much difference.

Teaching the Faith is not like teaching many other subjects, such as medicine and science, that have rapid and continual advancements in knowledge. The doctrines of the Faith do not change. At most, there are developments of doctrine, but they occur very slowly and, more often than not, have little to do with the basics of the Faith—the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, and Prayer—which are the concerns of the *Baltimore Catechism*. Yes, there are some modern issues in the new *Catechism* that are not treated by the *Baltimore Catechism*, but most of them need not be taught to children and youth preparing for Holy Communion and Confirmation. Yes, there are new and worthwhile ideas in theology, and there is a time to learn them. However, shouldn't the catechesis for children and youth stress the fundamentals that come from the 2,000 year teaching of the ordinary and universal Magisterium of the Church?

It would be most helpful as well if the professional educators in the Church stopped implying that whatever is "Vatican II and post-Vatican II" is so much different and better than "pre-Vatican II." This encourages those who want to substitute the latest -ism (feminism, globalism, multiculturalism) for the True Faith. It also undermines the authentic enrichment and updating the Second Vatican Council wanted to achieve. If the alleged dualism and dichotomy between "pre-Vatican II" and "post-Vatican II" is always stressed, then people begin to think: if the Church were so wrong before Vatican II, what makes one think it suddenly got



## Conferences

Information about Seton conferences is sent by mail to home schooling families on our mailing list in the state, and usually to surrounding states as well. Conferences include talks as well as the sale of Seton textbooks and supplemental books. Half-day conferences are also available. Costs are borne by Seton. If your support group is interested in having a conference in your area, please call Mary Lou Warren at Seton. We schedule conferences in the months of January through early July.

**Harrisburg, PA:** April 17, 1999. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Sponsored by Catholic Home-schoolers of PA. Dr. Mary Kay Clark speaking. Contact Ellen Kramer: Ph: 717-866-5425; fax: 717-866-9383; email: [cathhmschpa@ihs2000.com](mailto:cathhmschpa@ihs2000.com)

**Covington, LA:** Saturday, April 24. Catholic Family Home Schooling Cur-

riculum Night. Sponsored by Roman Catholic Home Schooling Association of Louisiana. Contact Michelle at 504-892-4894.

**Houston, TX:** Saturday, April 24. ARCH Curriculum Fair. St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Contact Camilla Bauer at 281-996-5908.

**Kansas City, KS.** Saturday, April 24, 1999, 9 to 5. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Diocesan Pastoral Center. Sponsored by Seton, St. Philippine Duchesne Catholic Home Schoolers and Legion of Mary. Curriculum & supplementary materials available for sale.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Archbishop James Keleher; Church Teachings on Home Schooling - Rev. Robert Hermley; Home Schooling in the Large Family with Teens - Mrs. Virginia Seuffert; Home Schooling for College - Mr. Thomas Susanka, Thomas Aquinas College; Avoiding Home School Burnout - Dr. Mary Kay Clark; Catholic Art and Sacramentals in the Home - Rev. Ed Perrone; The Father's Role in the Catholic Family - Dr. Mark Lowery; Discipline Panel to answer questions - Seuffert, Clark, Lowery.

**St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN.** Saturday, May 1, 1999. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Sponsored by Association of Roman Catholic Home Educators. Dr. Mary Kay Clark speaking. Contact Kerri Daveson at 612-906-0005.

**Seattle, WA.** Friday & Saturday, May 28-29. Northwest Catholic Family Education Conference & Book Fair. Contact: Julia Fogassy at [jfogassy@aol.com](mailto:jfogassy@aol.com).

**Chattanooga, TN.** Saturday, June 19. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Contact Sharon Poston at 423-842-6319; [jposton@chattanooga.net](mailto:jposton@chattanooga.net). Chattanooga Catholic H.S. Support Group.

**Dearborn, MI:** Michigan Home Schooling Conference. June 26, 1999. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Sponsored by Michigan Catholic Home Educators. Dr. Mary Kay Clark speaking. Contact Cathy Mianecki at 313-565-6129.

**Los Angeles Area (Ontario), CA:** Catholic Curriculum Fair. San Secondo D'Asi Catholic Church. Contact Jackie Halpin at 626-798-4690.

**Indianapolis, IN.** Saturday, July 10. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. At Diocesan Catholic Center. Sponsored by Indiana Catholic Home Educators Network. Contact John or Colleen Farris at 317-889-6024.

**Manassas, VA.** NACHE Home Schooling Conference. July 16-17. Bishop Paul Dudley featured speaker. Contact Lisanne Bales at 540-349-4314.

## Accounts Past Due

With the mailing of statements this month, Seton has been compelled to begin charging late fees to those seriously overdue in their monthly payments, that is, payments more than **sixty days** overdue. There is more than \$200,000 owed Seton in overdue tuition payments. Seton will waive the late fees for any family paying their account up to date by the end of April, 1999.

## The Seton Home Study Newsletter

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*The Lord's Supper* (detail), Dieric Bouts, 1468

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