



Seton Home Study School

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“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”

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Sacred Heart

On June 11, we celebrate the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Other than holy days of obligation, there is probably no other Feast day as well known or celebrated or loved than this Feast.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is universal, and the Litany to the Sacred Heart is the most popular of all litanies. The promises which Our Lord gave to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in relation to the nine First Friday Masses and Communions has been published in all languages. Certainly the most popular statues, even decals in cars, are those of the Sacred Heart. Even Protestants, if they have any religious illustrations at all in their homes, have a picture of the Sacred Heart.

Why is this? Because Jesus is essentially Love. God is Love. God so loved the world that He sent His beloved Son Jesus, Divine Love Himself, to become a human person, and even to die a miserable death on the cross because of His infinite love for us.

Do we love anyone so much that we would be willing to sacrifice our own child for that person? What suffering and anguish and yet, what love the Blessed Mother has for us!

Jesus has appeared to many saints and spoken about His infinite love for us. In 1923, Jesus appeared to Sister Josefa, a Sacred Heart nun, and told her His thoughts of love for all of us as He suffered for us. He told her:

“And when the hour of My Passion had struck, see how in spite of the cruelty of some, the insults of others, the desertion of My own, the ingratitude of the crowds, the unspeakable martyrdom of My body, and the intense repugnance of My human nature, I embraced with ever more love that holy will of My Father.”

Home schooling Moms and Dads, listen to the words of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, filled with love! Embrace with even more love the holy will of God which means saving the souls of your children, and keeping them from the paganism of the society, the culture of death that flows and oozes itself into every corner of the land!

In spite of the cruelty of some towards us and our children, in spite of the insults of fellow parishioners or neighbors, in spite of the desertion of friends and family, in spite of the ingratitude of a spouse or mother or father or child, in spite of the physical sufferings of the body such as exhaustion and impatience, embrace His will with more and more love and devotion to Him and His Sacred Heart!

“When you submit yourselves generously to the will of God, in spite of natural interior opposition to it, in spite of the resistance of your family, in spite of the judgments of the world, when you have given yourself generously to the will of God, then shall you be closely united to Him and taste ineffable sweetness.”

Love Jesus! Love Him in His Sacred Heart! Love Him in the holy sacrifice of the Mass! Love Him in the Holy Eucharist! Love Him so much that you want to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion every day!

“O chosen souls, your happiness and perfection do not lie in following your attraction, nor in living known or unknown to the world, in using or hiding talents, in being thought much of or little, in having good health or not... but only and solely in embracing with love God’s will, and being in perfect conformity with it in all it requires of you for His glory and your holiness.”

Catholic home schooling Moms and Dads! We are a chosen people! God has chosen to reveal to us the vital importance of fulfilling our vocation of educating our own children, of directing our children spiritually so that they may spend eternity in heaven. Through fulfilling this vocation by home schooling, we ourselves experience a tremendous spiritual growth. As we home school for His glory, we are all, as a family, growing in holiness!

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I implore, help me and my family love You more and more!

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Why Return the Books?

by Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Director, Seton Home Study School

Seton Home Study School has a policy of renting some of the textbooks used in our curriculum. We are often asked why we have this policy. We would like to explain why we have had to do this, as well as how we are working to change things for you in the future.

We should point out, first, that most books are not rented. When we do rent books we generally do it for one of two reasons. First, some of the books are quite expensive, and it would be a heavy burden to require families to purchase each of these books. In the high school grades, textbooks can cost \$30, \$40, or \$50 each. We recently looked at a Christian high school science book, written specifically for home schoolers, which costs \$85 per copy.

The second reason that we require some books to be returned relates to copyright law. We use some books which are out of print, so we cannot buy them. However, copyright law allows us to reprint copies of these books for use by our students. The law does not, however, allow these books to be sold. We have sometimes been able to purchase a license to sell these books from the copyright holder. However, sometimes it is impossible to even contact a copyright holder for a book, especially if the original publisher of the book no longer exists.

We are moving toward increasing the number of books that can be kept. As we publish more of our own books, we are able to keep the costs down, and make this more

feasible. Each new book we publish costs us between \$15,000 and \$40,000, but this is still cheaper in the long run than continuing to purchase books from publishers year after year.

Now let's look at the specific grades and items which need to be returned.

Primary Grades

None of the Kindergarten books are rented. In grade one, only the readers are rentals. In grades two and three, only the readers and the music books must be returned to Seton. We have taken out the grade three English textbook, and have written a Catholic English workbook which includes material previously in the textbook. In addition, new Catholic religion books have been written by Seton for these grades, eliminating the need to send back rentals. Catholic phonics books are currently being written.

Grade Four

There have been a few changes in grade four. Only the readers, religion, and music books are rentals. A Seton religion book is being written, soon eliminating the need to send the religion book back. We are taking out the English textbook since we have now written a very thorough Catholic workbook. Additional paragraph and diagramming assignments are included in the lesson plans. Also, we recently have been able to purchase copyright for the history text, which means that the

texts may be purchased or rented. Starting in this grade we are also including books for book reports.

Grades Five and Six

In grades five and six, there are several upcoming changes. The *Voyages in English* textbook must still be returned because we do not have copyright. We will not be eliminating this textbook in the upper grade levels because of the value of the additional drills. However, we now have purchased copyright for the fifth grade history book, so it may be purchased. The sixth grade history book should be available for parents to purchase in another year or so. The music and religion books must be returned, but we hope to have new Seton religion books in another year, which means parents will be able to keep those texts. The readers still need to be returned. The Saxon math and the science textbooks must be returned, or they may be purchased for an additional cost.

Catholic fifth and sixth grade health texts are being written. We intend this to be a pro-life series, eventually for fifth through eighth grades, with a text also for high school. The series will be called *Health for Life*. While the traditional topics will be covered, such as the respiratory system, new emphasis will be on the developing respiratory system of the unborn baby and the new-born baby, and the unique characteristics of the aging person's respiratory system. We hope to teach some of the latest medical advances related to the very young and the very old. We believe that our children should understand the value of life at all ages, as well as the unique blessings of each of us at all ages, for our families, for the church, and for society.

Grades Seven and Eight

We are making many changes in grades seven and eight. The English textbook in grade 7 needs

to be returned, but we are eliminating the *Warriner's* text in 8th grade by publishing our own text-workbook. The Saxon math and the science texts need to be returned or may be purchased. The music books and the readers need to be returned. The grade 7 religion book needs to be returned but by next year, we should have our new religion book. It has been written but we are waiting for the *Imprimatur* from the bishop.

There will be some wonderful changes in the art program for seventh and eighth grades. A grade 7 art book should be available by next school year, produced by the world-famous Reed Armstrong and his wife Roxalana. The new grade 8 art book, *Art Through Faith*, now in full color, is an outstanding example of what we can do in the way of beauty if we have the funding. This book cost us over \$25,000 for the printing alone. In the few weeks since the book has been published, it has become one of our most popular books. It is "startling" in its bright colors and religious beauty.

The Seton-produced history books in grades 7 and 8 may be kept. The new American history book with spot color and illustrations, as well as the *Catholic World Culture* in full-color, are valuable additions to your home-schooling library.

High School

High school religion texts, including even the lesson plans, may be retained by parents. We pray that these materials will be used long beyond the time of enrollment in Seton.

In the area of English and Literature, almost all the texts may be kept. The *Warriner's* 9th and 10th

grade grammar texts must be returned or purchased. The Catholic English grammar textbook must be returned. The three Catholic literature texts—world literature, American literature, and English literature—must be returned.

The hardbound and expensive Saxon math textbooks, and the expensive geometry, science, geography, and government textbooks must be returned or purchased. The world history and American history by Anne Carroll, and the full-color atlases, may be kept, however.

In the area of foreign languages, the hardbound books may be returned or purchased. All softbound books are for you to keep.

Lesson Plans

All lesson plans, except the high school religion, must be returned.

Answer keys need not be returned, because we are changing them all the time as we revise or change textbooks. Soon we will have all answer keys available on CD-ROM, which will be more convenient to use and much cheaper to produce.

While some of the rental books are available for purchase, rentals will continue to be available for parents who do not want to pay the price for buying books they intend to use for only one year.

In conclusion, this brief report on the status of rental books gives you an understanding of the situation. You obviously have several options about renting and/or purchasing. You can be sure that we are working to make home schooling more efficient and affordable for single-income Catholic families. Please keep Seton home schooling in your prayers as we look for donors to help us produce more Catholic textbooks for you and your children.

Overdue Rental Books

Some families have seriously overdue rental books. Rental books are due in a year from the time of enrollment, though extensions for fees of \$40 for 6 months extension and \$80 for 12 months extension are available.

However, we have some families that have owed rental books since 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998. These seriously-overdue rental books are valued at more than \$175,000, most of them being expensive high school textbooks.

This keeping of books, whether intentional or through oversight, is causing our apostolate serious damage as we need to re-purchase books we expected to be returned. If you have overdue rental books, please return them as soon as possible. If you cannot find overdue rental books, please contact us at 540-636-6870, Ext. 208, regarding paying for the replacement of the missing books.

We are switching to a new database and we would like to take overdue rental names off our computer rather than switching all these names over on the files. Please allow us to take your name off our computer by sending us either the books or the money for re-purchase. Otherwise, we need to continue to contact you.

Summer Time

Home schooling moms often need a summer vacation, a break from the regular schedule. However, many young home schooled children like to continue learning even during the summer.

If your child is in any grade between Kindergarten and sixth grade, you have several options. One option is to continue the subjects during the summer, though not at the same pace as during the regular school year. Many kids hate being “bored” during the summer and want to continue a light home schooling schedule, especially when it means field trips such as visiting historical battle sites.

Another option is to stop the formal schooling at a quarter break in the lesson plan schedule, and plan to pick it up again in September. While this is a valid option, it is important to continue with informal reading and math drills during the summer.

During the summer, some families focus on areas of particular interest, or areas in which a student needs extra work. Some students at these levels need a review of phonics and plenty of practice in reading books at lower levels to reinforce basic concepts.

The summer is a good time to work with a younger child so that by the fall he can do some courses with an older sibling. Summer gives parents a time to think about new possibilities of grouping the children in some of the same courses, such as in history, science, and religion.

Summer is a great time for reading clubs or contests. My children used to join the local library reading clubs, winning ice cream certificates for the number of books

read. However, the child must give an oral report on the book before being rewarded!

Summertime can be a time to revive a daily Mass habit. Sometimes during the school year, daily Mass is difficult because it is scheduled in the middle of the day. During the summer, there can be much spiritual growth. It can be a time to visit all the churches in town, pray before the statues and stained glass windows, light candles, say novenas, and study the history of the churches and the Catholics who first settled in the area.

If your children are in seventh though ninth grades, do not let the summer time go by without working on English and math skills. While home schoolers continue to outscore public school students, English and math scores are starting to drop among home schoolers. Sentence diagramming is always a good exercise to practice.

How about learning a foreign language during the summer? Perhaps your local community college offers courses, or one of your neighbors is from a foreign country and would be willing to have classes in the language. Learning another language will give your child not only an appreciation for another culture, but also strengthen an understanding of the structure of the English language.

Perhaps a summer school class in algebra would be interesting. Your support group could pay a minimum amount to a home schooling parent to conduct such a “tutoring” class.

If you have a child in high school, you need to have a discussion about the reality and consequences of not finishing up for-credit classes. Some

high school students, if they have not been in Seton or a structured program before, take a long time to finish their work. This is natural for the first year, but it should not continue.

If courses need to be completed, a high school student should be encouraged to continue working on the courses during the summer. Nevertheless, a part-time summer job could be allowed as long as the school work is done in the morning before the job.

If a high school student has coursework to complete, the best idea is to focus on one subject at a time. Whichever subject is nearest to completion should be worked on every day until it is finished. Then the next subject should be taken every day until it is done. This gives a sense of accomplishment and keeps the student on track.

We don't really help our high schoolers to be the young adults they need to be, to grow into maturity, if we don't demand a certain standard of self-discipline and responsibility. This is perhaps the hardest part of being a parent. In times past, young people were forced to do well in school and to work at the same time to get to college. Today, in an affluent society, many young people find it difficult to find a reason to work.

If possible, fathers should take their high school age children to work with them. They can help out at the workplace as well as do their school assignments there. According to the Bible, it is the fathers who are supposed to discipline children. Summertime is a great time for fathers to become closer to their teenagers as they work and learn together. It provides opportunities for discussing religious values as well.

Father's Role

Steve Wood is the founder and director of St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers, an organization dedicated to helping men to be the Catholic men, spouses, and fathers they are called to be by God. Steve spoke at a Seton home schooling conference in Tampa in January of this year. Below are some highlights from his talk. You can obtain a video of the conference from Seton. To obtain an audio cassette of the talk, or for more information about Saint Joseph's Covenant Keepers, visit their website at www.dads.org.

Our homes should not be a place where members come simply to eat and sleep. Home should be a place where something meaningful happens, where members work together, learn together, pray together, live together. There should be a goal, a purpose for the family and home schooling.

The Bible is clear in its teaching about what the father's role should be in the family. In Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus) 30:4, the Bible teaches that the father's goal should be to teach a way of life and faith to his children so that after he dies, the children will share it with their children and continue passing the faith on. Dad must be engaged in the teaching and training of his children to see that the faith runs down through the generations.

The St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers was established by Steve to help fathers understand they need to have a transgenerational vision. Just as men should be looking to God the Father as a model to imitate, fathers need to show their sons a good example for them to imitate.

Parents, but especially fathers, must provide the environment to help the children stick to their faith, especially during the teen years when they will be challenged for what they believe. Fathers need to be engaged in home schooling, they need to actively support home schooling.

Fathers need to be spiritual leaders, taking time to pray or to read the Bible with their children. The faith can dry up or waste away for children if fathers are not actively involved, by word and example, in living and teaching the faith.

The Catholic home schooling movement needs to wake up to the importance of the father to be engaged in teaching the faith and in being involved in the home schooling of their children.

One of the biggest lies of this culture is that dads are optional. All kinds of studies, including secular studies, are showing that crime is up, emotional and psychological problems are up among children in a fatherless home. Studies show that there is a direct correlation between academic success and the presence of both parents in the home.

Fathers don't need to have a Ph.D. They just need to take the time to look at what God says about how to be a good father. Fatherhood starts in the Blessed Trinity. Every earthly father should be a reflection of God the Father. God the Father made dads to be reflections of Him. It is through the father and his faith that children will yearn for God the Father in their lives.

Fathers, learn your faith. You have a special role to play in the

way you attend Mass, how reverently you pray, through the words you say. Dads, you are critical for passing on the faith to your children. From Ephesians, chapters 4, 5, and 6, we can see that fathers have a unique role in passing on the faith. Fathers must be engaged with their children and the home schooling.

Home schooling mothers need to be careful that they don't plan everything for themselves to grow spiritually without encouraging programs for the fathers to grow spiritually. Home schooling events should involve sports activities so fathers can be directly involved.

Dads need to be involved in the disciplining of the children, particularly in the early years of the children. Dads need to be protectors of the family, not allowing the trash of the culture into the home. Dads need to be pure so they can teach their sons to be chaste. Be interested in specific home schooling projects; let your children see your interest.

Dads, don't be tightwads; purchase the needed supplies to help your wife in home schooling. Teach your children to learn skills so they can earn a living. Help your children to determine their vocation and vocational goals. Express appreciation to your wife for home schooling your children.

Be open to life. Ask the Lord that if He wants you to have one more child that He gives you the desire to want to have one more child.

Most of all, Dads, pass on the faith to your children and have a transgenerational vision according to the Lord's vision of the role of the father in the Christian family.



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 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.

Chattanooga, TN. June 19, 1999. Catholic Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Call Sharon Poston at 423-842-6319. Dr. Mary Kay Clark: Avoiding Burnout; Home Schooling for High School.

Detroit, MI. It's Great to be Catholic V Book Fair and Conference. June

26, 1999. Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn. Dr. Mary Kay Clark: What is Happening in Catholic Home Education? Call Karen at 313-561-8907 or Cathie at 313-565-6129.

Ontario, CA. California Catholic Home Education Curriculum Fair. June 26, 1999. Guasti, CA. Contact Jackie Halpin at 626-798-4690.

Indianapolis, IN. July 10, 1999. Indiana Catholic Home Educators Conference by ICHEN. Contact Colleen Farris at 317-889-6024. Dr. Mary Kay Clark speaking.

Manassas, VA. NACHE Conference. July 16-17, 1999. Contact Rachel Watkins at 410-254-9390

Peoria, IL. St. Therese Catholic Home Educators Conference. July 17, 1999. Contact Kathleen Ward at 309-674-2656

Mississauga, Ontario, CN. John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. August 27, 1999. Contact Christina Patrick at 905-876-1287

Accounts Overdue

Seton has been compelled to charge late fees to those seriously overdue in their monthly payments, that is, more than sixty days overdue. More than \$150,000 is owed Seton in overdue tuition payments, some payments are as much as five months overdue. For the sake of the Seton apostolate, we ask that all those on the payment plan make every effort to make timely payments.

California Office

Seton has opened a California Office in the Los Angeles area. Student records for California students will be kept on file. Pre-packaged grade level curricula are available for grades K-8. Curriculum and

supplemental materials are available for purchase separately. Seton representative Mark Gallagher is available to visit support group curriculum fairs and conferences. Contact Mark at Seton Home Study California, 44751 Date Street, Suite 8, Lancaster, CA 93534. Phone: 805-948-8881; e-mail at setonca@networkone.net; fax: 805-948-7006.

Standardized Tests

CAT Tests are available from Seton. The cost is \$20 for tests and scoring. For further information or to order by credit card, call our Testing Department at 540-636-2238; or fax at 540-636-1602; or e-mail: testing@setonhome.org. (Enrolled families receive the tests automatically.)

Donations

Thanks to all who have made generous donations to Seton Home Study School. We have historically not received a large number of donations, which we feel is due mainly to people not understanding the true importance of Catholic home schooling. Seton is doing vital work for the Church. Our home schooling program is helping to strengthen Catholic families and to produce the next generation of Catholic leaders.

We ask you to remember Seton in your charitable giving.

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*Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Have Mercy on us.*

Heart of Jesus, Son of the
Eternal Father, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, in Whom the
Father was Well Pleased, have
mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, Substantially
United to the Word of God,
have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, of Infinite
Majesty, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, Sacred
Temple of God, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle
of the Most High, have mercy
on us.



Heart of Jesus, House of God
and Gate of Heaven, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, Burning
Furnace of Charity, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, Abode of
Justice and Love, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, full of
Goodness and Love, have mercy
on us.

Heart of Jesus, Most Worthy
of all Praise, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, in Whom are
all the Treasures of Wisdom and
Knowledge, have mercy on us.

Seton Home Study School

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