



# Seton Home Study School

Volume XVII, Number 9 ◆ "Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church" ◆ September 2000

## The Memorare

The Memorare is probably the most popular prayer to the Blessed Mother after the Hail Mary.

As I watched some of the recent political conventions, I was struck by the symbolism. The thousands of delegates on the floor looked up to the speakers on the elevated stage. The speakers talked about new laws or new programs which would solve this or that problem. The delegates received these words as pearls of wisdom from on-high.

We know that the real problems we face in this world cannot be solved by another government program. Like the delegates, we look up to receive wisdom, but we look to God, not bureaucrats and politicians. The difficulties we face are in the human heart and the human will. A people who have turned from God will not support just laws, nor will those who have embraced falsehood look with favor upon Truth.

With our home schooling family down on our knees, with all our children, we need to beg God for His mercy. We need to beg the Blessed Virgin Mary to have pity on us. As a national policy, we kill our innocent sweet babies just created by God Himself. We send the smallest child refugees back to an almost certain godless destiny under a Communist government! Meanwhile, the life and liberty of sea turtles and their eggs are protected by law!

The elections won't save us from this God-defying insanity. Only God and His Blessed Mother can solve this horrible situation. We pray that all of Heaven, the most powerful Blessed Trinity, and all the angels and saints, help us in our home schooling. Pray that we and our children can be the instruments God uses to bring our nation to be the truly Catholic nation it was always intended to be by Holy Mary of Guadalupe!

Like the tilma of Juan Diego, we Catholic home schooling families must carry the message to our society like a clear picture, a miraculous painting, a visible and colorful example of doctrine and virtue.

Holy Mary of Guadalupe stands with praying hands, giving the message of trust in God while standing in front of the false god of science represented by the sun she blocks out. She stands firmly with her feet holding down the false god of the flying serpent represented by the half-moon. She wears the constellations of that night on her cloak, obviously controlling even the stars.

While the Blessed Mother controls those signs of science over which mankind has no control, the sun, the moon, and the stars, she sends the picture image of the power of prayer over nature. This pictorial message can be read easily by those in our society who are being educated every

day by color images on television, videos, and computers.

On the Blessed Mother's birthday on September 8th, let's give her a basket filled with a gift of our prayers. Let's ask her to remember that she is our intercessor with her Son, and we beg her to ask her sweet Infant Son to bless our home schooling this coming year.

Let's ask her to use us and our children as instruments of evangelization, to bring families in our neighborhood to an understanding of the value of life and love.

*Remember O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.*

*Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.*

## Inside . . .

Questions .....	2
Effective Fathers .....	4
Leaving Behind .....	6
News and Notes .....	7
Vatican II .....	8



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

**I can see there is much work we need to do all year long. Is there a schedule when this needs to be in?**

Seton does not have a calendar because we believe that home schooling should be at the pace that is best for the child to learn. We want you to take the time for your child to learn each lesson and not feel pressured to learn something by a certain date.

One of the greatest advantages of home schooling is the flexibility. Take the time your child needs to learn the math and English concepts, but if your child already knows the memory work in the catechism, you can move along more quickly in that subject.

Most parents send in the work for all the subjects together. You might want to wait while your child finishes up the math and English, and hold on to the Religion quarter test until you are ready to send in all the tests and work for that quarter.

One thing we discourage is sending in two, three, or four quarters at a time. It is frustrating to see four quarters of high school papers with failing grades on one or more tests. Students cannot learn from past mistakes to do better in the future, when there is no future!

**What happens if my son finishes the math early? Will you send me the next level math book?**

We are happy to send you the next level of any subject that you request for your child. Certainly if your child moves ahead quickly in math, we encourage you to move him to the

next level, as long as he feels comfortable doing that.

Keep in mind that for a younger child, you might want to go back and do some review or drill. You want to be sure that the young child is memorizing his math facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

For the older child, or the child whom you know needs to move on to new concepts, go ahead and order the next math level. It is important to keep a child moving in math. You don't want to take too much time off from math since this can lead to forgetting memorized facts and concepts.

In other subject areas, it may not be necessary to move on to the next level. For instance, in a subject such as history or science, you might assign some enrichment activities. These activities might include watching a video, doing research online, or reading a library book or encyclopedia article. Enrichment activities can be very rewarding and can uncover a real interest in a subject on the part of the student.

**Do you have any helps for teaching Algebra? We would especially like a video series.**

This is probably our most common question! The problem with most videos is that they are expensive and are usually supplemental, not a complete program in themselves. However we have found a new series of videos which we believe are affordable by our families, costing \$225 for an Algebra I course, and

\$225 for an Algebra II course. Included are a worktext, course notes, a solutions manual, and a test booklet with answer keys. Seton is providing the quarterly tests to be sent to Seton for grading. These would be taken in place of the Saxon program.

Though the program seems a little expensive, many families have said that it would be cheaper than a weekly tutor and they can play the lessons over again for review.

Because the Saxon books are becoming so expensive, we will probably offer a third alternative, a paperback do-it-yourself Algebra I course that has been successful for a number of years. It will not be available until 2001.

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**We have been on the Seton program for five years and are concerned about Seton using the computer too much. We have six people competing for one computer.**

We are trying to make greater use of technology because it allows us to give better service and to keep costs down. For example, we are trying to get the Quarter Report Forms online so that parents can download one if they need one. This lets parents get the form immediately.

The use of the computer by our students and parents always will be optional. Although we are trying to get the answer keys onto a CD, if you want a hard copy of the answer keys, we will send one. If you don't want to use the online tests, you may use the hard copy sent to you; send it in as usual, or by fax, for grading by our teachers.

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*You have the graces from the Sacrament of Matrimony to fulfill the duties of educating your children. You can do it, even when it seems difficult. Stay in prayer constantly, with your spouse and your children.*

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We are hoping to offer online tests soon. Our first online tests will be for high school subjects: science, grammar, foreign languages, and geography. There will be a pull-down menu of all possible answers; for 25 questions, the menu will contain 35 to 40 possible answers to make the test rather challenging since the answers will not be written out manually.

Some tests will have combination objective and written answers. The foreign language tests, for instance, will have translations which we hope can be typed in at the end of the objective test or e-mailed. Translations obviously will be graded manually by our teachers.

English, Composition, Literature, and History will not be online because of the necessary written nature of the tests.

**I am getting cold feet. I don't know if I can do it after all.**

Keep in mind why you have chosen Catholic home schooling.

Catholic home schooling is the best method to teach the Catholic Faith to your children. It is by word and by example that we teach our children how to live the Faith. In being more aware of the need for us to be good examples, we ourselves grow in the Faith.

You have the graces from the Sacrament of Matrimony to fulfill the duties of educating your children. You can do it, even when it seems difficult. Stay in prayer constantly, with your spouse and your children, to accomplish the responsibility of educating your children in the Catholic Faith. Pray especially to the Blessed Mother, and St. Anne, who taught the Blessed Mother.

If stopping home schooling would mean putting your children in a public school, think about what that means. You may feel that your children are not learning enough at home, but consider the things that they would be learning at public school. Which is worse, not learning enough of the right things, or learning too much of the wrong things?

Catholic schools are an option if they are fulfilling the requirements for a Catholic school. But again, you must ask yourself whether the school is truly Catholic in its curriculum, its teaching, its personnel, and even its extracurricular activities.

**We know that support groups have much to offer Catholic home schooling families, but we seem so busy with our large family, we would like not to be so involved in outside activities. Some of the local families seem upset. What should I say?**

You should say that you appreciate the local home schooling support group, and you are happy that it exists for those who need it. However, with your large family and the daily demands of the home and the home schooling, you just cannot seem to manage attending or being involved in the various functions.

I would suggest, however, that you pay the dues, if there are any, and subscribe to the local newsletter, and even be on the phone tree, to show that you do support the local group's efforts. Younger parents, and families new to home schooling, need the support group. Even if you don't need it yourself, show that you support it because you recognize the needs of others. Some day, you might like to join in an activity, or one of your children might like to be involved. Keep the relationship friendly.

### *Parent Access Program Update*

We have experienced some unfortunate technical problems with the Parent Access Program (PAP) that have forced us to cancel plans to send a CD in place of printed answer keys this year. We will send out printed answer keys to everyone.

However, the PAP, along with electronic answer keys, will soon be available for download from our website. Besides the answer keys, the PAP makes it easier to access student grades, shipping information, etc., from the Seton website.

The program should be available at [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org) by the time you receive this newsletter.

## *Eight Habits of Highly Effective Fathers*

*by Chris Erickson*

*We are sometimes amazed when young people who were very pious at one time and who have received a Christian education from start to finish, later on abandon the practice of their faith. We must go back to the source. The mother was a practicing Catholic, the father suited himself about attendance at Mass; he had very quickly given up family prayer. The children rarely saw him perform an act of worship. No other explanation is needed to clarify everything.*

Fathers, you are “the first heralds of the faith” (*Catechism*, nos. 1656, 2225) for your children. The “first evangelization” begins in your own heart, and taking root it becomes contagious within your family!

Opposed to this evangelization are current forces espousing a worldview that equates happiness with the pursuit of private pleasure and denies the existence of spiritual goals and values. The very concepts of “family” and “fatherhood” find themselves the focus of an intense campaign aimed to radically redefine these basic fibers of society.

Pope John Paul II writes: “The history of mankind, the history of salvation, passes by way of the family . . . the family is placed at the center of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between love and all that is opposed to love. To the family is entrusted the task of striving, first and foremost, to unleash the forces of good, the source of which is found in Christ the Redeemer of man.”

The immediate priority, therefore, would seem to call fathers to implement practical measures that will unleash their children as “forces of good” upon the world. By making the following eight habits your own, you will be well on your way to attaining this goal.

**1. Educate yourself in the faith.** Read a chapter or a passage or two from

Sacred Scripture and the Catechism each day. St. Jerome tells us that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. Pope John Paul II encourages families “to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church to learn about the faith and to answer the questions that come up, especially the moral questions which confront everyone today.” Listen to God’s Word to us as revealed through Scripture and Tradition. In addition to the Bible and the Catechism, there are many other worthwhile books and Church documents, such as Pope John Paul II’s 1981 apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (on marriage and family issues). We cannot pass on to our children what we ourselves have never taken the time to learn.

**2. Put what you learn into practice by forming good habits.** Satan knows the Scriptures better than Scripture scholars do. Knowing God’s instructions won’t benefit us if we don’t live them. A father’s primary responsibility is to be a Christian witness to his children. Our homes can be a haven of moral virtue if we foster it through our own example. We preach in vain if we do not practice what we teach.

**3. Teach Christ’s truths through your own experience.** Jesus asks: “For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” (Mt. 16:26). The Holy Father reminds us that parents are the first and most important educators of their own children. Teach your children about God through your own experience. There is a great difference between “knowing about God” and “knowing God.” Share with them simple stories of faith that reveal how you relate to God in your everyday situations. Tell them about your discernment, your trust, your prayer, your dependence on God, and your love for Him. It doesn’t need to be anything weighty. God ought to be as real to them as you are. Avoid the attitude that says, “My child can learn about religion at Sunday school.” If religion is a subject set aside for an hour on Sundays, your child most likely will be a “Sunday

Christian”—if he keeps his faith at all. Wouldn’t you protest if your child were instructed only one hour each week in literature, mathematics, or some other subject?

**4. Pray together.** Mass, Confession, celebrating feast days, reading the Bible or a book on a saint and, above all, daily prayer can all be done together. This bonds a family in the faith, and every strengthening of family daily bonds is a victory for society. Our Holy Father affirms that “prayer needs to become a regular habit in the daily life of each family.” Even if you only have five minutes of nightly prayer with your children, do not underestimate its value. A child carries into his adult life those memories—those “seeds of faith.” Think of the abundant harvest if a father devoted more time to family prayer! Some pray the Rosary each evening with their children. If that sounds like too much, don’t let it discourage you from saying other simple prayers together. If they are sincere and from the heart, they will reap a great reward.

**5. Spend time with your children.** Don’t let the pursuit of success or wealth cause you to miss your child’s fundamental need to know you as a father. We can teach our children a great deal about Our Lord and ourselves simply by spending time with them. The great truths of our faith and how we personally relate to those truths can be taught through ordinary conversation, fixing cars, collecting bugs, camping, fishing, hiking, gardening, or sports: Any type of hobby allows wonderful opportunities to intimately know each other and to exchange ideas.

**6. Guard the windows to the soul!** Keep a careful check over media influences that can lead your family astray. What if, in place of TV and videos, dad invited two strangers to come into his home to entertain his family? The family sits down with their usual bowl of popcorn, and this time they’re entertained by strangers in their home groping one another, and engaging in sexual innuendo in their word, dress, and conduct. Shocking? Unacceptable? Yet we often allow the same sorts of things into our house through the media.

These are insidious poisons that strike at our fundamental religious beliefs and actions. Fathers, don't dull your family's sense of sin! The world is already hard at work doing it. With a little diligence you can find wholesome alternatives. It is critically important to inculcate strong moral values into your children at the earliest years so as they mature, they will freely choose to apply these same rules of prudence when viewing videos in other homes.

**7. Be vigilant over your children's friends.** Get to know your children's friends, or at least try to determine whether their influence is good or bad. No kid is going to be perfect, so avoid being over-scrupulous. If you find a particular friend to be a thistle in the growth of your child's faith, talk about it with your child and permit your child the opportunity to be a witness and to set an example for his friend. If that fails to correct the behavior, step in and speak directly to his friend, letting him know what you expect if he wants the relationship to continue. Obviously it isn't so simple with teenagers. In these situations, I believe you will achieve better results by appealing to your child's values and concepts of right and wrong. Teach your teenagers to accept responsibility for their spiritual welfare. The best aid a father can have in teaching his teenager is a good memory! Be sympathetic, honest, and remember that "more flies are caught with honey than with vinegar."

**8. Make your home a place of tranquility and peace—beginning with loving your wives.** Love your wives as Christ loves the Church (Eph. 5:25). That's a tall order, but your sons will relate to woman in much the same way you relate to your wife; and your daughters will learn from your example what to desire and expect from men. St. John Chrysostom said the home should be a "little church," a miniature kingdom of God. Is your home too stern, too demanding on the children? Is dad too busy and mom often irritable? Does the mood reflect a menacing storm? If so, each will seek their freedom and go their own way.

Value honesty and hard work, offer great love, admit mistakes, ask forgiveness, and laugh much. Adorn your home with constant reminders of your Christian faith: A crucifix reminds us of the precious price Christ paid for us; sacred pictures or statues bring to mind events in the life of Our Lord; a favorite Scripture verse or two or an open Bible remind us of what is most important in life. Avoid making others uncomfortable by either exaggerated asceticism or flamboyance.

Fathering is undoubtedly a challenge, and it has been so since antiquity. But the Lord has given fathers the responsibility and the grace to meet the challenge. Probably the most important attributes a father can have for the welfare of his family today are courage and a quiet confidence in God. An exceptional example of courage and

quiet confidence, as well as quiet obedience, is the "guardian of the Redeemer," St. Joseph, the preeminent model of "true fatherhood." We should look to him as our model.

*Chris Erickson is the executive director of The Coming Home Network, which provides fellowship, encouragement, and support for Protestant pastors and laity who are on the journey or who have already been received into the Catholic Church. For more information, visit [www.chnetwork.org](http://www.chnetwork.org).*

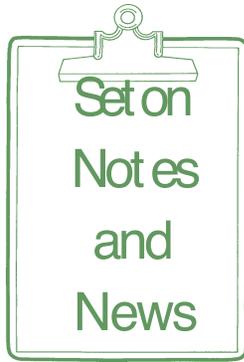
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## English for Young Catholics Series



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## 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. If your support group is interested in having a conference, please call Mary Lou Warren at Seton.

## Non-Seton Conferences

Many state and local groups are now sponsoring their own conferences, inviting various Catholic vendors and curriculum providers. Seton is happy to participate at these conferences as a vendor. Dr. Mary Kay Clark is often available to speak at these conferences. We also suggest as a speaker Ginny Seuffert, mother of twelve children and home schooling mother of many years. She is a favorite speaker who offers her home schooling tips with fun and humor.

## The Seton Home Study Newsletter

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Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editor:  
Kevin Clark

## Upcoming Conferences

**New York City, NY – Oct. 14, 2000.**  
This conference has been cancelled.

**San Antonio, TX – November 10-12, 2000.** Catholic Home School Leadership Conference.

## CA Office

In our Los Angeles, California office we have textbooks and pre-packed curriculums for grades K through 8. Contact Seton-California at 44751 Date St., Suite 8, Lancaster, CA 93534; phone: 661-948-8881; e-mail: [setonca@iol7.com](mailto:setonca@iol7.com); fax: 661-948-7006.

## Accounts Overdue

Seton has been compelled to charge late fees to those overdue with their monthly payments. This apostolate relies on timely payments by parents in order to meet our own financial obligations to our employees and creditors. Please make payments on time. Thank you.

## Donations

Thank you to all those who have made generous donations to Seton. Seton is doing vital work for the Church.

If you are able to make a donation to Seton, you can be sure that your money is being spent wisely on producing good Catholic textbooks for high quality Catholic education. Our new full-color religious art book, *Art Through Faith*, is sent to donors of \$100 or more. God bless you.

## On-Line Data

Some people have commented that the online papers received function has reported papers were not received when they really were received by Seton. When this occurs, it is usually because the student number or student label was not included with the papers sent in. Since the online

system checks solely by student number, the papers will not be shown as received. We have taken steps to fix this, but it is still best if you include a student label when sending papers.

## Updating and Revising

Seton is constantly updating and revising textbooks, workbooks, lesson plans, tests, and quarter report forms. We are doing this because we are responding to the comments by you, the parents. We have just made some revisions in the English 2 as requested by our parents. We have revised our Spelling 2 to add workbook pages, as requested.

In addition, we are working quickly to produce new Catholic materials. One of our regular textbook writers and a home schooling father of 8, is working on a Catholic high school Health book. A Catholic Biology book is being written by a Catholic mother and college science professor. A religious sister has written a religion book to supplement the Baltimore Catechism. One of Father Hardon's Marian Catechists is just finishing up a religion book for us.

## English Majors Needed

We are always in need of college graduates who majored in English. Please call Tom Sayre at Seton to discuss available positions and projects.

## Seton Counselors

(Seton main number: 540-636-9990)

Religion/Sacraments: Fr. Hermley, Fr. Constantine, Fr. Barrett  
High School English: 540-636-1755, 540-636-2342  
High School Math: Tom Luckey, 540-636-1846  
Senior Guidance: Bob Wiesner, 540-636-2238  
History: Bruce Clark, Ext. 122  
Elementary: Winnie Ehlinger, 540-636-2342; Gary Gale, Ext. 121  
Admissions, Enrollment, Re-Enrollment: 540-636-2039  
Home Schooling Fathers: Tom Kosten, Bruce Clark, Randy DeClue, Tom Sayre  
Special Needs: Paula Galligan, Ext. 151; Pat Walker, Ext. 152  
Grading: Don Valaike, Ext. 138; Rhonda Way, Ext. 166  
Independent Studies: Dr. Jerry Smith, Ext. 159  
Testing (CAT): Margaret Luckey, Ext. 150  
High School Course Approval: Paul Neulieb, 540-636-1846

## *Second Vatican Council*

“...by its very nature, the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the children... When they are given the dignity and role of fatherhood and motherhood, [parents] will eagerly carry out their duties of education, especially religious education, which devolves primarily on them. ... Marriage and married love are by nature ordered to the procreation and education of children. ... Married couples should regard it as their proper mission to transmit human life and to educate their children.” (Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et spes*, no. 48, 50)

This teaching is echoed throughout the Second Vatican Council documents. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, no. 11: parents are the first heralds of the faith; Declaration on Religious Liberty, no. 5: parents should enjoy true freedom in the religious upbringing of their children; Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, no. 11: parents have priority in the religious and educational care of their children.

Canon 1055.1, the very first canon in the Code's section on “Marriage,” declares that “The matrimonial covenant... is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children....”

Both the Second Vatican Council and the Code of Canon Law are affirming the natural right of parents over the education of their children, a right whose validity is not dependent upon the state or even the Church for recognition.

To be sure, the Code is concerned with more than merely the natural effects of marriage. It recognizes the distinctively spiritual aspects as well—including the Christian spouses' participation in the Church's sanctifying office through their parental educational rights and duties. Now it is a settled matter that a call to a particular vocation, such as the vocation to marriage, entails the graces necessary for the successful accomplishment of the elements of that vocation.... Canon 1134 states that ... “in Christian marriage, moreover, spouses are strengthened and, as it were, consecrated by this special sacrament for the duties and dignity of their state.”

*Home Schooling and the New Code of Canon Law* by Ed Peters, Christendom College Press, 1988. Available from Seton Educational Media.

### *Seton Home Study School*

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