



# Seton Home



# Study School

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*"Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church"*

May 2001

## Queen of Apostles

Blessed Mother, during this month when we think about you and your feast days, help us to reflect on your title as Queen of the Apostles. Help us, Queen of Heaven, to remember that we are home schooling because we are Apostles for Jesus Christ.

As we work day-to-day on our home schooling, Blessed Mother, sometimes we become disheartened because we feel we are not well-educated, and sometimes we struggle with the academics ourselves. How can we home schooling mothers really accomplish very much for the salvation of the souls of our children? How can we, Queen of Apostles, be the apostles we need to be to give our children the Catholic education they need?

Dear Queen of Apostles, help us as you helped the first twelve Apostles, many of whom were only poor uneducated fishermen. They not only undertook the conversion of souls around them, but they worked to convert the whole world.

Remind us, Queen of Apostles, that your Divine Son gave us the command to teach the whole world, to preach to the whole world. As we teach our children to be Apostles for you, O Queen, we see that the job we are called to do encompasses so much more than we could ever accomplish ourselves. Yet with the abundant graces from the Sacrament of the

Holy Eucharist, we can accomplish the conversion of so many we cannot even imagine!

Queen of Apostles, give us and our children the divine zeal that we need to remain faithful to our Catholic home schooling as we understand that Catholic home schooling is Apostolic Work, the training necessary for our children to become effective Apostles for your Son!

Queen of Apostles, assist us to help the Church to grow, in members as well as in spirituality. As you stayed with the Apostles in the Upper Room, giving them encouragement as they waited for the Holy Spirit, stay with us, O Blessed Queen, and give us and our children the graces we need. Give our children the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the great apostolic work that is ahead for them.

O Queen of Apostles, assist our children as you helped those first Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Guide our children as they evangelize by good example to those young people around them.

O Queen of Apostles, you told the Apostles about the life of Jesus when He was a child, about the visit from the Magi, about the flight to Egypt, and other events concerning the hidden life of Jesus. Give us too, O Queen of Apostles, the insights and a depth of understanding of the

life of Jesus so that we may grow in devotion to your sweet Son, Jesus.

O Queen of Apostles, you inspired the Apostles because you yourself are the perfect Apostle of Jesus Christ. You followed His every word. You did more to convert others to your Son than any other Apostle. Your quiet example as an Apostle to the twelve Apostles made them recognize you as the Queen of the Apostles.

O Queen of Apostles, help us to be zealous in working hard in our home schooling. Queen of Apostles, fill our hearts and souls with the divine fire from the Sacred Heart, the fire that can sustain us in the day to day work of home schooling our children.

Grant us, O Queen of the Apostles, a good and holy life with our children that like the first Apostles, our "light" may shine before others, that they may see our good works and be led to glorify your Son Jesus, to glorify our Father and Creator, and to glorify the Holy Spirit.

Queen of Apostles, pray for us!

- MKC

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## *Questions We Are Asked*

*by Dr. Mary Kay Clark*  
*Director, Seton Home Study School*

**What do you think about “simplified” classics which are condensed with easier vocabulary?**

Each parent certainly must decide what is best for his or her own child. Many young children might read books such as these for a first introduction to spark interest in reading the original at a later age.

Actually, very few children’s classics are being published which are the complete and unabridged, originally-written classic. Unless your newly-purchased book says “complete and unabridged,” you can be sure it is not the full original classic.

There is a new series out by Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. The series is called “The Whole Story.” These glossy-paged classic readers contain most of the original, but also contain on every page photographs and illustrations related to the historical time period. They seem to be excellent. They are mainly for junior high students or high school students who have low interest in reading.

Some of the classics produced in this series are *Treasure Island*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Heidi*, *Little Women*, *White Fang*, *The Pit and the Pendulum and other stories by Edgar Allan Poe*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Call of the Wild*, *The Jungle Book*, and other titles.

**Our home schooling support group has divided into two groups. It seems that some people think that being on a program does not allow enough freedom. Have you heard about this?**

We have heard about this. We receive fairly frequent calls about this problem. We don’t know why people on a program and people not on a program

cannot be in the same support group. I suspect from what I hear, though, that when most people are not on a program, the support group sponsors many activities. It may be that people on a program feel more pressure to complete the strictly academic work of a program on a certain schedule, and hence feel like they have less time for field trip or play activities.

I can understand those who work so hard on producing the activities want most of the members involved pretty frequently. On the other hand, those who feel they cannot be involved as frequently feel guilty about not being more involved.

We also hear about differences not only in methods but in philosophy. Some parents feel strongly about using Catholic materials, some feel strongly that it is not necessary. You see these differences at conferences.

Home schoolers are pretty independent people. The important thing is to follow the Church teachings, to do our best to be good Catholic parents, and to raise our children as good Catholics. There is no single “right” way of home schooling. Each family is different, and each family’s experience will be different. Even among groups of families using a program or families not using a program, each family will be doing things a little bit differently. One would hope that families with different philosophies or styles of learning could benefit from hearing about the way other families operate.

On a practical level, at least for larger support groups, there is nothing wrong with having a support group that sticks to the basics, then having sub-groups organize themselves according to interest. There might be

a subgroup for young children to play at the park, another subgroup for those interested in fine arts, and another group that sponsors a monthly trip to a museum. With this arrangement, everyone can be involved in the main group, then choose other activities as their interest and time permits. No one needs to feel left out or feel obligated to join in everything.

**There seems to be some criticism toward our pastor by home schoolers in our support group because he insists that parents send their children to the parish religious education classes in order to receive the sacraments. I feel uncomfortable about this. What should I do?**

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*Very few children’s classics are being published which are complete and unabridged. Unless your newly-purchased book says “complete and unabridged,” you can be sure it is not the full original classic.*

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We are living in very difficult times in our society and in our Church. The crisis affects all of us, even if we are not directly involved.

It is important to respect the authority of the pastor, but it is also important to understand the issues. The pastor certainly has the right to determine if a child is ready to receive the sacraments. However, the parent has the right, and the responsibility, to teach his or her own children. Each parent must decide the route he will follow. We do not believe that Canon Law can be reasonably interpreted to give a priest the authority to require that a child attend the parish preparation program in order to receive a sacrament.

If you are not directly involved, the best thing to do is to pray for both the pastor and the parents. They each need to realize their own rights and responsibilities, and to recognize those of the other party, according to the Church teachings.

**We are nearing the end of our school year according to the calendar, but I don't think we are going to be able to finish up the work assigned. What do you recommend?**

If you have children in the elementary grades, I recommend you take the time to teach all the concepts in the major subjects, such as Religion, Math, Phonics, and Reading. For 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, add English.

If you are concerned about other subjects, you can cover them briefly over the summer.

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*If your high school student is behind, consider helping him finish up two subjects at a time. Your child will be able to earn two credits quickly and will feel like he is accomplishing something.*

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If you have students in high school, they need the credits for their courses. I recommend you consider helping your child finish up two subjects at a time. For instance, if your child is closest to finishing up science and religion, then help your child to take science all morning and religion all afternoon each day until he is finished up. Thus your child will be able to earn two credits quickly and will feel like he is accomplishing something.

Then have him take the next two subjects that he is closest to finishing up, in the same way, two at a

time each day. The sense of accomplishment will motivate your child to finish up quickly.

Bear in mind that it is a good idea to keep children reading and even doing some math during the summer months so they don't forget the concepts by the fall.

**How do you do footnotes and bibliography for internet sources?**

Our English counselor said that she gets this question every day from our high school students. The irony is that the answer to this is clearly given in our lesson plans. For example, in the English 9 lesson plans it is on page 57. It's not well-hidden, either; the page on how to do citations is clearly listed in the table of contents at the front of the lesson plan.

Of course, we always like to hear from our students, and we don't mind answering their questions. However, many of the questions are answered in the manual, so we have to wonder whether students are actually making an effort to find the answers themselves before calling.

Not reading directions, or not following directions if they are read is a big problem. It can mean that a student will have to redo a paper or a test. It may mean a lower grade on a test. Our graders will often have to mark a problem wrong on a test where they know the student knows the answer, but the student did not answer the actual question asked. We hate to see a student score an 80 on a test where he could have easily scored a 95 if he had just followed the directions.

Reading and following directions is a life-skill that needs to be learned and practiced. The ability to take a set of directions and follow them through to a desired conclusion is something that everyone needs to be successful in life. If you can get your children to learn this at a young age, they will certainly thank you later in life when they build a 300-piece wooden play center for their own children.

**What is new on-line?**

We are constantly upgrading our website, [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org). We have

a great learning resources section on-line. On the web site, click on "Resources" on the sidebar, then click on "Student Resources." You can find a variety of helps, including "Footnote and Bibliography", even for internet sources.

We also have a sidebar called "Course Resources." This provides internet links, mainly for high school courses, though it also provides 8<sup>th</sup> grade Life Science quizzes and labs. The internet links connect you to websites where you can read more about the topics covered in the courses.

For some of our high school language courses, we have set up our St. Teresa Blackboard web site. This offers lots of online enrichment for our Spanish and French courses. To receive a user id and password for Blackboard, send an email to our high school curriculum coordinator, Melissa Olt, at [molt@setonhome.org](mailto:molt@setonhome.org).

We have recently also added more sections to our message board. We now have a math section, monitored by our math counselor, for questions on all math subjects. We also have a new section for history and government, hosted by Seton historian Bruce Clark.

**Will you come to our town for a conference or curriculum fair?**

There are so many Catholic conferences and fairs that it is keeping several of us busy to attend as many as we can. If we cannot attend, we will send catalogs and a sample of several of our books so that they can be ordered. If there is someone in your group who would like to sell or take orders, we would be happy to make those arrangements. Please contact Mary Lou Warren at [mlwarren@setonhome.org](mailto:mlwarren@setonhome.org).



## *An Orderly Home*

*by Dr. Mary Kay Clark, Director*

Many mothers who would like to teach their children at home don't do it because they tell themselves that they are too disorganized. They can hardly handle the jobs they have now around the house. Sometimes there is sickness in the family, or Dad is out of work, or a mother-in-law is living in the home. All these stressful things cause some mothers to be disorganized and in a constant struggle to "keep on top."

We really need to define order. Some mothers feel that order means that everything is in its proper place, things are done at certain times, and the house is straightened up. But order, like so many other things, can be an attitude more in the mind than in the things around you.

A busy executive has a desk piled high with work. To a stranger, his desk is disorderly and it appears he is not organized. But if someone comes along and straightens up his desk, he has a fit. He has certain piles in certain places, certain types of things were in certain piles, and he was familiar with the order in the "disorder." He was mentally comfortable with his desk situation.

### *Managing the House*

We mothers need to pray for a proper understanding of what an orderly home means. We should be able to function, but that may not mean the floor needs to be mopped every day or that everything needs to be in its place every day. We need to come to an emotional peace within ourselves, accept a certain amount of disorder, and realize that the daily home schooling lessons, encompassing spiritual values, are much more important than perfect physical order.

This is not to say that we cannot do better with putting things in their place, and keeping the house clean and straightened. We need to keep trying, and as our family grows, we need to teach these values to our children. In fact, they need "hands on" practice in this area!

We busy homeschooling mothers need to see ourselves as managers of a small home business. We need to develop a strong managerial personality as we train our children to be the helpers necessary to maintain our home. Dad should be involved to make sure, each evening, that the children have done their daily household chores as well as their schoolwork.

There are some specifics which most of us home schooling mothers have found to be important in keeping a reasonably orderly home. Most important is to keep the meals on schedule. So many things during the day revolve around the meals that children need to have those times very certain. Almost as important is the time the children rise in the morning and go to bed each evening. Eating and sleeping regularly are essential for all of us to have good health, but for children these provide important emotional security in spite of what other stressful things might be going on in the household.

On the second level of priority, of course, is the schedule of daily lessons. Since this is the primary vocation of children to learn their religion and academic lessons, this needs to be given priority over sports, recreation, and even visits with extended family members. This means that every morning, usually the best learning time for children, should be set aside for home education.

Other times of the day or evening can be more flexible, but keeping to fairly organized morning lessons should result in stable and consistent academic progress. This is especially important when problems are causing the family stress. Keeping the children's morning lessons regular sends a message to them: you are important and no matter what else becomes unstable, you and your priorities will not be adversely affected.

The family is under terrible siege from our society, mostly from the media, and from natural causes, such as illness and loss of jobs. As the attacks increase, some

parents feel they must give up the home schooling. Quite the contrary is true. The more the attacks, the more stress, the more the family needs to be strengthened spiritually and emotionally. Catholic-integrated home schooling provides this, not only for the children but for the parents as well. The children and their learning process, plus their unexpected uncomplicated insights, often bring comfort, strength, and graces to the parents.

### *Lesson Plans*

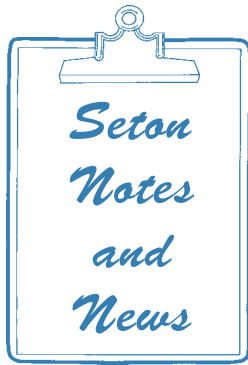
Lesson plans are considered vital by many of us mothers who are determined to give our children a complete education and not allow anything to "fall through the cracks."

Lesson plans are like markers along the highway, some giving us the mileage, some giving us direction. At Seton, the lessons are written to help us parents teach the lessons and to keep order in our program, progressing along day by day. Of course these are optional, but they do present a steady, progressive, orderly plan. Parents can and should adjust the Seton lessons to conform to their child's needs.

The blank lesson plan book gives you the opportunity to rewrite the lessons as you wish. You may write down the time and the length of the lessons, the pages to be covered, the concepts to be covered, supplemental readings or projects, specific questions or comments, creative methods or hands-on ideas, or none of the above!

At a home schooling conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, Father John Hardon defined Catholic home schooling as "the planned and organized teaching and training of children at home." While much of Catholic education is by good example in our daily living, a formal program of Catholic education needs to be planned and organized.

Fulfilling this vital commitment of home schooling to our family and to God will ensure the choicest blessings from Jesus and Mary to help us maintain an orderly home and an attitude of peace, especially during the times when we need them the most.



## 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. We also recommend Father James McLucas, who speaks about the role of the father in the Catholic family. Katie Moran, president of Catholic Home School Network of America, speaks on home schooling children with learning problems and on Marian modesty.

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Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editor:  
Kevin Clark

## Conferences and Book Fairs

Seton is exhibiting lesson plans and selling books at the following Catholic Home Schooling Conferences.

**Indianapolis, IN.** May 12, 2001. 4-H Fairgrounds. Contact Teresa at 317-849-9821, or [www.rchei.org](http://www.rchei.org)

**Atlanta, GA.** May 18-19, 2001. St. Catherine of Siena. Dr. Mary Kay Clark speaking on Discipline for the Catholic Home Schooling Family. Contact Kathy at 770-640-9197.

**Seattle, WA.** June 8-9. Seattle Police Athletic Pavilion. Contact Julia: 206-725-9026; [fjulia@uswest.net](mailto:fjulia@uswest.net)

**Lansing, MI.** June 15-16, 2001. Lansing Center. Contact Cathy at 313-565-6129, or [www.rc.net/lansing/mch](http://www.rc.net/lansing/mch)

**Minneapolis, MN.** June 16, 2001. Epiphany Church. Kenneth Clark will be participating in a panel discussion. Contact Claire at 952-941-5646, or [www.MNCatholicHomeEdConference.org](http://www.MNCatholicHomeEdConference.org), email [mch001@juno.com](mailto:mch001@juno.com)

**Chattanooga, TN.** June 16, 2001. St. Stephen Catholic Church. Ginny Seuffert speaking. Contact Sharon at 423-842-6319, or send email to [jposton@chattanooga.net](mailto:jposton@chattanooga.net)

**Peoria, IL.** June 23, 2001. Notre Dame High School. Ginny Seuffert speaking. Contact Lori at 309-686-2456.

**Lafayette, LA.** July 14, 2001. St. Edmonds Church. Seton Home Schooling Conference & Book Fair. Dr. Mary Kay Clark, Ginny Seuffert, Father Ben Cameron. Contact Marie at 337-989-8703; or Julie at 337-873-7547. To register, go to [conferences@setonhome.org](mailto:conferences@setonhome.org); or call Kathleen at 540-636-9996; FAX: 540-636-1602.

**Southern California (Chino Hills).** July 14, 2001. Southern California Catholic Home Educators Conference. St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. Seton's California representative will attend. Contact Dana at 909-785-8326.

**Woodbridge (near Manassas), VA.** July 20-21. Seton Big Book Fair. John Neumann Academy. FREE ADMISSION. Contact Seton for more information.

## 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 financial obligations to our employees and creditors. Please make payments on time. If you have any questions, please call Hal Brock. Thank you.

## California Office

Available in our Los Angeles, California office are textbooks and pre-packed curriculums for grades K through 8. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ellis are in charge of the office there. Contact them at Seton-California, 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.

## Seton Counselors

(Seton main number: 540-636-9990)

Religion/Sacraments: Fr. Constantine, Fr. Barrett  
High School English: Devin Pesta, Ext. 124 or 540-636-1755  
High School Math: Tom Luckey, Ext. 165 or 540-636-1846;  
Don Valaika, Ext. 132  
High School Science: Fr. Kevin Barrett, Ext. 120  
Senior Guidance: Bob Wesner, 540-636-2238  
History: Bruce Clark, Ext. 122  
Elementary: Winnie Ehlinger, 540-636-2342 or Ext. 118  
Admissions, Enrollment, Re-Enrollment: 540-636-2039  
Home Schooling Fathers: Tom Kosten, Randy DeClue, Tom Sayre  
Special Needs: Sharon Hines, Ext. 151; Pat Walker, Ext. 152  
Grading: Jacinta Black, Ext. 138; Rhonda Way, Ext. 166  
Independent Studies: Paul Neulieb, Ext. 117  
Testing (CAT): Ext. 150  
High School Course Approval: Paul Neulieb, Ext. 117

## *Pope Paul VI on The Irreplaceable Family*

The family, in fact, is at the center of the crisis and the contestation that are shaking modern society, precisely because it is the fundamental institution of society and the guarantee of its stability and human character. Confronted with ideologies that seek to manipulate societies, changing the image of the family and its functions within society, the Church—as you know very well—wishes prior attention to be dedicated to it in all fields because she believes firmly in its mission. If God revealed Himself to us as the Father; if Christ loves the Church as a Bridegroom loves His bride, how can we fail to be certain that the family will exist until the end to offer the world a testimony of love?

Your clear pastoral vision invites you to make a diagnosis of the evils that afflict the family at present: the generation gap, increase in the number of divorces, selfish rejection of life, marital infidelity, irregular unions, etc. But your attention is not fixed just on these phenomena, but goes beyond them to look for their causes and explanations: lack of preparation for family life, loss of

the sense of responsibility and moral sense, caused, in turn, by an inadequate upbringing, the immorality of the environment, and a materialism that ignores the values and joys of the spirit.

Beloved brothers: Charity rejoices at truth. Always believe. Always hope. Endure everything. Your charity towards the family will be manifested in the importance you give it in catechetics, liturgy, pastoral structures and social developments.

We ask the Lord to enlighten you and sustain you in your love for the humble and the weak, for whom the family is sometimes their only riches. And may it be He who makes your task fruitful so that the world may see that you really represent the God of love, the Author of nature and grace, whose law is the only secret of happiness for the whole of mankind.

*Gen. Council of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, Oct. 20, 1975*

### *Seton Home Study School*

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