



Seton Home Study School

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“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”

June 2002

The Sacred Heart

The first Friday after the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 7th this year, is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The following paragraphs are information about the Feast of the Sacred Heart, from the book *Heart of the Redeemer*.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart began with the early Church Fathers who spoke of the Sacred Blood and Water flowing from Christ’s side. They believe that St. John the Beloved Disciple, as he reclined upon the heart of Jesus at the Last Supper, drank in the “secrets of His Heart.” The Fathers often referred to the Heart of the crucified Saviour as the source of the fountain of infinite graces; the Church as Christ’s spotless Bride born of His Heart; the Eucharist and the other sacraments flowing from His opened side as streams of blood and water

From the 1200s to the 1400s, devotion to the Sacred Heart was spread to the laity through their contact with the monasteries and convents, especially through over 100 Dominican ones in Germany, and the Benedictine monks. Many saints promoted this devotion throughout the Middle Ages. Important to the present devotions is St. Francis de Sales, who established the religious institute of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin in the 1600s. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was a popular and strong devotion in the Order of the Visitation.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque entered the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial in France on June 20, 1671. Margaret began having revelations even before entering the convent. St. Francis of Assisi appeared to St. Margaret Mary in 1643. In 1673, on the Feast of St. John the Apostle, Our Lord revealed to her the mission of spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart. He told her “My divine Heart is so passionately fond of the human race, and of you in particular, that it cannot keep back the pent-up flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you and reveal my Heart to the world, so as to enrich mankind with my precious treasures. I am letting you see them now; and they include all the graces of sanctification needed to snatch men from the very brink of hell.”

Our Lord appeared to Margaret again in 1674 and 1675. In one apparition, Margaret described Him as “a blaze of glory—His five wounds shining like five suns, flames issuing from ... His divine breast which was like a furnace, and which He opened to disclose His utterly affectionate and lovable heart, the living source of all those flames He revealed to me the indescribable wonders of His pure love for mankind: the extravagance to which He’d been led for those who had nothing for Him but ingratitude and indifference.”

In June, 1675, Our Lord gave St. Margaret Mary the famous Promise: “I am asking you to have the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi set apart as a special feast in honor of My Heart—a day on which to receive Me in Holy Communion and make a solemn act of reparation for the indignities I have received in the Blessed Sacrament while exposed on the altars of the world. I promise you too, that I shall open My Heart to all who honor Me in this way, and who have others do the same; they will feel in all its fullness the power of My love.

During this month of the Sacred Heart, let us rededicate ourselves to the Sacred Heart. If possible, perhaps our family can add the Litany of the Sacred Heart during our prayers. Certainly we all need to try our best to attend Mass on First Fridays.

If we truly want our home to be the “domestic church” which we are asked to do, our family activities and home should reflect the liturgical year, and in June, reflect our devotion to the Sacred Heart.

(Quotes taken from *Heart of the Redeemer* by Timothy T. O’Donnell, S.T.D. , Christendom College Press)

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Questions We Are Asked

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

I am struggling with the book reports. My son in 5th grade does not want to do his written work. I struggle with the written work myself. What should I do?

Gathering ideas and putting them together to make a point is much more difficult than any other kind of written assignment. In most subjects, your child reads or studies a chapter or a selection, and he simply picks out a fact and writes it down. Even in math, when a student is given a problem, he knows he must follow certain rules to work out the answer. In writing a paragraph, a book report, or an essay, certain ideas or concepts must be gathered and put together, and in a logical fashion.

A couple of years ago, we realized that the students, and often the parents, needed to know what specifically we expected the student to write in a book report. Consequently, we have provided the topic sentences for the paragraphs for the first two book reports. The student can study what points we expect to follow the topic sentence and then underline these points or examples as she reads the book.

For the second half of the year, the student must write his own topic sentences, but they should be similar to the kinds of ideas we have presented in the first two reports. Usually they are about character traits.

The first step for a book report, and for any report, paragraph, or essay, is to make an outline. In many cases, the three main points, or topic sentences, can be stated as the first three Roman Numerals, and the examples can be filled in as the book is read, or the sources for the report are

read. An outline is essential for a successful outcome.

If you have the time to read your child's book report book as well, you can discuss the book and mark relevant passages as you read. For example, you might have a topic sentence of "The hero Roland proved by what he thought, by what he said, and by what he did that he loved his neighbors." or "Roland was a hero to his community because of his love for his neighbors." As you read, look for examples of what he thought, what he said, and what he did that proves the point being made in the topic sentence.

As the passages are read and marked in the book, they could be added, by phrase or by page number, to the book report outline. Once the book is finished, you and your child will be surprised how much is in the outline, and how many examples can be used to prove the point of the topic sentences.

When your child reaches eighth grade and high school, while there will still be book reports, your child also will be doing research reports. In this case, the examples or points will need to be obtained from a variety of sources, not simply one book. Again, you may need to work with your child to search for information to add to the points in his notecards or notebook page.

An outline is key to being successful even for a short composition. In fifth grade, your child may be given a topic which must come from her own ideas. For instance, he may need to write a paragraph about a pet. You can help by first discussing with him various ideas about a pet. As you discuss the ideas, the main point or points

should be put into an outline as major headings.

If you or your child finds outlining difficult, you might look in books or encyclopedia articles for sample outlines. Oftentimes encyclopedias will have outlines for the longer articles. Studying an outline and how the article looks relative to the outline will help your student to understand how an outline is essential to knowing how to write in a logical order.

A good online resource for outlining is the Purdue University Online Writing Lab. You can see some good outlining information at owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_outlin.html.

If you have the time to read your child's book report book as well, you can discuss the book and mark relevant passages as you read.

My son in second grade takes a long time doing his math. He is bright but does not seem interested. He tends to daydream.

Most boys like math and find it easy. They tend to solve problems inductively. Many moms, however, being deductive thinkers, teach math through the deductive process, which does not correspond to the usual male inductive thinking process.

One thing to try is to have the father do the math teaching, especially to the boys. Dad can teach him in the morning before he goes to work if possible. Otherwise, it will need to be as early as possible when he comes home. Dad should give the assignment for the day, then check the work the next day, then teach the new concepts.

While Mom can answer questions for her son, stress that Dad is his teacher. Perhaps he can call Dad on the phone if he has a question.

If Dad is not available, perhaps an older brother or a grandfather could help teach the math. If this cannot be done, consider giving your son more flexibility for doing the assignments. Tell him if he manages to have all the even-numbered problems correct on the page, he will not need to do the other half of the page. Consider using manipulatives which will make math more interesting for him.

For children who are still learning, playing an instrument has proved to be valuable in learning academic lessons.

Remember that little boys need to exercise. You cannot sit them down for long periods of time. Each half hour, your son should be doing something physical, tossing a ball or jumping rope or sweeping the floor. There is a correlation between physical and mental exercise. The physical exercise will get the oxygen into his brain and make his brain exercise as well.

What should I do to stop my in-laws from criticizing the homeschooling to my kids?

This is a rough problem which, thank goodness, we hear less frequently these days. Homeschooling seems to be here to stay and many families are doing it. In fact, the mere fact of so many families doing it can sometimes help your in-laws to realize that what you are doing is not very unusual. You might find out the official number of how many families are home schooling in your state. Since about half the people do not report, you can double

the number and give this number to your in-laws.

Ask your relatives to join you at a homeschooling meeting or conference. Give them a home schooling book or magazine article to read. Would they watch a video of a talk about homeschooling? Would they look at our Seton web site?

If they live nearby, ask them to come over and watch, or help, during a home schooling day. Have your kids read to them. Show them the work the children have done. Let them see the children saying their Rosary or discussing their patron saints.

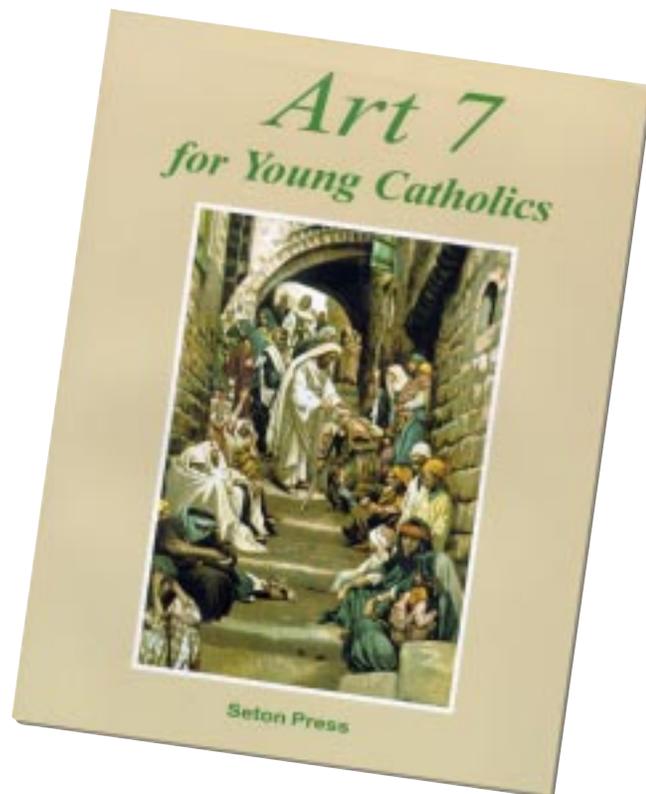
If after all your attempts they still remain critical, you may simply have to tell them, charitably but firmly, that it cannot be a topic for discussion. You cannot be undermined in your authority with your own children.

Many of the homeschooling parents have their children take music lessons, especially violin and piano. It is very expensive and would be a big sacrifice for our big family. What do you think?

Music is an important part of life. I cannot imagine life without music. We know there is music in Heaven. We sing at Mass on Sundays. We listen to music, we sing in choirs.

Being able to play a musical instrument is very important to a person's overall development, for what we might call their "wellroundedness." For children who are still learning, playing an instrument has proved to be valuable in learning academic lessons, paying attention to details in reading, and learning math through music. Many studies have shown the

Cont'd on p. 7



New from Seton Press, Art 7 for Young Catholics is a beautiful full-color book featuring the artwork of 19th-century artist James Joseph Tissot. The 80 page book contains 77 glossy reproductions of Tissot's work.

www.setonhome.org/sem

The Mysteries of Life in Children's Literature

The *Mysteries of Life in Children's Literature* was written by Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian of Magdalen College, and has been published by Neumann Press in Long Prairie, MN. The preface to this book offers a statement that captures the spirit and theme of the work:

Finally, this book is written for everyone who loves wisdom and truth in its purity and simplicity and desires the wisdom of the ages and the proverbial truths that have been transmitted through the living stream of tradition, folklore, poems, fairy tales, myths, allegories, parables, and great adventure stories.

For children's classics—along with Homer, Virgil, Dante, and Shakespeare—belong to that body of knowledge that Matthew Arnold described as “the best that has been thought and said.

Just as it is the child in “The Emperor's New Clothes” who dares to announce the self-evident truth which everyone is afraid to utter—“The king is naked”—so too children's literature can reveal truths which escape the pundits and the professors.

The traditional, timeless wisdom in children's classics that Dr. Kalpakgian explores illuminates the mysteries of life such as the mystery of wishes. Why do Cinderella's wishes come true while the Fisherman's Wife's wishes go unfulfilled? Here is part of the answer: “Cinderella's yearning for love, the Little Mermaid's wish for an immortal soul, and King Midas's begging for the return of his daughter are noble exalted wishes in comparison to the fisherman's wife's fatuous desire to be an emperor or the medical student's silly whim of seeing into another person's heart.

What is the mystery of truth, and why is it that “truth will out” as the saying goes? Children's literature clarifies this phenomenon. As the author explains, “The discovery of the truth does not always occur as a result of investigation, research, or analysis but often results from a comic surprise, an overheard

conversation — a goose girl whispering a secret inside an oven.

What is the mystery of children? It lies in their secret power, Hans Christian Andersen illustrates in “The Snow Queen—the power to cure melancholy, to fill a home with mirth, to melt the heart, to renew the world with hope. Dr. Kalpakgian comments, “With a kiss Thumbelina restores the dead swallow to the world of the living. With tears Gerda rescues the frozen, hardened Kay from the bleak world of the Snow Queen.”

What is the mystery of luck? Why is it that according to proverbs and folklore that children and fools are the luckiest people? How come it is true that sometimes when a person succeeds, he was not trying very hard in the first place? The author answers, “The good fortune of Hans in Luck is not due to effort, prudence, or foresight but a matter of effortlessness . . . In these stories luck is attracted to the simple, the childlike, the innocent, and the pure in heart.” Gamblers are not the experts in this matter; lucky fools are.

The entire book consists of fourteen chapters, each one focusing on one of life's mysteries which recurs in children's literature. Later chapters discuss topics like the “The Mystery of the Home,” “The Mystery of Goodness,” and “The Mystery of Divine Providence.”

The unique feature of the book is the argument of each chapter. For each mystery, the author selects several stories from the canon of children's classics to illustrate the universality of the theme and the perennial wisdom these stories offer.

Thus these old classics assume a new light. They are not only delightful, enchanting tales for the young but also mines of wisdom for the old. You will want to read or reread some of these classics after reading *The Mysteries of Life* because they become luminous in meaning.

As the author explains in the chapter “The Mystery of Stories,” with

its special emphasis on George MacDonald's *AT THE BACK OF THE NORTH WIND*, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and good stories are like “windows,” letting the light from a world above enter and providing an opening to a higher world. Children and stories are both “windows” linking the human and divine worlds, mediating between them.

Another feature of the book is its selection of the classics of children's literature to develop its thesis. All the favorites appear from Grimm's folk tales to Anderson's fairy tales to Robert Louis Stevenson's *A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES* to Francis Hodgson Burnett's *THE SECRET GARDEN* to Louisa May Alcott's *LITTLE MEN* and *LITTLE WOMEN*. Reading these works will reawaken the child in all adults and make them fall in love with life all over again.

In short, this is a staunchly pro-family, pro-child, pro-Catholic, pro-life book. In the last chapter especially the author argues, “The classics of children's literature revere and honor the gift of human life. No amount of gold in the world is more precious to King Midas than his daughter Marygold. Diamond's baby brother and sister in *AT THE BACK OF THE NORTH WIND* are gifts from heaven: ‘Where did you get your eyes so blue/ Out of the sky as I came through.’ “

The book concludes with the position that as modern culture becomes more anti-life and anti-child, the sense of mystery also diminishes: “If the gift of human life is not sacred, then nothing is sacred.”

Finally, this book will not date. It belongs on the bookshelves of homes. It is about classics, perennial truths, and traditional wisdom. It has a special old-fashioned quality about it because of the beautiful illustrations, reproductions from original or late editions of the work. It makes an ideal gift along with being a feast for the mind and heart. It reflects Dr. Kalpakgian's lifetime of teaching, reading, and thinking on a subject of ultimate importance—the education of the young.

Fathers Can Make a Difference

by Doug Bean

Dads need to know that they can make a difference in Catholic homeschooling families.

A big difference.

They can make a difference as co-equal partners with their wives by wholeheartedly embracing the gift of home education and becoming actively involved. They can make a difference in the religious and intellectual formation of their children. And they can be the difference in whether a family ultimately succeeds or struggles, thrives or survives, stays the course or burns out.

But it takes commitment. It takes sacrifice. It takes humility.

Commitment comes from the heart and soul. It is not enough to offer a few encouraging words, help with a subject at the end of the day or take the children to the park. Fathers owe it to their wives, their children and to Our Blessed Lord to enthusiastically participate in every facet of home education.

Pope John Paul II has emphasized again and again the church's teaching that parents have a fundamental mission to be the primary educators of their children. There is absolutely no question that Catholic home education is more rewarding when husbands work together with their wives. Fatherhood, therefore, is a dad's foremost vocation.

Catholic fathers bear a serious responsibility to be holy fathers as head of the family—just as the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, is head of the Universal Church and the shepherd of the entire human family as the Vicar of Christ.

In nurturing a holy family, fathers also strive to be humble and caring like St. Joseph, the head of the Holy Family. St. Joseph

provides the perfect model as a patient and gentle teacher, a pillar of faith and a faithful provider for the Blessed Mother and Jesus.

Certainly, the man of the household is usually charged with being a worthy bread winner. But he must be wary of putting his own career aspirations before family needs. For what does it profit a man if he neglects the beautiful souls entrusted to him by God? Nothing should be more important than guiding God's children (remember, they are His, not ours as parents) on the pathway to eternal life.

A father's commitment has to start with his Catholic faith as spiritual leader of the household.

Catholic home education requires a holy communion between husband and wife, father and mother, parents and children—and a Holy Communion with Jesus Christ in His precious Body and Blood offered each day in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The importance of the father taking his family to Mass (daily, if

possible), visiting churches or chapels to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, going to Confession often, praying (Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, novenas, etc.) and living a devoted Catholic life are absolutely essential. A father's strong faith is a powerful witness to his children that will form lifetime devotion to Christ and His Church.

It is an amazing grace for homeschooling fathers and their families to be able to deepen their faith through teaching and learning together. This is one of the great benefits of the domestic church, the church of the home. As dads and moms teach and study, everyone in the household grows in knowledge and love for the Church, Jesus, His Blessed Mother, and all the angels and saints.

Home education does require sacrifice on a father's part. He gives up leisure time to devote himself to his family. He runs on sleep deprivation. He assists around the house with daily chores and gives his wife a break from the awesome, all-consuming job of being a mother. He shuttles the children to appointments and activities

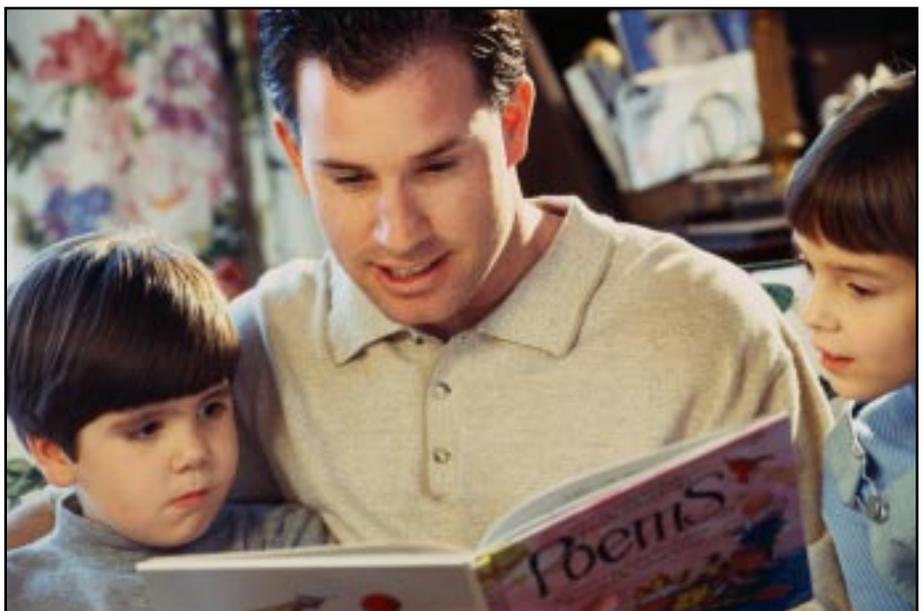


Photo Credit: Getty Images

when he is available. And, if possible, he might even alter his work schedule to make it more conducive to homeschooling.

Fathers should not be intimidated by homeschooling. It is not necessary to be an expert in theology or child psychology or biology to help in the home classroom. The graces, acquired through prayer and the sacrament of Matrimony, imbue dads with God-given parental wisdom to impart to their children.

So when and how do families integrate fathers into the homeschooling environment?

Writing out lesson plans is a great place to start. Not only is it a great benefit to know what each child is studying during the week, it facilitates collaboration with moms in determining what subjects to teach, the best times to assist and the most effective methods of instruction.

If a father has an area of expertise such as science, he should not hesitate to take a lead role in that subject. Other practical ways to ease into the homeschooling routine are praying, reading stories, playing learning games, singing, conversing, writing letters and listening to the children read.

Whatever fathers do, they absolutely need to pray for supernatural graces and ask for Our Blessed Lord's guidance every step of the way. Homeschooling can be a very humbling experience. But with God's guidance, no challenge or problem is too great.

Our sinful world needs humble witnesses to the faith more than ever. As Father John A. Hardon, SJ, often said, only humble people will beget humble people. Pray that humble homeschooling fathers beget humble, holy children to serve God and one day reach His heavenly reward.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Homeschool Conference

Sponsored by
The National Home School Conference Coalition

Friday, June 7: 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

(Conference opens at 10:00, first speaker at 11:00,
vendor area opens at 12:00 noon)

Saturday June 8: 9 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

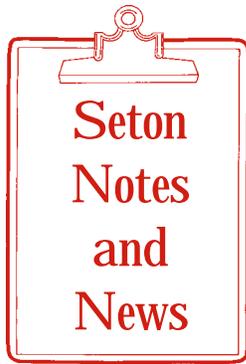
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Rev. Paul Check	Dr. Mary Kay Clark
Rev. Shannon Collins	Dr. Thomas Droleskey
Rev. Robert Levis	Dr. Patrick Keats
Rev. Frank Papa	Dr. Marguerite "Peg" Luksik
Rev. John Perricone	Mr. Joseph Kung
Rev. Joseph Salazar	Mrs. Virginia Seuffert
Rev. Ray Williams	Mrs. Catherine Moran
Sr. Agnes Cousins	Mr. Joseph Sobran
Cong. Robert Dornan	

Updated information available at
www.ihmconference.org



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. For more information, contact Mary Lou Warren at 540-636-9990.

Seton will be exhibiting and selling curriculum at the following conferences:

Lansing, MI: June 21 and 22. "It's Great to Be Catholic" Conference. Dr. Mary Kay Clark will be speaking. Contact Cathleen at 313-565-6129, or email mch001@juno.com

West Allis, WI (Milwaukee area): June 22. Greater Milwaukee Catholic Home Educators Curriculum Fair.

St. Mary Help of Christians Gymnasium. Virginia Seuffert will be representing Seton. Contact Alicia at 262-369-9461 or email webmaster@love2learn.net

Kennebunk, ME (Portland area): June 29. Dr. Mary Kay Clark, Fr. Frank Papa, Mrs. Virginia Seuffert speaking. Co-sponsored by Seton and Families at Home. Contact Seton at 540-636-9996 email to conferences@setonhome.org. Local contact is Lisa at 207-646-6799.

Lafayette, LA: July 20. Marianna Bartold speaking. Contact Julie at 337-873-7547.

Questions, cont'd from p. 3 importance of music in learning other subjects. Some schools are now requiring all students to play some musical instrument.

Music lessons are generally quite expensive. An alternative to having all your children take lessons is to have someone in the family learn to play a musical instrument, and then have that person teach the others in the family.

There is a certain joy to having music in a house; indeed, the Bible tells us to "make a joyful noise" unto the Lord. One can think of the movie *The Sound of Music*, and how when Captain von Trapp's wife died, he banished music from the house as a reflection of his mourning. When the Captain finds happiness again, the music returns to the home. In this way, music is both a sign of happiness and a reason for happiness.

Even if your children do not appreciate their music lessons now, they will thank you later in life. The ability to play a musical instrument is a talent that will stay with your child for a lifetime and will bring many hours of enjoyment.

I notice that the tuition fees for the elementary levels now include the cost of the books, so the books do not need to be returned. Will you be starting this for high school? My children would love to highlight and underline in their textbooks.

Over the years, we have found that most parents prefer to purchase books rather than rent them. So, at the present time, most of the high school books are included in the high school tuition fees and are not returned. At this point, the science and Saxon math books are still returned because the cost of the books is so high. However, even books which are normally rented are available for sale to anyone who wants to buy them.

For next year, we are considering eliminating the book rental entirely. Some of the companies are starting to publish the science books in paperback, which brings down the price for the parents. Some parents want to buy the Saxon math books so they have them for other children. Some parents can purchase them used from us, or from other homeschooling parents. Of course, if you already have a book, you can receive a book credit off the tuition price when you enroll.

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On Christian Marriage

...the faithful can...open up for themselves a treasury of sacramental grace from which they can draw supernatural power for the fulfilling of their rights and duties faithfully, holily, perseveringly, even unto death. Hence this sacrament not only increases sanctifying grace...but also adds particular gifts, dispositions, seeds of grace, by elevating and perfecting the natural powers.

By these gifts, the parties are assisted not only in understanding, but in knowing intimately, in adhering to firmly, in willing effectively, and in successfully putting into practice, those things which pertain to the marriage state, its aims and duties, giving them a right to the actual assistance of grace, whensoever they need it for fulfilling the duties of their state.

Nevertheless, since it is a law of Divine Providence in the supernatural order that men do not reap the full fruit of the sacraments...unless they cooperate with grace, the grace of matrimony will remain for the most part an unusual talent, hidden in the field, unless the parties exercise these supernatural powers, and cultivate and develop the seeds of grace they have received.

If however, doing all that lies within their power, they cooperate diligently, they will be able with ease to bear with the burdens of their state and to fulfill their duties. By such a sacrament, they will be strengthened, sanctified, and in a manner, consecrated.

On Christian Marriage
Encyclical of Pope Pius XI

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