



# Seton Home



# Study School

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April 2003

## Mary's Guidance

In the fall of 1995, His Holiness Pope John Paul II gave a talk to his general audience which was attended by homeschooling leaders from the United States. Some of His words seemed to be aimed at us parents who are silently persevering every day in our homes.

“We would like to pause and briefly reflect on some significant aspects of Mary’s personality which offer valuable guidance to all believers in accepting and fulfilling their own vocation.”

“At the Annunciation, Mary believed in what was humanly impossible, and at Cana she urged Jesus to work His first miracle, pressing Him to manifest His messianic powers.”

No one knows better than we homeschooling parents that, in this culture of death and self-satisfaction rather than sacrifice, the job of homeschooling is humanly very difficult. Mary teaches us that we must persevere in asking Jesus to work miracles for us.

“Mary teaches Christians to live their Faith as a demanding and engaging journey which, in every age and situation of life, requires courage and constant perseverance.”

“Mary’s docility to the divine will was linked to her Faith. Believing in God’s Word, she could accept it fully in her life and, showing herself

receptive to God’s sovereign plan, she accepted all that was asked of her from on high.”

We know in our hearts and minds that God’s will is that we teach our children at home to give them the Faith and to give them the good example they need to live out the Faith. This can help us and our children to accept the daily struggle.

“Our Lady’s presence in the Church encourages Christians to listen to the Word of the Lord every day, to understand His loving plan in various daily events, and to cooperate faithfully in bringing it about.”

One essential ingredient in our homeschooling day should be to listen to the Gospel of each day. There is usually a message which can be applied to our homeschooling situation, a message we need to interpret for our children. As events unfold during the day, we can draw out lessons for us and the children. These daily events should be looked at as an opportunity to explain to our children how to understand some aspect of God’s plan for us.

“Mary teaches the community of believers to look to the future with total abandonment to God. In the Virgin’s personal experience, hope is enriched with ever new reasons. ... Her hope was strengthened during the successive stages of Jesus’ hidden

life and His public ministry. Her great faith in the word of Christ, Who had announced His Resurrection, prevented her from wavering, even when faced with the Cross.”

We Catholic homeschooling parents need to cling to this blessed, holy hope. We can be made stronger because of our hope in Christ, and be willing to suffer the sacrifices of the Way of the Cross.

“After experiencing Christ’s victory over the powers of death, Mary communicates to [us] an ever new capacity to await God’s future and to abandon [ourselves] to the Lord’s promises.”

With the Resurrection, we have the guarantee of eternal life for ourselves and our children if we remain faithful, loving, charitable, and filled with faith.

Blessed Mother, pray for us and help us to remember the lessons you and your Son have taught us, that by a quiet perseverance in our daily duties of homeschooling our children, our whole family will attain eternal joy in Heaven with you and your Son.

- MKC

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

**My ten year old boy does not want to do his schoolwork. He wants to invent things or create models of airplanes instead of doing his schoolwork.**

Your son's desire to invent and create are natural for a young boy, and you should encourage his inventiveness and creativity. He may be a great inventor someday, and we surely need people like that!

Tell your son that he will be a better and more accurate inventor if he learns self-discipline, such as doing his assignments in a timely manner and staying focused on the job at hand. He will be a better inventor if he learns the basic science taught in his textbook. He will be a better inventor if he thinks logically, a skill which he can develop through his English and diagramming courses. He will be a better inventor if he recognizes natural law and appreciates, loves, and serves the Author of all scientific laws. He will be a better inventor if he understands his math, works out abstract problems in Algebra, and stays on track as he proceeds step-by-step through his Geometry theorems.

While it may be difficult to convey all this to your ten-year old, you need to believe in it yourself, and to convey it over and over again.

Try to have your son do his regular school assignments in the morning, then do his inventions in the middle of the day, and perhaps finish up his easiest subjects in the later afternoon. You might schedule some time on Saturdays with his Dad so they can work together on hands-on projects. There are many science projects books available at the library, and, through the Internet, you can find all kinds of projects for different age groups.

**My teenage son has been lazy all year, and now he is depressed because he is so far behind. He thinks if he goes back to school, they will catch him up. What do you suggest?**

Your son needs to accomplish something quickly, to believe he is moving quickly toward finishing up his courses for the year. Consider having him focus on only one or two courses, his two favorite courses, taking one all morning and another all afternoon. Because of the shortness of time between the reading, studying, and testing, he should do well. You don't mention which quarter he is in, but he should be able to finish up two courses in four to six weeks. Once he sees that he can earn credits and grades in just a few weeks, he should be motivated to start the schedule, and to repeat it for two more courses if he stays on track.

You might work with him to write down a realistic daily schedule, or work with the lesson plans and write the dates in the margins. Once he sees it could be a reality if he sticks with it, he should be motivated. Include a couple of hours on Saturdays as well. Once, when we had to take time out for moving, my boys preferred to catch up by doing homeschooling on Saturdays rather than working into the summer.

**I am thinking of continuing my homeschooling during the summer. I like the idea of keeping my children busy and keeping them learning. What do you think?**

Many parents like to keep the homeschooling going during the summer so the children do not lose what they have gained during the previous months. Usually, this is limited to math and reading for the

younger children. Often, however, a high school student wants to get a head start on credits, and will take a more demanding subject during the summer, such as Algebra or Geometry. Sometimes in the summer the high school student can obtain some tutoring help more easily from local college students on summer break.

Of course, you and the children may need the break of a summer vacation. If you do try to have the children work throughout the summer, don't push too hard. Schedule just an hour or two in the morning, so that the rest of the day is free.

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**There is a Catholic homeschooling conference in my area, but it would take me about an hour to get there. Since I am enrolled already in Seton, would I benefit from going?**

We encourage everyone to attend nearby Catholic homeschooling conferences. These conferences give parents the opportunity to see supplemental materials, and to meet other Catholics who are thinking of homeschooling. Veteran homeschooling parents can often answer questions for other parents looking for encouragement.

Often priests are speakers at these conferences, and their spiritual counseling and encouragement cannot be beat! It is often the encouragement that parents need to keep going another year!

It is helpful to take high school students to these conferences so they can meet other Catholic homeschoolers

and can be encouraged in their homeschooling. They may meet other young Catholics who could become lifetime friends. No matter what goals you are pursuing in life, it is always good to know that there are others out there doing the same thing, and that they are willing and able to help you.

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**Some of those in my homeschooling group say that school accreditation is not important. What points should I make to them?**

There are many reasons why accreditation is important. Remember that we still have a National Education Association, which year after year endorses resolutions against homeschooling, and promotes more and more controls on homeschooling families. This is not going to go away. Being enrolled with an accredited program is a protection from regulations which are in existence or may be forthcoming.

Seton Home Study School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which is a member of the Committee on International and Transregional Accreditation (CITA). These agencies are recognized as accrediting agencies by the United States Department of Education. The very fact that Seton is accredited means that accrediting agencies take

home education very seriously. Since the accrediting agencies accept homeschooling as a viable means of education, other accredited schools and colleges must also respect homeschooling. In that sense, Seton's accreditation is beneficial to homeschooling in general, even to those who are not enrolled in Seton.

Accreditation means that Seton Home Study School has been inspected by an outside, independent agency that has determined that Seton meets accepted standards for schools. These standards include standards regarding the seriousness of our course of studies, handling of academic records, accounting practices, and business practices. You can read more about accreditation on our web site at [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org).

What does accreditation mean for parents? First, you know that an accredited school has submitted to a detailed inspection by an objective agency. Besides this inspection, the school is required to follow accepted educational practices established by the accrediting agency. You know that the school has met standards and must continue to meet standards to maintain its accreditation. An accredited school cannot be a "fly-by-night" operation or a "diploma mill." An accredited school is a bona fide, high quality, educational institution.

Accreditation is especially important when applying to college. Credits from an accredited school will likely be viewed as more significant than credits from a non-accredited school. The reason is simple: colleges know that accredited schools maintain accepted standards. Colleges know nothing about credits from a non-accredited school.

Some people think that accrediting agencies dictate the content of what is taught. That is not true. No accrediting agency has ever asked us to change the content of our lessons.

**You keep advising us to attend daily Mass, but I find it very**

**difficult. Don't you think God will give me the graces to take care of my responsibilities at home?**

God knows what is in each human heart and He is infinite in His mercy and blessings.

When I grew up in the 1940's and 1950's, and attended a Catholic parochial school, Mass was offered every day before school, and everyone was expected to attend, and did. That set a pattern, a way of life for a whole generation or two of Catholics. Adults would attend the 6 or 7 a.m. Mass before going to work.

The society was quite different back then. We did not have all the fast-food restaurants. Moms stayed home all day, teens were in sports but did not go out otherwise, and certainly not in a car (families had only one car). We were concerned about the war, how to pay for food, trying to find meat. There was no effort or push to "get out of the house." We were happy at home with our house work, and our schoolwork, our radios and our western heroes. I saw the first TV show on a TV set in a home in the neighborhood, where we all watched Howdy Doody and Hopalong Cassidy. The American society was simple and slow moving and basically a good Christian society.

The millions of Catholics attending daily Mass in the forties and fifties influenced all of American society. We Catholics need to get back to attending daily Mass for the sake of our own family members as well as for the members of our American society. Our society will not change until millions of Catholics go back to daily Mass.

It is not always easy to attend daily Mass, especially when it entails getting all the kids out of bed, fed, and dressed at an early hour. It can be done, though, if you make a decision that you will do it. Plus, you may find that, rather than making you start late, going to Mass will help you get a good start on your day that will carry through to the rest of the day.

## *Eight Step Program for Fathers*

*by Ed Gudan*

In most homeschooling families, the mother is the primary teacher. However, fathers still need to be involved in homeschooling. Here is an eight-step plan for fathers to help.

**1. Establish respect for the mother and make sure she is not taken for granted.** The father needs to set the example of showing respect for the mother, and he needs to ensure that all the children show respect for their mother, that they do not talk back and that they obey her. For example, this can be done by thanking mother for preparing dinner, for washing the clothes, for cleaning up our messes, and for all the other things she does around the house. At mealtime, everyone should wait until mother sits down at the table before saying grace and starting to eat.

**2. Ensure that there is discipline in the homeschool.** The father needs to tell the children that they are to behave. For the younger children, fathers must remind them on a daily or weekly basis. It is helpful if the father calls home during the day; this sends a message to the children that dad is serious about the children behaving. Other times, the mother may call the father whenever the children get rowdy, and the father can talk to them over the phone. During some phone calls, fathers may need to talk to the child and make the child realize that BOTH of you want him to behave; after other phone calls, a father may want to go home and take care of the problem in person, if your job permits. Starting at the beginning of the school year, it is important to handle the discipline problems promptly and decisively, in order to keep them from frequently recurring during the year.

**3. Have a high vision for the children.** There is much talk about building up self-esteem, but you do not build up self-esteem by giving your children empty praises or having low expectations of them. You need to encourage them. Praise their successes

and minimize their failures. Keep them challenged and let them know that you expect them to do their best.

In our home, we have a policy that everyone in the elementary grades gets at least an A on each test and assignment and everyone in the junior high and senior high grades gets at least a B. That does not mean that we are giving away A's and B's for mediocre work. What it means is that if a student gets less than a B on an assignment, I tell him that I know he can do better than that. We review the material and have the student do the assignment or the test over again. We end up spending more time in the subject, but that is the advantage of tutoring your children at home. It is more important for the children to know the material and understand it, than it is to finish the course quickly.

Fathers also need to help their children find and develop the talents that God has blessed them with. Give them projects in the areas where they have an interest or appear to have talents. After they are finished with their project, acknowledge their accomplishments and praise them for the qualities they exhibited: perseverance, patience, quality work, or attention to details. As you show confidence in your children, they will become self-confident and have a self-esteem that cannot be shattered.

In addition to giving the children projects to do, we also give them chores. In fact, we put it in the lesson plans, and we make it part of the daily routine. The chores consist of simple tasks, like making their bed, cleaning up the room, dusting the house, etc. We do not believe in giving the children an allowance, but we do believe in paying them for particular jobs around the house, such as polishing Dad's shoes, washing cars, cutting the grass, raking the lawn, and babysitting the younger children. This way they learned that they had to earn money if they wanted to buy a special game, or toy, or gift. It taught them the value of

money and how to handle it, and they learned not to ask their parent for handouts when they wanted to buy something. Of course, we didn't pay very much, and they found out that neighbors pay more for babysitting and mowing the grass than we did. So, our children developed babysitting and grass-cutting businesses, and two teenagers worked at a veterinary clinic; the experiences helped them to become very dependable, conscientious, and self-confident.

**4. Realize that it takes a lot of time and energy to teach the children, especially if you have a strong-willed child or a child with a learning problem.** When you come home from work after your wife has been homeschooling the children all day, you may find your wife disgruntled and exhausted. She may even be talking to herself, but that is a common occurrence among homeschooling parents. In fact it is so common that we call it a "Parent-Teacher Conference." Sometimes, all your wife needs is some adult conversation, after spending the day with a house full of children, six years old and under. I remember one day, when my wife was teaching one of the children phonics and how to read. She pointed to a picture of a hen that was labeled with the letters HEN underneath it, and asked, "Do you know what this is? See it begins with an H; it's a He, He, He..." And the child responded with "He, He, He, Chicken!" It may be funny now, but situations like these can frazzle a woman. You fathers need to be understanding and give her the support she needs. At times like this, you may need to remind her that the child really is intelligent and will eventually learn how to read, or you may need to support her and let her know that she really is doing a good job of teaching.

**5. Be willing to accept a different life style, especially when you have toddlers in the house.** Your wife will have a very difficult time keeping the house clean, the laundry done on a regular basis, and meals cooked on time. This is a sensitive issue because

the wife wants to continue taking care of everything but just can't find the time to do it all, without running herself into the ground or shortchanging something. In order to make sure that she does not run herself ragged and that the homeschooling is not shortchanged, talk to your wife about the groups and activities she is involved with and ways you and the children can help her. If your wife is heavily involved in the community, or church, or other activities outside of the home, she may have to back off with her involvement in those activities. This will require discussion between the two of you and coming to a realization as to how much time those activities require and how much time is needed for homeschooling.

Depending on your strengths and weaknesses, there are several things you can do to help her around the house. Talk about the areas where she needs help and discuss what needs to be done and who can do it. You may want to have a meeting with all the children and explain that they need to help around the house.

#### **6. Teach some of the subjects.**

The best reason for choosing which subjects you will teach is that you enjoy it or have an interest in it. I know a father who teaches all of his children Latin and how to sing Gregorian Chant; the children's singing is very beautiful, and they sing the Gregorian Chant once a month in Church.

As you teach the subjects, you never know what you are going to learn. The subjects I enjoy most are math and science. During the years that I taught math to my children, I didn't learn any more math principles, but I did learn patience.

**7. Support your wife.** You need to discuss with her the problems she is having and help her to solve them. You and your wife complement one another. Often, the husband's strong points are the wife's weak points, and the husband's weak points are the wife's strong points. One area where you fathers may be able to support your wife is in the area of organization. When you are teaching

more than one child, organization becomes important. Somehow you have to keep the subjects and grades and children sorted in a simple orderly manner.

For example, my wife needed a way of keeping records for each subject for each child. She ended up getting a small plastic crate for each child and used hanging file folders for each subject. That way when she is working on the grades or quarterly reports for one of the children, she pulls out his plastic crate, and all the information is sorted by subject in the hanging folders. She also wanted a quick and simple way to create lesson plans for each child using the computer. So, I used a spreadsheet program like Lotus on the computer, to create a matrix that listed the subjects and the time for each subject in the left-hand column and the days of the week in the top row. Children in the junior high and high school grades can look at the assignments in the column and start working on them while your wife gives individual attention to the younger students, who need more supervision. As your wife verifies each assignment is done, she checks it off or enters a grade in the lesson plan. At the end of the day, she can quickly verify if all of the assignments have been done, by making sure there are check marks or grades in each box in the column. At the end of the week, she has the grades for all of the tests on one sheet of paper.

Another area that requires a father's support is the classroom environment. Sometimes when you conduct school in the same environment where the children are used to playing and talking, it is difficult to get them to focus on their studies and stop fooling around. What you may need to do is develop a classroom that has a school environment. We once converted our dining room into a classroom, since we weren't using the dining room for anything else. Others have converted a garage or spare room into a classroom. You can put in bookcases and shelves for all the textbooks and

reference material. You can put up bulletin boards and blackboards or whiteboards on the walls. It can look and feel like an authentic classroom that helps the children realize that they are now in school and it is time to study and stop playing around.

#### **8. Be committed to homeschooling and give your wife encouragement.**

You need to be committed to homeschooling, like you are committed to your marriage. It is a lifestyle, a way of living, a way of raising your children to be holy citizens of the Kingdom of God. You need to be convinced in your mind and your heart of the merits of homeschooling, because there will be times when friends, neighbors, or relatives will cast doubts on your wife's ability to teach the children, but you need to remind her that with God's graces she can do it. Remember the quote from Matthew 19:26, "For men this is impossible; for God everything is possible." People will also talk about homeschooling as being a radical thing that does not work, and that kind of talk weakens you wife's fortitude. Again, you need to combat those doubts and encourage her during those times of weakness and insecurity.

Let us not forget the importance of raising our children, and teaching them the Truths of the Catholic Faith, for our children are the future of this country and of our Church. Our very survival as families, as a nation, and as the People of God, depends upon this. Because Abraham was faithful in transmitting to his children the laws the Lord God gave him, his family was spared when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. We are living in a Sodom and Gomorrah today, and like Abraham, we have to be heroically faithful in raising our children to know God, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world.

As our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II always says, "Be not afraid!" You CAN do it, because God has given us all the graces necessary through the sacrament of Matrimony to teach our children. With God's help, it can be done. With His help, you and your spouse CAN raise your children to be holy and pleasing to God.

## *Television and Icons*

*by Robert M. Wiesner*

When we view things in our daily lives, we perceive objects in a certain context. We see things in depth; even though we may not be concentrating on the background, we are definitely aware of a three-dimensional world surrounding us. There is a certain relationship between the tree in the front yard and the house lying some yards behind it. Within this context we are well able to assign relative values to the objects we see. No one thing assumes an exaggerated importance, since everything is seen properly related to everything else. In short, we gain a balanced view of the world.

On the other hand, one of the most important elements in the icon is what may be called the “hidden” part. Icons do not have a real background, such as we perceive in everyday life and in Western art. There is no horizon, no vanishing point to which the eye is drawn. Instead, there is nothing but a blank area behind the image itself. There is a two-dimensional quality to this part of the icon, easily understandable once we realize that we really cannot know God in all His depth. This part of the icon may be said to represent Heaven itself. From this representation of Heaven, the image flows forth toward the viewer, eventually being absorbed into the very fabric of a prayerful spirit. The lack of background does not allow us to minimize the influence of the image. Rather, the blankness behind the image enhances the perceived power of the holy one depicted. The icon is virtually propelled forward into contact with the viewer by the full force of heaven behind it.

So what does this have to do with television?

Dr. Frederick Wilhelmsen was a Catholic Thomistic philosophy professor at the University of Dallas. Dr. Wilhelmsen was enormously influential in the Catholic intellectual world of the 1950's, 60's and 70's. In fact, many people would actually credit him with almost single-handedly preserving Thomistic

philosophy in America during this trying period.

Among Wilhelmsen's many philosophical interests was the study of intellectual formation in the age of mass media. At one point, Wilhelmsen teamed with Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian social philosopher who specialized in the study of media and its effects upon modern man.

After exhaustively studying the medium, Wilhelmsen and McLuhan discovered that the television screen presented what they called an iconic image to the viewer. They came to this conclusion after noticing that the background in a television presentation was not much of a background at all. The properties of film and the techniques of focus rendered objects behind the actors fuzzy and indistinct; just as in the icon, there was no way for the viewer to get into the world behind the images. There was no specific context surrounding the actors. With this lack of background, the action on the screen took on an exaggerated importance. Just as happens with the icon, the images in the forefront acquired a power they would not have had in ordinary circumstances. The two-dimensionality of the television medium, by chance or by design, rendered television a sort of secular icon, with enormous consequences for society.

Prayer with icons is noted for a calming quality, quite a natural thing, since the very design of the icon is meant to bring about a passivity and receptivity to God. With prayer, of course, this passivity is a wholesome thing. The more receptive we are to the things of God, the holier we become. The image impressed upon the soul through the icon is specifically a holy image and a thing beneficial for the soul.

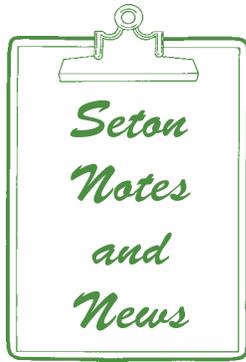
Unfortunately, the same thing cannot be said of television. The difference lies in the different type of image television promotes to the passive viewer. In its early days, television was comparatively innocuous. The shows presented, while perhaps not of a high intellectual caliber,

at least were prone to present healthy family life and conventional Judeo-Christian morality in a positive light.

As time went on, however, producers became ever more keen to present shows which “pushed the envelope” of television content. Gradually, programming became more prone to shock or to titillate. Producers with specific agendas began to demand that shows reflect their own beliefs rather than the commonly held moral code of most Americans. The results are obvious: within just one generation, television went from being a relatively innocent entertainment that perhaps even promoted healthy family life to being a vehicle for promoting various unhealthy lifestyles and thoroughly un-Christian attitudes. Crudity, irresponsibility and selfishness were the social norms projected by the new programming. The background behind the secular icon came under the control, not of God, but of the ungodly. The agenda promoted through the powerful iconic images on the screen has played a large part in our current American atmosphere of violence, consumerism and sexual license. The prayerful receptivity engendered by the true icon is replaced by the sensationalistic passivity of America's young people.

Wilhelmsen and McLuhan diagnosed a grave disease in the American psyche, but they and the Church still held out some hope for television technology. Clearly, television can be made to work for the moral betterment of society. EWTN is obviously using the medium in a responsible way to promote the values of God; the images impressed upon the young by Mother Angelica are distinctly at odds with those of the average producer. There are, unfortunately, very few Mother Angelicas among TV producers.

Homeschooling parents are aware of the dangers facing their children through television, although perhaps the mechanics of the danger are not fully understood. There is good reason to consider the stance of one parent who commented to the effect that a TV can make a serviceable end table, as long as it remains unplugged.



### 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.

**St. Louis, MO. April 25 & 26, 2003** Catholic Homeschool Conference, St. John Bosco Catholic Church. For information, contact Kathy at 314-918-0639. Kenneth Clark will be speaking.

**Houston, TX. May 9 & 10, 2003** ARCH Homeschoolers Curriculum Fair at Seton Junior High School. For information call Laurie at 281-997-7844.

**Memphis, TN. May 23 & 24.** St. Louis Church. For information call 662-233-1194.

**St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN. May 30-31, 2003.** 5th Annual Minnesota Catholic Home Education Conference and Curriculum Fair, University of St. Thomas. For more information, contact Debbie at 952-941-5646.

**Plainfield, IL (Chicago area). May 31, 2003.** St. Mary Immaculate Parish Center. Speakers include Ginny Seuffert. For information call Katie at 815-467-2201.

**Herndon, VA (Washington, DC area). June 13-14, 2003.** Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Family Conference. Speakers include Monsignor Michael Wrenn, Fr. Robert Levis, Fr. Pablo Straub, Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, Fr. Thomas Euteneuer, Fr. John Perricone, Congressman Robert Dornan and many others.

### Special Services Department

Seton welcomes Cindy Roach to the Special Services Department as one of the learning disabilities specialists. She comes to Seton with a wealth of experience and knowledge. As a homeschooling mother of two children, one who is gifted and has a

learning disability and the other who has Asperger's Syndrome, she understands the challenges our homeschooling parents face every day. Cindy is also a certified special education teacher who has taught in public schools and is currently completing her master's degree in the field of special education. She can be contacted at Seton Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pat Walker, who has been a mainstay in our Special Services Department for many years, will be leaving as she and her husband are relocating to be closer to their family.

### Your Website Can Help Seton!

As you may know, search engines on the Internet decide where to list websites based partly on how many other websites are linked to them. So, if you have a personal website, you can help Seton to achieve a better placement if you link your website to our website.

All you have to do is put a link on your website to our main page at [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org). For more information, and for an icon you can use with the link, go to our website.



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## *The Purpose of Christian Education*

The proper and immediate end of Christian education is to cooperate with divine grace in forming the true and perfect Christian, that is, to form Christ Himself in those regenerated by Baptism, according to the emphatic expression of the Apostle: "My little children, of whom I am in labor again, until Christ be formed in you." For the true Christian must live a supernatural life in Christ: "Christ who is your life," and display it in all his actions: "That the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

For precisely this reason, Christian education takes in the whole aggregate of human life, physical and spiritual, intellectual and moral, individual, domestic and social, not with a view of reducing it in any way, but in order to elevate, regulate and perfect it, in accordance with the example and teaching of Christ.

Hence the true Christian, product of Christian education, is the supernatural man who thinks, judges and acts constantly and consistently in accordance with right reason illumined by the supernatural light

of the example and teaching of Christ; in other words, to use the current term, the true and finished man of character. For, it is not every kind of consistency and firmness of conduct based on subjective principles that makes true character, but only constancy in following the eternal principles of justice, as is admitted even by the pagan poet when he praises as one and the same "the man who is just and firm of purpose." And on the other hand, there cannot be full justice except in giving to God what is due to God, as the true Christian does.

...The true Christian does not renounce the activities of this life, he does not stunt his natural faculties; but he develops and perfects them, by coordinating them with the supernatural. He thus ennobles what is merely natural in life and secures for it new strength in the material and temporal order, no less then in the spiritual and eternal.

*Christian Education of Youth*

**Pope Pius XI**

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