



Seton Home

Study School

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The Assumption

The *Glories of Mary* is a book by St. Alphonsus de Liguori containing almost 700 pages of meditations about the Blessed Mother. The book contains not only his own reflections, but the reflections of other saints and holy writers concerning the events in the life of Mary. The following is part of the meditation of St. Alphonsus:

“If the mind of man,” says Saint Bernard, “can never comprehend the immense glory prepared in heaven by God for those who on earth have loved Him, as the Apostle tells us, who can ever comprehend the glory He has prepared for His beloved Mother, who more than all men loved Him on earth; nay, even from the very first moment of her creation, loved Him more than all men and angels united?”

Rightly then does the Church sing, that Mary has loved God more than all the angels, “the Mother of God has been exalted above them all in the heavenly kingdom.” Yes, “she was exalted,” says the abbot Guarric, “above the angels; so that she sees none above her but her Son,” who is the only begotten of the Father.

It is certain, as St. Ildephonsus says, that Mary’s good works incomparably surpassed in merit those of all the saints, and therefore her reward must have surpassed theirs in the same proportion; for, “as that which she bore was incomprehensible, so is the reward which she merited and received incomprehensibly greater than that of all the saints.” And, since it is certain that God rewards according to merit, as the Apostle writes, “who will render to every man according to his works,” it is also certain, as St. Thomas teaches, that the Blessed Virgin, “who was equal to and even superior in merit to all men and angels, was exalted above all the celestial orders.”

It is certain, as the holy Council of Trent has defined, that Mary never committed any sin or the slightest imperfection. Not only she never lost Divine grace, and never even obscured it, but she never kept it idle; she never performed an action which was not meritorious; she never pronounced a word, never had a thought, never drew a breath that was not directed to the

greater glory of God. In fine, she never cooled in her ardor or stopped a single moment in her onward course towards God; she never lost anything by negligence, but always corresponded with grace with her whole strength, and loved God as much as she could love Him.

Blessed Mother Mary, on the feast of your glorious Assumption into Heaven, we ask for graces in abundance, to help us to teach and to train our children in the One Holy Catholic Apostolic Faith. Help us in our daily struggle against the attacks of this world, and the secular society which praises individual freedom above obedience to the commands of your Son. Give us the graces so that our actions, our words, and our thoughts are directed to the glory of your Son who loves us so much that He gave His so that we might have eternal life. Amen.

-MKC

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Questions We Are Asked

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

I have just received the boxes of books for my children, and I feel overwhelmed. What do I do first?

The first thing to do when you receive your box of books is to make sure that the books listed on the packing slip in the pouch on the outside of the box match the books that are in the box. Sometimes people will call months later to say a book is missing when it may have been in the box when it first arrived.

Second, look over the lesson plans, the answer keys, the tests, and the quarter report forms. Make sure you have everything. These are all on three-hole punched paper for you to put into binders as you would like to arrange them. Some parents put the quarter report forms and tests in folders in their own filing cabinet for later use as the time arrives for the children to take the tests.

Take the time to skim through the books to become generally familiar with them. Notice which have a glossary or an index, and how they are each set up. Look at the first page of the lesson plans and see which books go with which courses. Sometimes the students think they don't have all the books for a course because they have assumed a book goes with another course.

Take a closer look at the lesson plans. See how they are set up. Notice that the weeks nine, eighteen, twenty-seven, and thirty-six list the specific assignments which need to be sent to Seton for grading. Notice that the relevant quarter report form does the same thing.

Look over the Plan Book. Use of this book is optional, but most parents find it helpful. Notice the sections in the back. You might want to put weekly grades on the back pages rather than in the main section of the Plan Book where the grades might be more difficult to find.

Put the books and materials in a special place where you can locate them quickly and easily. The books should be in a bookcase in some order, either in alphabetical order or in order of use. Your children should put the books back in the same place after they use them each day.

If you have Internet access, you might want to log in to your My Seton page online and see what supplements and helps are available online. Your My Seton page is located at www.setonhome.org/myseton. The site is customized for your family, so all the supplemental items, tests, book notes, etc., that you find there are applicable to your child's courses.

I am afraid the first week of school is going to be chaos. What do you suggest?

Many families find it more practical to start organizing before the first week of school. For instance, have your mother or a friend or baby sitter come over to help with the babies or toddlers while you get organized with the children to be homeschooled.

The most important thing to do is set up a schedule with each child. Take a full day to work with each child before school begins. If you are planning to homeschool two together (which we recommend to some extent with children in adjacent grades) take a full day to work with both of these children. Discuss the schedule, then have them put the schedule up on a wall for them to follow.

The more you can do to get organized before the official start of school, the better the school year will begin. We recommend that after you work out the schedule with each child, have a full week of school following the schedule with the oldest child. Then have a second full week of school with the second oldest child, following the schedule,

while the oldest tries to work on her own. Continue this with each child. The more you can do before you start in September, the better organized, and more comfortable, you and the children will be.

When you start your first week with all the children, consider asking a babysitter or a friend to come and help if you have a baby or a toddler. If need be, perhaps the toddler can spend time visiting your mother the first week. Once you and the children get a routine going, it will be easier.

If you have questions, be sure to call a Seton counselor. They are waiting for your call or your email!

The books should be in a bookcase in some order; either in alphabetical order or in order of use. Your children should put the books back in the same place after they use them each day.

Why do you have so many reading books?

As they say, reading is fundamental. Reading and reading-thinking skills are the basis of all education. If you look more closely at the lesson plans, you will see that the student is to read the books in order, and that the workbooks are in order also. In addition, we have sent some books for the book reports or book analyses.

Don't neglect using the lesson plans. Sometimes students, when they are on their own too much, are not using the materials in correct order, both in Reading and in the English courses.

We are working to reduce the number of books in the English classes by writing our own textbook and workbook combination. The Loyola

text will still be available as an extra optional resource.

Why do you have two math series in the elementary grades?

Many parents like to choose their own math books, so we think that offering different texts with different approaches might help parents to pick one they like. The MCP series we started using years ago, and it was a popular one in the Catholic schools for many, many years. MCP originally had many Catholics writing books for them. Since then, the company has been purchased by another company. However, many parents and students like the workbook for math, since they can simply write the answers without rewriting the problem. Young students especially have trouble rewriting problems correctly and legibly.

Many Catholic grandparents are realizing the importance of the Biblical reminder that grandparents must be concerned about the eternal salvation of their grandchildren as well.

The Catholic schools formerly used math workbooks right through to eighth grade. The nuns would know exactly how well students were doing based on how far along the students were in the workbooks. Students in those years in the forties and fifties said "You might be able to fool the teacher with a textbook, but she always knows where you are in your workbook." A popular topic among the students was where you were in your math workbook. Not only parents but even grandparents asked kids, "Well, how far along are you in your math workbook?" Back in those days, the nuns insisted that students finish the workbooks! On warm weekends in June, students were working feverishly to finish up their math workbook!

When A Beka Book first began, they reprinted a very popular math workbook used in Catholic schools, the American Book Company Clifford Upton series, first published in 1932. The front pages were set-up problems, and the back pages were word problems. They were excellent books.

The Saxon series is very popular with many homeschooling families, which is why we carry it. However, because they come out with new editions so frequently, it is becoming difficult, and very expensive, to keep up with the latest editions.

The feature which parents like in the Saxon books is the constant review. Each lesson has review exercises from previous lessons. In addition, the lessons are very short; that is, they introduce a single small concept with each lesson. This is called an incremental approach. Many families like this best with the junior and/or senior high grades, especially for algebra.

I have to work part-time, and my mother is kind enough to help me teach my three young children. What words of encouragement can I give her for being so good to me and my kids?

Many more grandparents are teaching their grandchildren than ever before due to changing family situations, and the need for many mothers to help with the finances. More women are getting into the military, and sometimes they need to be away from their children, which many did not expect or anticipate. Informed Catholic grandparents want to teach their grandchildren rather than have them exposed to the secular values at some schools.

There are several references in the Bible to the "children's children." Many Catholic grandparents in good health are realizing the importance of the Biblical reminder that grandparents must be concerned about the eternal salvation of their grandchildren as well.

The "reward" that your mother wants is that your children are good, and you need to encourage them to be polite and obedient when Grandma asks them to do something. The children should

be respectful and welcome their grandmother, and you need to encourage your mother frequently.

Grandmothers often like to cook, so encourage her to do that if she wishes, but make sure she limits the cookies and cake for the children. Let her know that the homeschooling help is what you really need and want. If your mother is up to it, and if the kids are good, encourage field trips to museums. Your children and your mother will never forget the good times they have together. Be sure that the children take a camera and take pictures with their grandmother. There will be years to come when those pictures and memories will be precious.

While your mother is giving her time and energy, teach your children to give her their time and energy. They should be working to keep the house clean and help tidy up after meals, so that grandma can focus on helping with their schoolwork and does not have to do cleaning, too.

Someone asked me about socialization for my homeschooled kids. Can you give me a good answer for her?

You can surely give her the list of things that your children are doing in the community support groups and community programs for children. You can reword a few of the particulars in the book *Catholic Homeschooling*, in the chapter "The Socialization Issue." I point out that no saint became a saint because of his socializing skills. People become saints because they serve others in need. They perform acts of charity. In addition, we know from the writings of the saints that God speaks to us when we are in prayer, or listening to him in silence. It is not necessary for our children to be always with a group. Constant "entertainment" with others will not allow him to develop his spiritual life.

Many of us have to laugh at the socialization issue because we have so many children. That is the last thing we need to worry about. My seven sons had plenty of socializing with each other, playing baseball, playing cards with their Dad and each other, going on field trips, and so on.

Discipline in the Catholic Home: Minding Manners

by Ginny Seuffert

What is the major obstacle to homeschooling? During the past fifteen years I have probably spoken to thousands of homeschooling parents. The most common and most serious complaint I hear is that the children are just not obeying. I hear all the time from parents who would like to homeschool, but hesitate because they are afraid their children will not listen to them. Some of the saddest conversations are with parents who are sending the children back to institutional schools, not because it is a better educational choice, but because the children refuse to do their schoolwork and the home is in chaos.

Previous columns have emphasized the need for homeschooling parents to discipline themselves and create orderly, cheerful Christian homes. No matter how well you hold up your end of the bargain, however, your home will be neither cheerful nor orderly if your children are disrespectful, disobedient and sullen. Teaching and enforcing the Commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," is a not only solemn obligation for parents, but also the key to joyful family life.

Do not believe that by insisting that your children respect and obey you, you are dooming them to a miserable existence. True, if you have neglected discipline in the home during your children's early years, you can count on some rough times ahead. Your children will kick up a fuss because, well, because you have allowed them to kick up a fuss before. It may take a while to convince them that this time you mean business. Don't give up! Few things you do in life will have such happy results.

A great place to start training your children is in the area of etiquette. Simply put, your children should be polite and well-spoken. In the United States, we have made the transition from the stuffy, formalized manners common at the turn of the twentieth century, to a society that revels in 7th

grade bathroom humor. We have turned "casual" into a casualty, and it has affected every home in America.

A cheerful household is rooted in common courtesy. Courtesy is nothing more than an outward show of respect for other human beings, who have been made in the image and likeness of God. Recognition of this human dignity demands that we treat each other with kindness and consideration. The outward sign of this kindness and consideration is what we call courtesy, and Christianity requires it of all of us.

Teach your child to be polite as soon as he is capable of understanding you. When a toddler points to a cookie, say the words you expect him to say, "Cookie please, Mommy." Wait for him to repeat it as far as he is able, and then say, "Thank you, Mommy." Let your child understand that he receives nothing without the magic word, "Please."

Start your family meals with grace, and then insist that family members eat like good Catholics, not like the lions who devoured them in the arena! Family members should sit and converse quietly, and not a morsel should be consumed until grace is said. Food is passed and the older children should assist the younger ones without being asked. Meals are a terrific time for family members to share ideas and stories, but the conversation is naturally not to include any discussion of the horrible diaper you had to change today, or a description of the dead cat by the side of the road. Children's negative opinions about the food being served are also not polite table talk. Praise the food, if possible, but always thank the cook. When dinner is over, children should be taught to offer to help with the dishes, even if it is not their turn.

Parents should review telephone manners with their children. Many parents teach children to answer, "Jones residence, Mary speaking," but "Hello," is fine as long as what follows is courteous. Children should inquire, "May I please ask who is

calling?" before calling another family member to the phone. Finally, when a child calls a friend's home, it is not correct to say, "Is Julia there?" As I have told my children repeatedly, it is none of your business if Julia is at home. The proper opening is, "This is Laura. May I please speak to Julia?"

Instruct your child to greet people respectfully, and by name, when she first sees them. It is especially gracious for a child to stand if an adult enters the room. As she gets older, teach her to make light conversation with those she has just met, even if she is shy. Grade school children should be past hiding behind Mom's skirts when they meet a stranger. For some, conversing with relative strangers may be painful, but make your expectations clear. "Next time we see Father O'Brien, Jane, I expect you to say, 'Good morning, Father,' answer him if he asks you a question, and say 'Thank you, Father,' if he pays you a compliment."

Many parents feel that home should be a place where members can relax and not have to worry about using the correct fork. To a certain degree that's true, which is why using the correct fork should be so second nature that no one has to give the matter a moment's thought. I heard Judith Martin, the author of the "Miss Manners" newspaper column give an interview in the 1980's. She stated that when she first began to write her books and columns, she thought they would appeal to cranky old ladies—like herself! She was shocked to discover that the greatest demand for her information came from young professionals, whose ignorance of the basic rules of etiquette was holding them back from promotions.

Because courtesy is grounded in Christian love, parents should remember to show respect to each other, as well as to their children. Good example is always the best teacher. Make manners a part of your homeschooling by having the children practice little courtesies in the home and learn how to write correct notes, especially thank you notes. Your children will be admired; your home life will be more pleasant; and you will have a good head start instilling the virtue of obedience in your children.

The Narrow Way

By Fr. Thomas Euteneuer,

President of Human Life International

Mt 7: 13-14 – “Enter through the narrow gate...”

If we were to boil down the Lord’s term “narrow way” to one concrete term, we could call it “conscience.” This term also defines clearly what the narrow way requires of every person: fidelity to one’s conscience. This is not an easy matter since the conscience speaks as a “still, small voice” clamoring for attention amidst the noisy world in which we live, and the Lord reminds us that “there are few who travel it.” Yet everything, including one’s very salvation, depends on listening to a well-formed conscience. I do not say “everything” lightly, and I do not use the term “well-formed” facetiously. Those who are engaged in the formation of conscience of children and young people are engaged in the invaluable work of preparing these children’s souls for salvation.

If we look back in Church history, we see very clearly the fruits of that priceless work. We see the heroes of the Church, and to this day we continue to marvel at their courage to accept and bear the sufferings that were the result of devotion to their conscience. St. John Fisher in 16th century England is a good example: of the 30-some bishops in the realm of English King Henry VIII, Bishop Fisher was the only bishop who remained faithful to the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.” As a result of his fidelity to Christ’s True Church, he was beheaded in a public ceremony. Pope Paul III made him a cardinal while he was in prison awaiting execution, and I am sure that Bishop Fisher wept at the thought that his sacrifice was not overlooked by the Vicar of Christ. Yet, his sacrifice was ignored by each and every one of his brother bishops and most of the priests of the Church in England at the time. Bishop Fisher’s “narrow way” was very lonely.

St. Thomas More was the only, and I mean *only*, government official at the time who refused to sign the Oath of

Supremacy making Henry “Head of the Church.” As a clever lawyer, he looked for every possible legal recourse to sign or not to sign, but in the end, he was forced to make a decision for one or the other, Henry or Rome. What made him go to his death and his confrères not? Conscience. He chose the “narrow way” when so many others took that wide and easy way “that leads to perdition.”

I would have loved to have known the parents of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More. History does not record anything about them, although we can be fairly sure that they are among the ranks of the un-canonized saints. If I get to heaven, I will thank them for what they gave to the Church: well-educated boys who turned into men with well-formed consciences who turned into martyrs for the Faith. John and Tom did not come out of the womb with fully-formed consciences. They needed to be formed, and it was *in the family* that they learned to love God with all their hearts, souls, minds and strengths. It was *in the family* that were planted the seeds of their respective clerical and lay vocations which also sprung from discerning hearts always eager to find the “narrow way.” It was *in the family* that they became real churchmen. I will thank Mr. and Mrs. Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. More for their example and their work in forming the consciences of their sons.

Conscience is innate in every soul, but it is a faculty that must be developed over time. Parents cannot ignore this primary duty of “education” in conscience, as the Church envisions it, which far surpasses in its importance the other duty of educating the children in knowledge and in the ways of the world. How many Ph.D.s do we know of nowadays who are on the “wide road” and the fast track to losing their souls? As far as I am concerned, a Ph.D. is not an equal trade-off for a soul. Yet, the secular world seems to think that getting a good “education” is what matters so that their

kids can “get ahead.” Ahead of *what*, I ask? Ahead of the next smart guy who kills his conscience as he travels down the road to hell?

Parents do the work of forming the consciences of their children formally and informally. Formal education in love and faith means putting the kids in touch with the *Church*. The Church is infallible in matters of faith and morals; parents are not. “What the Church teaches” was the deciding factor in the decision for martyrdom of Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More. They did not go the gallows for their own opinions or to be philosophically consistent like Socrates; they died to remain faithful to the Bride of Christ! Regular exposure to the *Catechism* and the sacramental and devotional life of the Church are the best ways that children receive their formal education of conscience.

Their “informal” education in love and faith comes each day that they absorb the faithful presence of mom and dad. Parents must develop in their kids the ability to reason morally, to consult their consciences on the issues that affect them, and to do it rigorously. If I were a parent, for example, I would challenge a child to tell me why Britney Spears’ scandalous outfits are something that a teenage girl should wear. There is obviously a right and a wrong answer to this question, and I would make sure they got it right, but the question needs to be put to the generation that “saint Britney” is appealing to! The kids need to see their parents raise everything around them up to the penetrating gaze of our Faith. When the parents do it, the kids will do it.

I know that the “narrow way” of conscience is sacrificial. Be not afraid of it. It is a long and narrow road that begins *in the family* and ends at the stairs of a Throne upon which sits a Just Judge. We want our kids to arrive at that Throne in the company of all their brothers and sisters, friends and companions bearing the signs, and if needed the scars, of their fidelity to the “narrow way.”

Can you imagine the joy of the senior Fishers and Mores standing next to that Throne and hearing the Just Judge tell their sons, “Well done, my good and faithful servants!”?

Letter from a Grandmother

Dear Dr. Clark, First of all, I am writing to thank you for giving me and every parent in the U.S.A., the choice and the opportunity to Home School our children, and to be able to teach them our Christian faith as well as giving them an education.

The second reason for this letter is to let you know that I finally truly understand the reason that you founded Seton Home Schooling. The majority of parents in this day and age do not understand why they are losing control of their children, and why their children are acting out rebellion towards them, and rebelling against God and refusing to attend Church.

I am a grandmother now, and have raised three children that attended Public School, and am helping my daughter raise her two youngest children. I home schooled [the older child] for three years with the Seton program, and then after we moved, I enrolled her in the Public School system, thinking that a small rural school would be a good learning environment. At this time, she was a loving, affectionate child towards us and her little brother, and a well-adjusted happy obedient child who was a pleasure to be around.

I have seen the changes in her disposition and character for the last four years that have been disturbing, and an incident yesterday convinced me that the Public School system is the most destructive force in our children's lives. It is the reason our children have low self-esteem, little self-control, selfishness with the attitude of "I come first," no love for their neighbor, an atheistic materialist attitude, and very little knowledge, which sets them up for complete failure as an adult.

The incident yesterday is one of many that have taken place over the

last two years, and that began to take place after [the older child] had been in Public School for a year. While being Home Schooled, she played with the little brother, helped take care of him, and never hit or hurt him. Yesterday, she came home from school, and before she got to the door of our home, she and her little brother were arguing because of something that he said to her. She threatened to hit him and he ran away from her, and she ran after him. When she got close to him, she picked up a rock and threw it at him. The rock hit him. He immediately fell to the ground in pain. I saw her hit him with the rock.... I scolded her for hitting and hurting her little brother to which she replied that she had not hit him. I contradicted her, and she said that he was acting, so as to get her into trouble. She yelled at me that she hated him and she wished he would die.

Such hatred and maliciousness spewed from her mouth that I was appalled and saddened by the change in her from the loving child she was just three years ago. I could not sleep that night, and I thought of her attitude and actions, and of her recent rebellion this year against our rules, and against going to Church and her CCD classes.

In one incident, she broke so many commandments of God that it can no longer be overlooked as part of growing up, or as being resentful of her little brother....

I have been punishing her for lying, disrespect towards us, hitting her little brother. I see that it is not going to change her attitude and her behavior as long as she stays in Public School where she must fight back every day just to survive with a shred of dignity and self-esteem. This is where she is learning to be hateful, to

lie, to gossip, to fight, to disrespect everyone, and parental control, because this is how she is being treated by her peers, and all my punishments will be useless. To fit in, she must act like everyone else...she is beginning to rebel against our Church and her faith is eroding.

Now I understand why my three children whom I brought up discussing our religion every day, and instilling our Catholic Faith... say [now] that they do not believe as I do, and do not believe in God.

Now I understand that what I failed to do to bring them up as Catholics was not to let them be schooled by an institution that has cut God out of every action and thought process undertaken by young trusting minds.

I wish all parents could understand why some of their children are in self-destructive lifestyles, why some are into drugs and alcohol. Why they have left the Church, and why they are failing to live a holy life, by either not getting married in the Church, or getting married at all, and why our grandchildren are in crisis. It has been because our failure as parents to educate our children ourselves, [and] letting someone else do it.

Our failure to see what society has evolved to, and our failure to recognize paganism when we see it in every institution that was set up at the beginning as under God. This is why I am writing to you, to let you know that I finally can understand what you have seen for years. My eyes are finally open.

I am willing to give up my time to teach my grandchildren so that they can grow up to be faith-filled, and emotionally stable adults. I have... withdrawn [the children] and enrolled them in your home schooling program.

A grandmother

The Importance of Prayer

by Lisa Clark

Many powerful talks were given at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Conference, but perhaps Father Bill Casey's talk on prayer was most powerful.

Father Casey began his talk by citing the example of a priest who took over as the new pastor of a parish which had been scandal-ridden. Faced with the dilemma of how to build up this parish, he spent many hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and asked his devout parishioners to pray with him and for him and for the parish. He re-instituted Marian devotions, processions, and prayer groups. Within one year, the parish was again vibrant, saying the Rosary before every Mass, lining up for confession, and producing vocations.

This came about because the priest was a man of prayer, and those who prayed with him were people of prayer. One person can help change a family, one family can help change a parish, and one parish can change a diocese.

Mental Prayer

Father Casey stressed the importance of "mental prayer." As St. Teresa of Avila explained, mental prayer is nothing more than an intimate friendship, with frequent heart to heart conversations with our Lord. Her spiritual director said that in mental prayer, "the soul is purified from its sins, nourished with

charity, confirmed in faith, and strengthened in hope."

Father explained the importance of parents teaching the "art of mental prayer" to their children. If parents do not teach their children to pray, no one else will. It is not enough to simply teach the children the Rosary, but we must go deeper than that, and that a deep love for God is fostered by this mental prayer.

When children ask how to perform mental prayer, Father explains to them that they should speak to God as if they were talking to Him on the phone. Father asks, "If you had God's phone number, what would you say?" You would tell Him everything that is in your heart, and speak to Him from your Heart. We would tell Him our needs and desires, and by doing so, increase our love of Him.

Perseverance in Prayer

St. Thomas Aquinas said that the four conditions required for good prayer are good intentions, humility, perseverance, and confidence.

Regarding perseverance, we have the example of St. Monica, who spent her whole adult life praying for the conversion of her husband and her son. We know, as a result of her prayers, her husband turned from a life of sin, and her son, Saint Augustine, became one of the greatest Doctors of the Church.

St. Monica became a great saint "because she prayed for her family." She is a good patron saint for our times.

Prayer should take a central role in our lives, and this should be reflected in how we spend our time. So many Catholic families spend two hours in front of the television for movies, or three hours for ball games, yet claim that they don't have time to say the Rosary. Father reminded his audience that the Rosary and the Divine Mercy prayers can be said in thirty minutes.

These two formal prayers: the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, are essential for Catholics. Pope John Paul has asked families to pray the Rosary for two main causes: for the cause of world peace, and for the cause of the family.

Prayer as an Expression of Love

Father further clarified that we express our love for God through prayer. He explained that though most people say that they love God, they admit that they do not take time to pray. "How can you claim to love someone you don't want to be with—someone you don't want to talk to?" Father asked.

"True love demands union, and a true union with God comes only through a life of prayer—public prayer, liturgical prayer, private prayer, and family prayer."

Father concluded by telling the faithful that there is no problem so great that it cannot be overcome with the recitation of and devotion to the Rosary.

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The Ideal of Complete Christian Education

This ideal [of complete Christian education] is very high because its aim is supernatural formation and, consequently, the eternal destiny of the pupils entrusted to your care. It is also very vast because it aims at making them into perfect men here below, in the intellectual, moral, scientific, social, and artistic sphere of culture, according to the condition, the aptitudes and legitimate ambitions of each...

This is a magnificent and sacred duty and it requires of educators the gift of wisdom and tact, which will place them in a position to give each pupil what is suitable in the way of solid and ample knowledge. It also requires the ability to adapt one's teaching to the intelligence and capability of the [child].

Above all, this duty presupposes devotion, love, and to the extent of one's powers, a holy enthusiasm which will awaken a spontaneous interest from pupils and stimulate their eagerness for work.

Whence, then, will you draw this treasure of superior pedagogy which you need? From your inward spiritual life, from prayers, from studying--in other words, in the exact and faithful exercise of the duties of your state [of life]...

You will learn ... perfectly what you have to know and do and how you must do it, what you have to suffer and how you must [have] magnanimity in suffering, because education is, before all, a work of love, and the great school of love is the Cross.

But to you also we turn, dear pupils, to you the object of so much care, to you who can already understand or, at least, get a glimpse of what a great work your education is; great for the aim it presupposes, great for what it costs your educators, and [great] for the collaboration it requires from you.

Therefore, you ...cannot go to school every day, diligently study the lessons, and conscientiously perform the duties assigned to you only because you are obliged to do so, or only just to enrich your mind with still greater knowledge, to refine your intelligence with training and culture, to assure yourselves of a decent livelihood.

No, besides these just and upright ends, education has the superior aim of forming and bringing to perfection in you the Christian worthy of his natural and supernatural character, useful to society, whatever be the role for which Providence has destined him.

Pope Pius XII, Nov. 22, 1948

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