



# Seton Home



# Study School

Volume XXII, Number 6



*“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”*



June 2005

## *The Sacred Heart*

How we all love the merciful Sacred Heart of Jesus! June is the month we celebrate the Sacred Heart, specifically on the First Friday of June.

The most famous saint known for her devotion to the Sacred Heart is St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Margaret Mary was born in France in 1647, and as a young woman joined the Visitation Order. In 1675, Our Lord appeared to her to reveal the devotion to His Sacred Heart. She died in 1690, and her body remains incorrupt today.

Margaret Mary struggled to be obedient to her religious superiors in the convent while at the same time doing what Jesus asked of her. He told her “I want you to do

whatever your superiors will tell you, but also that you should do nothing at all that I shall command you without their consent. For I love obedience, and without it, no one can be pleasing to me.” This is an important message for us and for our children.

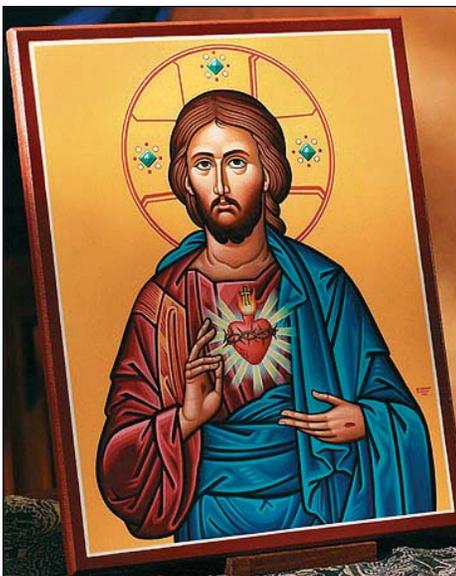
We Catholic homeschooling families can study the *Twelve Promises of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary* which He said are for those who are devoted to His Sacred Heart.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of their death.
5. I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.

9. I will bless the homes where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced.
12. The all-powerful love of My Heart will grant to all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour.

Let us all place a picture of the Sacred Heart in our homes and say the Litany to the Sacred Heart every day, as well as attend Mass every first Friday of every month. Jesus will bless us abundantly, especially in our Catholic homeschooling.

-MKC



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## *Questions We Are Asked*

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

### **Is it a good idea to continue homeschooling over the summer?**

This depends on the family situation, and the age and attitude of the student. We encourage continuing some homeschooling in the subjects of math and reading for students in the elementary grade levels. Too many young students forget important concepts over the summer. Math and reading don't need to be formally taught over the summer. They could be taught informally with reading books from the library or a library reading program, or with fun-filled math activities from books from a teachers' store or activity sheets downloaded from the internet.

For high school students, we recommend that a subject could be finished up over the summer, or even an upcoming course could be taken over the summer. For instance, a student who has struggled with English for the past year might like to concentrate on next year's English course by doing the whole course over the summer in a more focused way. Many high school students take jobs over the summer, but school still needs to take precedence over work at this age.

High school students who have reached sixteen might consider taking a college course at a local community college. This could be a science course or a foreign language course. The advantage to community college courses is that the college academic atmosphere often helps high school students to understand the importance of a higher education, and can inspire high school students in their homeschooling studies. In addition, many of the community college students are older and struggling with obtaining a good education for the sake of better jobs. Homeschool students may develop

more of an appreciation for their parents and the less-pressured homeschooling opportunity.

### **My husband is very supportive of my homeschooling, but he does not help me at all. Should I expect him to help?**

Some fathers believe it is enough for them to work outside of the home at their jobs all day. Of course, some need to work two jobs to make ends meet when Mom needs to stay home and teach the children. Nevertheless, there are some minimal things that fathers can do. The primary thing is to make the kids aware that he supports homeschooling and that he backs up mother in the assignments and duties she gives the children. Simply asking to look at the work the kids did during the day teaches them that their schoolwork is important to Dad.

Some fathers help by building bookcases or enclosing a room, or by finishing off a basement room or an extra room which can be used for homeschooling. It is definitely tough if mother must teach all day in the dining room, in the midst of family activity and meals. Having a room set aside for a classroom puts emphasis on the seriousness and the importance of focusing on studies.

Some fathers can help by organizing the chores for the kids, and even checking the results of their chores when he comes home later. It is really wonderful for mothers who can count on the kids helping with the household work.

Some fathers can help by taking the children on field trips, or taking younger ones out for a time while mother works on teaching lessons to the older ones. Some fathers can help by teaching, even if only 15 minutes a day in the morning

or evening, especially a subject which does not come easily to mother.

Fathers have a special role in educating their children, as is evident in many passages in the Bible, especially in the Book of Proverbs.

### **My son in eighth grade has not finished his work for the year. In fact, he has done very little. Do you think he can start high school?**

It's really up to you to determine when he is ready for high school. However, many skills which are taught in eighth grade, especially English, are needed for high school. As a kind of compromise, you might try enrolling in a high school course or two while he still works on eighth grade.

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*Make the kids aware that Father supports homeschooling and that he backs up Mother in the assignments and duties she gives the children.*

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You need to determine the reasons that he has not done the eighth grade work. Unless it is some reason which can be addressed, putting him in high school might simply mean he switches from not doing eighth grade work to not doing ninth grade work.

### **I have not been able to attend daily Mass during this past school year, although I would like to. Have you any suggestions for next year?**

Since I don't know the reason why you could not get to Mass, I assume it is not something that is unique to last year. I assume it is just the daily schedule of getting the kids dressed and the busy homeschooling schedule.

The first thing you might consider is going to Mass every day during the summer when you are not homeschooling as much each day. Try to make arrangements so that you establish a habit of going every day. In so doing, you might just realize how important it can become in your life.

Secondly, while you want to take all the children every day, it might be more practical to have teens take turns staying home and taking care of younger children. This helps not only with leaving for Mass on time, but gives you the ability to focus more on your prayers.

If you want to take all your children every day, you need to give certain older children the responsibility of getting one of the younger children ready. You don't want the whole family held up from attending Mass because you can't find a shoe. Believe it or not, I know a family that gets the younger children dressed for church the night before! A little wrinkled, but they make it to church on time!

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*Try to make arrangements so that you establish a habit of going to Mass every day. In so doing, you might just realize how important it can become in your life.*

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**The television is a distraction, but my husband loves watching the baseball games and other sports. My sons are very interested in watching. How can I control the time watching and making them do their schoolwork?**

Assuming your husband does not watch the television until the evening, it is essential that your children finish their assignments before Dad comes home. You might tell your sons that if

they want to watch the baseball game in the evening, they need to start their schoolwork earlier. You can even work with them to discuss a daily schedule. If they help to plan the school day so they are finished in time to watch the sports, they may actually do a better job in being more efficient in their studies.

Spending time with Dad is actually very important for your sons. You might even mention to your husband that if he could help them on the nights when there are no games, they might be more available on the nights when there are games.

**My son loves to look up more information on the Internet, but when he puts this information on his test answers, why is he criticized?**

We are happy that students look up more information on the Internet. However, when it comes to our tests, we need to have the answers that are in our textbook. If your student wants to add extra supplemental information, that is fine, but our teachers' keys are based on the textbook and lesson plans. We want the students to learn from our Seton materials primarily. Some of the Internet information is inaccurate or anti-Catholic.

Be sure your student does not cut and paste from the Internet. Our teachers, after years of grading, are quite familiar with the Internet sites and will give failing grades for Internet copying.

**Why do you have two English courses in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades?**

In most high schools, the English courses give very little time to the various aspects of English. English covers grammar and sentence mechanics, as well as vocabulary, composition, and literature. In ninth grade, we offer not only the English course with composition and analysis of literature, but also a Grammar and Composition course. In tenth grade, the English course focuses on composition and analysis of literature, while the students take a World Literature course which is a survey of authors and their works, with some analysis with a few titles. In the eleventh grade, the English course is heavy on analysis and composition, while the American Literature course is mainly

a survey course of authors and titles, along with some analysis of a few titles.

Some parents want their students to omit the World Literature or the American Literature. However, the literature selections reflected and sometimes influenced the society of the time. Students who are not familiar with American authors and their works lack a real understanding of American history and culture. Our literature texts, originally published by Catholic University of America, also present the Catholic viewpoint. In addition, the Catholic viewpoint is presented in our lesson plans by a former professor of English at Christendom College.

**I keep hearing about the DIVE CDs for Saxon math and science, but my children seem to do fine in these subjects. Is there any reason I should invest the money in the CD's?**

Some families invest in the DIVE CDs because it helps mothers who are very busy teaching many classes. The CD provides tutoring for each lesson in the textbook. Mothers do not need to repeat the lesson; the student can just replay the lesson on the CD, which is audio as well as visual on the computer screen. For mothers of high school students, it has become extremely popular.

The Dive CD's are fairly expensive, but if you intend to use them for several students, then they actually may be a bargain in the long run. And if they save you a lot of time and help your student learn math concepts, you will find the CD's well worth the cost.

**Is there a way my friends can learn about the online courses before enrolling?**

On our home page, your friends can link to some sample lessons, both audio and visual. The lesson plans are on the web site, as well as lectures for some, and even pronunciation for foreign language courses. Some courses also have online tests.

You also could have them come over to your house and log in to your My Seton page and show them what is available to your family.

## *Perseverance*

### *by Ginny Seuffert*

*“As for me, I am already being poured out in sacrifice, and the time of my deliverance is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice...”*  
2 Timothy 4:6-8

At this time of year, many of us are discouraged remembering academic goals we set last fall that somehow were never reached. We think of class trips we planned, but somehow never took. Moms recall messy homes and hurriedly thrown-together meals, and wonder, “Did I neglect my toddlers? Did I neglect my husband?” As friends and relatives ask when we are going to send our children to “real” schools, we question ourselves—for the umpteenth time—about the value of teaching our children at home.

We Catholic homeschooling parents must remember that our ultimate goal is not to give our children a rigorous academic education, or even a wholesome alternative to institutional schools, admirable as those objectives may be. Our ultimate goal is to form souls that will eagerly seek to share eternity with God in heaven. This is not the time for Catholic homeschooling parents to question ourselves; rather this is the time to reaffirm and strengthen our intentions to stay the course.

“Fine words,” you may be thinking, “but my sink is full of dirty dishes, and the kids are behind in their schoolwork. How can I strike a balance between my household responsibilities, paying attention to my husband and younger children, and giving my students the attention they need? I feel like a juggler with no talent!”

Take this summer to think about how you homeschool, and how you can make it more efficient. Consider your household routines. What can you do to simplify them? Are your meals easy to prepare and nutritious? Give some thought to your infants and toddlers. How old will they be when

you begin the next school year? Do they have a safe place to play without requiring your constant supervision? Is there any way you and your husband can get away from the children for a few minutes each day?

Here are a few ideas, a sort of homeschool examination of conscience, to help get your thought processes started.

*Am I trying to do too many extra-curricular activities? Do I carefully consider the time and inconvenience of the activities that we have?*

Are you going on so many “class trips” or activities that you cannot finish your daily work? If so, cut back to a more manageable number. If the kids are disappointed, perhaps they will dawdle less on schoolwork! Are many of your outings with a local support group? Make sure that the group schedule is convenient for you. There is no reason that you cannot go to the zoo with just your own family.

When my children sign up for lessons or a sports team, I insist that they come to me with a plan before I consent to the activity, or pay for it! How many hours of the week are involved? How expensive is it? How do you plan to get there? Can you walk or can we carpool? If Dad will be doing the driving/coaching, is this activity so worthwhile that I am willing to give up Dad’s help at supertime?

*Do I have a realistic schedule that I can follow on most days?*

A smart schedule includes an early and regular start time. It consists of predictable intervals of schoolwork, housework, fresh air and exercise. The children know that at 8 AM, for example, they should be sitting with their books open and on task. They know they may take a 15 minute-snack/exercise break at 10 AM, and that lunch starts at noon. Your older students should be able to anticipate uninterrupted time with Mom after lunch while the younger children nap. Your daily schedule does not have to be rigid, but it should be reliable.

*Are there any tips to cut down the amount of actual schoolwork?*

Moms-in-the-know have figured out some short cuts that lessen the workload without compromising educational benefits. First, if possible, try to place two children in the same grade for some, or all, subjects. Second, remember the lesson plan is your slave—not your master! If your daughter is a whiz speller, allow her to skip the written exercises and go right to the weekly test. If your son has memorized all his arithmetic facts, let him “test out” of the first couple of chapters in the workbook. Don’t forget that great chapter by chapter DIVE CD tutorial Seton offers for the Saxon math and science; this lifts a huge burden for many moms. Third, allow your students to do some of their work orally, or on a computer. Fourth, check the Seton website fairly often. Seton is always adding educational supplements, such as chapter notes and online lectures, that make your job easier. Finally, if you get bogged down in a particular subject, call the counselors at Seton. They have loads of ideas to help you and your kids back on track.

*Do I keep my household routines simple?*

Take the summer to get rid of any unnecessary clutter in your home. Give it away or throw it away, but have a few less things to dust, repair or replace. During the vacation, teach each child one household task, and make it a permanent assignment. That’s one less thing you have to do. Kids usually love to do food preparation, so teach them how to prepare salad, or even make simple meals on the grill. Each child ten years old and above should be doing his or her own laundry. That’s another thing you don’t have to do!

*Can I get any help?*

Homeschooling is the equivalent of a full time job in many cases, so don’t be ashamed to ask for help. If you can afford domestic help, get it. If not, perhaps you can hire a homeschool teen to watch your children or do some light housework one or two afternoons a week. Eating out can be expensive for a large family, but how about asking your husband to pick up one of those

grocery store rotisserie chickens one night each week? Perhaps your mother, or mother-in-law, would be willing to take the little kids for a walk to the park one morning each week, freeing you up to help the older children with schoolwork. Be creative, and come up with some ideas so you can get help.

#### *How about my spouse?*

Second only to the love of God, children need parents who are devoted to each other, as well as to their offspring. Moms and Dads need to spend some time away from all of the children, if only for a few hours each week. Take a walk, go for a drive, or get a bite to eat, but plan a “date” with your spouse on a regular basis. Always remember that no matter how many children you have, one day the youngest one will blow you a kiss good-bye and say, “See you Sunday, Mom.” Busy as we are, we need to know and love our spouse.

#### *Do I pray?*

Homeschooling, especially in the large family, is such a huge task, it is virtually impossible without heavenly intervention. While family devotions, such as grace with meals and the family rosary, are important, they do not replace the need for individual time alone in prayer. Get up earlier, or go to bed later if need be, but spend a few moments each day talking to Our Lord, Our Blessed Mother, your Guardian Angel, and your patron saint, and ask for the grace to persevere. If you can attend daily Mass, go. If there is adoration in your parish, go.

Mother Teresa was once asked how she and her sisters could continue working in the worst slums, with the poorest of the poor, year after year after year. Mother replied that it would be impossible to do this unless they recognized Jesus Christ in the faces of those they served. We too must always remember that, just as the Missionaries of Charity are not merely social workers, neither are we mere teachers, or even parents. We are disciples serving our Creator by preparing souls to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Nothing we ever do will be more important!

## *Sanctifying Grace*

### *from a speech by Father Pablo Straub*

A holy and fruitful life begins with the supernatural efficacy of sanctifying grace. Father characterizes sanctifying grace as being “the basis for it all.” In illustrating the critical importance and necessity of sanctifying grace, Father explains, “All of Old Testament prophecy aims toward sanctifying grace.” Sanctifying grace, though, is not a mere static Old Testament figure, a vague promise within the bounds of the Old Covenant. Through Our Lord’s institution of the New Covenant, which has replaced and superseded the Old Covenant, and the merits of His passion and death, sanctifying grace is a powerful supernatural reality, and it is God’s great gift to faithful Catholics. Father confirms, “Our Lord’s coming down on earth is for sanctifying grace. His passion and death, too, are for sanctifying grace.”

What is sanctifying grace and how does it operate in one’s soul? The word *sanctifying* means “holy making.” Sanctifying grace is also called habitual grace; Father remarks, “Once God gives it to you, all the devils in hell can’t take it away.” The only way to lose sanctifying grace is to “throw it out,” Father emphasizes. One loses sanctifying grace only through mortal sin.

Sanctifying grace is a “free gift of God that makes us participate in His own ‘God-ness’ [His divinity],” Father explains. While God Himself exists in a state of “uncreated grace,” God’s faithful are given a “created participation” in sanctifying grace. Therefore, when a Catholic is in the state of sanctifying grace, he is blessed with several supernatural qualities and attributes.

A person in the state of sanctifying grace is one who has “become agreeable to God. In addition to being agreeable or pleasing to God, the state of sanctifying grace affords a Catholic a certain type of friendship with God. In clarifying this type of friendship, Father contrasts the concept of *friend* with that of *servant*. Indeed, the friends of God are the servants of God, but the term *friend* means more than that which is signified by the term *servant*. Father states plainly, “A servant

has no idea what his boss is about.” Hence, one who is a friend of God has a personal relationship with his Creator, and, to some degree, an understanding of God’s motivations and perfections.

Those who continue in sanctifying grace become “vibrant members” of the “Body of Jesus—which is the Church,” Father stresses. In describing the opposite state, the state of mortal sin, and in emphasizing the importance of believing the true Faith, Father warns, “To deny the Faith...is to sin against the Faith itself.” Father offers a demonstrative example, distinguishing the “vibrant member” of the Body of Christ from the lukewarm or wayward Catholic. “If a person doesn’t bother going to Mass,” Father explains, “that person continues to be a member of the Holy Catholic Church, but he is like a dried and shriveled hand.” This hand is attached to the body, but it “has no life in it,” Father notes. A person living in the state of sanctifying grace, however, rather than being lifeless and unproductive, shares his grace, his “life” with other members of the Body of Christ.

Catholics, through God’s sanctifying grace, become “heirs and heiresses of Heaven.” Our ultimate end, the beatific vision, is accomplished only through the power of sanctifying grace. “He who is in the grace of God already gazes upon God by faith and love and hope.” Such a person, “doesn’t see Him face to face yet, but he is on his way.”

Sanctifying grace “makes us the sons and daughters of God.” Father points out, “We are not that by creation. We become such at Baptism.” Father adds that homeschoolers “nourish the sons and daughters of God.” If a Catholic should, through mortal sin, forfeit the state of sanctifying grace, he is able to regain the state of sanctifying grace through confession. Considering the ultimate consequences for those who ignore God or reject His grace, Father explains that their eternal punishment is just, and that “God ratifies the decision of those who choose not to be His sons and daughters by letting them go to the place they choose.”

## *Obedience in the Homeschooling Home*

*By Fr. Frank Papa*

“I have not spoken on My own; no, the Father Who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to speak... Whatever I say is spoken just as He instructed Me.” (John 12:49)

These words of Jesus are rather jarring. Jesus is God, we think, so why would Jesus talk about obeying? The repeated words of Jesus about obedience to His Heavenly Father are an example to us of the virtue of obedience and of the importance of obedience in the Christian life.

Our Lord did as He was commanded to do by the Heavenly Father. In other words, Jesus obeyed the Father and He spoke what the Father instructed Him to say. In this, he was an opposite example to Adam, who was given a commandment and did not obey. As Jesus came to take away the sin of Adam, He came also to give a counter example. As the sin of Adam brought death into the world, so the obedience of Jesus Christ brought life back to the world. Adam was disobedient in a small matter, but Jesus was obedient even unto death on the Cross!

When it comes to homeschooling, we tend to think that the problem of disobedience involves our children alone. But, in light of what we have just been discussing above, it becomes evident that disobedience is a problem not only for children, but for parents as well. The Fourth Commandment, which demands obedience, is a precept not only for children but also for adults. To honor our father and mother (and all legitimate authority) is to obey them! We don't grow-out of the Fourth Commandment once we reach majority-age. We are not left with only nine Commandments, while our children carry ten.

It's true that a frequently-confessed sin of children has to do with disobedience: “I disobeyed my father and my mother.” But seldom does a confessor hear an adult voice confessing: “I disobeyed legitimate authority.” Are adults guiltless when it comes to sins of disobedience? If we are trying to teach our children to obey their parents, should not the parents themselves

be careful to follow the commands of legitimate authority? After all, children learn as much by example as by instruction.

A few words about legitimate authority. The highest legitimate authority is God Himself. All other persons who possess legitimate authority (such as parents) receive their authority from God. As our Lord told Pontius Pilate: “You would have no power over Me whatever, were it not given to you from above.” (John 19:11) So, when we disobey those who have legitimate authority over us, we are actually disobeying God. Therefore, we must respect and obey all rightful superiors. We are to obey the will of those who have a right to command, *as long as it is not sinful*. All disobedience to rightful commands is a sin before God.

Since any sin entails disobeying a command of God, we might say that all sin of whatever category is first a sin of disobedience. Admittedly, children do not often witness their parents disobeying rightful human authority! But, they do witness their parents disobeying God. Dishonesty, lying, unkindness, impatience, taking the Lord's name in vain—these and other actions by parents may be witnessed by children. All these types of behavior are acts of disobedience to our Good God. In other words: they are sins.

Children are always learning from their parents, whether they are homeschooled children or not. Children are made up mostly of eyes and ears. Even when they seem to be occupied with other things (playing with toys, watching a video, reading a book, etc.), they are primarily listening and observing what their parents are saying or doing. A watchful parent may note these facts when they witness their children's behavior as being peculiarly reflective of their own behavior in similar situations...reminding them of the maxim: “You reap what you sow.”

As in everything, homeschooling parents serve as “Exhibit Number One”

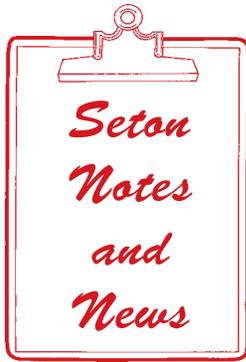
of how to rule and how to obey legitimate authority. Catholic homeschooling parents should take consolation in the fact that as they strive to be obedient to God, their children sense it. Their children absorb, by a kind of “spiritual osmosis,” that the primary obligation of life is to be obedient to God. Their children observe that their parents are seeking the help of God Himself in their efforts to obey Him. When parents pray the Rosary, make an effort to attend daily Mass, go to confession frequently, and use sacramentals, they are not only teaching their children good Catholic practices, they are enforcing the virtue of obedience to God's laws. What better example can homeschooling parents give their children than to be striving by these means to obtain the graces they need to be obedient to God! What better lesson could they teach their children, than to show them, by their example, the way to maintain themselves in that virtue?

As we noted earlier, we must all obey God. Secondly, we must obey all rightful human authorities, since their power to rule comes from God. The homeschooling home provides an ideal environment for children to learn the importance of obedience to rightful authority. I say this because homeschooling families tend to be large. Of necessity, this practical living condition calls for a carefully-measured amount of responsibility to be delegated to older children over younger children, a sort of hierarchy of authority, with the parents acting as the highest authority (save God).

We are reminded of Therese of Lisieux who was the youngest of six living sisters. Due to the early death of their mother, the father found it necessary to delegate various responsibilities to his older daughters over the younger, in a sort of hierarchy of authority. The older sisters apparently did a good job in raising their youngest sister, since Therese is now a canonized Saint. They themselves all entered the religious life.

My point here is that homeschooling parents might be in a position to delegate a carefully-balanced measure of responsibility to older children over

*Cont'd on page 7*



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

**Herndon, VA, June 10-11.** Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Family Conference, Dulles Airport Hilton Hotel. For information go to website [www.ihmconference.org](http://www.ihmconference.org), email [info@ihmconference.org](mailto:info@ihmconference.org), or call 540-636-1946.

**Indianapolis/Noblesville, IN, June 25.** Get the Faith Catholic 2005 Home Educators Curriculum Fair and Conference, Hamilton County 4-H Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street,

Noblesville, IN. Speakers include Ginny Seuffert. For more information contact Teresa at 317-849-9821 (after 2PM weekdays), or go to website [www.rchei.org](http://www.rchei.org), or email [conference@rchei.org](mailto:conference@rchei.org).

**Lafayette, LA, June 25.** Our Lady of Good Success Home School Conference, The Rayne Civic Center, 300 Frog Festival Dr., Rayne, LA. For information contact Julie at 337-873-7547, [jodeofkemah@yahoo.com](mailto:jodeofkemah@yahoo.com).

**Chino Hills, CA, June 25.** Southern California Catholic Home Educators Conference and Curriculum Fair, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church (8 AM - 4 PM), 14085 Peyton Drive, Chino Hills. For information contact Sandy at 909-590-7224, or email [tw54sks@yahoo.com](mailto:tw54sks@yahoo.com), or go to website [www.scchehomepage.com](http://www.scchehomepage.com).

**Phoenix, AZ, July 9.** St. Helen's Catholic Church, Glendale, AZ. Speakers include Ginny Seuffert. For information contact Veronica at 623-516-4917, or email [olghsc@aol.com](mailto:olghsc@aol.com).

**Anaheim, CA, July 23-24.** CRC's 15th Annual National Catholic Family Conference, Anaheim Convention Center and Marriott, 800 West Kalella Ave., Anaheim, CA. Speakers include Fr. Pablo Straub. For information call 877-526-2151 (toll-free) or 626-856-0747 (local),

or email [info@CatholiCRC.org](mailto:info@CatholiCRC.org), or go to website [www.CatholiCRC.org](http://www.CatholiCRC.org).

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### *Father Papa, cont'd*

younger children; and in that way, the children have the opportunity to experience the role of being "in benevolent authority" over those who are younger than themselves, while at the same time being "under authority" to those older than themselves. This will serve to teach them the importance of right-rule, as well as obedient submission to authority.

Obedience is one of the most difficult virtues for human beings to practice. We each believe that we know best and chafe at anyone telling us what to do. That is why the virtue of obedience is so important, because it disposes us to subordinate our own will to the will of God. Legitimate superiors, such as parents or legal authorities, hold God's place, and have the right to command. But above all, we must all keep in mind that God Himself demands that we obey Him...that we keep His Commandments: "He who keeps My Commandments is the one who loves Me." (John 14:21)

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## *Homily of Pope Benedict XVI from the papal installation Mass*

During these days of great intensity, we have chanted the litany of the saints on three different occasions: at the funeral of our Holy Father John Paul II; as the Cardinals entered the Conclave; and again today, when we sang it with the response: Tu illum adiuva – sustain the new Successor of Saint Peter. On each occasion, in a particular way, I found great consolation in listening to this prayerful chant. How alone we all felt after the passing of John Paul II – the Pope who for over twenty-six years had been our shepherd and guide on our journey through life! He crossed the threshold of the next life, entering into the mystery of God. But he did not take this step alone. Those who believe are never alone – neither in life nor in death. At that moment, we could call upon the Saints from every age – his friends, his brothers and sisters in the faith – knowing that they would form a living procession to accompany him into the next world, into the glory of God. We knew that his arrival was awaited. Now we know that he is among his own and is truly at home. We were also consoled as we made our solemn entrance into Conclave, to elect the one whom the Lord had chosen. How would we be able to discern his name? How could 115 Bishops, from every culture and every country, discover the one on whom the Lord wished to confer the mission of binding and loosing? Once again, we knew that we were not alone, we knew that we were surrounded, led and guided by the friends of God. And now, at this moment, weak servant of God that I am, I must assume this enormous task, which truly exceeds all human capacity. How can I do this? How will I be able to do it? All of you, my dear friends, have just

invoked the entire host of Saints, represented by some of the great names in the history of God's dealings with mankind. In this way, I too can say with renewed conviction: I am not alone. I do not have to carry alone what in truth I could never carry alone. All the Saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me. And your prayers, my dear friends, your indulgence, your love, your faith and your hope accompany me. Indeed, the communion of Saints consists not only of the great men and women who went before us and whose names we know. All of us belong to the communion of Saints, we who have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we who draw life from the gift of Christ's Body and Blood, through which he transforms us and makes us like himself. Yes, the Church is alive – this is the wonderful experience of these days. During those sad days of the Pope's illness and death, it became wonderfully evident to us that the Church is alive. And the Church is young. She holds within herself the future of the world and therefore shows each of us the way towards the future. The Church is alive and we are seeing it: we are experiencing the joy that the Risen Lord promised his followers. The Church is alive – she is alive because Christ is alive, because he is truly risen. In the suffering that we saw on the Holy Father's face in those days of Easter, we contemplated the mystery of Christ's Passion and we touched his wounds. But throughout these days we have also been able, in a profound sense, to touch the Risen One. We have been able to experience the joy that he promised, after a brief period of darkness, as the fruit of his resurrection.

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