



# Seton Home



# Study School

Volume XXIV, Number 5

◆ *“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”* ◆

May 2007

## *Fatima and the Rosary*

While the Church has dedicated all of the month of May to the Blessed Mother, the date of May 13<sup>th</sup> is certainly the most popular day of the month for Catholic families. It was on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917, that the Blessed Mother first appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal. Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco, simple children from the small town of Fatima, had been playing while tending a flock of sheep on a mountainside. They began praying the Rosary, and it was then that the Queen of Heaven first appeared to them.

Initially, the Blessed Mother appeared only as a flash of light. The light approached the children, but they did not see her as the Blessed Lady until she appeared over the oak tree. Lucia later wrote “It was a lady dressed all in white, more brilliant than the sun, shedding rays of light, clear and stronger than a crystal glass filled with the most sparkling water, pierced by the burning rays of the sun.”

This appearance and the others to the children confirm what we have always known. Mary has a special role in God’s plan especially for the simple and least powerful, because she is the Mother of God the Son, who became man in very humble circumstances. Mary and her Son chose three small children to carry a special message of salvation to the world in the middle of a world war.

These three young children said their Rosary together every day, and they likely said another Rosary at home with their parents. It was the Rosary, as well as three visits of an angel, which spiritually prepared the children for the visit from the Blessed Mother.

As we say the daily Rosary with our children, let us remind them that Mary

wants to answer the prayers of children, especially those children who are so dedicated to her that they say the Rosary every day to ask for her help. Sometimes our children become a little thoughtless as they say their Hail Marys; therefore, we need to encourage them to think about the words of the prayers, the meaning of the Mysteries of the Rosary, and to remember the children of Fatima.

As we already noted, the children, at first, saw only a flash of light following them. This is a reminder that we do not always have a complete vision or understanding of the Mother of God or the meaning of heaven. It is only with perseverance in praying the Rosary that Mary will reveal herself to us with a message of love and hope.

When Our Lady appeared, she was dressed in white, more brilliant than the sun. The description by the children that she was “more brilliant than the sun” reminds us of the appearances of Jesus in His Transfiguration on Mount Tabor and after His Resurrection to the apostles and disciples. We are still celebrating the Resurrection since liturgically the Easter Season continues in the month of May. The image of Jesus and Mary appearing in brilliant light reminds us that without the Light of Christ, all is darkness. But when the Light comes into the World, it searches out the places of darkness, and the Light prevails against the darkness, and the darkness is dispelled.

The Blessed Mother shed rays of light which were so bright that Lucia compared them to sparkling water in a crystal glass pierced by the rays of the sun. We can show our children just how bright and beautiful were those rays of

light by taking a crystal glass or bowl or vase, adding water, and taking it outside to sparkle in the sunlight. Remember that the Blessed Mother described the rays of light coming from her hands to St. Catherine of Labouré as representing the graces which she bestows on those who ask for graces or special favors from heaven.

As Lucia spoke with the Blessed Mother, Francisco interrupted to say that he could not see the Lady. When Lucia told the Blessed Mother, she said, “Let him say the Rosary, and in that way, he, too, will see me.” What a strong message from the Blessed Mother! While our sins may cause us not to see the Blessed Mother, to forget her or not be dedicated to her, saying the Rosary will bring us closer to her, not only to see and understand her, but, more importantly, to see and understand her beloved divine Son.

Blessed Mother, Heavenly Lady, Morning Star, Font of All Graces, Mother of God, Queen of the Holy Rosary, help us and our children to rededicate ourselves to saying the Rosary every day. These fifteen minutes of prayer each day continually remind us of the events in the life of your Son Jesus when He was on earth, and of your part as the Mother of God in helping to distribute the graces and favors from your Son. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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## *Questions We Are Asked*

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

**My son in high school wants to go back to school. He misses his friends. However, I don't want him to return because of the secular culture at the school which has adversely affected my son. What should I tell him?**

Whenever my children wanted to argue with me about something, I would point out two things. First, as the parent, I am required by God to make the decisions for my children that are best for them. Children are not supposed to make their own decisions in important matters, especially in matters of truth and morals. If they wanted to see a movie that I thought was detrimental to their moral life, I simply told them this is an area in which I have a God-given authority. Where children attend school in this American secular culture is certainly a decision which must be made by parents.

Beyond the issue of authority and responsibility, you need to find out what it is that he really misses. It could be he misses certain friends and, if that is so, and if that friend is not a bad influence, invite the friend over periodically. You also can try to find other friends for him, at church or in a home schooling support group. Some of the home schooling parents have started sports teams. Here in Front Royal, the basketball team has quite a schedule of games! Your son can make new friends who are good practicing Catholics or at least Christians.

This also could be an educational issue. It could be that home schooling is more work than his former school. Make sure that he is actually making progress in his studies. Could the work be too hard for him, or too easy for him? Make sure he is being challenged, but the work is not so demanding that he believes he cannot be successful. Also, be sure you are sending in the tests as he does them. Some mothers do not send in the tests as they are done. When a

teenager goes for months without a report card, he has nothing in his hands to give him "status" as a student who is actually achieving something. When people are trying to accomplish long-term goals, such as finishing a grade level in high school, they need short-term goals as well. Finishing tests and getting grades, then getting quarter grades and course grades, gives students shorter term goals to help keep them focused. Teens need to feel successful.

One thing to remember about boys is that they do not or cannot always express the specific reason why they are unhappy. He might express it better with his dad. Try to find out the real reason and then try to solve the problem.

**My son wants everything to be perfect. He is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and cries and carries on when he does not get his answers correct.**

It is disturbing for a parent to deal with a child who cries or gets angry with himself if he does not get his work done perfectly. Many of these students do their work over and over again until they think it is perfect. You might explain that school and learning is for people who do not know the material and do not have perfect skills. It is ridiculous to even think that a young person of school age could possibly know everything or have perfect skills.

Tell your son that the reason students have 180 school days per year in the school systems around the country is because the educators think it takes that long for the average student to learn the lessons for the year. In fact, each year, the past lessons are reviewed and practiced because they have not been learned perfectly in the previous year.

Point out that errors are normal and part of the learning process. There has never been a student in anything who has

not committed errors, except Jesus, of course. Consider giving "practice" assignments before a final assignment to be graded. So when you assign a math page, the first time the page is finished is the "draft" copy. Give your son a chance to redo the incorrect problems. If he needs a third chance, give him a third chance to redo, but his grade will count only with the "final" copy.

Some perfectionist students in high school take an extra year. While it might seem frustrating to parents, many students are happy taking their lessons more slowly and getting everything "perfect." Sometimes it is the mothers who are frustrated more than the student. Once perfectionist students reach college, they will find that the professors have due dates, and there is no opportunity for redoing tests. However, what I hear from the college professors is that these students do adjust by the end of the first semester.

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*When people are trying to accomplish long-term goals, such as finishing a grade level in high school, they need short-term goals as well.*

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**My daughter in high school frequently must write paragraphs and compositions but I don't know how to grade them because I don't know what a good paragraph or composition should be.**

Some mothers say that either they don't know what to expect for a writing assignment, or believe they don't know how to grade a composition. Others say that the concentration or time involved in grading composition papers takes more time than they have. The first thing you might look into is having someone else help you with the grading. You might ask your spouse, or a grandparent, or even one of the other children to look over the work.

Also, remember that you do not absolutely have to grade everything which the lesson plans say to grade. You don't actually have to give any home grades. (If you don't give home grades, then course grades will be based only upon Seton-graded work.) Of course, it will help your student for you to give home grades, since those give more immediate feedback to a student. If you don't give home grades, it is even more important that you send a student's work to Seton as it is completed, rather than waiting until the end of a quarter.

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*When students must explain what they have read, they are developing reasoning skills, which is what education is all about.*

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We recommend that if the situation is simply that you don't know how to grade a composition, take some time to learn how to do it. You can do this in a couple of ways. First, the lesson plans for a course generally outline what is expected in an assignment; just compare the student's work to that outline. Second, you can see the kinds of things that Seton graders are looking for by reviewing compositions graded by Seton. Third, you may want to consider taking the course along with your student. Many parents have said they really have appreciated learning more about writing skills.

**The lesson plans say I should discuss the story in the reader with my son. But I am too busy with the jobs around the house. What should I do?**

It is important for a student to have a discussion about what he has read to make sure he has comprehended the story and understands the message of what he has read. Hopefully, you can find time, perhaps in the evening when the little ones are in bed. Perhaps your husband or an older sibling would have

time for such a discussion. When students must explain what they have read, and explain what some of the events mean or what is the message of the story, they are developing thinking and logical reasoning skills, which is what education is all about.

Remember, the discussion does not have to be long and involved. It can be only a few minutes, and can take place while you are doing the dishes or other work. You just want to be sure that your child is learning from what he is reading.

**My husband has not stopped me from home schooling, but he makes remarks which encourage my son to think he should not be home schooled. What should I do?**

This is certainly a difficult situation. Sons normally have great respect for their dads, so your husband's attitude will cause you to have problems with your son being obedient. Obviously, you should talk with your husband, and stress the fact that as much as the remarks hurt you, they are even worse for your son because they are having a negative impact on his education. If he still continues with the negativity, then the main answer is prayer. You need your son to be obedient, but you don't want to turn him against his father. Consider starting a novena to your husband's patron saint, or to St. Joseph.

Give your husband fewer opportunities to make remarks. Try to finish up the home schooling before he gets home; have the books put away, or do the home schooling in a room he does not frequent.

If there is a homeschooling conference in your area, ask your husband to join you in attending. He may be surprised at the number of people home schooling in the community, and might not find home schooling as "odd" as he thinks.

**I cannot read music and wonder what I should do for my children regarding the music books you sent.**

It is important for your children to learn how to read music and to play a musical instrument. Have at least one of your children, or you yourself, take music lessons—piano or violin or some

instrument. Whoever is taking lessons can teach the others to play; or the teacher could come to your house and everyone can listen to the lesson. Playing a musical instrument is very rewarding, and it is something which your child will enjoy throughout life. Parents are concerned about their children playing sports, which is healthy for the body, but playing a musical instrument is healthy for the mind and the soul. Musical instruments are mentioned in the Bible hundreds of times, and many times, angels are mentioned as singing and playing instruments, even in heaven!

In the area of music, there is much available on the Internet. You can find everything from simple tutorials on reading music to entire music courses on how to play keyboard, guitar or other instruments.

If you hire a teacher to come in regularly, hopefully your children can be in a few recitals. The discipline for learning music will help establish attitudes about getting things done in a timely manner. Music practice teaches the importance of daily routines and doing the job even on days when you don't feel like it.

Music lessons not only teach math and rhythm, they teach memory work and timing, and most of all, music lessons teach concentration and focus. I can almost guarantee that students taking music lessons will be better students overall than students who do not take music lessons. Learning to play an instrument requires listening skills, timing and rhythm skills, math skills, and manual dexterity, all at the same time!

In addition to all this, anyone who plays a musical instrument gains a special satisfaction and pleasure with a certain kind of beauty that can be understood only by those who play a musical instrument. You and your children can discover the beauty of playing a musical instrument by watching and listening to some of the great movies about musicians, such as *The Eddy Duchin Story*, *A Song to Remember* (Frederic Chopin), *The Glenn Miller Story*, *The Benny Goodman Story*, and many more.

## *Motivation and Home Schooling*

*by Kevin Clark*

I recall once going to my aunt's house to babysit for her three daughters. While in the kitchen, I was amused to see that she had a picture of a swimsuit model on her refrigerator. Before pulling anything out of the refrigerator to eat, my aunt had to look at the picture. This was clearly meant to dissuade her from eating, in hopes of having a figure like the woman in the picture. While the idea was amusing to me, it made some sense. Although my aunt had a general intention to lose weight, the picture gave her direct motivation at the time it was most needed.

We have motivations for and against different activities all the time. The most obvious motivations are spiritual and legal. We are motivated to do good and avoid evil because we want to attain heaven and avoid hell. Similarly, the civil law motivates us to avoid certain actions by threatening fines or jail time. The tax code is also a way that the government favors or disfavors behaviors.

Beyond this, we each have many motivations, whether social or internal. We are motivated to act in specific ways in order to gain social approval and acceptance. In schools, there is a great amount of peer pressure to be "cool". And we also have our own internal wants and desires. Like my aunt, we may want to lose weight because we think we will look or feel better. Or we may want to learn a foreign language, or become a better golfer.

When we are home schooling, there are all kinds of motivations at work. Children may be motivated to do their schoolwork because they want their parents to be proud of them, or because they want to finish up early so they can play, or because the parents have promised a reward, or simply because they find the subject matter enjoyable. In high school, students might be motivated by taking a longer-term view of things—if they do their work well, then they may be accepted into a good college, which can lead to a good job in the area of their choice.

There may also be negative motivations. Students might have other things they want to do. They might not particularly like math, or science, or reading, or whatever subject is at hand. They might not see learning as anything worthwhile.

We often think of motivation as being something only for the student, but there are motivations for parents as well. Obviously, parents are motivated to work diligently on their children's education because they love their children and want them to do well in life. Parents also may consider home schooling a religious calling or vocation. If home schooling parents were not inspired by some strong motivation, they would not bother home schooling in the first place.

But just as it is important for a child to be motivated to do the home schooling each day, it is important for parents to be motivated on a daily basis as well. If parents are not motivated to get the children moving along, then the home schooling can slide into a kind of benign neglect. Without parental prodding, encouragement, and involvement, students are not going to view home schooling as particularly necessary or important.

It's not hard to let the home schooling slide a little, because there is no immediate bad effect. If you did not show up at a paying job for a week, you'd likely be fired, then you couldn't pay your bills, etc. But if you let the home schooling go for a week or two, there are not the same visible consequences.

So how do parents stay motivated to stay on top of the home schooling? One good way is to keep a supply of motivational reading around. There are plenty of good books on home schooling—whether by Dr. Clark or by other authors—that can bring you up when you are feeling a little bit down. Dr. Clark often suggests that before you start home schooling, you make a list of the reasons why you want to do it. When you have bad days, as everyone inevitably does, go back to the list. The reasons why you started are probably still valid.

You can also use more concrete self-motivation. It often helps with children to say something like "If you all finish up your work by 2, we can go to the pool." Why not try a similar motivation for parents? Something like, if all the children can finish up their week's work by Friday, then Mom and Dad get to go out for a nice dinner at their favorite restaurant. Or, you might try something more long-term for both parents and children. Start a vacation fund based upon each child finishing his work each week. For every week's work, a certain number of dollars are placed in the vacation fund. When summer rolls around, whatever money there is can be used for a vacation—the more money, the nicer the vacation.

Another motivation is enjoying the learning. This applies to parents as well as to students. A parent is more likely to be heavily involved in teaching a subject if the parent enjoys the topic. So, if one parent really loves science or English or history, then that parent should be the teacher for that subject. When choosing courses, such as electives in high school, parents should think about their preferences as well as the child's preference.

An often overlooked motivational tool is to make a schedule and stick to it. This doesn't sound like a motivation, but having a set schedule can get you into a routine which turns into a habit. Habits are notoriously hard to break, and this applies equally to good habits as well as bad habits.

Further motivation can come from seeing the positive results of your work. One good idea is to use the computer testing and uploading system on your My Seton page as much as possible. This gives you and your child instant (or at least much faster) feedback on the work. In any case, seeing comments from an objective third party can help you and your child to have pride in your work, which itself is an incentive to keep it up.

Remember, the basic principle is that you should create incentives for behavior you want and disincentives for behavior you don't want. And while you are incentivizing the children, don't forget to incentivize yourself.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Coalition is proud to present the Sixth Annual



# Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Parent Conference 2007

**Authentic Catholic Education: The Parental Duty**

**LOCATION:**

**Dulles Expo and Conference Center - North Hall**

Washington D.C./Dulles Airport, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20153

**Friday, June 8, 2007**      **9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**  
**Saturday, June 9, 2007**      **9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**Free Admission!**

*(Suggested Donation - \$10.00)*

**Free & Convenient Parking!**

**Confirmed Speakers include:**

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Fr. Frank Papa, Fr. Paul Scalia, Fr. Pablo Straub, Dr. Mary Kay Clark,  
Dr. John Cuddeback, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Dr. Mitchell Kalpakgian,  
Dr. Catherine Moran, Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, Mrs. Laura Berquist, Mrs. Carole Breslin,  
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## [www.IHMConference.org](http://www.IHMConference.org)

Please visit our website for more detailed information as it becomes available, including: speaker information, vendor listing and links, schedule, directions, hotel information, local churches, etc. Please help spread the word. Prayers and donations appreciated.

***This conference is for everyone, not just home schooling families. We love children, but must restrict attendance at talks only to adults, teens, and nursing babies.***

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IHM Coalition    P.O. Box 574    Linden, VA 22642-0574    540-636-1946 (phone)  
540-636-1602 (fax)    [info@ihmconference.org](mailto:info@ihmconference.org)    [www.ihmconference.org](http://www.ihmconference.org)

## Our Lady of the Americas

Mary has many titles, and each one of us, no doubt, has a special devotion to her under one of the names that she has been given by her children, who love her and revere her as the Mother of God. Our Lady has so many titles, reflecting so many aspects as her relationship with us with God, that one or more of her titles speaks to each of our hearts. This may even change as we go through life and find different challenges and opportunities confronting us.

Each one of us, then, loves Mary under a particular title revered for some reason or another. Our Lady of Good Counsel is a wonderful devotion; so too is Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady of Czestochowa is revered in Polish households, and Our Lady of Guadalupe appears throughout Mexico. The good Mexican people place her image in public buildings, hotels and everywhere. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also known as Our Lady of the Americas. It is especially fitting that devotion to her should be propagated by all in the United States.

It all began in 1531, shortly after Columbus, a deeply devout Catholic Italian in the service of Spain, discovered what is now called the Americas. Columbus brought Catholicism with him to the American shores. While trying to find a route to India, he discovered a new continent, but died not even knowing that he had. For nearly five centuries, the name of Columbus has been honored, until some recent historical revision has painted him as an oppressor.

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego, a 57 year-old Indian convert to Catholicism. Mary chose this poor Indian convert to bring a message to Bishop Zumarraga that she wanted a chapel to be built at Tepeyac.

During one of these apparitions, Our Lady spoke these words of comfort to Juan Diego: "Hear me and understand well, my son the least, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear ... sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What

else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything." Those are words that all of us should take to heart.

The Bishop kindly received Juan Diego, but stated that Mary herself must give a sign as to the truth of the request. Our Lady, in response, sent Juan Diego back to the Bishop with his cloak full of Castilian roses which, though out of season, Juan picked from the hillside. Mary tucked the roses inside the Indian's tunic and up against his *tilma*, a garment much like an apron. When he opened his cloak to present the roses to the Bishop, a beautiful portrait of Mary appeared on Juan's *tilma* before the eyes of the bewildered Bishop. The picture has become known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The durability of the picture for over 400 years itself is a wonder beyond explanation. For over 116 years, the image was exposed to the smoke of incense, candles and to the touch of thousands who venerated this relic of heaven. Only a miracle can explain how this portrait of Mary could have survived since it was "painted" upon cactus cloth (which should have disintegrated within a few years). Paintings at that time were done with oil, or with wet plaster and water color. Experts are puzzled by the picture because no pigment or coloring penetrated the cloth, which had not been treated to hold paint.

In 1791, while the frame was cleaned, the workmen spilled a bottle of nitric acid on the picture. Since nitric acid dissolves cloth, the damage should have been extensive. Only a watermark showed.

In 1929 and in 1951, photographers noticed images in the eyes of the Virgin. It was determined in 1955 that the images reflected Juan Diego and others. Experts testified that it was impossible to get such reflections except from a real camera. From all points of examination, the picture is of supernatural origin.

On November 14, 1921, enemies of the Church determined to destroy the heavenly image. They detonated a bomb close to the image. The bomb broke windows, blew out chunks of

marble from the altar and completely twisted a large metal crucifix, but did not even splinter the glass protecting the *tilma*.

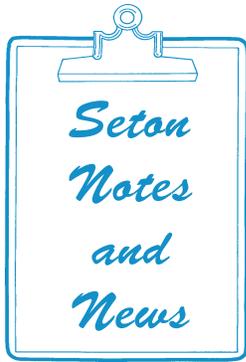
This beautiful image of Mary, we are told, was responsible for the conversion of over 8 million Mexicans. Even today millions come to pray for miracles and for a deeper faith. The devout, the prayerful, the repentant from all over humbly come, some walking up to the image on their bare knees, begging Our Lady of the Americas for special favors.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is truly one of Mary's tokens left behind to bless and watch over the people of the Western Hemisphere. Here she promised Juan Diego:

*I am your merciful Mother. The merciful Mother of all who live united in this land, and of all mankind... Here I will demonstrate, I will exhibit, I will give all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people...*

Let all of us in the Americas ask Our Lady, who put an end to paganism and human sacrifice so long ago, to help us end the pagan practice of abortion in our lands, which is the new human sacrifice. As she converted the ancient pagans, may she bring the new pagans to repentance and so put an end to the slaughter of the innocents.





*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.

**May 18 and 19, Huber Heights, OH (Dayton area).** 3rd Annual Dayton Catholic Homeschool Conference St. Peter's Catholic Church (Reiss Center) 6161 Chambersburg Rd., Huber Heights, OH. Friday 7pm - 9pm, Saturday 9am - 4pm. Speakers include Dr. Mary Kay Clark. For info go to [www.daytonhomeschool.com](http://www.daytonhomeschool.com).

**June 1 and 2, St. Paul, MN.** 9th Annual MN Catholic Home Educators

Conference & Curriculum Fair, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Friday 4pm - 8:30pm, Saturday 7:15am Mass - 5pm. For information go to website: [www.mnconference.org](http://www.mnconference.org).

**June 8 and 9, Chantilly, VA (Washington DC area).** 2007 Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Parent Conference, Dulles EXPO & Conference Center (North Hall), 4368 Chantilly Shopping Ctr., Chantilly, VA. Friday 9am - 9pm (Vendor area: 12 noon - 9pm), Saturday 9am - 4:30pm (Vendor area: 9am - 4:30pm). For information go to website: [www.ihmconference.org](http://www.ihmconference.org).

**June 15 and 16, Kansas City, KS.** 2007 Kansas City Conference for Catholic Homeschoolers, Savior of the World Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS. Friday 5pm - 9pm, Saturday 7:30am - 4:00pm. For information go to website: [www.kccatholichomeschooler.org](http://www.kccatholichomeschooler.org).

**June 15 and 16, Lansing, MI.** 13th Annual "It's Great to be Catholic!" Family & Home Education Conference and Book Fair, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI. Friday: 6pm - 9:30pm, Saturday 8am - 4:30pm. For information go to website: [www.homeschoolcatholic.org](http://www.homeschoolcatholic.org).

**June 21 to 23, Denver, CO.** Rocky Mountain Catholic Home Educators Conference, Holiday Inn Denver Int'l. Airport - John Q. Hammons Convention Center, 15500 East 40th Ave., Denver, CO. Thursday 6pm - 9pm, Friday 8am - 8pm, Saturday 7:30am - 6pm. For info go to website: [www.rmchec.org](http://www.rmchec.org) or email [info@rmchec.org](mailto:info@rmchec.org).

**June 23, Chino Hills, CA.** SCCHE (Southern California Catholic Home Educators) 7th Annual Conference and Curriculum Fair, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 14085 Peyton Drive, Chino Hills, CA. 8am - 5pm. Speakers to include Dr. Mary Kay Clark. For information go to website: [www.scchehomepage.com](http://www.scchehomepage.com).

**July 13 & 14, Cleveland, OH.** Immaculate Heart of Mary Cleveland Conference, The Plaza Hotel, 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights, OH. Friday 2pm - 8pm, Saturday 8:30am - 4pm. Email: [info@cleveland@ihmconference.org](mailto:info@cleveland@ihmconference.org), website: [www.ihmconference.org/cleveland](http://www.ihmconference.org/cleveland).

**July 21, Indianapolis, IN.** Indianapolis Catholic Home School Conference - 2007, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Additional information to follow.

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## *Sacramentum Caritatis, Cont'd*

Christianity's new worship includes and transfigures every aspect of life: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). Christians, in all their actions, are called to offer true worship to God. Here the intrinsically eucharistic nature of Christian life begins to take shape. The Eucharist, since it embraces the concrete, everyday existence of the believer, makes possible, day by day, the progressive transfiguration of all those called by grace to reflect the image of the Son of God (cf. Rom 8:29ff.). There is nothing authentically human – our thoughts and affections, our words and deeds – that does not find in the sacrament of the Eucharist the form it needs to be lived to the full. Here we can see the full human import of the worship of God in our lives cannot be relegated to something private and individual, but tends by its nature to permeate every aspect of our existence. Worship pleasing to God thus becomes a new way of living our whole life, each particular moment of which is lifted up, since it is lived as part of a relationship with Christ and as an offering to God. The glory of God is the living man (cf. 1 Cor 10:31). And the life of man is the vision of God.

From the beginning Christians were clearly conscious of this radical newness which the Eucharist brings to human life. The

faithful immediately perceived the profound influence of the eucharistic celebration on their manner of life. Saint Ignatius of Antioch expressed this truth when he called Christians "those who have attained a new hope," and described them as "those living in accordance with the Lord's Day" (*iuxta dominicam viventes*). This phrase of the great Antiochene martyr highlights the connection between the reality of the Eucharist and everyday Christian life. The Christians' customary practice of gathering on the first day after the Sabbath to celebrate the resurrection of Christ – according to the account of Saint Justin Martyr – is also what defines the form of a life renewed by an encounter with Christ. Saint Ignatius' phrase – "living in accordance with the Lord's Day" – also emphasizes that this holy day becomes paradigmatic for every other day of the week. Indeed, it is defined by something more than the simple suspension of one's ordinary activities, a sort of parenthesis in one's usual daily rhythm. Christians have always experienced this day as the first day of the week, since it commemorates the radical newness brought by Christ. Sunday is thus the day when Christians rediscover the eucharistic form which their lives are meant to have. "Living in accordance with the Lord's Day" means living in the awareness of the liberation brought by Christ and making our lives a constant self-offering to God, so that his victory may be fully revealed to all humanity through a profoundly renewed existence.

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