



# Seton Home



# Study School

Volume XXVI, Number 10



*“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”*



October 2009

## *Our Lady of Fatima*

The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. It was on October 13 that the Blessed Mother appeared for the sixth time to the three children of Fatima: Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco.

At those Fatima visits, the Blessed Mother told the three children to “Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war; for she alone can save it.” The year of these visits was 1917 and the war at that time was World War I.

As home schoolers concerned about our children’s future, we surely must include prayers for peace in the world and the end of the wars around the world. We probably all have at least one person we know—an acquaintance, friend, relative, spouse or child—who is serving in the military. Many of the ones we know may be actively engaged in combat, risking their lives to keep peace in an area, bring peace in an area, or prevent terror or a worse war in an area or world-wide. Thus, we should pray for their protection from harm, for wisdom for those who lead our armed forces, for conversions of leaders who cause war unjustly, for a change in social conditions that cause war, and for civilian victims of war. There is no better way to pray for our armed forces and for peace than to pray the Rosary of our Lady.

We should remember that it is ultimately sinners who cause war by their sins. Thus, it is no surprise that prayer for the conversion of sinners is also a key part of the Fatima message. We should pray for the conversion of sinners in tandem with our prayers for peace and for the end of wars.

In the final apparition in Fatima, the Blessed Mother asked that a chapel be built to honor Our Lady of the Rosary. She repeated her request that people everywhere say the Rosary every day.

Some years ago, a Catholic archbishop in Russia explained that in spite of the persecutions and the tearing down of the churches under Communism, the Russian families continued to say the Rosary in their homes. Though the Russian children were forced to hide their holy rosaries, they continued to pray as best they could.

In this final apparition, St. Joseph also appeared holding the Child Jesus, which certainly emphasized the importance of fathers teaching their children in spiritual matters. Our Lord also appeared dressed in a red robe, as the Divine Redeemer.

In a later private apparition, the Blessed Mother spelled out her requests for reparation on the first Saturdays of each month. She told Sister Lucia that this devotion consisted of the following: going to

confession (within eight days before or after), receiving Holy Communion, reciting five decades of the Rosary, and meditating for 15 minutes on additional mysteries of the Rosary, all on five consecutive First Saturdays of each month. All of these spiritual practices are to be done in reparation for sins and ingratitude against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It would seem this devotion would add particular efficacy to our daily recitation of the Rosary for peace and for the conversion of sinners.

Holy Mother of God, let us home schooling moms and dads not be forgetful of our responsibility for daily prayer, especially the powerful prayers of the most holy Rosary which you have so graciously asked us to say every day. Holy Mother, we know that the proper Catholic education of our children must include the daily Rosary. Help us to be generous and brave in leading our children in the daily prayers, especially in the Rosary. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- MKC

## *Inside . . .*

<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Counter Cultural</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Helps for High School</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Contacting Seton</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>World Mission Sunday</b> .....	<b>8</b>



## *Questions We Are Asked*

*by Dr. Mary Kay Clark*

*Director, Seton Home Study School*

### **My daughter in 5<sup>th</sup> grade does not do well on tests. How can I help her?**

Look over the quarter tests at the beginning of the quarter. You can see what areas are tested in the various subjects. As you help your daughter do her work throughout the quarter, be sure she learns the material or skills she will be asked on the quarter tests. Don't hesitate to review those concepts in the days preceding her taking the test. (By the way, teachers in schools go over test questions all the time. There is no reason parents should not do the same.)

After your daughter has taken the test, look it over. If you see that for some reason she has not understood a concept, go back and review it again. Don't give her the answers for the test questions, but have her redo the questions for which she has restudied.

The point is that we want students to learn the material. We don't want to just give grades no matter what. We are about good Catholic education, with the emphasis on both Catholic and education!

### **When I phoned your math counselor, he would not help me with some test questions.**

Our math counselors report they receive calls from students while they are taking a math test. Our counselors are happy to help parents and students, but they are not allowed to help a student while taking a test. If a student does not understand a math problem, the parent should help the student go back and review the lessons related to the problem. Students should not even attempt to take a test if they believe they will have problems with the test. Parents should

make sure the student has done well on the previous lessons before taking the test. Before each daily lesson, the student should do at least some review of previous lessons.

Students will not do as well if they do not review the lessons every day. Every good student has learned that to be a good student, one must review the past lessons. This applies to all subjects, but most of all math and English.

Please remember that math tests should be taken with the math book closed.

### **Do you agree with recent developments in the schools to omit cursive handwriting and let the students start working on the computer keyboarding at a young age?**

There are research studies which show that cursive handwriting does help the development of the brain in some ways. Special education teachers especially have noted the importance of cursive handwriting in the learning development of their students.

Students do better in their studies with more senses used: reading, hearing, and touching (the shape of letters, for instance). In the handwriting process, the shape of letters is made with a function of the hands which would seem to impress on the brain the shape of the letters as well as the sound of the letters. It also helps in the spelling of words. Cursive handwriting also teaches students not only to write more quickly but read more quickly and think more quickly.

Handwriting develops small but also smooth motor skills with the hands and fingers. We do not know what effect the lack of cursive handwriting will have with a future generation.

### **My son is having trouble with history. He just does not seem interested.**

It is difficult for some students to read just facts of history. Dates and events seem to pile up without any "live excitement" or personal stories.

While a history textbook can be only an outline of events and important people, history can mean more through the stories of people involved in historical events. Bruce Clark, our in-house historian, has written four novels about historical events. These novels have proved especially popular with our high school students, and parents as well. If you go to our website home page, you can click on Bruce Clark's historical novels, and then click on the cover of each book. Notice that an excerpt from each book is provided.

---

*We want students to learn the material, not just give grades no matter what. We are about good Catholic education, with the emphasis on both Catholic and education!*

---

It would be impossible for your student to read a biography or an historical fiction book for every character or event in a particular chapter; nevertheless, you should consider one such book for each chapter. You might find a book at the library or through our Seton SEM department. You might also consider looking for interesting information on a person or event on the internet.

Our Seton SEM department sells several lives of the saints, which often reflect the culture or the historical events of the time. St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Joan of Arc are saints whose lives reveal their culture, places, and times. Ignatius Press and EWTN also sell lives of the saints.

**I admit I don't know English Grammar the way I should. I don't even remember learning it, frankly. How can I teach my son?**

The first thing to remember is that it is very important for your son to learn Grammar. Grammar is essentially logical thinking. Our young people need logical thinking in a society in which our leaders act on emotions and personal interest. Catholic English Grammar courses teach relationships between words and phrases, sentences, and, most importantly, ideas. This skill in reading and in writing is vital for our society to pull out of the current lack of critical thinking skills.

---

*Grammar is essentially logical thinking. Our young people need logical thinking in a society in which our leaders act on emotions and personal interest.*

---

If you need extra help, please phone a counselor. Also, you may wish to order a lower level grammar book for a more basic presentation of the concepts. We start the English books in first grade.

The important thing to remember is that grammar is a logical progression. It is not hard to grasp once you understand the underlying principles.

**My husband is a good man, but he works long hours and does not help me with the home schooling at all.**

We are living in difficult economic times, but in spite of it all, fathers have a duty to be involved with their children. The Bible, especially in the Book of Proverbs, emphasizes the importance of fathers being leaders in their families. In the encyclical *On Christian Marriage*, the Church teaches that the sacramental graces from the sacrament of matrimony offer "supernatural power for the fulfilling of their rights and duties..."

Doug Bean, a home schooling father and author of articles on home schooling, emphasizes the importance of fathers being spiritual leaders. He recommends that "If a father has an area of expertise, such as science, he should not hesitate to take a leading role in [teaching] that subject. Other practical ways to ease into the home schooling routine are praying, reading stories, playing learning games, singing, conversing, and listening to the children read. Whatever fathers do, they absolutely need to pray for supernatural graces and ask for Our Blessed Lord's guidance every step of the way. Home schooling can be a very humbling experience. But with God's guidance, no challenge or problem is too great."

If you have not done so, you might want to sit down and talk with your husband about why he is not involved. Is he too stressed out? Does he not feel comfortable with the schooling? Does he feel it is "your thing?" It could be that he doesn't realize you would like him to help. In any case, determining the root cause is the first step toward making a positive change.

**This sounds ridiculous, but my high school student does not seem to have any study skills.**

One problem with classroom schooling is that often students are so used to working in the classroom in a group situation, they really never take time alone to study. Sometimes they don't take time alone to do anything else, even praying or reflecting on their sins before confession, or applying themselves in a quiet situation to learning from a book. This inner lack of thinking and reflection can be very detrimental to the spiritual life.

Work with your student to develop study skills. You will need to take a whole day to work with your student. Perhaps you could have your younger children visit a relative while you focus on helping your high school student. Prepare yourself with the Study Skills course we have available on our home page (the top box on the right). Our lesson plans often give specific ideas for studying. If you need more help, go on the internet and look

for Study Skills ideas and even lesson plans and worksheets for your son's grade level.

Consider having a white board in his study room and writing in large letters the process for studying a chapter: Read everything out loud, so that the brain is hearing as well as reading. Read the headings and subheadings, look at the pictures or charts or diagrams, and read underneath whatever explains them; read the section review questions and the end-of-chapter questions; read the first line under each subheading. Read aloud the assigned chapter pages. Go back and highlight important words or phrases that are asked about in the review questions.

Developing study skills is critical not just for home schooling but for later in life. For anyone planning to go to college, study skills are essential, because no one will stand over students advising them. They are expected to do the work on their own in a timely way.

**I am definitely not happy with my messy house since I began home schooling.**

The first rule is to make your children put things away as they go along during the day. When they finish with a toy, it must be put in the toy box. When they finish with a book, they put it back on the shelf. When they finish eating a sandwich, the plate goes in the proper place. (Consider paper plates!)

Your children should not be raised thinking that a messy house is normal. A messy house is disturbing to you, but it is disturbing for the children studying, too! They cannot study properly with clothes on the floor or on the furniture, and food and dirty dishes on the counter.

You can lessen the abundance of stuff by not buying so much. Give away and throw away whatever you can on a regular basis. My boys liked to wear the same clothes over and over again. Try it! They don't need so many clothes! Tell grandparents no more clothes, no more toys! Books are fine! Maybe grandpa can build a bookcase; you can use one for each child!

## Counter Cultural

by Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Director, Seton Home Study School

The home schooling apostolate is a truly counter cultural movement, a contradiction to the current self-obsessed culture. The home schooling apostolate is evidence of an attitude of service to others most in need of our leadership, our love, our spiritual help, our teaching.

Many leaders of today's society are insistent that religion is unimportant to public life, that America is not and never was a religious place, and that the Christian Faith is an obstacle to national life, national service, and public education. Some even tell us that religion itself is the problem, that if only people believed in nothing then they would have nothing to fight over. Radical indifference is presented as the guarantee of peace in the world.

We Catholics understand that peace comes only through acceptance of the Prince of Peace. We see that those who have given up hope for eternal salvation do not find peace, but rather despair. To us Catholics, nothing is more clear than the continuing hunger for Jesus Christ. This is the great unmet need of today: the need for Faith in Jesus Christ.

It was only recently that the Christian Faith was rejected as the basis for our national life, but the signs of deterioration are very strong. No great nation has ever tried to live a life dedicated to the proposition that Nothing unites people.

We are seeing what it is like for a person and for a society to live without public dedication to religious values. Like Pontius Pilate, many American leaders declare they are personally opposed to grave evil, but publicly wash their hands of any commitment to Christian values.

The loss of Christian Faith in individuals is rapidly following its repudiation in public. Whichever came first, each loss now prompts the other, and the end of Christian influence in this society is now in sight.

It has even reached the point where true morality itself is seen as evil, or as

a sign of mental illness. This is shown most clearly in the debate (or lack of debate) about same-sex marriage. When a beauty pageant contestant gave a very limited endorsement of traditional marriage, she ended up losing her title. In California, supporters of traditional marriage, as well as the businesses that employ them, have been subjects of campaigns of intimidation. Readers of the *Washington Post* recently complained bitterly when an article in that paper called a supporter of traditional marriage "sane"—that's right, it is objectionable to write that a supporter of traditional marriage is not mentally ill. (*Washington Post*, "'Sanity & a Smile' and an Outpouring of Rage," 9/6/2009)

We home schooling parents are well aware of the limits of the gifts of this world. We are all too accustomed to the indifference and the obstacles that have been carefully erected around the works of Jesus Christ. We need not go over the difficulties further. We want to recognize them, to discuss solutions, and to strengthen ourselves against the works of the devil. We need to fortify ourselves to continue our Catholic home schooling because it is a promising new effort that can and will break through the offensive demonic strategies of this world.

The prospects of Catholic home schooling are greater than we expect. Catholic home schooling is not just a reaction to the current crisis situation both in the Church and in the Nation. It is not just a well-meant but temporary diversion from the troubles of the Church; nor is Catholic home schooling a temporary necessity to which Catholic families have been driven by the educational corruption.

Catholic home schooling is necessary for the survival of the Church and of the nation, as in the past, now in the present, and for the future.

For generations, the popes have called for parents to be recognized as the first and primary teachers of their children. Catholic home schooling is the authentic fulfillment of the call to family holiness. Catholic Home Schooling will bring

permanent benefits to the Nation and to the Church.

Catholic home schooling is not peripheral to the life of the Church today. It is central to the life of the Church. It is a principal cause for hope. Catholic home schooling is the key to true Catholic Renewal in the Church.

A Vatican cardinal told me that he believes that the immigrant spirit of determination of Americans has made the Catholic home schooling movement successful. It is the same spirit that once caused our grandparents or great-grandparents, for the sake of their religious convictions, to leave their homes and worldly possessions, and bring their families across raging seas to find religious freedom in America.

Home schooling families are pioneer families who believe there is no place like home, who believe there is no place like a Christian home. And for us Catholics, who believe there is no better place than our Domestic Church to raise, and train, and teach our children.

Catholic home schooling is not simply a new way of learning, or even a return to the home schooling situation that existed in the colonial days. It is a cultural revolution in family life that proclaims the worth of the family.

We Catholics who belong to a Church 2000 years old should have a long vision. We need to have hope and trust in the future. We Catholics have a long memory. We have all the saints who preceded us. We have survived the worst of times. A 17-year-old girl, St. Joan of Arc, can teach us how to survive, not only by attacking the enemy in front of us, but also by trusting in God when we are betrayed by the very people who should be protecting us.

Perseverance cannot be just of past days and past times. Perseverance is needed and can be lived just as much in our own time. The soldiers at Gettysburg fought in order to stand at the top of a small outcropping of rock. We Catholics already stand upon The Rock established by Jesus Christ. We fight not for a patch of land, but for the Rock of the Church which we must preserve for our children and our children's children.

## *Helps for High School*

*Ginny Seuffert*

Last month's column talked about the importance of perseverance from a spiritual point of view. This month, we will tackle more practical concerns. Here are some real questions and my responses.

**My 10<sup>th</sup> grade son is not staying on schedule. He just doesn't have time to finish his work.**

Is your son spending an hour a day on each subject, and perhaps one more hour in the evening catching up on his reading? Don't let him whine! Even in public schools, students spend 50 minutes in each class and get another hour of homework. You can't finish sophomore year in 3 hours a day.

**My 11<sup>th</sup> grade daughter is working lots of hours but she still can't seem to complete her assignments on time. She is really smart and has always been a good student. Unfortunately, I do not have much time to help her.**

There is no way a really smart, good student is spending 9 hours a day cracking the books, and is still seriously behind. My guess is that she is distracted by other things – recreational reading, the internet, the telephone, other kids, her thoughts and fantasies, whatever. Now is the time to refocus her.

Look over her assignments and give her clear instructions and set reasonable due dates. Make sure she has read the assignments in her lesson plans and understands them thoroughly. Instruct her to put her completed work in one place on her desk, with the page marked by a sticky note, or minimized on her computer screen. Have a set "appointment" with her every day, maybe during the baby's naptime. It is not necessary to correct the work, but make sure that she is making acceptable progress. She is more likely to stay on task if she knows you are checking.

**We have a small house and several children. My older students are having trouble concentrating and staying on task.**

Look for an alternative place for your older children to study. Most public

libraries are quiet during school hours and librarians are happy to help with research. If you live reasonably close to a community college, that is also a good place to study with less distraction.

Grandma, another relative, or a friend's house is another option. Often a relative will actually help tutor for a few hours each week. I would pass, however, if someone offers the use of their empty house during the day while they are at work. The TV remote might be too tough a temptation to resist.

**My child is very involved in sports. There are just not enough hours in the day to finish schoolwork.**

Home schooled children tend to excel in their endeavors, and moms and dads see visions of the next Michael Phelps or Renee Fleming. Realistically, though, only a tiny number of Americans will actually get to the Olympics or sing at the Metropolitan Opera. The rest of them need an alternative way to make a living. Explain to your student that continued participation in this activity depends on finishing assignments in a timely fashion. This is not to say that their activities are unimportant; just that, right now, education must be their primary focus.

Parents and students might dream of athletic scholarships as a way to pay for college. Athletic scholarships are always tenuous, however. Really talented athletes get injured, get cut from the team, or never get picked up in the first place. Only a teeny-tiny, elite bunch get full scholarships anyway. Students who apply themselves to their studies, and get high SAT or ACT scores get lots of scholarship money.

**My high school daughter has a job babysitting during school hours. My daughter likes the money, but she is having trouble keeping up with her school assignments.**

Pretend that your daughter attends the local public high school and someone calls you up and asks you to keep your daughter out of school for the day to provide childcare. Let's face it, no one

would have the nerve to ask your child to be absent from school, and you would never consider it anyway. Outsiders often do not understand the "school" part of home school, so we must tell them. We do real work during the school day, and our children are not available for employment during those hours.

**I am home schooling two children in high school. I am not able to provide any help whatsoever with chemistry, trigonometry, or foreign language. How can my family do a good job home schooling for high school.**

It is possible. You have several alternatives to actually relearning Latin declensions while changing diapers and reviewing times tables. Here are a few ideas:

- By all means, ask extended family members to help. My daughter has been a godsend for upper level math, and my son-in-law has forgotten more about science than I will ever know.
- If you live close to other home schooled high school students, enroll all your children in the same class. Biology, for example, does not necessarily need to be taken in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Get together and hire a tutor.
- Sometimes a parent with a background in a particular field will teach a weekly class in her home. I taught French for four years to my own daughters and neighboring home schoolers. It helped to keep my own student on schedule.
- Make sure you check your My Seton page for online resources that might be helpful. Order instructional DVDs for upper level math. Call a Seton high school counselor with questions.

The experience of thousands of our families shows that it is absolutely possible to home school your children successfully through high school. My own experience tells me that the academic training that Seton provides is invaluable. My own students often struggled to stay on schedule in high school, but then went on to be stellar college students. Yours will too!

## Get Back in the Box

by John Clark

As a former college baseball coach and a lover of the game, I am frequently guilty of reducing life's greatest lessons to a series of baseball analogies. I often tell my children that if they fail at various trials in life, they have to get up, dust themselves off, and get back in the box. Normally, I use this expression figuratively. This time, I mean it literally. When we fathers fall into sin, we have to get back in the box—the confessional box.

We are told that there is a crisis of the priesthood today—that there are not enough priests. However, if the only job of priests were to hear confessions, we would have a huge surplus. Whether we have a crisis of priests, one thing is sure: we have a crisis of Penance. The overwhelming majority of Catholics are not using the sacrament of Penance any more, especially men. If you are making good confessions regularly, then I, as a poor sinner, pray that God may continue to give you the grace of final perseverance. I also humbly ask your prayers to help me continue my lifelong journey of conversion. If you have not made a good confession in a while, you need to ask God for the grace to help you make a good confession now.

The effects of *not* using the sacrament of Penance are overwhelming. Those things that *seem* to weigh us down—our financial troubles, the political situation, our stresses at work—are not the things that are *really* hurting us.

Unconfessed sin weighs us down more than anything else. It creates a life of unhealthy fear and doubt. It creates a life in which we can't be honest with God. It creates an environment of unforgiveness. Our inability to forgive others is often a result of the fact that we refuse to be forgiven ourselves. It also creates an unhealthy family environment. My

mother has mentioned to home schooling groups that the reason we fathers have to teach our children the Faith is that we want our children to go to heaven with *us*.

The other side of the coin is this: we need to go to confession so that we can go to heaven with *them*. But unless we are living a life of repentance, we might be going to different destinations.

There is good news, and there is a cure for the chaos you may feel. Peace awaits you, and there is a very simple prescription: get back in the box. It is not “too late.” You are not “too far gone.” You haven't made a good confession for decades? God will forgive you. You've lived in mortal sin for fifty years? God will forgive you. You are not even *able* to commit sins so grave or so numerous that God cannot forgive all of them. Jesus revealed to one of the saints that even if you have more mortal sins on your soul than all the grains of sand in the world, He would still forgive a repentant heart. St. Faustina wrote that she would confidently approach Jesus with all the sins of the world on her soul, and expect His Divine Mercy.

If you haven't made a good confession for a long time, going to confession may be very hard for you to do. In fact, it might be the hardest thing you've ever done. Do it anyway. The harder it is to go will only make the satisfaction of a good confession that much more rewarding. Many men feel uncomfortable going to confession with their own parish priest. If you are uncomfortable with this, try another way. Call a priest in a different city and tell him that you haven't been to confession in a long time, but that you want to set up an appointment to go to confession. It's fine to admit to him that you are a little uncomfortable going to confession. (By the way, the sixth and

ninth commandments are frequent topics in confession. You are not breaking any new ground by confessing these sins. I think in this day and age, priests are probably more surprised by men *not* confessing sins against purity than *by* confessing them.) Then make the best confession of your life. Make your confession with the idea that this may be the last one of your life.

Remember that Jesus is pleased with our repentance, and His mercy awaits us. Jesus said to Saint Faustina:

*“Tell souls where they are to look for solace; that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy. There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated. To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one's misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were a soul like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint, there would be no [hope of] restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full.”*

Fathers, let the mercy of Jesus overwhelm you. Go to confession as a family, and go to heaven as a family.

### The Seton Home Study Newsletter

is published monthly by  
Seton Home Study School  
1350 Progress Dr.

Front Royal, VA 22630

Phone: (540) 636-9990

Fax Machine: (540) 636-1602

Internet: [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org)

E-Mail: [info@setonhome.org](mailto:info@setonhome.org)

Subscription price for non-enrolled families is \$15 per year. Free online at [www.setonhome.org/archive/default.stm](http://www.setonhome.org/archive/default.stm)

Executive Editor:  
Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editor: Kevin Clark

## Contacting Seton...

Admissions	General Line	540-636-2039
Betty Valaike	Registrar/Transcripts	540-635-1937
Bob Wiesner	Senior Guidance/ Independent Study	540-636-2238
Bruce Clark	High School History	540-636-1199
Bruce Hacker	K-8th Grading	540-622-5524
Cecilia Sauer	K-8th Grade Counselor	540-622-5526
Christine Collins	High School English Counselor	540-636-1633
Connie Spiewak	SEM Representative	540-636-3583
Christopher Smith	Admissions	540-622-8472
Customer Service	General Questions/Concerns	540-636-9990
Don Valaike	High School Math/Science	540-636-1396
Elem. Counselors	K-8th Grade Counselors	540-636-1429
Elizabeth Alcott	K-8th Grade Counselor	540-636-2342
Eric Kraske	Admissions	540-622-5529
Fr. Constantine	Latin/French/ Religious Ed.	540-636-1527
Gene McGuirk	High School Counseling/ Course Approvals	540-635-4728
Harry McMahan	Shipping Questions	540-622-5532
High School English	General Line	540-622-5560
Lewis Kapell	My Seton/Internet Help	540-622-5522
Manuel Vicente	Admissions & Spanish Counselor	540-622-5537
Math and Science	General Line	540-622-8477
Rhonda Way	High School Grading	540-622-5525
SEM Order Line	Ordering Supplemental Materials	540-636-9996
Sharon Hines	Special Services	540-622-5542
Tom Herlihy	High School Math Counseling	540-636-1846
Tom Kosten	Admissions	540-622-5551
Walker Solis	High School English Counselor	540-636-1755

[conferences@setonhome.org](mailto:conferences@setonhome.org)

[admissions@setonhome.org](mailto:admissions@setonhome.org)

[info@setonhome.org](mailto:info@setonhome.org)

[myseton@setonhome.org](mailto:myseton@setonhome.org)

[testing@setonhome.org](mailto:testing@setonhome.org)

[counselors@setonhome.org](mailto:counselors@setonhome.org)

[grading@setonhome.org](mailto:grading@setonhome.org)

[enrolled@setonhome.org](mailto:enrolled@setonhome.org)

[shipping@setonhome.org](mailto:shipping@setonhome.org)

[SSDept@setonhome.org](mailto:SSDept@setonhome.org)



**Seton Home Study School**  
1350 Progress Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630

**Main Line: 540-636-9990**

**Fax: 540-636-1602**

**Main Email: [info@setonhome.org](mailto:info@setonhome.org)**

**Website: [www.setonhome.org](http://www.setonhome.org)**

## *Seton Home Study School*

1350 Progress Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 19  
Elizabethtown, PA

### *Pope Benedict XVI, Message for World Mission Sunday*

In truth, the whole of humanity has the radical vocation to return to its source, to return to God, since in Him alone can it find fulfilment through the restoration of all things in Christ. Dispersion, multiplicity, conflict and enmity will be healed and reconciled through the blood of the Cross and led back to unity.

This new beginning can already be seen in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ, who draws all things to himself, renewing them and enabling them to share in the eternal joy of God. The future of the new creation is already shining in our world and, despite contradictions and suffering, it enkindles hope for new life. The Church's mission is to spread hope "contagiously" among all peoples. This is why Christ calls, justifies, sanctifies and sends his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God, so that all nations may become the People of God. It is only in this mission that the true journey of humanity is understood and attested. The universal mission should become a fundamental constant in the life of the Church. Proclamation of the Gospel must be for us, as it was for the Apostle Paul, a primary and unavoidable duty.

The universal Church, which knows neither borders nor frontiers, is aware of her responsibility to proclaim the Gospel to entire peoples (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 53). It is the duty of the Church, called to be a seed of hope, to continue Christ's service in the world. The measure of her mission and service is not material or even spiritual needs limited to the sphere of temporal existence, but instead, it is transcendent salvation, fulfilled in the Kingdom of God (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 27). This Kingdom, although ultimately eschatological and not of this world (cfr Jn 18:36), is also in this world and within its history a force for justice and peace, for true freedom and respect for the dignity of every human person. The Church wishes to transform the world through the proclamation of the Gospel of love, "that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working ... and in this way ... cause the light of God to enter into the world" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 39). With this message I renew my invitation to all the members and institutions of the Church to participate in this mission and this service.