



Seton Home Study School

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◆ “under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church” ◆

June 2010

Most Sacred Heart

June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Several saints received messages and visions from Jesus about His great love for all of us in spite of our sins and laxity. One of these saints was Sister Josefa Menendez, a Spanish nun who lived from 1890 to 1923. She joined the French Order of the Sacred Heart, and for the rest of her life, she suffered and prayed and wrote down the messages that Jesus directed her to write. Her story, as well as all the messages, are contained in the book *The Way of Divine Love*.

During the Lent of 1923, Jesus gave Sister Josefa special messages for all the world, most of them regarding His thoughts as He suffered the Passion. The following are quotes as written by Sister Josefa and dictated to her by Jesus, contained in Chapter VIII.

“You will not find peace and joy in a position more or less brilliant in the eyes of men, but only in the accomplishment of God’s will and in entire submission to all He may require of you.”

Home schooling parents can find peace and joy because we know that God wants us to raise our children to live according to His will.

“As soon as your soul is touched by grace, and before the struggle has even begun, hasten to My heart; ...all has been swallowed up in the abyss of My mercy, and My love is preparing new graces for you. The memory of your lapses will be an incentive to humility and a source of merit, and you cannot give Me a greater proof of affection than to count on My full pardon and to believe that your sins will never be as great as My mercy, which is infinite.”

This is a lesson we need to teach our children, that no matter what happens, the mercy of Jesus is infinite. Sometimes our children may fall into bad habits, small or large, but we need to assure them of the importance of continuing to try, knowing that as long as they try and are sorry, they will be forgiven.

“When a soul loves truly, she neither measures what she does nor weighs what she suffers; never looking for reward, and seeking only what she believes to be for God’s greater glory; she never says “enough” when labor or fatigue are in question...and because of the purity of her aim, whatever the result, she neither excuses herself nor protests her good intentions;

her motive being love, her efforts and sufferings always give glory to God. She is not troubled nor does she lose her peace of mind if she meets with contradiction or persecution or humiliation, as her sole motive is love, and she leaves results in Love’s hands.”

These strong but encouraging words from Jesus to those He loves seem especially appropriate for so many who stay on course in their teaching and giving daily examples of the Christian life. We are encouraged by Jesus to be untroubled if problems come our way, because Jesus, Love Himself, will take care of us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, in Whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, patient and abounding in mercy, have mercy on us.

MKC

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Questions We Are Asked

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

I am concerned because I don't think we can finish home schooling by July when I know we will need a break, and the family is planning a vacation.

First, remember that Seton has no calendar, nor specific date we expect you to be finished. Home schooling should be adjusted to meet the needs and abilities of the children, as well as for family events. This does not mean that you should take two or three years to complete a grade level, but it does mean that you can modify the calendar when necessary.

What you should be thinking about at this point is what can be finished up before you go on vacation. Can you work in some shortcuts for spelling and vocabulary, for instance, so they will be done before the vacation? Can you stop at the end of a quarter in English and Reading, and pick up the next quarter in August or September?

Take a favorite subject along on the vacation. Some students really like their history, science, religion or book report book, so take it along to give them the opportunity to work on it. Some high school students would rather take the books along and keep moving on the assignments.

One subject you want to keep moving on is math, so you might continue with the children while on the vacation. Even if you are having them just redo review pages, the daily work keeps their brains in gear, whether it is the multiplication table, the division of fractions, or the complexities of Algebra I. Perhaps you might try having math competitions in the car, since it will not only be educational, but also help pass the time.

My little boy is really sassing me. He is only six! I think he hears this among the boys in the neighborhood. I think the boys also give him a hard time about being home schooled.

First you need to pray for your little boy. It is very sad when such a young one is talking back to his mom. Pray to his guardian angel and to his patron saint to help him.

You may need to find new friends for your son. Perhaps you can schedule him with some home schooling support activities, or local library events or activities. Perhaps your local church has some events, such as a baseball team, to help your son find new friends.

Your husband needs to work with your son to improve his attitude and back talk. He not only needs to discuss this and be serious in his conversation, there must be a punishment for disrespect toward you. If he is doing this at six and not being forced to stop his bad behavior, you will have real problems when he is sixteen.

God has given parents the responsibility to train their children in the way they should go, that is, obey the Ten Commandments. "Honor thy father and mother" is not just words; the command has real meaning in God's Bible, as you can read in the Book of Proverbs. The Bible is clear that a child needs to be disciplined in such a way that his bad behavior should cease. Going to his room and playing with his toys is not a punishment.

Two books we sell through our Seton Educational Media by two home schooling fathers are *Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime* by Dr. Ray Guarendi, and *Legacy: A Father's Handbook for Raising Godly Children*, by Stephen Wood.

How can I help my children to be more interested in what they are learning? They seem to think their assignments are some sort of tribulation we all need to go through.

The first thing is to be excited about learning yourself and try to pass this excitement on to your children. Learning isn't a chore; it's an exciting adventure, and it is a great privilege to have the time to learn. If your children see you reading books, then they will want to do more reading themselves.

It sometimes helps to put children together for courses so that they can interact. If you have children in adjacent grades, you might put them together in religion, history, and science so they can discuss the lessons

Some students really like their history, or science book so take it along to give them the opportunity to work on it.

between them. If a student is studying American history in a lower grade, a student studying American history in a higher grade might have something interesting to add to the younger child's discussion.

Talking about interesting things learned each day, especially in discussions at the dinner table, can encourage children. Visiting historical sites or science museums also encourages students to want to learn more. Though you will need to supervise internet searches, the internet can lead to many interesting "side bar" items of interest. Don't forget to click on images; if you have a color printer, print out color pictures of persons or ships or airplanes or whatever could be of interest.

Most moms and dads have hobbies or special interests; pass these down to your children. A stamp collection, for instance, can provide enough interesting discussions about people and events to last until the Second Coming!

My daughter in fifth grade is struggling with her math. Are there any special tips or techniques that might help?

Start each lesson with both of you praying to her guardian angel and to her patron saint to help her with her lessons.

Our math counselors believe that students sometimes have trouble in math because they are not neat and orderly in writing down their problems and working out the solutions. Because they are not careful in keeping numbers lined up in the correct columns, they make mistakes. Some parents have found that by turning lined paper at right angles, so the lines are vertical rather than horizontal, students are better able to keep their numbers in the

Studies have shown that students who study music do better in other subjects as well.

correct columns: tens in the tens column, hundreds in the hundreds column, and so on.

It is important to do math problems each day so that the brain is constantly practicing the math procedures. Not doing math for a week actually sets the student back two weeks, because the brain needs to do more review than would be needed if he did math every day. Studies have shown that summer vacation is a time when students can lose a great deal of math skill.

It is important to do math at least an hour a day. For the younger grades, we recommend two half-hour sessions. For the 7 through 12 grade levels, you can try one long or two shorter sessions, and see how well the student does.

Perhaps your husband or a college student might help once a week when your student needs more explanation. However, most of our families find our math DVDs very helpful tutoring lessons; they give instructions for each lesson in the book, and can be replayed as often as necessary. They start at the 5th grade level and cover up through the high school math courses.

Also consider having your daughter do the 5th grade math lessons over again, starting this summer and continuing into the school year. Going back and reviewing when she is almost a year older may be all she needs to solidify the concepts. There is no need to have her struggle another year when perhaps all she needs is to go through the lessons once more.

I have heard that music can help children learn. We do not have the money for music lessons or for a musical instrument. Have you any ideas?

We highly encourage families to make music an important part of their home schooling. Studies have shown that students who study music do better in other subjects as well. It seems that music helps to develop certain areas of the brain that are important for language processing and spatial thinking.

Look around for free or low-cost musical instruments. Ask former teachers, put out the word all around town, ask at the library, at the local college, at local private or Christian schools; look in the newspaper or online for used instruments. Ask an older relative, such as a grandparent who may still have an instrument in his possession but which has not been played for years. Look for musical instruments at house sales where the family is anxious to sell the belongings of someone deceased.

Often children have an idea of a particular musical instrument they want to learn to play. However, it may not be easy to find that particular instrument. Keep in mind that learning to play **any** musical instrument will help if your child later can find the instrument he wants. Many famous musicians started out with one instrument and changed later, but the experience of reading notes and so on, helped make learning another instrument easier. Some famous musicians started out with whatever instrument was available, and went on to become great musicians with an instrument that was not originally their first choice.

I just don't have time enough to get it all done.

No matter what we do, we never seem to have enough time. Maybe it's a result of Original Sin, or maybe even in the Garden of Eden, Adam never felt he had enough time for naming all the animals.

The hardest part about finding time is saying "No" when you really would like to say "Yes." You can practice in front of a mirror: "No, I really cannot do that because I am home schooling and we need to keep the children on a regular schedule."

Don't waste time. Each evening, at the end of the day, think about how you spent your time, such as three trips to the store, 25 minutes on a phone call, and looking for 15 minutes for little Jimmy's missing shoe!

Organization really helps. Instead of going to town three times for three different things, plan out your needs so you only have to go once. Instead of looking for shoes every morning, make sure to put the shoes in the same place every night so you know where they are. Next time the phone rings, don't answer it unless you have time to talk. If you answer the phone, write down the time when the call began and stop after 15 minutes. Ask your callers to phone you very early in the morning, or tell them you'll call them back when your schedule permits.

If you look over each evening how you spent your time, and come up with specific ideas for changing your lifestyle, you actually can change to the point of saying: "Well, I can't get it all done, but I am accomplishing more now than I did before."

Here is a key tip: Be sure to have your children help with household chores. It is good for them to learn various duties and to help in being good "citizens of the home." While the children are young is a good time to use your time more efficiently. As you get older, you will have more demands on your time, not less!

Seton Educational Media has just released a new book by Ginny Seuffert called *Essentials of Home Management*. It contains ten great suggestions for saving time and becoming more organized.

Searching and Researching

Tips for Student Research on English 9 and 10 Reports

When it comes to the prospect of beginning research for the English 9 or 10 reports, some students are less than enthusiastic. However, with a basic plan and the right approach, research can be made easier and even enjoyable.

It Starts with the Thesis

The thesis statement is “where you are going” or “what is your goal” in your report. If essays were Mapquest directions, a thesis statement would be the final street address. Submitting your thesis statement in first quarter may be confusing to you: why decide what your paper will say first? However, identifying your destination is the first step to getting there.

Some brief initial reading or an encyclopedia article may help you focus on basic points, but to begin major research without a thesis can be frustrating. Suppose a student in English 9 begins to research St. Thérèse without a thesis. Confronted with a 500-page book on the subject, the student does not know where to begin or where the focus should be. The student may end up with a mass of information and no idea what to use or how to use it, resulting in a rambling paper, or a sporadic biography. The student must focus, narrow, and clarify what the paper will discuss, which is the thesis.

Seton strongly promotes the three-part thesis. Consider a student with a three-part thesis: *“During her years in the convent, St. Thérèse exemplified the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.”* With the same 500-page book, this student can skip all chapters unrelated to the three-part focus on “faith, hope, and charity.” The modifying phrase, “During her years in the

convent,” narrows the research even more.

With colored tabs (blue for faith, red for hope, yellow for charity), this student can skim relevant chapters, placing a blue tab wherever there is a good fact or quote about faith, a red one for hope, and so on. Now the student can begin to write the first source and note cards. This student knows the thesis and is focusing on it. The research information is found quickly.

The three-part thesis allows for adjustments along the way. If a student notices much more information about St. Thérèse’s patience in her readings than hope, she can make the change to her thesis quickly, without starting from scratch. (Remember, if you change your thesis, resubmit it to Seton as you would a redo for official grading.)

Start Locally but Think Creatively

The most important first step in research is to contact the reference librarian at your local library. It’s the reference librarian’s job to provide search assistance. A reference librarian can tell you about all sorts of sources, including magazine or newspaper archives, interlibrary loan, and in-library databases of academic essays that you can search by topic. She can help you to avoid juvenile sources aimed at a younger audience.

Don’t limit yourself to your local library, however. Think creatively. What about a church library? A neighbor’s book collection? A field trip could be made to a college library, which has a wealth of resources and an atmosphere of study, where you may be inspired by seeing higher level students taking

their research seriously. If you are writing down all the information on source and note cards, as you should be doing, you don’t even need to bring these books home.

Seton allows one personal interview for a research report, used sparingly. Some students have interviewed mayors, military officials, and even senators. Choose an authority whose current or former position a reader would respect. This can be a fascinating experience.

The internet, with a parent’s permission, can connect you with excellent information. Be a true researcher even here, going to online newspaper, journal, government, and official organization sites. Wikipedia, message boards, blogs, and other user-generated sites are not appropriate for a school or academic report. Look for credible sources. Ask yourself if there is a respected authority standing behind the information.

Sources

Remember, the five-source minimum isn’t a maximum. If you submit more sources, and the graders, with their experience, cross out a few of the weaker ones, you still have five solid sources for the report. This is one of the reasons why the bibliography is submitted in second quarter. You will receive feedback on whether the sources are strong and well-formatted, and can make changes beforehand.

In conclusion, researching for your high school research report can be quicker and easier than some may think. You are practicing an adult skill, and working with sources that professionals use. Whether this is the first research you do in a road that leads to a Ph.D, or just a chance to see what goes into true research for report writing, you’re learning a valuable skill.

Pragmatism and Principle

by Kevin Clark

Two men faced each other across the expanse of a wide room. Although events had pushed them together, the two could not have been more different.

The one man had been born into wealth and privilege, with all of his earthly needs filled by servants. The other had been born into a crushing poverty, but with loving parents who cared for him.

The one was accustomed to giving orders and having them followed immediately, backed up by the force of law. The other attracted followers to himself by his presence and sheer force of his will.

The one, arrayed in the finest silks, sat upon a throne of marble. The other stood, clad in the purple of royalty, and wearing an odd sort of crown.

Outside, a throng of people gathered, and called for blood. They would have the life of one of these two men, but which one?

It was up to one of the men to decide, for one of them held the life of the other in his hands.

When Jesus faced Pilate in Jerusalem upon that day, it was not exactly the meeting of opposites. It was more a case of fullness meeting emptiness. It was not a case of matter and anti-matter, but more a case of matter and doesn't matter.

Pilate was a politician, who was given the responsibility of running a province of Rome. His job was not to see that truth and justice were upheld, but simply to ensure that the ships taking treasure back to Rome ran on time. For someone such as Pilate, a man devoted to pragmatism and the wisdom of the world, Jesus was an inscrutable puzzle.

Jesus was a different kind of man than Pilate had ever encountered. Pilate lorded his authority over Jesus, saying to Jesus, "Do you not know I have the power to crucify you and the power to free you?" Yet, Jesus was neither awed

nor intimidated by Pilate. Jesus said to Pilate, "For this was I born, and for this came I into the world; that I should give testimony to the truth. Every one that is of the truth, hears my voice." In response to Jesus, Pilate answered, "What is truth?"

Of course, having the very incarnation of Truth in front of him, Pilate could rightly have asked, "What is truth?" and then might have learned at the feet of Jesus. But that was not the motivation of the question. His was a rhetorical question. By asking "What is truth?" Pilate meant there was nothing that could be called truth. The only truth Pilate recognized at that moment was the truth of the mob outside his doors. Whether it was right or wrong to comply with the desires of the mob simply did not enter into Pilate's thinking.

This conflict between principle and pragmatism is a conflict which we often find in our own lives. The question is usually not, what is right? We generally know that. The question is, will we do what is right? Will we be guided by principle or by pragmatism?

Our society today is ruled by a tyranny of pragmatism. We are told that food should be withheld from the terminally ill because it is easier for everyone. We are told that if unwanted babies are aborted, then we won't need to build so many jails to house criminals later on. We are told that we should go along to get along, and not upset anyone by daring to speak an offensive truth.

It often seems that pragmatism is wisdom; that we should do the easy thing, the expedient thing; and perhaps we will live to fight another day, a far off day when principle might win out. However, pragmatism is not true wisdom, because it does not stand up over time. Between the two men who stood there that day, Jesus and Pilate, who won in the end?

The gains that are achieved by pragmatism are only for this moment,

this hour, this day. Pragmatism is never a cry that stirs men's souls for long. No general has ever rallied his troops by telling them that they will take the easy way out. No president has ever inspired his people by hewing blindly to poll results.

Disbelief may carry someone through a day, but it will never carry anyone through life. It is never the unbelievers who triumph in the end, because unbelievers have no reason to push on against all odds toward their goal.

It is principle which stands up over time. It was through belief in a principle that a ragtag group of twelve men converted the world. It was through belief in a principle that they were willing to give up all of themselves.

As the Scriptures tell us, "Without a vision, the people perish."

It can safely be said that home schooling is not pragmatic. The pragmatic approach is to turn children over to public schools to be educated. Doing so saves a great deal of time, money, and aggravation. Instead of staying home and teaching the children, both parents can be out in the working world, and so maximize their earning potential. Making a choice to home school usually means less money for vacations, less money for cars, clothes, and houses. It means less money for the parents in their retirement accounts. It is definitely not a pragmatic decision.

It is a decision that parents make out of principle, because they too wish to "testify to the truth."

The world, the media—these are the stand-ins for the mob today. The world rarely gathers outside our window and loudly clamors for us to do what is right. No, it clamors for us to do what is wrong, or rather, to deny that anything is wrong. We can go along with the world as Pilate did; we can turn our backs on untruths and injustice and pretend they have nothing to do with us. Or, we can travel another path. A path trod so many years ago by a suffering but unbroken Galilean.

Avoiding Overindulgence

by Ginny Seuffert

An Illinois native planned to move to her husband's native Africa at some point in the future to raise any children they might have. This news started a lively conversation around our dinner table. "Why," we asked, "would you consider raising children in Africa with all the civil unrest and rampant disease on that continent?" Her answer went right to the point: "I never saw an African child cry who was not in pain."

Middle-class American children, who enjoy better health, the benefits of a peaceful society, and more material comfort than any children in the history of the world, often seem miserable. According to my friend, African children laugh and play the day away and are grateful for the tiniest favor, despite often living in what we would describe as grinding poverty. How can this be?

When we seek to make our children continually happy by giving them all the material things that they demand, are we unwittingly teaching them to be self-centered, greedy, and dissatisfied? The evidence confirms the Biblical admonition that we should not store up for ourselves the world's treasures. Nor should we give them to our children.

Even the modern secular world is troubled by over-indulged children. Recently, I spotted a brochure for childcare workers, which claimed:

"Overindulgence of children has become a serious issue leading children and teens to conduct-disorder symptoms. ...Their overindulgences lead children to develop ... a life without boundaries, balance, and conscience. The complications of overindulging children include symptoms of conduct disorder, acute self-centeredness, intense detachment leading to anger and resentment fueling misbehavior, excessive dependency, 'it's-all-about-me' entitlement, manipulation, loss of self-esteem, missing social skills and impulsiveness."

If a secular organization is alarmed about the level of selfishness in our young people, we faithful Catholic parents should be alert and concerned. We will remain calm, however, if we keep some simple ideas in mind. The

following few easy-to-implement tips will go a long way in guarding against overindulgence.

Do not allow children to demand certain clothing.

Preschool teachers report that toddlers, especially girls, are concerned about fashion and are very aware of what others think about what they are wearing. Moms of three and four-year old daughters report that the girls often change clothes half a dozen times during the day, leaving discarded garments on the floor. Some boys apparently will insist on wearing super hero costumes for days at a time. These practices must be halted for at least four reasons.

First, it makes extra work for mom. Second, with the exception of "Sunday best," preschool children should be so busy playing and learning that they are oblivious to the clothes on their back. Third, it encourages the "princess (or superhero) syndrome" where little children look cute to get attention, instead of behaving well. Finally, although it seems pretty harmless, changing clothing often and demanding to wear certain outfits, is an example of a child exerting his or her will over that of the parent.

Begin the habit of laying out appropriate clothing before bedtime. Deal with objections in a matter-of-fact manner. "We do not wear our Easter dress to the playground. Tomorrow you are wearing play clothes." Give one warning about changing outfits without permission. If the warning is ignored, box up the clothes and put them out of reach.

Maintain control over the toy box.

American children have way too many toys and, because they know they will be replaced upon demand, they do not take very good care of them. Some children become selfish with their toys and refuse to allow others to play with them. A few simple ideas will help children develop a generous spirit about their belongings.

First, go through all the toys. Toss the broken ones, and box the forgotten

ones to be given to charity. If the toddlers object, explain, "You have so many toys you never play with. We are going to give them to children who do not have any toys." Be firm.

Find a shelf or bin for the remaining items. Make sure the children return them to the place they belong after play time. Try to buy toys that encourage cooperative playtime, like legos, blocks, sidewalk chalk, and simple board games.

Regarding sharing, the ordinary rule should be, "You always share with others." On the other hand, we all know cases where the other child only wants to cause trouble. Mom needs to decide each case individually, but the proper relationship is, "Billy, you should share your toys. Janey, you need to play nicely or find something else to do." If the argument continues, play time ends. Do that a couple of times, and the nonsense will become very rare indeed.

Do not buy your children something every time you shop.

Grocery shopping can be really boring for a child, and there is nothing wrong with buying a bag of pretzels or raisins to occupy them while you shop. The key is to know when a parent crosses the line from generous to spoiling the child.

There are three signs that may tip you off that your kindness might be eroding your child's character. First, if you buy something for the child every time you go into a shop—even as a reward—that is too much. Children must learn to obey God and their parents, not to receive some small treat or trinket, but because it is the right thing to do. A second sign is if your children have the habit of asking for something every time you take them shopping. Finally, the most obvious way to tell if you have an overindulged child, is how he or she accepts "no" for an answer. If he screams, cries, or throws a tantrum, you need to take a serious break from buying them anything at all.

Reward your children for good behavior with your praise. Help them develop appropriate Christian attitudes about their toys and clothing. Let them realize that earthly happiness comes from time spent with those we love, not material things.

Conferences

Many state and local groups are now sponsoring their own conferences, inviting various Catholic vendors and curriculum providers. Seton is happy to participate as a vendor. For more information, see our website at www.setonhome.org/conferences, or email conferences@setonhome.org.

Washington, DC. June 11-12, 2010 (Fri./Sat.) 9th Annual Immaculate Heart of Mary National Home School and Parent Conference. Dulles Expo Center North Hall, Chantilly, VA. Speakers include Fr. Joseph Mary Brown, Fr. Thomas Euteneuer, Fr. Daniel Gee, Fr. Thomas Longua, Fr. Frank Papa, Fr. Matthew Zuberbueler, Fr. Edward Connolly, Dr. Mary Kay Clark, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Dr. Catherine Moran, Dr. Robert Moynihan, Mr. Dale Ahlquist, Mrs. Terry Arnold, Mrs. Laura Berquist, Mr. Joseph Pearce, Mr. Brendan McGuire, Mrs. Belinda Mooney, Mr. John Jalsevac, Mr. Raymond de Souza, Mr. Christopher Check, Mr. Sal Ciresi, Mrs. Colleen Billing, Capt. Guy Gruters, and Mr. Michael Kalscheur. Info: 540-636-1946 or www.ihmconference.org.

Lansing, MI. June 18-19, 2010 (Fri./Sat.). Michigan Catholic Home Educators 16th Annual "It's Great to be Catholic!" Family and Home Education

Seminar, Book and Curriculum Fair, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave (at Cedar), Lansing, MI. Fri.: 6 PM - 9:30 PM; Sat.: 8 AM - 4:30 PM. Speakers include Mrs. Ginny Seuffert. Info: Kelley at 248-828-0135 or mchemails@gmail.com or www.homeschoolcatholic.org.

Orange, NJ. June 19, 2010 (Sat.). 2nd Annual Sacred H.E.A.R.T. (Homeschooler's Educational Alliance of Roman Catholics in the Tristate Area) Convention St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and School, 94 Ridge Street, Orange, NJ. 8 AM (Mass) - 5 PM. Info: Peach at 732-388-9719 or dphomeline@msn.com or www.heartconvention.org.

Cleveland, OH. June 25-26, 2010 (Fri.-Sat.) Immaculate Heart of Mary Cleveland Home School and Parent Conference 2010, St. Adalbert Church - Keller Center, 66 Adalbert Street, Berea, OH. Fri.: 4 PM - 9 PM; Sat.: 9 AM - 4 PM. Info: 540-636-1946 or cleveland@ihmconference.org or www.ihmconference.org/clevelandhome

Alhambra, CA. June 26, 2010 (Sat.). SCCHE (Southern California Catholic Home Educators) 11th Annual Conference and Curriculum Fair, Sacred Heart Retreat Center, 920 E. Alhambra

Rd., Alhambra, CA. Curriculum fair: Sat. after 8:30 AM Mass - 6 PM. Registration info: Rita at 714-271-1272 or msg4prk@sbcglobal.net or www.scchehomepage.com.

Denver, CO. July 9-10, 2010 (Fri.-Sat.) Rocky Mountain Catholic Home Educators Conference, St. Thomas More Parish, 8035 South Quebec Street Centennial, CO. Fri.: 3 PM - 8:30 PM; Sat.: after 7:30 AM Mass - 5 PM. Info: info@rmchec.org or www.rmchec.org.

Phoenix, AZ. July 16-17, 2010 (Fri.-Sat.) 2010 Our Lady of Guadalupe-Phoenix Home School Conference (Sponsored by the Sacred Heart Home Educators), The Phoenix Diocesan Pastoral Center, 400 E. Monroe Street Phoenix, AZ. Fri.: 6 PM - 9:30 PM; Sat.: 8 AM - 6 PM. Info: Veronica at 623-516-4917 or olghsc@cox.net.

Tampa, FL. July 16-17, 2010 (Fri.-Sat.) Immaculate Heart of Mary Tampa Home School and Parent Conference 2010, Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin Street. Fri.: 2 PM - 8 PM; Sat.: 9 AM - 4 PM. Info: 540-636-1946 or tampa@ihmconference.org www.ihmconference.org/tampa

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Pope Benedict XVI at Fatima

We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete. Here there takes on new life the plan of God which asks humanity from the beginning: "Where is your brother Abel [...] Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!" (Gen 4:9). Mankind has succeeded in unleashing a cycle of death and terror, but failed in bringing it to an end... In sacred Scripture we often find that God seeks righteous men and women in order to save the city of man and he does the same here, in Fatima, when Our Lady asks: "Do you want to offer yourselves to God, to endure all the sufferings which he will send you, in an act of reparation for the sins by which he is offended and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?" (*Memoirs of Sister Lúcia*, I, 162).

At a time when the human family was ready to sacrifice all that was most sacred on the altar of the petty and selfish interests of nations, races, ideologies, groups and individuals, our Blessed Mother came from heaven, offering to implant in the hearts of all those who trust in her the Love of God burning in her own heart. At that time it was only to three children, yet the example of their lives spread and multiplied, especially as a result of the travels of the Pilgrim Virgin, in countless groups throughout the world dedicated to the cause of fraternal solidarity. May the seven years which separate us from the centenary of the apparitions hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

