

# BAYLEY BULLETIN

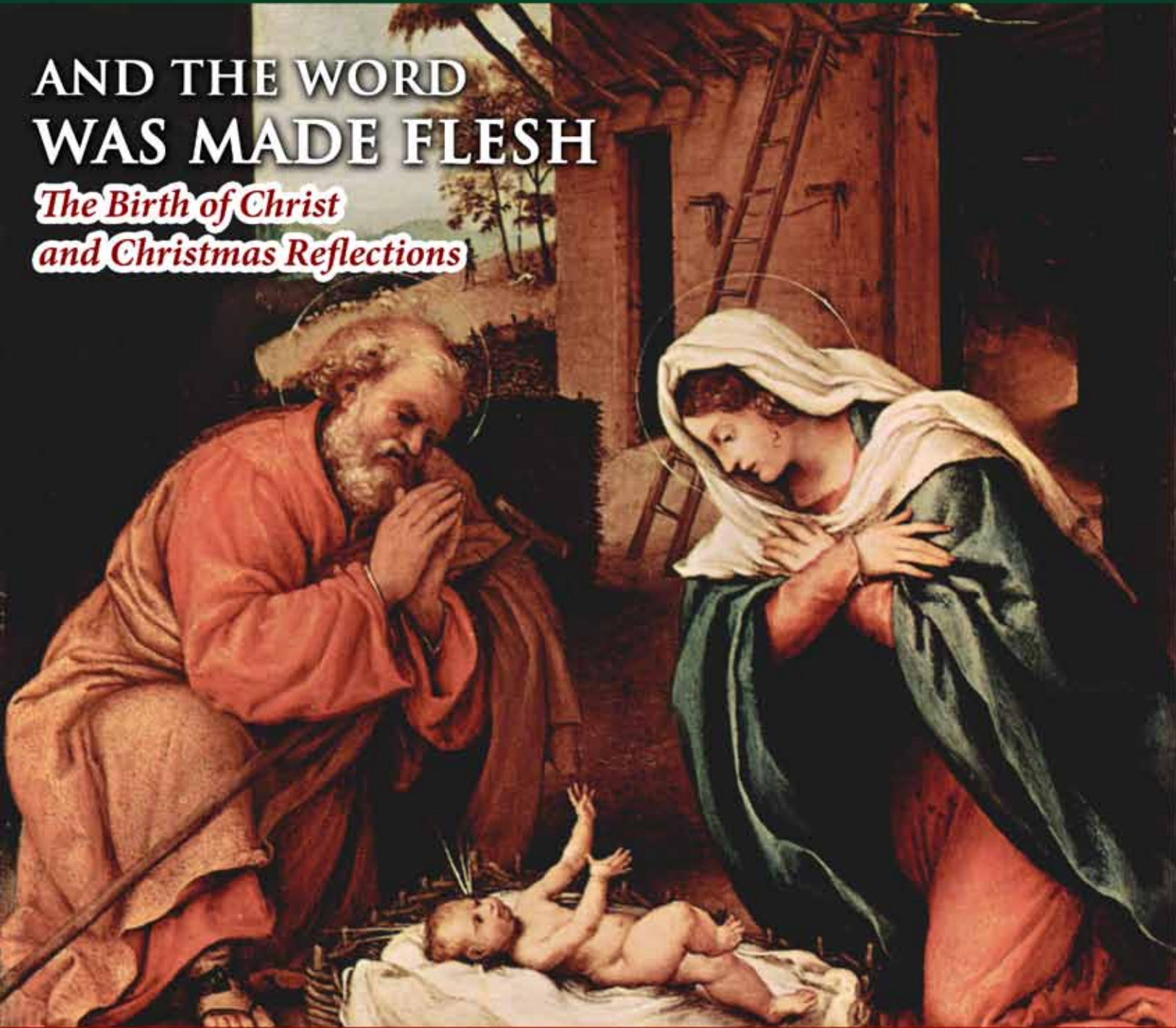
The Quarterly Newsletter of Seton Home Study High School

Christmas 2010

Volume I

## AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

*The Birth of Christ  
and Christmas Reflections*



*Merry Christmas!*



# SETON HOME STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

BAYLEY BULLETIN  
CHRISTMAS 2010

## Editor

Eric Kraske

## Contributors

Bob Wiesner  
(*Graduation Counselor*)  
Christine Smitha  
(*English Counselor*)

## Graphic Design/Layout

Joe Sparks

## Academic Counseling

(540) 636-1429

## Admissions

(866) 280-1930

## Admissions Director

Eric Kraske

## Standardized Testing

(540) 622-5549

## Grading

(540) 622-5525

## Seton Home Study High School

1350 Progress Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630  
(540) 636-9990

# Merry Christmas

...from the Counseling Department

"It's that time of year when the world falls in love. Every song you hear seems to say 'Merry Christmas! May your New Year dreams come true.'" --lyrics from The Christmas Waltz

Amongst all the Christmas carols and hymns that I love and sing with nostalgic pleasure each year, the Christmas Waltz always makes me thrill a little. It's a simple song, but I've always loved it because it absolutely captures the joy and allure of the Christmas season. Sure, it never mentions anything about the birth of our Savior, but its glad melody and sweeping rhythm evoke a delight only possible for souls who know (despite appearances to the contrary) that all in the world is well, that creation has been redeemed, and that life has been elevated and beautified by the God-made-Man.

Two thousand years after the fact, Christmas is just as breath-taking as it ever was. Despite the fact that the season is hugely over-commercialized, you can't help but experience that thrill in your heart as Advent makes its way toward Bethlehem. As cliché as the sights and sounds may seem, they nonetheless assert their appropriateness to this time of year, and give us a pleasure that only Christmas can invest in them.

Thus, I always long for a white Christmas. At any other time of year, snow is a pretty inconvenience, but at Christmas, its hushed descent is nature's reverence for the Birth of the King, making the earth new and pure as our own hearts prepare for the arrival of our Lord. I can never wait for the Christmas lights to go up on the houses down the street because they make me think of the whole world alert and ready for the Christ-child, lighting His way back into the world as the stars of old once led the Wise Men to Him.

Undoubtedly, each of you has his own favorite memories, sights, sounds, smells of the season. I think of freshly cut Christmas greens, the smell of wrapping paper, the snap of a fire on the hearth, the taste of hot chocolate, and, of course, the delight of a Christmas tree. All of these things are relatively ordinary, but because Christ is born and Christmas is here, they suddenly acquire a magical quality.

I also think of extra prayers said before the crèche, a little extra money placed in the collection for the poor, and less grumbling noticed at chore time. Somehow, everything is easier, and everyone is nicer at Christmas. It's not quite so hard to shovel the neighbor's driveway, and I actually smile and say hello to strangers. You see, the whole world really is in love at Christmas, just like the song says. The whole world is in love with its Maker, with itself, and with each one of us. Charity infuses everything at this festive time of year. Maybe this year, we can let the King of Love reign in our hearts with enough grace to last until next Christmas, so that Christian love and joy will become our new way of life. As I wish this for myself, so "this song of mine in three-quarter time wishes you and yours the same thing too!" Merry Christmas!



*Mrs. Smitha*

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SHS High School senior Mary Schillinger (middle) and her family comprise the Alleghany String Band. She has toured across the country playing guitar, keyboard, upright bass and several other instruments! For more info visit [www.alleghanystringband.com](http://www.alleghanystringband.com)



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Mr. Bob Wiesner

your coming applications. God bless!

We have reached a sort of dead zone for college applications; early decision deadlines have come and gone and the regular decision deadlines would begin in February. So, for all you Juniors and Seniors thinking about college, RELAX! Eat turkey or goose or ham, sleep in (subject of course to parental oversight), watch "It's a Wonderful Life," "Scrooge" and "A Christmas Story" and make sure your transcripts are in order for