

BAYLEY BULLETIN

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seton Home Study High School

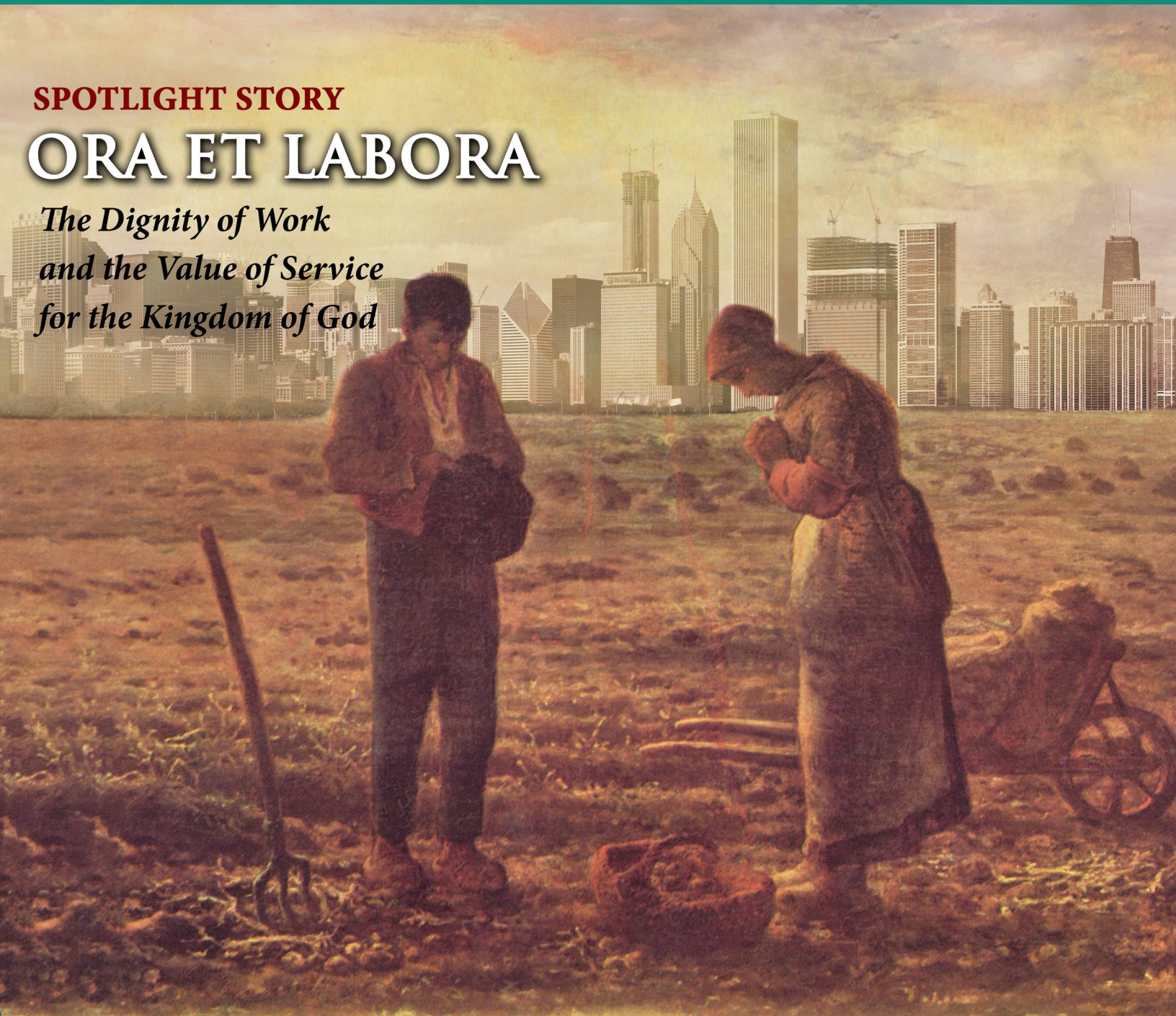
Issue 3

Volume I

SPOTLIGHT STORY

ORA ET LABORA

*The Dignity of Work
and the Value of Service
for the Kingdom of God*



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



THE MODEL WORKER



IHM TEEN PROGRAM

SETON HOME STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

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Cover photo of city courtesy of Daniel Schwen

The Dignity of Work

Education is the acquisition of knowledge, principles, and skills. Work is their application.

The Roman philosopher Seneca (5 BC – 65 AD) has been credited with the familiar phrase, “luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.” While education is that preparation, the opportunity is found in our chosen field of work. Thomas Jefferson echoed this sentiment by claiming “I’m a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.”

Each generation has new definitions of work and new challenges in determining the relationship between work, family, and personal life. At the time of the industrial revolution (1891), Pope Leo XIII issued the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (Of New Things) which dealt with the condition of workers and the economy as a whole. That landmark encyclical was revisited by Pope Pius XI in 1931 and Pope John XXIII in 1961. In 1981 Pope John Paul II issued the encyclical *Laborem Exercens* (On Human Work) and, in 1991, *Centesimus Annus* (Hundredth Year), recognizing the changes in work brought about by technology and shifting political and economic reality.

It is incumbent on each of us to provide for the economic needs of our families, making compensated work a necessity. Many in previous generations became career employees of companies that provided compensation as well as health and retirement benefits. That scenario is becoming less common in our modern economy.

The current economic climate requires each of us to become more self-reliant in our choice of work in the same way that home schooling families have become more self-reliant in education. Each of us needs to evaluate our talents and interests, pursue an education which will hone them into marketable skills, and apply those skills to both making a living and making a difference in our community. Where there is no “cookie-cutter” job available, we must look for ways to market services that create economic benefit to our family and community.

David McCullough, a Pulitzer prize-winning author and historian, has rightly claimed that “Real success is finding your lifework in the work you love”. There is such a calling for each of us; however, we must keep all aspects of life in balance. We must realize that we work to live and work to provide for our families – we do not live to work. A good work ethic, perseverance, dedication and tenacity will generally contribute to the economic success of either a worker or an entrepreneur. It should be remembered, however, that those who neglect the other aspects of life are bound to fail in the higher sense. It is only as part of a family and community that we will reap the true rewards of work.

Pope John Paul II said it best in his 1981 encyclical *Laborem Exercens* (On Human Work):

“Through work man must earn his daily bread and contribute to the continual advance of science and technology and, above all, to elevating unceasingly the cultural and moral level of the society within which he lives in community with those who belong to the same family. Man is made to be in the visible universe an image and likeness of God himself, and he is placed in it in order to subdue the earth. From the beginning therefore he is called to work. Work is one of the characteristics that distinguish man from the rest of creatures, whose activity for sustaining their lives cannot be called work. Only man is capable of work, and only man works, at the same time by work occupying his existence on earth. Thus work bears a particular mark of man and of humanity, the mark of a person operating within a community of persons. And this mark decides its interior characteristics; in a sense it constitutes its very nature.”

In other words, it is part of the God-given dignity of man’s nature that he should work and create even as God Himself worked and created in bringing this world to existence. Though the work environment may, and in fact, does continue to shift around us, the individual who offers his talents for the benefit of those around him, and who puts his honesty and his full effort to his task will necessarily profit his community and his own life, for that is how God planned it should be.



Statue of St. Joseph at Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Croatia

C COLLEGE PREP

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Mr. Bob Wiesner

The question of employment for home schooled students has occasionally arisen with the Counselors here at Seton. Usually our students are able to find rewarding jobs rather easily. Their school schedules allow for more flexibility with their time, so employers find that they are able to fill shifts most teens are not able to work. Another important avenue to pursue are internships, usually during the summer. These provide valuable experience for a career you are considering.

However, even if our students are unable to find a job outside their homes, our students have been very creative in making their own jobs. Seton students have been successful at starting and running their own businesses, often even making enough money to fund their college educations! Some of the more enterprising students have become cattle breeders, show horse breeders, dog groomers, working artists and rabbit and egg farmers. These are just a few examples of the many opportunities awaiting any enterprising home schooled student!

Bob Wiesner (540) 636-2238 bweisner@setonhome.org



Photo courtesy of Luis Garcia

SAINT CAJETAN

(1480-1547)

Patron saint of the unemployed
and
job-seekers!

Saint Cajetan, pray for us.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

Blessed St. Joseph, patron of all working people, obtain for me the grace to labor in a spirit of penance for the atonement of my many sins. Help me to be conscientious in my work so that I may give as full a measure as I have received. May I labor in a spirit of thankfulness and joy, ever mindful of all the gifts I have received from God that enable me to perform these tasks. Permit me to work in peace, patience, and moderation, keeping in mind the account I must one day give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vanity of success, so fatal to the work of God. Glorious St. Joseph, may my labors be all for Jesus, all through Mary, and all after your holy example in life and in death. Amen.

Prayer composed by Blessed Pope John XXIII



Childhood of Christ by
Gerrit van Honthorst

STUDENT Achievements



SHS High School Sophomore Clara Shanley, won the "Best Actress" award for her lead role in "Cinders", in the 2010 One Act Play Competition, hosted by the Youth Ministry Office in the Diocese of Arlington, VA.



Current junior Luis Boothe, recently earned the Billy Mitchell award and attained the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol.



Lauryn Green (front of bottom row) recently returned from mission work in Jamaica where she served with the Missionaries of the Poor under Father Ho Lung.

ALUMNI Profile

CLASS OF 2010

For this profile, SHS High School caught up with alumna Kaleigh Wiley. Thanks Kaleigh!

I spent the summer taking an Emergency Medical Technician course and graduated as unofficial valedictorian of a class of about thirty. I'm now running as a certified EMT-B with a local rescue squad, and hope to take an Advanced Life Support course over the summer at a nearby community college which offers a two-year paramedic program.

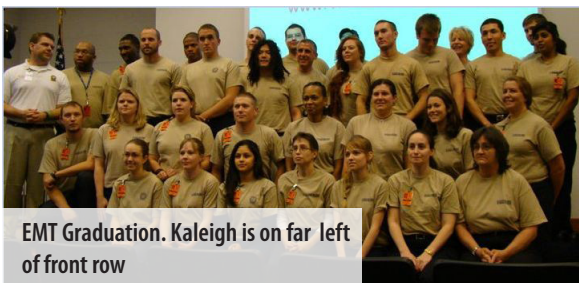
Although far less exciting than the aforementioned activities, my first semester of college also went quite well. I am attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, where I received a Presidential Scholarship covering four years of tuition, room and board, and books. I took 17 credit-hours and plan to double major in chemistry and biochemistry, so I suppose it's fairly easy to conclude which course was my favorite! Taking the accelerated class made me more grateful than ever for the rigorous preparation I'd had in high school; the regular freshman chemistry course is taken over two semesters and taking it in double-time was a challenge. This arrangement, however, freed up my spring semester for research and a more advanced chemistry class, both of which promise to be fantastic experiences. Technical Writing consisted primarily of composing a ten-page research paper. To my surprise, I discovered that Seton English had acclimatized me so much to writing research papers that working on this one was actually enjoyable; although I was the only freshman in the class, I felt more than adequately equipped to excel in it. Despite a struggle with calculus, and due largely to prayer, I made A's in all my classes. In my almost nonexistent spare time, I joined the pre-medical club, which coordinates medical experiences for students and frequently invites representatives of various medical schools to visit and meet with students.

I also became active with Catholic Campus Ministry, which became a home away from home to me.

I miss Seton very much - especially (somewhat to my surprise) the English courses. I hadn't realized to what extent Catholic philosophy had shaped my perspective of academics in general and how unconnected and incoherent learning is without it. Strangely, although my math and science courses were more difficult than in high school (the others were decidedly less demanding than Seton), it seemed that there was much less of a challenge to think critically; even the research paper required me merely to form a conclusion from available evidence. All in all, however, it has been a very successful semester.



EMT Graduation luncheon.
Kaleigh is second from left



EMT Graduation. Kaleigh is on far left
of front row



Fr. Daniel Gee, from Alexandria, VA, delivered a talk on confession during last year's Teen Program

COME JOIN SHS HIGH SCHOOL AT THE 10th ANNUAL IHM HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE

- Teen Program features inspiring talk and discussion sessions from noted Catholic figures
- Meet other SHS High School Students
- New! College Program features presentations from numerous Catholic colleges and universities

WHERE: THE HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES AIRPORT HOTEL

WHEN: JUNE 10-11 (Teen Program is Friday, June 10th)

For more information, please visit www.IHMConference.org

