

# BAYLEY BULLETIN

The Quarterly Newsletter of Seton Home Study High School

Christmas 2011

Volume II



**SPOTLIGHT STORY**

## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

**The Birth of Christ and  
the Gift of Time**

*Merry Christmas!*





# SETON HOME STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

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CHRISTMAS 2011

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*Photo of Christmas tree courtesy of Aurevilly*

## Spotlight Story

# NEW BEGINNINGS

Change is good, or at least the opportunity to change is good. Yes, we humans need our 'sameness,' our routines and rituals to keep us going in the midst of life's chaos, but we also need to know there's a chance for things to be different, a chance to start over. Though we're often tempted to mourn the days that won't come back, we need the days to turn, and the seasons to change because that possibility of something better offered by the future is what gives us hope.

That's why I'm so grateful for the calendar. God knew what He was doing when He created time, its cycles, and its passing. We all know how easy it is in our weakness to falter and fail, but we ought to consider how easy it is to pick ourselves up and begin anew. God has given us new days, new months, new seasons, new years over and over, so that no matter how many times we fall short, there are that many more chances for a new beginning.

With those new beginnings, we experience the relief of renewal in the comfort of familiarity, for we recognize old friends in the new days. We needn't fear the first snow because we knew the purity and joy of last year's first snow. The cycle of the calendar turns upon itself, ever new, ever the same. Again, this is why I say that God knew what He was doing when He gave us the gift of time.

So here we are at the beginning of a new year. The new liturgical year has just started with the beginning of Advent, and the new secular year is fast upon us, which ironically but happily begins just after the birthday of Jesus at Christmas. The first Christmas was in itself a new beginning, for God came to earth as a tiny baby to save the human race from the consequences of the original fall. Two thousand years later, we celebrate that event by welcoming the Christ Child into our own hearts as if for the first time each year while turning the next page in our own lives. Advent and Christmas and the New Year are as familiar to us as old clothes, but they present us with three brand new opportunities every year to make a change in our lives. As we sip our eggnog and listen to Christmas carols, thoughts of the coming year will undoubtedly cross our minds. Maybe there's a spiritual change we need to make such as setting aside more time for prayer or stopping an uncharitable habit. Maybe we need to recommit to doing schoolwork well and on time. Maybe it's as simple as deciding to get more sleep every night. Maybe it's all of the above.

The point is that now is our time. We've been offered a fresh start. It's time to make a new beginning. And while we reflect on the Gift given that silent night two millenia ago, we might also thank God for His gift of time, yet another instance of His redeeming grace.

- Mrs. Christine Smitha

## C OLLEGE PREP

## CORNER



Mr. Bob Wiesner

Following up on my last article, I would like to recommend an excellent book for those going off to college. Ignatius Press publishes *What We Can't Not Know*, by J. Budziszewski. The book is a very accessible guide to combating and refuting the perplexing stance of modern relativists. This book demonstrates that there is indeed absolute immutable truth and through the recognition of natural law we do have access to truth. You will find here cogent arguments for dealing with relativists, atheists, and any number of other -ists you might encounter in your life after your Seton graduation. I strongly urge you to place this book on your Christmas wish list!

Bob Wiesner is Seton's Graduation Counselor. He can be reached at 540-636-2238 or [bwiesner@setonhome.org](mailto:bwiesner@setonhome.org).

