



Seton Home



Study School

Volume XVII, Number 7



“Under the Magisterium of the Catholic Church”



July 2000

Good Saint Anne

Good Saint Anne, whose feast we celebrate on July 26th, is a special inspiration to us home schooling mothers. Because she is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the grandmother of Jesus Christ, she is known as the Patroness of Christian Mothers and Grandmothers.

The vocation of Catholic motherhood must be concerned primarily with raising our children in the Catholic Faith and developing a love and understanding of Jesus Christ. By word and example, we are to bring our children up in a life of holiness.

When her daughter Mary was born, Saint Anne knew she had a great responsibility to teach her daughter whom she certainly recognized was without stain of sin. What a challenge to teach the little Immaculate and Pure Mary!

Saint Anne must have known that her daughter was being prepared by God for something special. She took little Mary to the Temple for religious schooling when she was very young. We know that Saint Anne would never have left her there without spending time with her each and every day, continuing to instruct her little girl in the depths and insights of the Faith which only Saint Anne could do.

We home schooling parents know that each and every child has a place in God’s plan of salvation. Saint Anne can

help us to understand how we parents have a special primary responsibility to teach them the Faith which only we as parents can fulfill.

In the process of educating her daughter, Saint Anne was educated herself. Father John Hardon, a spiritual advisor for many Catholic home schooling parents, often speaks of the importance of family members being channels of grace to each other. So often we assume that the channels work mainly in one direction, from parents to children. The amazing lesson we Catholic home schooling parents have learned is that the grace flows from the children to us parents as well!

Saint Anne discovered when Mary was only a baby that her daughter would bring her closer to God and a life of holiness. The lesson we can learn from Saint Anne is that our children, in their innocent insights into the Faith as we teach them, often bring us closer to God. The second lesson, of course, is that the Immaculate and Pure Mary can bring us closer to her Son.

Saint Anne is often given the title Glorious Saint Anne because she gave her daughter to God so early in life. She can inspire us home schooling mothers to realize that our children are never too young to be taught the truths of the Faith. In fact, one of the surprises we often find is that our children can understand so much on a deeper level than we thought possible.

In the Litany of Good Saint Anne, we ask her under various titles to pray for us: St. Anne, miracle of patience, mother of confidence, mother of constancy, mother of prayer, mother of blessing.

O Glorious Saint Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke thee and with love for those who take seriously the responsibility to educate their children, I cast myself at thy feet, and humbly beg of thee to take our home schooling family under thy special protection.

O Good Saint Anne, give us the patience, the confidence, the constancy we need in our teaching. Help us to be a family of prayer. Be pleased to commend our home schooling to thy daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring our home schooling to a happy outcome. Particularly remember all the Catholic home schooling families and their special needs. Cease not to intercede for all of us that we may be granted the graces to be successful in educating our children in the Catholic Faith. Above all, obtain for my family the grace of one day beholding your Grandson face to face, and with thee and Mary and all the saints, of praising and blessing Him for all eternity. Amen.

- MKC

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Questions We Are Asked

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

How can I help my son focus on his work? He takes twice as long as he should, and learning seems to be a chore rather than a joy.

The first thing we need to remember is that the difficulty of learning is a result of Original Sin. It is built into human nature. Learning is not something that comes easily to anyone, as a rule. Those who learn quickly or “easily” have conquered themselves. They have learned the tricks of self-discipline and study skills.

Keep this in prayer. Your whole family should be remembering the study problems for all the children in the family.

The first thing you need to analyze is: what is causing your son to take so long? Is it distractions in the house or by siblings? If so, move your son to a quieter, less distracting location. Some children are distracted by whatever is going on around them.

Consider buying or building a desk with front and side boards two or three feet higher than the desktop. You see them in libraries for study areas. These keep out noise and distractions and force the student to focus on the materials on his desk.

Remember that boys need frequent exercise. The younger he is, the more frequent his exercise breaks need to be. Get a jump rope for your boy to jump with between each class. My boys loved to jump

rope and learned fantastic tricks, at all kinds of speeds. Have other exercise equipment available which can be used in your basement or in the driveway.

Give your son chores between classes. He can put the clean laundry away between religion and English, turn on the washing machine between English and math, and sweep the dining room floor between math and history.

We provide a study skills course to students in grades 7 through 12. (We will send this to younger students upon request.) Review this with your child. We present ideas to limit distractions. We also cover study techniques.

One study technique is to study the outline of the chapter, or to make an outline of the chapter. Understanding the big picture before studying the details helps a child to learn the concepts.

Most people learn best by using a variety of techniques, such as reading the lesson aloud, taping the reading of the lesson, listening to the tape, writing out important words or phrases or definitions, outlining, highlighting important words and ideas, discussing ideas with parents, and looking in a reference book for supplemental details. Answering review questions at the end of a chapter, either in writing or orally on a tape recorder, strengthens the concepts.

If you have a home computer, you might want to try letting him do written work with a word processor. Many young children, especially boys, have a hard time writing with a pen or pencil. Letting him use a word processor allows him to concentrate on getting his thoughts down, rather than concentrating on the mechanics of pushing a pencil.

How important is the standardized testing?

We home schooling families realize that with the private tutoring method, by parents who know and love their children, home schooled

Remember that boys need frequent exercise. The younger he is, the more frequent his exercise breaks need to be.

children are learning more and doing better than children being taught in a group situation where individual needs cannot be met. Home schooled children are averaging about the 84th percentile as compared with public school kids averaging at the 50th percentile.

While it may not be important to you as an individual home schooling family, it does send a message to the educators and the politicians that we are doing a good job. The results are important also to many home schooling fathers, and relatives, who are not sure that home schooling is “up to public school standards,” as recently noted by the President.

The high profile academic successes of home schooling have caught the attention of even the establishment media. No less an authority on the conventional wisdom than *U.S. News & World Report* recently editorialized in favor of home schooling. *U.S. News* says, "While these results [of home schooling] may not be definitive, they certainly suggest some obvious implications for public education. We have entered a period of great experimentation in the way we teach the young—'a thousand flowers are blooming'—and we ought to push forward on as many fronts as we can. The more leeway the public school

The lesson plans do contain much content, and are more than just an assignment list. We also include teaching helps and subject content.

authorities and the unions give to education, the better. Home schools are joining the ranks of charter schools and vouchers as critical paths toward a better educational environment." But this positive acceptance will last only as long as home schooling is clearly academically superior.

Here in Virginia, according to the newspapers, many if not most of the schools are on "provisional" status regarding their accreditation because of low standardized test scores. This means that state colleges are accepting students from non-accredited schools.

Standardized tests also reassure home schooling parents that the curriculum is covering certain basics at certain grade levels. Sometimes, when you think that your home schooling is not going as well as you hoped, it is reassuring to find that your children are learning at least as much as they would learn in a traditional school.

There are specific texts and workbooks which can help with test preparation. Seton is currently in the process of purchasing new test practice books that will cover more subject areas in one workbook, are more frequently updated, and are less expensive. Though standardized tests are purely objective, multiple choice mainly, children do better when taking the standardized tests if they can become familiar with the methods. They can develop test-taking skills and increase their score by a substantial percent. Later, when students are taking SAT tests for college entrance or scholarships, they should do very well.

I admit I don't use the lesson plans very much. Do you think I am missing anything?

The lesson plans do contain much content, and are more than just an assignment list. It may seem to you that just going through the books day by day is sufficient, and that you don't need what is in the lesson plans. However, we work hard each year to include ideas in the lesson plans to help parents teach the material, or to add subject content. Also, in cases where we don't have a Catholic book, we put the Catholic viewpoint in the lesson plans.

High school students will not do well on their tests if they do not use the lesson plans. Many times we see students who miss questions on a test because the information was

included in the lesson plans rather than in the textbook. Our American History lesson plans are filled with additional supplemental material from our historian. We also have added graphics, which we hope will lead students to find more paintings at their local library.

At the elementary level, we are working each year to add more material to the lesson plans. One thing which parents have been asking about is helping them to learn music. A music teacher is helping us add lessons to learn music in our lesson plans. We have purchased reproducible music lessons for each grade level. With the help of our music teacher, these should go into the curriculum for the 2001 school year.

This year, we added several pages in the lesson plans for the elementary lessons. In physical education, we have added information on the President's physical fitness program. In English, we present extra information and exercises on diagrams. For the young children in first grade, we have several pages on readiness activities for children to learn handwriting.

If we need to update anything in our textbooks, but are not yet ready to go to press, we will add updated information in the lesson plans, as we did this year with the food pyramid for health.

We are starting to add information in our Lesson Plans about Internet Links to sites to help students with more drills or activities. For instance, Saxon math publishers have a web site for math activities for children using their textbook. We not only intend to give this information to parents, we intend to develop our own web site to cover supplemental activities.

Parent Access Program

We are currently in the final stages of finishing up our Seton Parent Access Program for the 2000 school year. Most of the families on our program (families receiving books in August and September) will be receiving this CD with their books. If you do not receive the Parent Access Program CD with your books, it will be available for download from our website.

What is the Seton Parent Access Program? It is a combination of things. One main feature is that it has all the answer keys for grades kindergarten through eight in electronic format. These answer keys can be quickly accessed on the computer or can be printed out if you prefer a hard copy. An exciting facet of having electronic answer keys is that they can be automatically updated from our Internet website. If we revise an answer key or release a new answer key, you can automatically download it to be sure that you have the newest version of all the keys.

Families who receive the electronic answer keys will not receive the printed answer keys. We have found that virtually all of our families have home computers, so this will not be a problem for most people. However, if you do not have a home computer, we will be happy to mail you the printed answer keys.

Besides the answer keys, the Parent Access Program simplifies and adds to some of the functions currently on our website. For example, by using simple pull-down menus, you will be able to quickly check grades, the status of papers sent for grading, and book shipments. You can also use pull-down menus to quickly

access areas of the Seton website, such as e-mail addresses or Seton Educational Media.

We have also included on the CD all of the Seton newsletters from the years 1996 through 1999, which you can either read on the computer or print out.

This Parent Access Program is something of a first step toward giving you better service through automation. The Internet gives us the ability to serve you more quickly and simply than ever. For example, we are working toward putting all of our quarter report forms and tests on-line where you can download them, rather than having to call and ask us to mail these items to you. We should also soon have the facility to let you send in Quarter Report Forms electronically, rather than by mail. We hope to combine this with on-line testing which would give students their grades immediately upon completing a test.

In the next month or so, we hope to implement a system of e-mailing families when their books are shipped. We will e-mail to you the UPS tracking number of your books so that you can go to the UPS website and find out when the books were shipped, where they are, and when they will be delivered to you.

We are very excited about the new and services that technology will allow us to bring to home schooling. We want to know your thoughts about how technology should be used in the service of home schooling. To comment, send us e-mail at comments@setonhome.org.

Last month we asked families to send us their e-mail addresses, and the response has been very good. If you haven't sent your e-mail address to Seton, please send an e-mail with your name, your family number and your zip code to email@setonhome.org. Or log on to our website at www.setonhome.org and fill out the on-line e-mail form.

The screenshot displays the Seton Parent Access Program interface. The main window features a table with the following data:

| First Name | Last Name | Subject | Quarter | Page | Full/Partial Pack | Date Rec'd |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|------|-------------------|------------|
| MICHAEL | CLARK | Lat | 1 | NO | FULL | 04/14/2000 |
| | | Lat | 2 | NO | FULL | 04/14/2000 |

Below the table is a tree view of subjects and grades, including English, History, Math, Phonics, Reading, Religion, and Science/Health. A secondary window displays a PDF document titled "How America Grew (HIST5_1.PDF)". Another window shows a webpage for "Seton Home Study School" with a portrait of a woman and the text "The Magisterium of the Catholic Church".

Charles Anthony Untz

by Fr. Constantine Belisarius

For March's newsletter, I wrote an article about St. Joseph, entitled "Shadow of the Eternal Father." On Monday, March 20, St. Joseph came to guide one of our Seton Home Study School twelfth graders into the presence of His Divine Son, Who welcomed him with open arms, an embrace, and a "well done, good and faithful servant." The proof of this would seem to be that our newly departed senior has been working miracles for those who ask him for his help. To be a saint is not to be a nice guy that everyone likes because of a pleasing countenance and an easy smile. A saint is much more. A saint has a radiance about him or her that is rooted in God and his relationship with Him, and shines forth in the many virtues of a very holy person.

Charles Anthony Francis Untz was two weeks beyond his eighteenth birthday when he was struck by a car whose driver should not have been driving, thrown two hundred feet into a ditch, never regaining consciousness before his death two hours later, after the Sacrament of Extreme Unction and Conditional Absolution. He had been standing in front of the mailbox of his own house in Andover, Minnesota, when he was hit. An intriguing note is introduced though, when we learn that he was seen at Mass in his parish church, miles away in another town, at the very time of the accident. His mother believes he was bi-locating. Why would someone think that about an eighteen-year-old?

Charles was an extraordinary person. I use the past tense because he is now much more extraordinary in heaven than he was here on earth. Charles was a man of rock solid virtue and palpable goodness. He was faithful to all of his commitments. He loved God, most especially in the Blessed Sacrament, with Whom he kept all night vigils. He loved our Lady whom he called "My Lady" and wore her scapular. He loved the Mass which he served with such reverence and grace-filled presence that anyone who saw it, never forgot "that young

fellow who seems to know that he is in the presence of God." He loved the Church for which he had all the generous concern he expended on Youth 2000 and its operations, on mowing church lawns, or constructing doors for struggling priories, or any other service he could offer with his many talents. He loved priests who saw in his eyes a veneration for their Sacred office that made them want to rise to the level of that veneration. He loved our Holy Father on whose 9th anniversary of the attempt on his life, he received his First Holy Communion in 1990.

Charles Untz was an Eagle Scout, who was not afraid to write on his project proposal: "My life purpose is to do the will of God. I feel He is leading me to be a Priest or Brother in the Franciscan Order. My ambition in life is to become a saint. There is nothing harder to achieve than this, but I will continue to strive for it." He seems to have been the perfect Catholic Eagle Scout. For his leadership project, he wrote a manual for Mass servers and used it to direct others in training altar servers who are noted in his parish as exceptionally well-trained.

At the prayer service the night before his funeral, his spiritual father spoke openly of the heroic nature of his virtues, stating his conviction that he could be canonized a saint. At his funeral Mass, the homilist concurred with the sentiments of the night before. "In a short time, he was perfected." I am also inclined to believe that Charles is a saint. What we must do is ask Charles to intercede for us and those for whom we pray, and then document those interventions. If we do our part, the rest is up to the Lord and Charles, in "giving sight to the blind, life to the dying, strength to the invalid and blessings in the face of catastrophes." Perhaps one day in the not too distant future, we will invoke St. Charles the Wonderworker. As we have seen in our lifetime, the process does not have to take a very long time – unless the miracles are few.

The Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, His Excellency Harry J. Flynn, took notice of Charles' life and death and wrote of him, "... his death also reminds us of the reality of the Communion of Saints. The ties that bind us in the Church do not end with bodily death. Bodily death will cancel out no one. Any one of us can look at the untimely death of that young man and wonder out loud to God: 'Why Charles? He was so good. He could have done so much.' And the Lord's silent reply would be: 'He can do more good from here.' The good friend of Epiphany parish and the possible future priest is gone from this earth, but he lives on in the Body of Christ."

For us at Seton, I think it is fair to say that developing young people like Charles is the specific difference between Catholic home schooling and other forms of education. Charles shared our ideals and was himself a proof that they work in just the way they are intended – making saints.

Editor's Note: The writer declares that the graces and other supernatural facts related as witnessing to the sanctity of Servants of God, other than those canonized or beatified by the Church, rest on human authority only; and in regard thereto, as in all things else, the writer submits without reserve to the infallible judgment of the Apostolic See which alone has power and authority to pronounce as to whom rightly belong the character and title of Saint or Blessed.



The 51st Difficulty

by Rev. Robert Hermley

One of the most meaningful stories I have ever come across is a fable that used to appear in the 9th Grade English book of our Catholic high schools. It was called "The 51st Dragon." It was an allegory of the kind Christ used when He taught people—you remember, sheep for people, and the sower of seed as Himself.

The story was one about a young boy who was dreadfully afraid to slay dragons (troubles, difficulties, problems). His dad took him to a boarding school which specialized in dragon slaying (like the old Catholic schools of the 1940's that taught us how to deal with troubles by living a good Catholic life by a dependence upon God, love of our faith, Confession every two weeks, belief in Christ in the Holy Eucharist, used discipline and even dared to make you memorize the Baltimore Catechism).

The boy begged the principal for a magic cap which would make him disappear if a dragon attacked. The Headmaster said that there was no such cap, but he promised to give the youth a magic word he could use to slay even very huge dragons. The boy was delighted and carefully wrote the magic word down and said it again and again until he fell asleep that night. The word was "Rumpleschnitz."

The next morning the principal had a group of boys who were seasoned dragon slayers accompany the boy into the woods to search for dragons. He advised the companions to look for a very tiny puff of smoke because that would indicate a small dragon and that would encourage the new pupil to strike.

The young boy trembled as he walked into battle, and all the way he mumbled, "Rumpleschnitz, Rumpleschnitz." As he approached the tiny dragon he said the magic word once more before he struck, and the head of the dragon flew ten feet into the air. It had worked!

The next day he went out on his own and began to seek larger and larger puffs of smoke. He began to cut off the tails of the dragons and attach them to his

coat to show how good he was getting. Each time before he struck a dragon he would say his magic word and this would assure him that each dragon head would fly farther than before.

One day he came upon a monstrous dragon who had fallen asleep. The dragon (the 50th he had encountered) was astounded but said in a stoic fashion, "Go ahead and slay me. My brother dragons have assured me that you cannot be beaten in battle; you are the champion dragon killer." The youth said, "Aren't you at least going to put up a fight?" "No," said the huge dragon. "It's no use. You'll kill me anyway, so you might as well do it." The boy said, "But if you don't fight me it won't be any fun, and besides I think I have forgotten my magic word." "What word?" asked the dragon pulling himself up to great form. "Well," said the boy, "I have a magic word which helps me slay dragons, and I think I have forgotten it." "Are you sure you have forgotten it," questioned the dragon collecting all of his strength and rearing up to strike. Sensing the danger, the boy drew his sword and struck. The beast's head flew much farther than ever before, but the boy was dumbfounded. "I didn't say the magic word," he repeated over and over.

In a daze he went to the principal's office to relate what had happened. The principal smiled and explained that there never was a magic word. He explained to the youth that he had made up the word to give him courage. The Headmaster explained that at any time any dragon could have crushed him like an egg. "Like an egg. Like an egg," the bewildered student kept repeating. He shook and shook all night.

The next morning his fellow students dragged him out of bed, and hoping to revive his former courage, they pointed him in the direction of a very tiny puff of smoke. He never returned, and some days later all his medals and clothing were found near that area. He was conquered by the 51st dragon. His bravado was skin deep. What an allegory! In real life, we all come across trials and difficulties every day of our lives. We all

have to face the world, the flesh and the devil day after day. There is no magic word to help us, but we do have our Catholic faith. We do have our Divine Lord to accompany us into battle with Satan. "Jesus I trust in Thee", said meaningfully can slay any difficulties the world or the devil can throw at us. "I can do all things in Him Who strengthens me," St. Paul tells us.

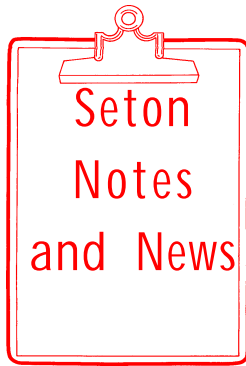
As home school parents, you must teach your children that with faith they can move mountains—that they are the future and that with a deep trust in God that home schooling is trying to inculcate, they are the ones chosen to bring the world back to the faith of our fathers. Their Confirmation made them soldiers of God, and a soldier lays down his life for the king. Our king is the King of Kings.

Our students are very special people. God is depending on them to populate the world with the truths of our faith that many modern texts are omitting. Home schooling avoids the red tape of grief counseling, drug investigators, pregnancy problems and pornographic-like novels and concentrates on the basics of learning. This is why home schoolers win contests, such as spelling bees, and can stand on their own two feet to defend family life, fatherhood and life. They slay Satanic dragons, earthly temptations, and face the difficulties of every day life with bravery rather than be one of the crowd.

Home schooling teaches children to stand up to difficulties and to forge ahead in a world that doesn't even know it's in trouble. When the world wakes up, our home schoolers will be there to reintroduce them to the faith of our fathers and to the faith of our American founders.

Fr. Robert Hermley is the chaplain of Seton Home Study School. His book Spring Can Last Forever is available from Seton Educational Media.

Fr. Hermley is considering leading a pilgrimage of Seton families to Rome and to Turin, Italy to view the Shroud of Turin, which is being exhibited to the public in this special Jubilee Year. The trip would most likely be in September. If you might be interested in joining this pilgrimage, you may contact Fr. Hermley at RHermley@Setonhome.org



Conferences

Information about Seton conferences is sent by mail to home schooling families on our mailing list in the state, and usually to surrounding states as well. Conferences include talks as well as the sale of Seton textbooks and supplemental books. If your support group is interested in having a conference, please call Mary Lou Warren at Seton.

Non-Seton Conferences

Many state and local groups are now sponsoring their own conferences, inviting various Catholic vendors and curriculum providers. Seton is happy to participate at these conferences as a vendor. Dr. Mary Kay Clark is often available to speak at these conferences. We also suggest as a speaker Ginny Seuffert, mother of twelve children and home schooling mother of many years. She is a favorite speaker who offers her home schooling tips with fun and humor.

The Seton Home Study

Newsletter

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Dr. Mary Kay Clark

Editor:
Kevin Clark

Upcoming conferences

Chicago, IL – July 8, 2000. Seton Catholic Family & Home Schooling conference. Textbooks for sale, curriculum manuals on display. Speakers: Father Hermley: Church Teachings on Home Schooling; Ginny Seuffert: Tips for Teaching; Dr. Mary Kay Clark: Home Schooling the High Schooler; Father James McLucas: The Father's Role in the Catholic Family. St. John Vianney Church. Pre-registration at \$15, \$20 per couple. Contact Seton www.setonhome.org; sem@setonhome.org; 540-636-9996; fax: 540-636-1602.

Manassas, VA – July 14 at 9 am to July 15 at 6 pm. Seton Book Fair. Free Admission. New and used Book Sale. Holy Family Catholic School, 5 miles from NACHE conference at Metz in Manassas. No registration required.

Beau Bridge, near Lafayette, LA – July 22, 2000. Catholic Family and Home Schooling Conference and Curriculum Fair. Sponsored by Traditional Catholic Home Schoolers of Acadiana. Mary Kay Clark speaking. Contact Teresa at 337-216-9638; or tbruno_98@yahoo.com.

Long Beach, CA – July 29-30, 2000. 10th Annual Catholic Family Conference. Long Beach Convention Center. Seton Books for Sale. Call 727-868-3549 to register.

New York City, NY – Oct. 14, 2000. Seton Conference. Details to be announced.

CA Office

In our Los Angeles, California office we have textbooks and pre-packed curriculums for grades K through 8. Contact Seton-California at 44751 Date St., Suite 8, Lancaster, CA 93534; phone: 661-948-8881; e-mail: setonca@networkone.net; fax: 661-948-7006.

Student Achievements

Gregory Abbracciamento from New Jersey made it to the fourth round of the National Spelling Bee before falling prey to "garrulity."

Mark David Joseph Moran, a graduate of Seton, has just graduated from Youngstown State University *Magna Cum Laude*.

Lynne Niemaszyk, currently a student enrolled in Seton's sixth grade, came in 23 in the Massachusetts State Spelling Bee.

Jessica Nelson-Milton, a Seton student from Florida, recently won two silver medals and a gold medal in the state Artistic Skating Championships in Lantana, Florida. She will go on to compete in the Southeastern Regional Finals and may become eligible to compete in the national finals later this year.

Accounts Overdue

Seton has been compelled to charge late fees to those overdue with their monthly payments. This apostolate relies on timely payments by parents in order to meet our own financial obligations to our employees and creditors. Please make payments on time. Thank you.

Seton Counselors

(Seton main number: 540-636-9990)

Religion/Sacraments: Fr. Hermley, Fr. Constantine, Fr. Barrett
High School English: 540-636-1755, 540-636-2342
High School Math: Chris McKenna, Don Valaike, 540-636-1846
Senior Guidance: Bob Wiesner, 540-636-2238
History: Bruce Clark, Ext. 122
Elementary: Winnie Newcomb, 540-636-2342; Patricia McKenna, 540-636-1755; Gary Gale, Ext. 121
Admissions, Enrollment, Re-Enrollment: 540-636-2039
Home Schooling Fathers: Tom Kosten, Bruce Clark, Randy DeClue
Special Needs/LD: Paula Galligan, Ext. 151; Pat Walker, Ext. 152
Report Cards/Graders: Melissa Olt, Ext. 138; Edmund Micucci, Ext. 166

Fr. Hardon Speech

Catholic home schooling is the planned and organized teaching and training of children at home, for their peaceful and effective life in this world, and for their eternal salvation in the world to come.

I distinguish teaching from training, for I say that teaching addresses itself mainly to the mind, and training to the will; indeed, the training of the mind is in order to motivate the will.

We get our principles for authentic Catholic home schooling from Christ's closing directive to His apostles: "To teach all nations" – that's the mind – "to observe all that I have commanded you" – that's the will.

Home schooling, therefore, addresses itself to the mind in order that the will might be motivated to do God's will. It is the teaching and training of children at home that distinguishes it from teaching and training in formal school situations.

Home schooling in the United States is the necessary concomitant of a culture in which the Church is being opposed on every level of her existence and, as a consequence, given the widespread secularization in our country, home schooling is not only valuable or useful, but it is absolutely necessary for the survival of the Catholic Church in our country.

Home schooling in our country is that form of teaching and training of children at home in order to preserve the Catholic faith in the family, and to preserve the Catholic faith in our country. ...

Home schooling has been necessary in the Catholic Church since her foundation. The necessity, therefore, is not the necessity that is the result of an emergency. No, Catholic home schooling is necessary, period.

And one reason is that it was so widely neglected before. So many parents practically abdicated their own obligation to teach their own children, and then found out, sadly, their children were not being given a Catholic education.

How do we know that home schooling is necessary? First, we know it from divine revelation. The early Church is normative, not only on what we should believe as Catholics, but on how we ought to learn our faith, and live it.

There were not established Catholic schools in the Roman Empire back in the first 300 years of the Church's history. Except for parents becoming, believing, and being heroic Catholics in the early Church, nothing would have happened. The Church would have died out before the end of the first century.

Father John Hardon, speech at home schooling conference

Seton Home Study School

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