

The Catholic Cantor

**We are devoted to Our Lord
in His Sacred Heart!**

Last First Friday:
is June 3rd at Our Lady of the Lake in Southwick at 11 AM
Please contact Karen Ford at
The beautiful weather should mean being able to picnic in
the pavilion after Mass.
We will pray in thankfulness that most of us have gotten
through the tornado well and in supplication for the
Conference and for leaders for next year.

If you would like to be part of planning First Friday
gatherings for next year please email us at
nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org
Consider location, priests you know are available etc. Also
considering adding field trips to our plans, maybe a back to
school picnic. This would help new families make friends.

**Happy Birthday
June**

- 3rd Isabella Moser
- 10th Margaret O'Brien
- 14th Armand Hebert
- 14th Monica Kelly
- 22nd Joseph Mongeau
- 23rd Eliza Moser
- 30th Sarah Wilcox

The Vatican has released the prayer intentions of
Pope Benedict XVI for June 2011.
June 2011

General Intention: That priests, united to the Heart of
Christ, may always be true witnesses of the caring and
merciful love of God.

Missionary Intention: That the Holy Spirit may bring forth
from our communities numerous missionary vocations,
willing to fully consecrate themselves to spreading the
Kingdom of God.

Prayer Chain: 788-4342
Always available!

Please, consider joining the prayer chain.
Your prayer can be simple. You can
remember the intentions at Mass. You can
consider having a place to post them in
your home so everyone prays for others.
If interested call Pat Strain 788-4342

On Fridays:
10 AM Moms Bible Study.
We do not meet the week of First
Friday. Call for location as we are
rotating homes:
Patrice 782-4093

Second Moms' Bible Study
anyone? There has been talk of a 2nd
group forming either for moms of
just older kids or moms not
available on Friday.
If interested, or if you have such a
group and it's open to new
members, email group at
nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org

Bethlehem House

Clothing is earned not gifted and must be logged in and
out, so do not wrap. Used is fine if not stained. Just
wash before bringing. Smoke Free clothing please.
There are volunteer and fundraising opportunities.
Call Pam 527-2861

A Pro Life Rosary is prayed every second Thursday
for an end to Abortion and for all babies and mothers
visiting Planned Parenthood that day.
Meet at St. Michael's Cathedral at 10 AM to carpool
to Planned Parenthood. Return for 12:10 PM Mass.
Contact Marilvn Stearns 567-6085.

St. Gerard and St. Joseph's Corner:
Please pray for those who are pregnant,
adopting, fostering, selling or buying a
home, suffering job loss, etc.

Send names or initials

Feast of Immaculate Conception this summer falls on Monday August 15

Western Massachusetts Catholic Homeschoolers Statement of Purpose

Our families come together in order to support each other, as obedient Roman Catholics, and to bring the Catholic way of life to greater fruition and brilliance in our homes.

We have as our foundation, and the guiding principle of all our activities, fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, especially to our pope, Benedict XVI, Vicar of Christ.

Thus we affirm the Magisterium on contraception and other life issues as central to our mission as families. As emphasized in the Second Vatican Council, we parents have a most solemn obligation to educate our offspring.

Therefore we are the primary educators of our children. As lay faithful, we are dedicated to promoting home education among Catholic families and to support those families who are engaged in providing their children's primary education at home.

For further information email nehc@ourladyqueenof saints.org

To submit an article for publication please contact nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org

It is time for elections to our Board of Directors and evaluation of our articles. Now that our Conference is established it seems wise to rethink our set up and arrange committees devoted to particular tasks thus making the whole easier.

Here is how the articles read currently:

Western Massachusetts Catholic Homeschoolers,

Federal Identification Number: 262935928, is a Non Profit Corporation. N.B.: We are NOT a 501C Tax Exempt

From Article II:

WMCH WILL USE ITS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE TO EVALUATE EDUCATIONAL, FAITH AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO ENGAGE. THESE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: COOPERATIVE LEARNING, BIBLE AND APOLOGETICS STUDIES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN, FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND SOCIAL, END OF YEAR PICNIC, BOOK SWAPS AND NEW ENGLAND CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE.

From Article III:

If you would like to be on the Board, simply nominate yourself (volunteer!) by emailing today. If you would like to suggest an amendment to our By Laws or propose a VOTE simply submit it in writing. (We will at that time also Amend to state that we HAVE a checking accounting replacing 'we will open.')

We would love to hear from you especially if you have experience with being on a Board of Directors!

Suggested change may include new positions:

Member in charge of Committee for Co-op, Member in charge of Committee for First Friday, Member in charge of Committee for Conference Volunteers, Member in charge of Committee for Conference vendors, Member in charge of Committee for Conference Speakers, Member in charge of Committee for Conference Faith activities and Sacraments, Member in charge of Committee for End of Year celebration. Etc.

Currently Christine Hebert and Patrice MacArthur have volunteered to continue managing the organization with the input of those who gather at the Mom's Bible Study.

_____ will take over the publishing of the newsletter.

<p>July Month of the Precious Blood</p> <p>Birthdays in July</p> <p>3rd John Henle 8th Gavin Yetts 11th Zoë Brazeau 12Hannah Wilcox 14 Jonathan Gallagher 21 Elizabeth Ford 23 Rachel Seaver</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>General Intention: That Christians may contribute to alleviating the material and spiritual suffering of AIDS patients, especially in the poorest countries.</p> <p>Missionary Intention: For the religious who work in mission territories, that they may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.</p>	<p>August Month of the Immaculate Heart</p> <p>Birthdays in August</p> <p>2 Claire Seaver 10th Danielle Collins 11 Mary Seaver 15 Thomas Ford 18 Theresa Strain 23 Elizabeth Mongeau 25 Jared Yetts</p> <p>August 2011</p> <p>General Intention: That the World Youth Day taking place in Madrid may encourage all the young people of the world to root and found their lives in Christ.</p> <p>Missionary Intention: That Christians of the West, docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, may re-encounter the freshness and enthusiasm of their faith.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension (Thursday, June 2, 2011) Holy Day of Obligation (transferred to Sunday, June 5, 2011 in most dioceses of the United States) • Conference! Saturday June 25th • Pentecost Sunday (Sunday, June 12, 2011) • Trinity Sunday (Sunday, June 19, 2011) • Corpus Christi (Thursday, June 23, 2011; transferred to Sunday, June 26, 2011) • Assumption of Mary (Monday, August 15, 2011) Holy Day of Obligation (abrogated because it falls on a Monday) 	<p>Extras from Butlerwebs.com—no guarantees! Just Fun!</p> <p>American Artist Appreciation Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataract Awareness Month • Catfish Month (National, US) • Eye Exam Month (National, US) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Eye Exam Month was founded by Sears Optical in 1989 to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye exams. Here's the Web site: www.eyexammonth.com - but nowhere does it say what month this is observed! ○ "Sitting too close to the television will damage your eyes. Myth. Many people sit too close to the television because they can't see well, but sitting too close will not make your eyesight worse. Source: www.eyexammonth.com/subpage.html ○ "Eating carrots will improve your vision. Myth. Carrots are high in vitamin A, but an overall healthy diet is more essential to good vision." Source: www.eyexammonth.com/subpage.html • Inventors Month (National, US) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ www.inventorsdigest.com/magazine/niminfo.html ○ United Inventors Association: www.uiausa.org

Mary's Top Ten**This month: ways to be ready for a productive school year in 2011- 2012 in time to enjoy the summer!**

1. Join Western Mass Catholic Homeschoolers – Registration on last page. First issue will come in early August and remind you of First Friday.
2. Join our Yahoo group New England Catholic Homeschool by email @ NewEnglandCatholicHomeschool-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or on our website at <http://nehc.wordpress.com>
3. Send the kids outside (or fishing with dad) and listen to the Talks (<http://nehc.wordpress.com>) you missed while ordering next year's books online. Or download them to an MP3 player to listen to on a walk,
4. One long school room clean up day! Only Save what you must!
5. Send them out again—push through the end of year report to the schools. Give city what they are legally entitled to *but no more*. You'll know your kids did well!
6. Library Trip! Only fun books.
7. First not-too-hot day bake as much as will fit in your freezer and be eaten that week. Save some for days it's too hot to cook.
8. One deep housecleaning day. Get rid of clutter by donating to those in need.
9. Set an extra door mat by each entrance to catch the mess. A big Coleman water cooler set outside can be used as a drinking fountain so they aren't running in for drinks constantly. Send them out before the sun is strong and pull them in for lunch when its strongest and you need less sunscreen.
10. Plan to let them play in the rain—tell them God said Yes to sprinklers today. Try painting in the rain to see what their Guardian Angel does with the Paint!

Most of all remember 2 things:

First: Preparing the classroom and learning more about homeschooling counts as “In Service” or “Prep time” – it's in your contract!

Second: Time spent studying nature, reading, painting, making music, exercising, cooking and talking about God counts as a school day of Science, Literature, Art, Music, PE, and Home Ec. And Religion. Mark each of these days on the calendar as an achievement.

Legislative Update – May 2011

The 187th Massachusetts Legislative session (2011-2012) is now underway and our Legislators are in the process of filing new bills. AHEM is monitoring all new bills filed that have the potential to impact homeschoolers in our state. The following education bills were filed within the first few months of the new session:

H 1909, Rep. Antonio Cabral, Democrat, New Bedford; Rep. Stephen R. Canessa, Democrat, New Bedford; Rep. Kay Khan, Democrat, Newton; **A PETITION RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN**

This Bill would amend MGL Ch. 69 Sec. 1B by directing the Board of Education to “establish the permissible and mandatory ages for school attendance provided that each child be required to attend a full-day educational program at kindergarten age”

This bill would effectively lower the required school attendance age by making kindergarten mandatory. Homeschoolers in MA would presumably need to begin filing education plans for their “kindergarten aged” children. This Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Education on 2/25/11. A hearing is scheduled for 5/31/2011 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM in A-2.

H 1081, Rep. Martha M. Walz, Democrat, Boston; **A PETITION RELATIVE TO THE MANDATORY MINIMUM AGE FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

This Bill appears to go hand in hand with H 1909. It also amends MGL Ch. 69 Sec. 1B by further directing the Board of Education to “promulgate regulations setting a uniform calendar date each year for the purpose of determining the mandatory minimum age for school attendance...” The Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Education on 2/16/11. A hearing is scheduled for 5/31/2011 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM in A-2

H 1964, Rep. Martha M. Walz, Democrat, Boston, and others; **A PETITION FOR LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE DROPOUT RATE OF STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

H 1964 also amends MGL Ch. 69 Sec. 1B by changing the mandatory high school attendance age from 16 to 18. It further amends MGL Ch. 76 with the “age 18” requirement and directs the school Superintendent to notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) if a person between the ages of 16 and 18 withdraws from school. The RMV may then revoke that person’s driver’s license, except in certain extenuating circumstances. This Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Education on 2/25/11.

S 1743, Rep. John A. Hart, Democrat, Boston; **A PETITION FOR LEGISLATION TO DENY DRIVER’S LICENSES TO TRUANTS**

This Bill amends MGL Ch. 90 by adding a section requiring that an application for a driver’s license or learner’s permit be signed by a parent or guardian and be accompanied by certification from the school district that the applicant is enrolled in high school or, — among other possibilities — “ a home education program that satisfies the requirements of all state laws governing such courses...” This Bill would seem to require homeschoolers to present an approval letter or other certification from the school district that they are engaged in an approved homeschooling plan prior to obtaining a driver’s license. The Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Transportation on 1/24/11.

AHEM has contacted the offices of Rep. Walz and Sen. Hart to clarify how certain wording in the bills would affect homeschoolers. We will continue to follow these bills, as well as numerous others that are likely to be filed during this legislative session, and keep our members informed about additional proposed legislation that could impact MA homeschoolers.

<http://www.ahem.info/LegislativeIssues.htm>

If you received this message as a forwarded email and would like to be added to the Friends of AHEM list to receive updates on issues that may affect Massachusetts homeschoolers, as well as special notice of AHEM events and field trips, reply to this email (info@AHem.info) with your name, address, town, and zip code. AHEM respects your privacy and will not share your name or contact information with any other organization.

If you choose to forward this email, PLEASE forward all of it, including signature below. To remove your email address from this list, reply with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.

Thanks!

Advocates for Home Education in Massachusetts

PO Box 1307

Arlington, MA 02474

<http://www.ahem.info/index.htm>

Watch our yahoo group for my end-of-homeschool tag sale date in July. Mary

From Catholic Vote Action Blog

[Did you know that four priests are honored in the National Statuary Hall?](#)

by CatholicVoteAction on May 5th, 2010

“Immediately south of the Rotunda in the United States Capitol is the National Statuary Hall, where each of the 50 states gets to honor and immortalize two famous people with a larger-than-life sized statue.

But did you know ~~three~~ four states have honored a Catholic priest?”

I didn't even know about the National Statuary Hall! Go to catholicvoteaction.org (or click on the link above)

New England Catholic Homeschool Conference June 25, 2011

Welcome Bag Volunteer Day—Please help make the gift bags!

June 15 at 3PM

at 74 Pearl St Holyoke, MA 01040

RSVP nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org

Kids can play after!

Door Prizes available from:

Mamas Movin with Mary and others

Vendors coming:

Bethlehem Books, At Home Science, Thomas More College, Usborne Books, The College of St Mary Magdalen, Kolbe Academy, Homeschool Connections, St George Catholic Books, Seton Home Study School, Light House Media, PPH Resource Center, Morning Star Catholic Books, Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Nancy Larson Science, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Mercy Song, St Benedict Center, Teaching Textbooks, Traveling Rosaries, HSLDA, Coalition for Marriage and Family, Sophia Press and Our Lady Queen of Saints,

Workshop:

Please note that Kathy Dziok of St Stanislaus will be holding a workshop during the day for moms and dads who are beginners at the computer! Seating will be limited.

**Number signed up so far:
enough!**

Next year:

Will you help?

Please pray for us to St John the Baptist for the New England Catholic Homechool Conference

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Queen of Prophets, pray for us.

Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, precursor of Christ, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, glorious forerunner of the Sun of Justice, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, minister of baptism to Jesus, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, burning and shining lamp of the world, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, angel of purity before thy birth, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, special friend and favourite of Christ, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, heavenly contemplative, whose element was prayer, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, intrepid preacher of truth, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, voice crying in the wilderness, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, miracle of mortification and penance, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, example of profound humility, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, glorious martyr of zeal for God's holy law, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, gloriously fulfilling thy mission, pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

V. Pray for us, O glorious St. John the Baptist,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray:

O God, Who hast honored this world by the birth of Saint John the Baptist, grant that Thy faithful people may rejoice in the way of eternal salvation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.

Western Mass. Catholic Homeschoolers
36 Arlmont St
Chicopee, MA 01013
nehc.wordpress.com

Western Mass. Catholic Homeschoolers Membership 2011-2012

Membership includes monthly newsletter, email updates, Nominating and voting for Board of Directors, supports our website at nehc.wordpress.com

Checks payable to Western Mass Catholic Homeschoolers.

I have included:

_____ \$9 for the mail version _____ \$5 for the Internet download or _____ \$5 for email attachment of newsletter

_____ \$5 for a business card size ad Christmas and Easter. _____ \$10 for a quarter page ad Christmas and Easer.

_____ \$ _____ donation toward free newsletter for Priests and those in need.

Family Name: _____ Renewal or New Family (Please circle)

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

phone: _____ Unlisted? Yes/no _____ email: _____

website: _____ on Facebook? Yes/No _____

family business: _____

***Send money to WMCH 36 Arlmont St. Chicopee, MA 01013
by First Friday September 3rd 2011***

Be sure to mail or email your children's birthdays.

Consider a Gift subscription to a grandparent, pastor or local supportive business.

We will give one free issue to anyone interested in homeschooling.

NB- Please inform us if you do not get your newsletter. We would be happy to fix any problems.