



## St John Vianney Academy Winter Newsletter

2023

# Ever Ancient, Ever New

The Power of a Catholic and Classical Education

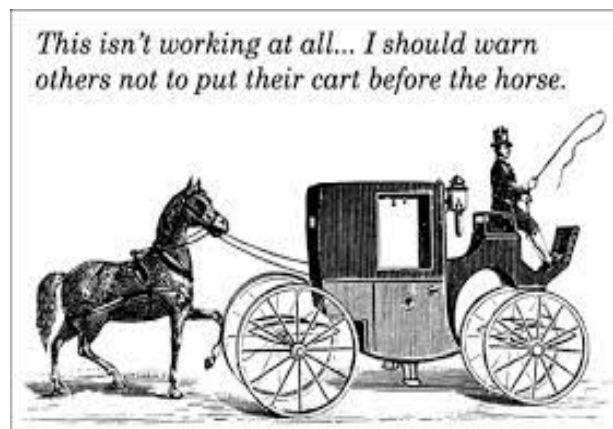


### Why Classical?

**Classical education involves the natural processes of learning.** It is an educational method which embraces and recognizes a child's God given natural development and inclinations for discovery and understanding. Many times in today's progressive education, children are being asked to be creative and discuss ideas before they have formed the foundational principles of learning itself. But, classical education gives children the fundamental tools necessary for learning by putting the **horse before the cart**.

Dorothy Sayers explains this in her essay [\*The Lost Tools of Learning\*](#), “For the tools of learning are the same, in any and every subject; and the person who knows how to use them will, at any age, get the mastery of a new subject in half the time and with a quarter of the effort expended by the person who has not the tools at his command.”

**The beauty of classical education is that children learn *how* to think, not *what* to think.** Let’s face it, modern educational methods frequently ask children to regurgitate certain politically correct materials as if this is real critical thinking. Sometimes only one side of an issue is presented, so students do not learn to ask questions in order to arrive at well thought out conclusions. They, instead, are told *what* to think, so that they will “fit in” and become part of the collective. Classical education, on the other hand, empowers children to take charge of their learning in stages. By the time they reach the third stage (rhetorical), young adults can have meaningful discussions about any issue, because they will have acquired the tools of learning. Their minds will have become adept at using their powers of observation, memorization, and later differentiation and reason. These young adults will know how to take positions based on facts and truth. In classical education, because things are in their proper order, **children love to learn, discover *how* to learn, and ultimately, become true life-long learners.**



## Why Catholic?

**In Catholic classical education**, school subjects are regarded as disciplines or categories of creation, and all of the disciplines should and can be integrated and related back to God. How has God shown Himself throughout history? How are math and science structured? Do we observe that the Creator is a God of order and intention? Does parsing and diagramming sentences in Latin reveal anything to us about how man is made in the image of God? Do languages, music and the fine arts - using logic, reason, and order ultimately reflect the beauty of the created world and universe? How do we all fit into the scheme of creation, and what is our relationship with the Creator?

**Seeking answers to these questions, observing goodness, and practicing the faith require community.** A place must exist for discussing ideas and for challenging one another - a place for forming the conscience and moral compass. Our children will become men and women who stand for truths that they can defend. They will not be “tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.” (Ephesians 4:14) Christians need community to support ideals which are beneficial for the family and society as a whole. - a place to learn how to practice virtue, and better understand the beauty and traditions of the faith.

**At St John Vianney**, we educate our children classically because it is the usual course of development and provides children with the tools necessary for discovering, exploring, and using their God-given gifts. Catholic, classical education makes sense as it sets our children up for success in learning any discipline well. With this strong foundation, our children are on the pathway to becoming responsible adults with the passion and ability to glorify the Creator - which is afterall, what we were made for!

*Written by Teresa Grimm / Program Director*

*"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."*

*- St. Augustine of Hippo*



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## Mark your calendars!



### An Evening with Father Sebastian Walshe

**February 11th, 2023 -6pm**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall - 124 Columbus St. Bakersfield**

**Please come and enjoy a Talk and Question and Answer period with Fr Sebastian!**

**Cost: Free-will donation collected at the door for Catholic Education**

Fr. Sebastian Walshe is a Norbertine Canon of the Abbey of St. Michael in the Diocese of Orange, California, where he is a professor of philosophy for the seminary program. After obtaining an electrical engineering degree, Fr Sebastian worked at an intellectual property firm before pursuing studies at Thomas Aquinas College in California. At The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., he received a license in Philosophy. Later, he attended the Pontifical University of St. Thomas at Rome (the Angelicum) where he received a Masters in Sacred Theology and a Doctorate in Philosophy. He is an author, speaker and regular host for *Catholic Answers*.





St. John Vianney Academy presents...

# *A Night in Tuscany*

APRIL

SATURDAY 22 AT 5 PM  
2023

*Iron Lily Venue*

424 24th Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93301



emilyripperger@gmail.com  
(661) 477-8840



## *Some Christmas Fun!*

*making gingerbread houses*



*Cookies and Caroling with our Ekam*



*First Graders reciting the Nativity foretold at our Christmas Program*





*The Children and faculty of SJVA pray for our families and benefactors each morning after Holy Mass! Please Join us! St John Vianney, pray for us!*

Find out more about SJVA!  
<https://youtu.be/K97aOCsL3LQ>



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