



THE INQUISITOR

IN THIS ISSUE

- Record Breaking
- From the Editor
- Easter
- Student Feature
- Spring Sports
- Student Retreats
- St. Patrick's Day
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- The Annunciation
- Author Spotlight
- St. Joseph
- Holy Week
- Creative Corner
- Spring Fashion Tips

Record Breaking

By: Shannon O'Malley

Seton School students, staff, and families were thrilled after senior, Mary Pennefather, scored her 2000th point at the girls' varsity conference basketball game against Oakcrest School. Mary went into the game at 1,999 points, only needing one more point, but not at all aware of how close she was to reaching 2000 points. After swishing a three-pointer in the first quarter of the game, Mary soon realized she had passed the 2000 points mark after seeing, and hearing, the cheering crowd. What made her accomplishment even more special was that the only other female Seton basketball player to reach 2000 points was her aunt, Therese Pennefather.

With several of Mary's teammates, coaches, and classmates planning for this surprise, the celebration certainly made for one very special night. The student section was completely packed with students dressed for the Orange Out game, Mary's favorite color. They had celebratory posters and huge gold 2000 number signs that they held up once she scored. Her teammates, excited and proud of Mary, gave her flowers, a t-shirt, and a small basketball that they had all signed. "I knew that I was close to the 2000 mark, but it was even more surprising to see the fans, the posters, and the huge celebration after the shot. What was crazy was that everyone, including the referees, was in on it. Apparently, everyone had been planning this event for two weeks and I had no idea until after the shot...what made me even happier was to see all my cheering classmates, my swim coaches, my cousins, my boss, and my family and friends," said Mary, reminiscing her big moment.

Mary has been an asset to her basketball team at Seton School since she started playing. Her father and head coach, Dick Pennefather, puts it that, "Mary clearly shows the qualities of a well-rounded basketball player and believes that the secret to accomplishing great things as a player is by playing as a team." Mary also stated, "A great basketball player works well with his teammates, always aims for the greater good of the team, sets a good example, works smart, and is an

unselfish player. The reward comes by working at the things you love!" Mary Pennefather is an excellent role model to other basketball players and shows that to be a successful basketball player, you not only need to use your athletic skills, but also incorporate your virtues and morals into your playing.



EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Matt Baldwin
Emma Fox

LAYOUT EDITORS

Josiah Albin
Titus Stanton

COPY EDITOR

Anneliese Orr

SPORTS EDITOR

Henry Knight

PHOTO EDITORS

Shannon O'Malley
Briana Shillingburg

FACULTY ADVISOR

Mrs. K.

Dance with Me

By: Emma Fox

Do guys ever ask girls to dance if they are not close friends already? So many guys feel scared to walk up and ask the girl, but we all want to dance far more than stand by ourselves or dance with other partnerless girls. At Seton, many girls are more traditional, so other than the Sadie Hawkins dance, we expect the boys to be gentlemen and ask us. There are more girls here than boys, so no guy can ever have the excuse that every girl was already taken, and if that truly happens to be the case, step it up and ask faster.

After years of phones and talking over texts, in-person conversation can be difficult and intimidating. Yet, if you look back to only 50 years ago, the first cell phones were invented. Before the cell phone took off, people were so welcoming, and the art of conversation had not been lost. Although a gentleman may need a great deal of courage to ask a lady to dance with him for the first time, it will be rewarding.

Phones have taken away the personalities of people and reduced feeling to mere black and white words. This culture hurts more than helps relationships between people, welcoming smiles, knowing how to talk with others for the first time, and summoning up the courage to say what you think without the mask of the screen. Here at Seton, texting and chats are prominent outside of school hours. While communicating with your friends through emails, texts, chats etc. is a good thing, talking to your friends in person is even better. Asking girls to dance opens the way to healthy conversation and cultivates the fading virtue of chivalry.

Everyone wants to have a wonderful time at a dance, and this is a perfect opportunity for the guys to show their true colors and ask a single lady. This may mean asking a girl you've never

talked to or from another grade. Still, remember, asking any girl who is alone is very endearing and kind and she will remember it. Even if it is the first or only time the two of you talk together, getting asked to dance makes the girl feel special. Rarely are we ever upset about being asked and we always genuinely enjoy it. This goes for all Seton dances, including prom, homecoming, NHS dances, and swing dance.

When the ladies gather in groups as the slow dance music begins to play does not mean they do not want a partner. Indeed, it is often the opposite. If you are a boy and feel that asking girls is too delicate, think about no one being asked to dance for the entire night when plenty of eligible partners roam around the dance floor. All of you boys have the ability and manliness to be the best dance partner ever, but until you ask that can never happen.



Easter

By: Titus Stanton

It's that time of year again, the time for fasting, prayer, and almsgiving: Lent. This season of preparation can feel like it's passing by as quickly as it came. In a recent poll, 53% of Seton students thought the Lenten season was rapidly going by. With spring cleaning, Easter preparations, and boatloads of homework, it's hard for students to calm down and meditate on what Easter really is about. So what is Easter? Why do billions of Christians celebrate this holiday, and what started the traditions of an Easter bunny and colorful eggs?

Easter is the jovial celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His death on the cross. His resurrection after His death is the paragon of Christianity as a whole. Due to this, billions of people celebrate this holiday, and thousands of people are accepted into the Church on Easter across the world each year.

The traditions of this solemnity began in Mesopotamia, where the early Christians used to paint eggs as a symbol of hope and renewal. Over the next thousand years, the tradition spread across Europe. Giving jeweled Easter eggs as a gift was a sign of respect and wealth in the 19th century. In the same way, the Easter bunny was born in 19th century Germany and spread to Europe and North America. Although it is known as a bunny in most countries, the creature is also portrayed differently depending on a country's culture.

In the end, the celebration of Easter is one of faith, life, and renewal. People celebrate it because they truly believe in the divinity of Christ. It's important to be reminded that Jesus died for all humanity and rose from death to show us that He is God. His resurrection shows that there is life after death, and that he is waiting for us to join Him.



Hidden Singer

By: Emma Fox

Sophomore Mary Catherine Hurley has begun to take her hobby of writing songs and making it public. Her 1st published song, "Sad Song", centered around her feelings during quarantine, came out for the first time on Bandlab in 2021 under the pen name of Minnie Mason. She is a big fan of Disney, so Minnie came from that love and Mason to make a sweet alliteration. After "Sad Song", her other songs "Breaking Gravity", "Dear Long Lost Friend", and "Sunshine" have stunned listeners. Mary Catherine's songs are so beautiful and sound very professional. She writes lyrics, composes the instrumental accompaniment, and records herself singing these pieces of art.

She had been singing and composing songs since second grade. In total, she has written 62 songs. Her voice has been harmonizing with the Seton Chamber Choir since 2021 as a 9th grader. Writing new songs on her bed with her guitar, piano, and synthesized instruments has become something she does to express her talents and feelings. Each song is unique, but all hold a part of her in them.

Many songs were first written and performed here at Seton surrounded by supportive friends. As a freshmen volleyball player, Mary Catherine and some of her teammates would gather around the piano in Faustina and sing their hearts out before late practices and games. She has performed for her classmates and cantered in many Seton Masses throughout the last couple of years. At many home JV and varsity volleyball games, she, with her close friends, also beautiful singers, performed the national anthem.

Each week she will work on and perfect new and old songs, making them all unique. After she writes each song, she turns to three friends for their feedback and encouragement. In her own words, Mary Catherine believes, "if ... you put in the effort you are going to get something beautiful out of it. Also don't let people tell you how to write, or sing, or make your music. It's called "your music" for a reason. I tend to use romantic and sad themes most times. I've noticed that it kind of bugs people, but again my music is my music."

As Mary Catherine says on her bandlab page, "I've been writing songs since I was in second grade, and I hope that I never stop; I just hope that my music someday can touch someone who needs it."

In an interview with Mary Catherine, she shared some insights about her music.

What is the first song you wrote that made you cry?

The first song that made me cry was a song I wrote in eighth grade called "Just Be Me." It was just about me not holding on to my dreams and then losing them before they had a chance to come true.

What is the most meaningful song in your life?

The most meaningful song in my life I would say is "You Are My Sunshine" because my grandfather started singing that song at my grandmother's funeral and the whole family joined in. The most meaningful song I've written I would say is either a song that I wrote with one of my best friends called "Simple Truth" or "Moon and Back". I love all of my songs though and each one of them has a different type of meaningfulness to me. They all are about a different stage or event in my life or in someone else's so they're all very close to me.

What would you say is your most interesting singing quirk?

My sister, Elizabeth, has pointed out that when I sing my mouth moves to the side in a weird way and it apparently looks really funny!

Where do you publish your songs?

It's Bandlab.com and my account is MC Hurley @minnie_mason. Making an account on Bandlab is free and if you follow me, you get notified when new music of mine comes out.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

The artist that inspires me the most would probably be Taylor Swift because she uses deep lyrics which I also try to do, but I remember that the first artist I followed myself was Hollyn and tried to base my music off of hers for a while.

Were you part of other choirs before?

The only other choir I have ever been in was when I was in fourth grade, and I was also part of a mini band at some point, and we played at a parish picnic.

Where is your favorite place to write and sing?

I love singing in my room. I usually write all my songs sitting on my bed with only my fairy lights on! I write and record most of my music in that setting because I usually get the most inspiration in a quiet place with no distractions.



Men's Spring Sports

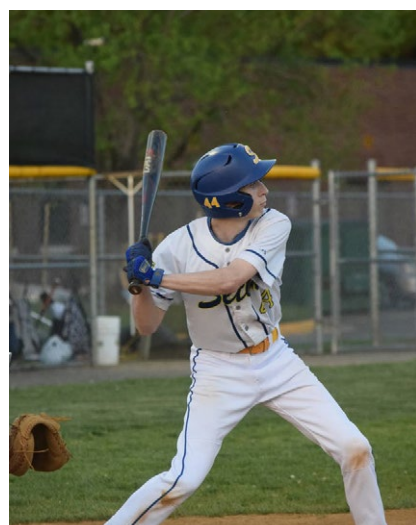
By: Henry Knight

With spring here, many new men's sports teams are starting up at Seton and are available to the male students. The spring male sports are tennis, baseball, and lacrosse. These teams kicking off their seasons opens up new opportunities for Seton men who would enjoy playing a competitive spring sport, and would like to expand their knowledge and skills in the sport they choose.

Seton offers three levels of baseball from junior high, junior varsity, and varsity levels of play. The baseball teams are led by varsity coaches Steve Clune and Mike Byers. With many more students at the tryouts this year than in years before, Seton is expected to be more competitive than in years past and with younger players growing older and becoming more experienced, Coach Clune expects the Conquistadors to have a good chance at winning more games and even the conference.

The Seton tennis team is a great opportunity for high school students to learn the game and expand on their individual skills as well. The tennis team is led by Coach Rowzie, father of James Rowzie who is one of the tennis team's top players. The tennis team seeks to compete, but also to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about the game with weekly practices at Metz Middle School.

The lacrosse team at Seton has become one of the most popular sports for high school men and is also expected to be very competitive this year. Led by Coach Michael Bookwalter and captains Gus Irving and Matt Hugo, the lacrosse team shows much promise and has already started their season off with a big win against their arch-rivals, John Paul the Great Highschool.



One Final Season

By: Briana Shillingburg

The last sports season of the school year has come around. This spring season of 2023 is filled with many amazing sports including girl's junior varsity and varsity softball, boys junior varsity and varsity baseball, boys varsity tennis, girls junior high, junior varsity, varsity soccer, and boys junior varsity and varsity lacrosse.

The ladies spring athletes are excited for this upcoming season. JH soccer had their first game on March 28, against Trinity Christian School with a win of 4-0. JV soccer had their first game a few days later on March 30 against conference member John Paul the Great. The varsity team had their first game on March 17, against King Abdullah Academy and won 7-0.

Varsity softball had their first game on March 16 against Manassas Park and won 34-5. JV won their first game 11-6 against St. Thomas Aquinas School.

There are a handful of seniors on each team this year. On the soccer team the seniors include Norah Burgess, Catherine Reyes. On the softball team the seniors are Delaney Farmer, Teresa Lalli, Fran Terreri, Christine Pacheco and Mary Collins. This spring season is just getting started with many victories to come.

SPORTS

The Annunciation

By: Josiah Albin

The Annunciation is a very well-known feast day in the Catholic Church. It is one of the most widely celebrated solemnities, and many people are seen going to Mass, even though it is no longer a holy day of obligation. But what is the Feast of the Annunciation, and why do we celebrate it?

The Annunciation, also called Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary or Annunciation of the Lord in Christianity, is the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit to be called Jesus (Luke 1:26–38). The angel's pronouncement is met with Mary's willing consent, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word", and thus precipitates the Incarnation of Christ and his redemption of the world.

The Feast of the Annunciation, one of the principal feasts of the Church, is celebrated on March 25, nine months before Christmas. The first authentic allusions to the feast, apart from the Gelasian and Gregorian sacramentaries, in both of which it is mentioned, are in acts of the Council of Toledo and of the Trullan Council. Because its significance is much more than narrative, the Annunciation had a particularly important place in the arts and church decor of the early Christian and medieval periods and in the devotional art of the Renaissance and Baroque periods.



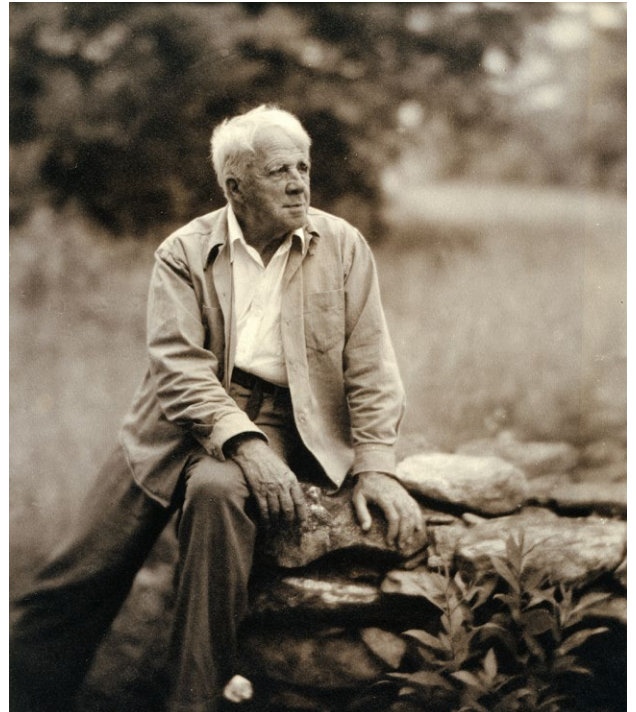
Robert Frost: The American Poet

By: Titus Stanton

Since the dawn of civilization, humans have used poetry to express their emotions and nature. From epics like the famed story of Gilgamesh, to the abysmal story of The Raven, these works of art have been created by those who sought to show humanity the world in their image. One of these great poets is the late Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963). His descriptive and flowing poems are still shared and enjoyed sixty years after his death.

Born in 1874 in the city of San Francisco, Robert Frost showed a natural connection to poetry. His father was a teacher, and later a writer for a well-known San Franciscan newspaper. By the age of twenty he wrote his first poem named My Butterfly, An Elegy, and sold it for approximately fifteen dollars. A year later he married Ellinor White. From the years of 1897 to 1899 he attended Harvard University but left due to perpetual illness. He then moved to England with his family and published his first poetry book, A Boy's Will. He moved back to the U.S. and bought a vast farm in New Hampshire. At this farm, he would create some of his most famous poetry, such as Acquainted With The Night, An Old Man's Winter, and Stopping by The Woods on a Snowy Evening. Each poem conveys to the reader a picturesque view of nature and emotion. For example, Acquainted With The Night expresses a first person view of a man's silent midnight walk through an empty street and the thoughts flowing through his mind. He describes the shadows of the street and the "luminary clock" that floats over the sky, rising above the darkness of the city. These poems were an instant success and over the next 30 years, he would win four Pulitzer Prizes. He would write his poetry and teach at Middleton College until his death in 1963, becoming a living legend of the Arts.

Today Robert Frost is established as a quintessential poet whose poems inspire others. His work is taught in thousands of schools, colleges, and universities as masterful works of emotion and art. Even now, his legacy works are spread across the globe and into the hearts and minds of millions.



Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of the Matará

By: Anneliese Orr

Each year, Seton hosts retreats for their students from 7th through 12th. These retreats are an excellent and fruitful opportunity to reconnect with our faith and our community outside of the academics of school. The girls had their retreat on Tuesday, March 14, in which they dressed up in Sunday Mass attire. The morning kicked off with the introduction of this year's special guests, the Sisters of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. This order wears long gray habits with blue wimples. One by one, the sisters introduced themselves. The girls were blessed to have Sister Jerusalem, Sister Trinity, Sister Luce, Sister Victory, and many more at the retreat. The chairs were then cleared from the center of the gym for the nuns to interact with the girls in entertaining games and challenges. Sister Trinity then gave a talk about discernment and her journey into sisterhood. Her inspiring story of faith provoked curiosity of God's calling for us. Four priests came to the retreat, making confession available for everyone throughout the duration of the event. Before the break for lunch, the sisters led the girls in a holy hour, which had beautiful music and meditations to ponder. The lunch break was then given to the girls to enjoy food and the opportunity to talk with the nuns. After lunch, the girls were split up by their grades and grouped into teams to compete with each other. A new game was introduced to the students called telephone charades. This added an interesting twist to the classic telephone game by acting out the phrase instead of whispering it in the other person's ear. The wonderful day came to an end with a mass offered by Father Yehl. The Seton retreat for girls was a huge success in the promotion of a closer community and an open heart to God's will.



What a Re-Treat!

By: Henry Knight

The annual boys' retreat at Seton was slightly different this year, as it was led by four priests, not the usual college students. These four young priests were Father Matthew Rensch, Father Nicholas Blank, Father Noah Morey, and Father Jonathan Fioramonti. The retreat began with all the young men at Seton gathered in the gym while each of the four priests explained their vocation story and shared a little bit about themselves. Next the boys went to stations of silent prayer time, and a station to talk about the virtue of humility. Afterwards there was a fun break with a basketball knockout tournament which was won by Fr. Matthew, which proves that he was an excellent player at Christendom College. This was followed by a lunch break and then all the young men met back in the gym and wrote down one anonymous question on a strip of paper which would be answered by the priests. To finish off the retreat, Mass was celebrated in the gym with all the senior boys as altar servers. The retreat was very fruitful, enjoyable, and one of the highlights of the Seton school year.



The Cherry Blossom Festival is Back in Bloom

By: Matthew Baldwin

Washington D.C.'s annual Cherry Blossom Festival is back, and in full swing this year. Despite having been closed the previous few years due to Covid, the festival fully reopened this year, with beautiful spots to watch the cherry blossoms bloom and fun activities for people of every age to partake in. The annual Cherry Blossom Festival began in 1910, when over 5,000 cherry blossom trees were donated to America by the Japanese government at the time to celebrate the close bond between America and Japan. Now tourists come from all over to witness the more than 3,000 trees blossom with their colorful pink petals. On March 25th, the traditional Blossom Kite Festival was held, allowing tourists and visitors to watch the hundreds of kites being flown around the Washington Monument grounds. Tourists were encouraged to bring their own kites and free kite making kits were handed out for those who didn't have their own. The event included a kite ballet, kite making competitions, and even a show put on by Mr. Mikio Toki, a master of traditional Edo Style kites, who came all the way from Japan to participate in the event. After the Blossom Kite Festival, the night ended with the Opening Ceremonies, held in the Warner Theater and featuring live

music performed by popular bands for anybody visiting to see. Another popular event is the Pedalpalooza, being held on April 5th. The Pedalpalooza is a day dedicated to the blossoms themselves, with multiple outdoor theaters, interactive art displays throughout the Pedalpalooza walk, and even a cashless beverage garden for the tourists. The day ends with the Official National Cherry Blossom Festival Fireworks Show to close the annual Pedalpalooza. To end the Cherry Blossom Festival itself, the traditional Cherry Blossom Parade is held, this year on April 15th. The parade features colorful floats, marching bands, giant

balloons, celebrity entertainers, and even Mickey and Minnie Mouse. The parade marks the end of D.C.'s National Cherry Blossom Festival in a spectacular way, giving the tourists a great show at the same time. The Annual Cherry Blossom Festival is a sight to behold, giving visitors a grand view of the cherry blossom trees and entertaining them with fun activities at the same time, and people looking for a day full of family-friendly fun and beautiful views should definitely consider going next year.



Remembering Holy Week

By: Matthew Baldwin

Holy Week is the final week in Lent leading up to Easter, helping prepare our souls for the great coming of our Lord. The Week itself is separated into 7 days, each day dedicated to a different meditation on the life of Jesus.

The week starts with Palm Sunday, the day the lord rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, while the citizens of the town praised him by laying down their cloaks and waving palm leaves in celebration. Today, the church continues this same tradition, providing the parishioners with their own palm leaves, as the priest walks down to celebrate the Mass. Those same palm leaves later get turned into the ashes that the parish uses to bless the foreheads of the parishioners during Ash Wednesday.

The next 4 days, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Spy Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday, are all dedicated to the days of Jesus's life leading up to his passion. On Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday, Jesus begins to correct the people of Jerusalem, by overturning the money changers in the temple and arguing with the chief priests on his divinity. On Spy Wednesday, Judas Iscariot asked the Romans what amount of money they would give him in exchange for Jesus, accepting their offer of 20 silver coins and betraying Jesus. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus begins by humbling himself, washing the feet of his Apostles, before he celebrates the Last Supper and institutes the Eucharist upon his Apostles, telling them to, "Do this in memory of me." That night, Jesus was betrayed by Judas and sent over to the Roman guards in the Garden of Gethsemane. This marks the start of Christ's Passion and sacrifice on the cross.



HOLY WEEK

St Joseph By: Josiah Albin

St. Joseph represents a model of authentic fatherhood and reminds every father of a few very important things: the importance of presence, love, patience, and discretion. Sent not to be the "hero father," nor the "master of the house father," but a real father – a true testimony of authentic love. That is the kind of father we all really need. St. Joseph is not only a role model for fathers, but a role model for all Catholic men. He shows the world the true meaning of sacrificing in a relationship and being an example for the youth. It is our job as Catholic men to be strong and give a bright future for the next generation, to be a strong pillar in the lives of whoever needs it. St. Joseph is a prime example of this, because not only was his faith in God strong, but so was he. He was a carpenter, a physically demanding job, working blood, sweat, and tears into his work, just so he could make sure Mary and Jesus could grow up as a normal family. Even though he has no recorded words in the Bible, he is still a major pillar in the life of the Messiah. St. Joseph makes the journeys to faraway lands, searches for Jesus in the temple, and works day and night to provide for them. St. Joseph is the perfect embodiment of self-sacrifice in a man's life. Even if it's not for family, self-sacrifice is still necessary in daily life. Whether it's covering for a coworker or helping a friend study, all these things are modern day equivalents to the duties that St. Joseph did in his life. Even though we may not be making chairs, going on pilgrimages, or being the foster father of the Messiah, as Catholic men we must live our lives with the same self-sacrifice.



Green, Leprechauns, and Gold on St. Patrick's Day

By: Briana Shillingburg

St. Patrick's Day had come around and was full of excitement this year. St. Patrick's Day is on the feast of Saint Patrick on March 17th, who was a slave taken to Ireland and later escaped and returned to teach the Irish about God. Many know how the shamrock is associated with St. Patrick's Day since it was used to teach about the Trinity and is now used to decorate on this feast day. Many celebrate in different ways but where did all these traditions come from? The American family has their ways of celebrating St. Patrick's Day but it can differ from how families in Ireland may celebrate.

AMERICA

- In America some cities dye their rivers green as well as their drinks.
- The St. Paddy's Day parades we all loved didn't start until Irish soldiers in the English armies marched through New York on the beloved feast day.
- In many elementary schools teachers will destroy the classroom to make the students believe a leprechaun had come through before they had arrived.

IRELAND

- Up until the 1970's you had to abstain from drinking on St. Patrick's Day.
- Wearing blue is one of the traditions since St. Patrick was depicted wearing blue garments.

There are many other traditions that are done in both America and Ireland but one tradition that should be the most important is going to mass to celebrate the wonderful saint.



ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY

Styling Spring

By: Shannon O'Malley

As flowers are blooming and warm weather is approaching, the heavy coats from the winter season are just not going to cut it. As we go into the new season, we should have some good ideas of fashionable, but modest, spring fashion. Whether you will be out and about, hanging out with your friends and family, or just relaxing at home, you can always put together a stylish outfit!

Floral Skirts

Pairing a flowy floral skirt with a simple colored top makes for an excellent combination during these warm spring days. From Sunday Mass to afternoon picnics, these flowery skirts will add an elegant flair to a dressy look.

Midi Dresses

Ruffled sleeves or a squared neckline can add pizzazz to a simple midi dress. Not only is a midi dress extremely cute for the warm weather but is also very convenient for various spring activities and events.

Cardigan Sweaters

Cardigans are a cozy accessory to a nice spring outfit and look particularly excellent when worn over simple floral dresses. They can also be worn with a simple outfit such as a basic top and jeans.

Shoes

If you are going for a more casual look, a pair of white sneakers like converse work great. For a more dressed up outfit, go for a pair of sandals or nude-colored heels. Another basic choice of footwear is a pair of simple shoes such as Birkenstocks or other sandals.



Creative Corner

By: Anneliese Orr

Sonnet 0

by Anonymous Seton Student

A hill lies high in land of lily green
While birds newborn sing notes of past to each
The sun and cloud paint strokes of blue between
To tempt all them with what they can not reach
The whole of life seeks shelter in her perch
When sky touch ground to let his captive roam
This land of joy await to those who search
As nature leads her infant back to home
A tree of bliss take root on rocky crest
Where those of world can watch its rosy blush
And see its leaves fly to the sunny west
Now cloaked in field of Spring and Summer lush
Yet though the Earth try hide the candor way
All life shall know that man was tried that day

