

Memoria Press Sodalitas Homeschool Conference

How to be a Lifelong Learner

Jessica Phillips
Homeschooling Track
July 8, 2020
2-3 PM EST



Timoléon Marie Lobrichon,
The Young Teacher , 1868

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom:
Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who
teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in
the knowledge of your truth, they may
worship you and serve you from generation
to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A good teacher is...

“a person who is himself dedicated
to continued general learning.
Who, in the course of teaching,
is learning.”

Knowledge remains alive to him.

—Mortimer Adler

I am not talking about:

- ❖ Formal, paid schooling, degrees
- ❖ Strictly mental work that excludes spiritual formation
- ❖ Spending a lot of money on books and materials

“Wisdom ... cries aloud...

Hear, for I will speak noble things,
And from my lips will come what is right,
For my mouth will utter truth...

I, **Wisdom**, dwell with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion...

I walk in the way of righteousness,
In the paths of justice,

Granting an inheritance to those who love me,
And filling their treasuries.”

—Proverbs 8

“Every scribe who has been trained
For the kingdom of heaven is like
The **master of a house**,
Who brings out of his treasure
What is new and what is old.”

Matthew 13:52

“...knowledge is neither a tower nor a well, but a human habitation”

–A.G. Sertillanges, *The Intellectual Life*



The Education of *Telemachus*

Athena as Mentor

education: to lead forth

Telemachus Listening to Mentor
Charles-Joseph Natoire (1700-1777)

Plato's Allegory of the Cave

Chevignard. *La Caverne de Platon.*
Le Magasin Pittoresque





Follow me...

*As the Father has sent me, even so I am
sending you.*

John 20:21

The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew
Duccio di Buoninsegna, c. 1250/1255 - 1318/1319

“Intellectual growth should
commence at birth and cease only at death.”

—Albert Einstein

Life is Long

Festina lentē

Make haste slowly.

Grotta Grande, Giardino di Boboli





Life is short

Focus, Concentrate

The Thinker (originally, *The Poet*)
Auguste Rodin, 1840-1917

**“A stream narrowly hemmed-in by its banks
will flow more impetuously.**

The discipline of some other occupation is an excellent school; it
bears fruit in the hours of studious leisure.”

–A.G. Sertillanges, The Intellectual Life

“Most of the important things that human beings ought to understand cannot be comprehended in youth...
The great books of ethics, political philosophy, economics, history, and literature **do not yield up their secrets to the immature.**”

—Robert Hutchins, *The Great Conversation*



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CLASSICAL EDUCATION, MATH

Filling Leaky Vessels

POSTED ON MARCH 11, 2014 BY MARTIN COTHAN

How Classical Education Forms and Fills the Mind

Introduction: The Importance of Distinctions

I am the only person I know who has his own personal metaphysician. Whenever I have a philosophical question I need answered, I consult him. I have had occasion many times, in the middle of a logic class, when one of my smarter students has asked a particularly technical question, to call him on my cell phone to get it resolved. “Oh Great One,” I will say, “Your humble apprentice seeks wisdom from him who knows all things.”

My ontologist. On speed dial.



Classical education is the cultivation of wisdom and virtue through the study of the liberal arts and the Great Books.

- **Forming - Liberal Arts**
- **Filling - Great Books**

Mere Education

Give ourselves a



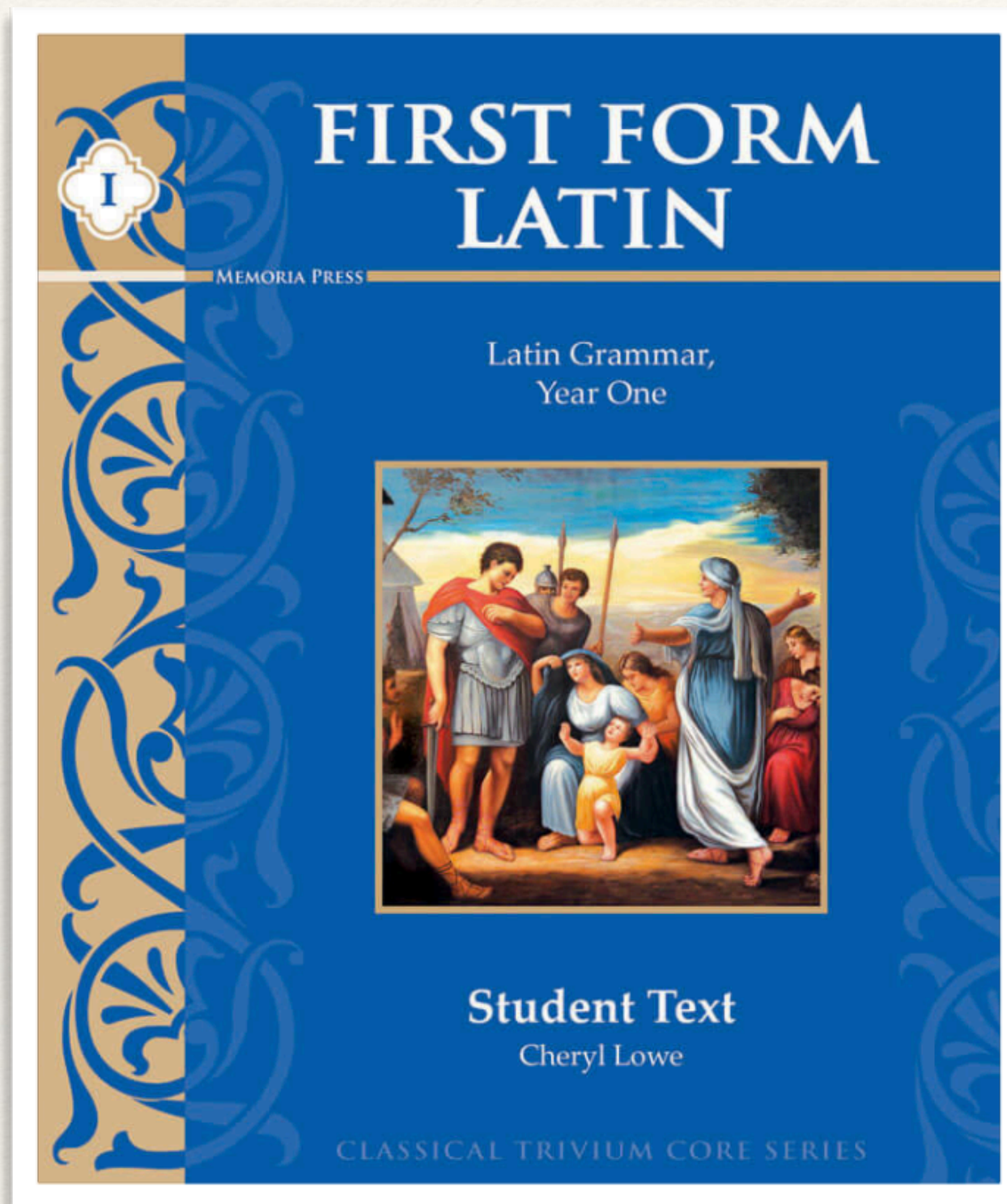
education.

Two chief components:

FORM: Liberal Arts

FILL: Great Books

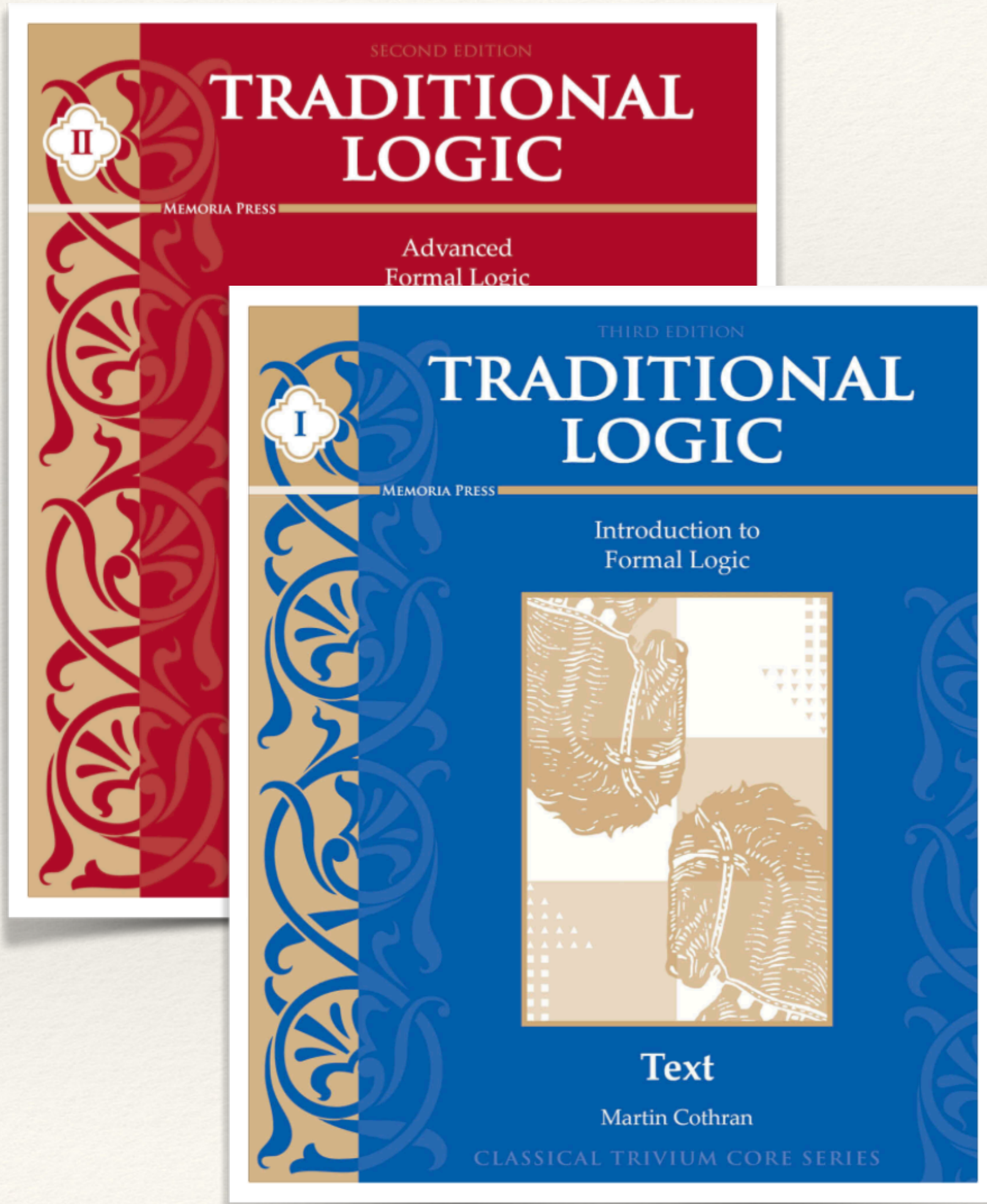
Mere Education – Forming



Latin (grammar-based)

- ❖ Adults: *First Form Latin*
- ❖ *Prima Latina / Latina Christiana* alongside your child

Mere Education – Forming



Logic (Traditional, linguistic logic)

- ❖ *Traditional Logic I: Introduction to Formal Logic*
- ❖ *Traditional Logic II: Advanced Formal Logic*



La Primavera, Sandro Botticelli, 1445-1510

You can feast for the rest of your life on the low-hanging fruit of the classical tradition.

“The slightest knowledge of the greatest things is greater than the greatest knowledge of the slightest things.”

-St. Thomas Aquinas

“There is a strange idea abroad that in every subject the ancient books should be read only by the professionals, and that the amateur should content himself with the modern books. Thus I have found as a tutor in English Literature that if the average student wants to find out something about Platonism, *the very last thing he thinks of doing* is to take a translation of Plato off the library shelf and read the Symposium. He would rather read some dreary modern book ten times as long, all about “isms” and influences and only once in twelve pages telling him what Plato actually said. The error is rather an amiable one, for it springs from humility. The student is half afraid to meet one of the great philosophers face to face. He feels himself inadequate and thinks he will not understand him. But if he only knew, the great man, just because of his greatness, is much more intelligible than his modern commentator. The simplest student will be able to understand, if not all, yet a very great deal of what Plato said; but hardly anyone can understand some modern books on Platonism. **It has always therefore been one of my main endeavours as a teacher to persuade the young that firsthand knowledge is not only more worth acquiring than secondhand knowledge, but is usually *much easier and more delightful* to acquire.**”

– C.S. Lewis, “*On the Reading of Old Books*”

“The unfortunate thing is that students today
are totally unaware...
of the **riches**, and the riches in terms—if I may use their word—
the riches in terms of **relevance** in the great books.”

—Mortimer Adler

Mere Education – Filling

Lay the foundation

- Athens
- Rome
- Jerusalem

Foundation Phase 1

Athens

❖ Homer

❖ *Iliad*

❖ *Odyssey*

Absolute beginners pre-read:

- D'Aulaires Greek Myths
- Olivia Coolidge's The Trojan War

Rome

❖ Vergil

❖ *Aeneid*

Jerusalem

❖ Bible ✓

Foundation Phase 2

Athens

- ❖ *Greek Tragedies*

- ❖ *Aeschylus*

- ❖ *Sophocles*

- ❖ *Euripides*

Rome

- ❖ *Cicero*

- ❖ *On Obligations*

- ❖ *The Republic*

- ❖ *The Laws*

Jerusalem

- ❖ *Augustine*

- ❖ *The City of God*

- ❖ *Dante*

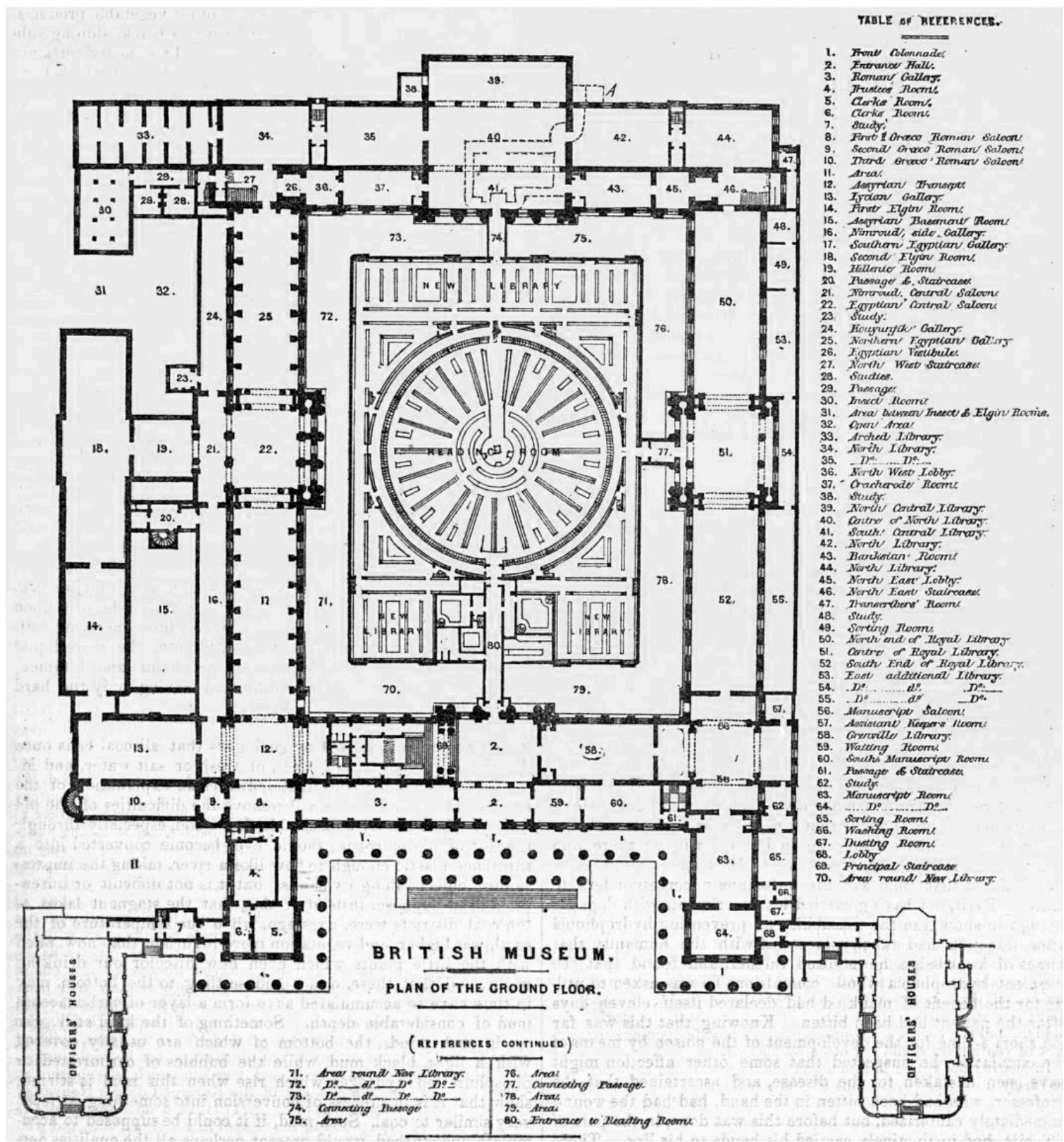
- ❖ *Divine Comedy*







Know thyself.



You are here.

No one is starting from scratch.

“The best adult education program is homeschooling.”

-Martin Cothran, 2015 Roman Roads Media interview



Books

FORM

- ❖ Latin
- ❖ Logic

FILL

- ❖ Great Books

Time

- ❖ Focus on the foundation
- ❖ Limit distraction
- ❖ Be faithful in YOUR season

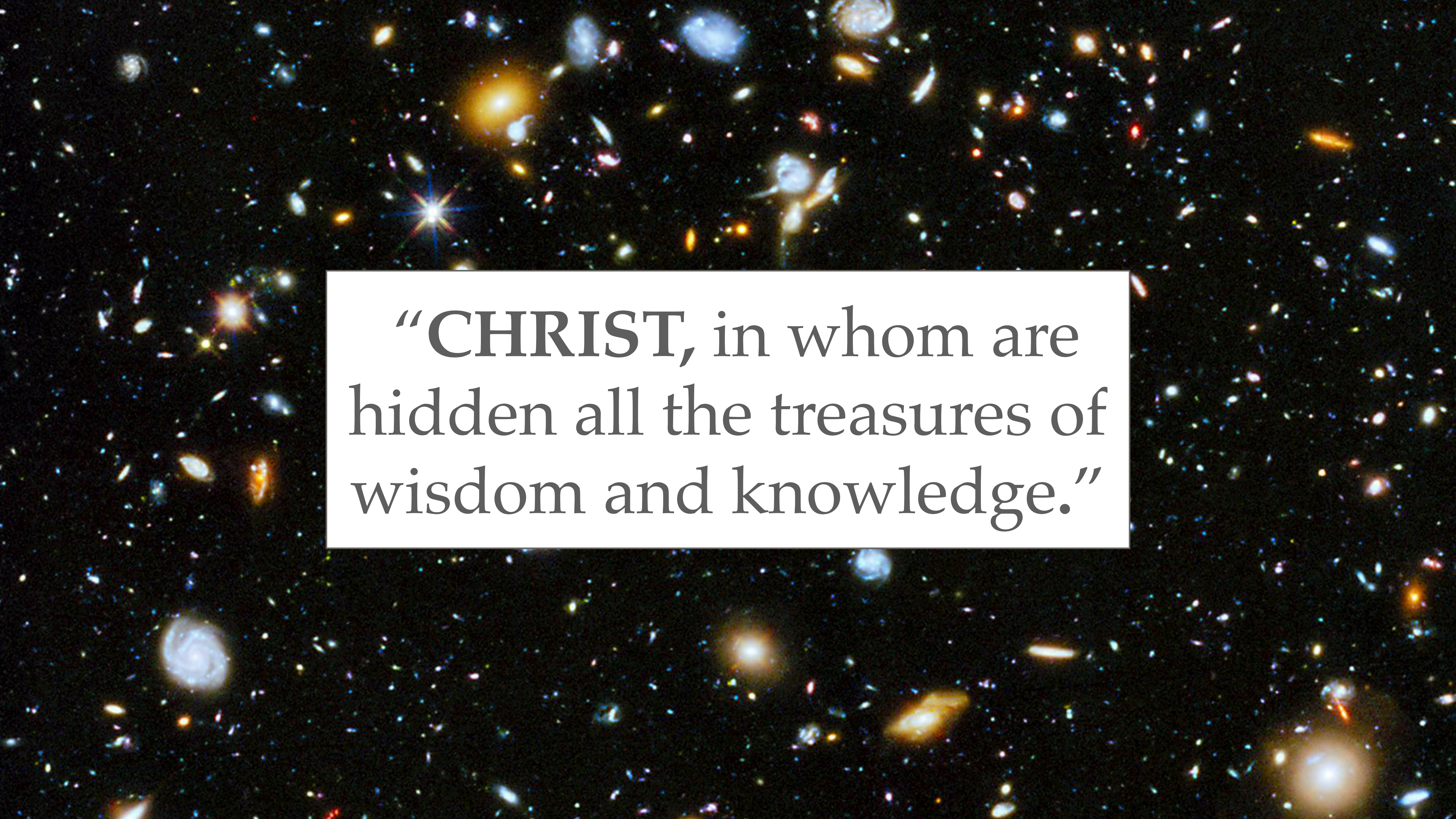
People

- ❖ Mind to Mind with authors
- ❖ Your children, family culture
- ❖ Get a buddy, start a bookclub
- ❖ Follow people you admire

Wisdom is the ultimate aim of learning. Such learning is a long process, which involves **a lifetime of thoughtful inquiry and wide experience**...few sustain the effort and have the devotion that are required to become wise. **These few teach the rest of us what wisdom is and what it means to be wise.** *-Mortimer Adler*

“Most people overestimate what they can do in a year, and underestimate what they can do in five.”

—*Cheryl Lowe*

A deep space image showing a vast field of galaxies and stars against a black background. The galaxies are in various stages of evolution, some appearing as bright, glowing clouds, others as more distant, faint points of light. The colors range from bright yellow and orange to deep blues and purples, suggesting different temperatures and compositions. The overall effect is one of immense scale and cosmic wonder.

“CHRIST, in whom are
hidden all the treasures of
wisdom and knowledge.”

sodalitas:

an association; a brotherhood

A map of North America, including the United States and Mexico, is shown in the background. It is covered with numerous red location pins, indicating a wide distribution of families or schools. Some pins are colored blue or green, possibly highlighting specific locations of interest. The map includes labels for various states and provinces, such as Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, and Mexico, as well as major cities like Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and Mexico City.

Highlands Latin School Mission, modified for families:

In partnership with other families, and guided by the Gospel, we seek to educate ourselves and our children to the highest standards of the classical tradition, so that we may grow in knowledge, wisdom, and the love of Our Lord, and more ably use our gifts in the service of others, and for the glory of Christ and his Church.

