

## Educational Philosophy of Charlotte Mason

**RaceForHeaven** products are modeled after the teaching philosophy of British educator Charlotte Mason (1842-1923), who developed an educational method that revolved around a literature-based curriculum. The Charlotte Mason educational pedagogy relies upon engaging, *living books* (as opposed to "twaddle" or dry textbooks) that are read aloud to children who then share what they have learned through narration, and real-life application.

**RaceForHeaven** products employ Charlotte Mason's method of education by encouraging family read-aloud of Catholic living books—especially saint biographies—to teach the truths of the Catholic faith and to encourage the imitation of the holy habits of the saints. Narration, daily read-aloud of living books, integration of holy habits, and scripture memorization are all integral components of the **RaceForHeaven** curriculum. Regular family spiritual read-aloud is strongly emphasized in all of our materials. This read-aloud approach is applied in our literature-based method of preparing your family for the all-important sacrament of Holy Communion—with our *Communion with the Saints* program. This family preparation program utilizes four Catholic living books to renew your entire family's fervor for this Blessed Sacrament while preparing a younger family member to receive Jesus for the first time.

Living books that impart knowledge of the doctrine and the lived experience of the Catholic faith are the backbone of the **RaceforHeaven** curriculum. Janet McKenzie has prepared chapter-by-chapter enrichment activities to Mary Fabyan Windeatt's saint biographies, which provide an enjoyable, flexible Catholic unit study in which multi-aged family members can discover the depth and breadth of the Catholic faith— and share that knowledge with other family members.

Our newest series, Nature Poems for Catholic Children, utilizes nature poetry to draw children (and adults) into a deeper relationship with God through the wonder of His natural world. Charlotte Mason was a great believer in the study of nature and felt that children should “learn to know and delight in natural objects as in the familiar faces of friends.” This poetry series follows both the liturgical and natural seasons to assist young Catholics to find God in creation, to deepen their awareness of His constant care of us and all of His creation, and to proclaim His glory. To quote Charlotte Mason, “From the flower in the crannied wall to the glorious firmament on high, all the things of Nature proclaim without ceasing, ‘Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty.’” Our nature poetry series echoes the sentiments of Ms. Mason when she declares, “In the chief duty of man, his duty towards God, Nature is an exquisite instructor.”