



# BEGINNINGS

*Your Summer Preparation for Christendom*



## Summer Reading

Dear Student,

On behalf of the Department of English Language and Literature, I congratulate you on choosing Christendom College in your pursuit of an authentically Catholic liberal arts education. Within Christendom's core curriculum is a two-year study of the literature of Western Civilization. Our adventure begins with the first great works of Western Literature, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, and continues through your sophomore year with literary masterworks of Christian antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the modern world.

I am sure you are eager to undertake the spiritual, intellectual, and aesthetic journey in pursuit of the knowledge of the true, the good, and the beautiful which is the goal of our literary study here at Christendom College. Thus, we ask you to begin with the short address to young Christians given by a Doctor of the Church, St. Basil the Great (b. 330, d. 379). As you will see, the address examines the subject of reading classical (pagan) literature as a prelude to reading Christian, and specifically Catholic, works.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**7/3**

Deadline for Local Students to make request to live at home

**7/10**

Deadline for Required Forms (see [Orientation Website](#) drop down tab "Orientation Forms")

### August

Receive housing assignments

**8/10**

Deadline to RSVP for the Orientation Dinner

**8/14**

Please read the address this summer so that you can begin to consider why such literature is part of the curriculum at Christendom. Then be sure to print it out, review it before classes start, and bring it to your first session of English 101: Literature of Western Civilization I. [Here is the link to download and print the reading.](#)

Before arriving at Christendom, you may also wish to get a head start by reading Homer's Iliad, about "the wrath of Achilles," and perhaps even his Odyssey, about the "man skilled in all ways of contending." In these great books, the virtues of men and women are put to the supreme test. The literature classes at Christendom all use the same assigned editions: Richmond Lattimore's translation of the Iliad and Robert Fitzgerald's translation of the Odyssey.

I hope you will enjoy reading St. Basil's address this summer and- if you choose to do so-Homer's epics. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [lmarciano@christendom.edu](mailto:lmarciano@christendom.edu).

Yours in Christ Our King,



**Dr. Lisa Marciano**

Chair, Department of English Language and Literature

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Deadline to register and pay for Airport Shuttle

**8/21**

Move-In Day

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## ORIENTATION LINKS

[Webpage](#)

[Schedule](#)

[Guide](#)

[Roomate Questionnaire](#)

[Orientation Dinner RSVP](#)

[Order Apparel](#)

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**GET-TO-KNOW**  
**Kelly Smith**

Head Nurse

Franciscan University  
Alumna

Office Located in the St.  
Lawrence Commons

Married to Christendom  
Ruby Coach

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## VID OF THE WEEK

[Our Academic Resources](#)



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