

## Catholic Education...*Oh What a Gift!*



Jenna Gable                      School: St. Mary's, Pre-K-Sixth (1989-1996)  
Occupation: Public Relations for IBM Corp                      Residence: New York City

I believe that my Catholic education helped lay the foundation for who I am today. I am very thankful that my parents placed me in a Catholic school where prayer and expression of faith was not only tolerated, but celebrated. I was taught at an early age to be responsible, respectful, kindhearted and moral which has helped to guide me through difficult life changes and transitions.

My Catholic education continues to play a part in my life. As a young professional I have found success by being ethical, staying true to my values and treating others with respect.

I believe that a Catholic education has never been more crucial. As the world becomes more troubled and divided, it is vital for children to have faith and values reinforced in their lives. Catholic education is a great opportunity for children to learn about being compassionate, loving world citizens.



Bob Kehnast                      School: St John's, Grade 1-8 (1960-1968)  
Occupation: Controller, Kamco Industries, Inc                      Residence: Defiance  
Bob is married to Cheryl, they have two grown children

Once I heard Bill Russell, the former Boston Celtic, say with a laugh "Youth is wasted on the young." This was true in my life to this extent: when I attended Catholic elementary school I had no appreciation for the fact that the studies were faith-based with daily mass and prayer. What I loved about those years was fun and friends...it was much later that I gained a deeper appreciation for my parents' decision to send me to a Catholic school.

What I realized over time was that the Catholic education I received helped me form a solid foundation of faith. This foundation has remained unshaken, carrying me through the highs and lows of career and family life across the years.

I tell my kids that they will need this same kind of faith to thrive in this world of the new millennium. And I believe a Catholic education still is an important part of this faith formation for all children.

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"*  
~Proverbs 22:6