

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



**Barb Naymik** School: St John's, Lorain, OH, Kdg-8<sup>th</sup> (1958-1965)

Occupation: Secretary, Defiance Catholic School, St. Mary Campus Residence: Defiance  
Barb is married to Jim, they have two grown children and one grandson.

When attending Catholic school as a child, I had no idea at the time the precious gift my parents were giving me. When I didn't even know it, the religion classes, the masses I attended weekly, the daily prayers and my teachers were forming the person I would become as an adult. Besides the usual curriculum taught in any school, I was absorbing, like a sponge, the importance my Catholic faith and values would have in my life in years to come. Mostly, my years in a Catholic school taught me that I am never alone, that Jesus is always near, and caring for others is what life is about. It is more critical today, than when I was a child, for parents to be able to give this gift to their children. How else will children come to know Jesus and the way to live their lives?



**Carolyn Franzdorf** School: Sacred Heart, New Bavaria, OH, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Occupation: Homemaker, St John volunteer sacristan Residence: Defiance  
Carolyn is married to Bill, they have two grown children.

The years attending Sacred Heart were the most fun and happiest years of all my schooling. Classes were small and I was fortunate to have a wonderful nun all three years. The religion based education at Sacred Heart in those three short years were more valuable than all the other years of catechism I received while in public school. When attending Sacred Heart every day was started with Mass and ended with prayer. The foundation of a Catholic education is critical to children today because they are bombarded with so many things that are not always in the best interest of living a good, faith based life. It is unreal for me to expect that schooling will ever go back to what I call the "good old days". In most cases being educated about your faith during the early years of your life, I think will stay with you forever.

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

~Proverbs 22:6