

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



Michelle Bauer

School: St. John's, K-6 (1986-1993)

Occupation: Teacher, Crestview High School Residence: VanWert, OH
Michele is engaged and will be getting married next summer.

Attending a school grounded in faith provided a really great experience for me. While Christian values were taught at home, they were reinforced at school. Studying Bible stories, attending mass, and daily prayer all helped strengthen these Christian values. I really enjoyed attending a Catholic school and looked forward to going each day. It was great being surrounded by Christian people who always supported and encouraged me. I also enjoyed learning about our Catholic faith, what we believe and why we believe it. For this, I am very appreciative of my Catholic education.

My life has been influenced by my Catholic education in many ways. Attending mass regularly and daily prayer are two things that I have continued my entire life. The friends I choose and the choices I make are also influenced by my Catholic education. I have always tried to maintain friendships and make decisions based on the Christian values that I have learned at a young age. As a teacher, I try to model these values and behaviors in order to be a good role model to my students. Soon, I will be getting married and we plan to some day have children. When we do, we will raise them as Christian parents, teaching them about God and our values, so that they, too, will hopefully grow up to be good Christian people who are well grounded in their faith.

Looking back, I see all that a Catholic education has done for me, and I am thankful that my parents sent me to a Catholic school. Catholic education can do so much for children today. It provides a solid foundation grounded in faith and Christian values that are so important in today's world. Although it starts at home, Catholic education reinforces good moral values that sometimes seem to be lacking in today's world. Also, Catholic education helps students in their walk with Christ. It helps them to know Jesus better through the support and encouragement of their teachers and their peers.



Todd Shafer

School: St. Mary's, PreK-6 (1976-1984)

Occupation: Sergeant for the Defiance Police Dept. Residence: Defiance.
Todd is married to Shelly and they have two sons.

My Catholic education provided me with an education that was not only based on elementary learning but also on character development grounded by faith enrichment. Attending St. Mary's school was like going to my second family that was fostered by caring teachers and an intimate learning environment that encouraged the development of strong moral and character values. Most classrooms had the Golden Rule posted where students could readily see it and we, as students, were held to that rule. The combined education in general curriculum and religion provided me with strong moral and ethical values that have greatly benefited me in my personal and professional life. I believe my faith was profoundly deepened by attending weekly masses and having daily prayer while in school. Catholic schools provide an increasingly rare opportunity for our children to learn and foster essential values and beliefs that will benefit them throughout life in a society that is increasingly removing and restricting religion in educational settings. Providing a Catholic education to my children has always been a priority to me and I feel that it is an education for the spirit as much as for the mind and I am thankful that our community is blessed with being able to provide our children with the best educational opportunity available.

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

~Proverbs 22:6