

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



Jill Steinbrener Mack

Teacher: Defiance Catholic School

School attended: St. Mary 1961-1969

Jill is married to John and they have 3 children – Rachel, Zachary & Elaina

To be able to attend a Catholic School and attend daily Mass, allowed me to know about my faith and its beliefs and practices. Daily prayer and exposure to God allowed me to deepen my faith and what God wanted me to do with my life. While growing up I used the principles of my Catholic faith to guide my decisions in what I would encounter. It helped me to react and act upon situations, in which I found myself. The academics I received from the Catholic School were just as strong as my Catholic faith. My Catholic Education allowed me to share my feelings and experiences with others as I grew up. Kids today

have so much that they deal with on a daily basis – and I mean *daily*. Having a foundation in Catholic beliefs and faith, something upon which to draw for decision-making, knowing that someone (GOD) is always there for support and answers is so important in the development of today's youth. The Catholic School gives that foundation in faith and academics, the knowledge that no one ever needs to face situations alone.



Kathy Bayer Greiwe

Teacher: Defiance Catholic School

School attended: Convent of the Sacred Heart 1964-1968

Grosse Pointe Academy 1968-1973

Kathy is married to Jaimie and they have 2 children – Clay & Allie

Imagine attending a school run by nothing but nuns! Now picture me trying to behave! It was tough, but I did it and left unscathed! My early school years were quite a memorable experience. Being respectful and very prayerful was the main focus in the day of a life of a student being taught by nuns. There was no room for error! I will never forget my experiences as well as the memories at the Convent. We started our day with mass and ended it with prayer. The nuns were serious about their discipline as well as educating us.

I moved to Defiance in 1983 when I married Jamie. I did not know a single soul here except Jamie. I had the opportunity to help out at St. John's soon after moving here. I immediately knew that I would enjoy working in a Catholic school. I have worked at St. John's since 1987 and Catholic education has always been a part of me! I love children and feel it is so critical for children in this day and age to be nurtured and loved! What better way than to have the foundation of Catholic education to help mold a small child's life. God has helped me and influenced me so much in my journey as a Catholic. I hope I am making a difference with the kids I teach. If they have a positive start in their journey, I believe their closeness with God and their Catholic education will help them, also.



Mary Deitrick Jones

Teacher: Defiance Catholic School

School attended: St. Mary 1957-1966

Mary is married to Greg and they have 3 children – Kara, Kelly & Kirk

Attending a Catholic School definitely made me the person that I am today. It influenced my career decision, I can't ever remember not wanting to be a teacher. Mass always started our day and religion was integrated into all of our subjects. This experience made me strong in my faith so, when I got the opportunity to come back and teach in a Catholic school, that I attended, I was elated. I feel Catholic education is essential for children today. I know that we make a difference in our church, our community, and our world. We prepare our children to be strong in their faith and to be a witness to everyone. I think that the

song "Go Make a Difference" should be our motto.

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

~Proverbs 22:6