

In the heart of alumna and parishioner Sharon Hess, Saint Rose School and Parish have a special place. A 1970 graduate of St. Rose School, Sharon recently shared some of her memories of her time as a student and reflected on the ways St. Rose School played an important role in her faith and academic formation.

Some of Sharon's earliest memories of St. Rose School were of teachers, such as Sister Rosemary, OSU, and Mrs. Marilyn Bureau, who was her first grade teacher. "Mrs. Bureau was so nice and helped me to learn to really love school. I also loved our field trips to the Art Museum so much. Our parents would drive us and we would go once a year." Sharon also recalled Monsignor Walz, who would provide the children with a galvanized tub of cold pops, potato chips, and hot dogs on the last day of school. "He also gave us holy cards every year, and I still keep them to this day."

Sharon received her First Holy Communion in October of her second grade year. "I remember feeling a sense of how important it was to me, to receive the Eucharist for the very first time. My Grandma Hess really gave me a sense of my Catholic faith," Sharon remarked. Her teacher that year was Sister Clara. "I absolutely loved her. I remember being out on the playground and Sister Clara came out and gathered us around. She then told us that our President had been shot. We all prayed with her. That left a really profound sense of loss on us, and I remember coming home and telling my parents."

Sharon also recalls other teachers, such as third grade teacher Miss May. "I really liked her very much. At the end of the year we would all run up and hug her." She had Mrs. Macready in the fourth grade, and in the fifth grade the children had one teacher in the morning and a different one in the afternoon. "At Christmas time, we would sell things like wrapping paper and cards. It was a really big deal because the oldest child in the family got to sell those things and would receive a little reward of manger scenes. I still have them."

Father Leyland's ordination was very special, Sharon remembers. "This was a really big deal for us kids; That someone who went to school at Saint Rose went on and became a priest. He stood outside the door to the Church basement and gave us all a holy card as we passed him on the way to Church that day. I still have mine."

After attending St. Rose School, Sharon attended Perrysburg High School, where she took advanced classes. "A lot of St. Rose students took more challenging classes in high school, which I think says something about how good our education was here at St. Rose." Sharon later studied Biology at BGSU and then taught Science for 28 years at North Central High School. "I really loved teaching High School kids," she remarked.

Sharon has remained a very active parishioner at St. Rose. She is currently assigned to an hour of Eucharistic Adoration each week, during which she enjoys spending time alone with God. In addition, she is also a member of the Prayer Network, a ministry that provides a prayer chain for those in need, and she is also involved in the funeral ministry, which recites a Rosary on the days of funerals. "When you think about it, there's something special about members of the congregation praying for those who have passed." She has also served on the Intentional Discipleship Committee, the Alumni Committee, various Bible studies, RCIA, and served as a Eucharistic minister for many years.

"My time at St. Rose prepared me for the sacraments, which all struck me as being so important. When we were confirmed, we were told that we were 'Soldiers for God,' and so I grew up really believing that I should do what I can for my faith. The sacraments, for me, really

helped to develop a sense of what my Church was all about. I always felt that I received a good foundation at St. Rose for both my faith and academics.”

Thank you for sharing your memories with us, Sharon, and for your involvement at St. Rose Parish!



Sharon Hess, 1965 Confirmation



Sharon Hess, First Communion, 1963



Marsha Weis & Sharon Hess, 1970

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Sharon Hess and brother, Bob. First day of school, 1963.