

## St. Catherine of Siena, Kansas City MO: Our Lady of Peace School memories December 2010

- The playground was separated into boy side/girl side. We were not allowed to cross. We had to go out to recess everyday, except when it rained. We huddled together on cold days.
- Being able to go home for lunch
- Mrs. Hunt, the 2nd grade teacher had wooden shoes in her classroom that we could try on.
- Sr. Theodosius crossing from convent to school and her sleeping in class and her wooden rosary.
- Whenever a stray dog would sander into the school (no leash law back then!) Chaos! The kids loved it.
- Hot hamburger lunch once a month. Chips, orange drink, our choice of Reese's or Hersheys, and pickles. We loved seeing our moms cook.
- The kids used to have to participate in the science fair. The whole cafeteria was covered with projects. The top 3 winners would get to go to the fair downtown—we would ride down and set up our projects and hope for the best.
- Choir with Mrs. Farren and her strict ways and pin curled hair.
- 3rd grade teacher—she really taught us our times tables.
- Mr. Bass teaching/coaching volleyball for years. Traveling around in his station wagon for games.
- Mrs. McDonoughna, 8th grade English teacher—her red lipstick and jet black hair. She would lean against the blackboard and the chalk would rub off on her back. Sometimes we could see an entire word!
- Girls had to wear beanies and little red criss-cross ties. If we forgot the ties, we had to go buy one for the day in the supply closet.
- Football games out on Bowen Field behind the school. A few kids would manually change the scoreboard. Sitting on the hill watching the game and the cheerleaders.
- When you heard “Mr. Williams please” over the loudspeaker, we all knew that a fellow student had become sick/vomited. The janitor, Mr. Williams would then clean up the mess with his “orange powder”.
- How we all felt like one family.
- My daughter attended Our Lady of Peace for 2 years before we moved. I was grateful that we found a community that shared in and understood the needs of a family with a special needs child. Thank you for giving her the love and attention that helped her to grow into a loving, compassionate child of God.
- I taught at St. Catherine's from 1967 to 1984, This was at the time of our greatest enrollment. We had a very strong sense of community—everybody (it seems) pitched in to make it a success. At one time we had over 80 volunteers to help the teachers.
- All nine of our children graduated from St. Catherine's
- Debbie Davis made the best desserts—her cinnamon rolls were yummy!
- When God closes a door He opens a window. Let's look for the window.
- I use to clean the school and the students would like it when they would come into a clean school everyday.
- Our Lady of Peace School was joy to teach at. We had the love of God, love of teachers, love of parents and wonderful and loving children-The Librarian
- Miss the joy and laughter of the children—the building seemed to have had a smile about it.
- OLOP: the school was done in by suburban sprawl, change in local faith populations, abandonment by our parishioners. Unfortunate that it had to close, but a blessing that it closed when it did.
- I had a great time teaching at OLOP. The faculty, parents and students were truly a family.
- I remember the sense of family that our school community shared. It was a place to feel welcomed and at home.
- The love and devotions of the faculty and staff.
- The wonderful dinner theaters and Debbie Davis' cinnamon rolls.

- I remember: every nun that taught me, every room I attended, every track meet I was involved in, every time my dog Penny sat outside the school waiting for my sisters and I to be released, every art project, banner and robe we participated in, created and ironed, every Religion, English, and Math class I attended, I will always remember the anticipation for the first day and the joy I felt on the last day anticipating the summer to come.
- My 8th grade year I was punished for talking in church. I was on the basketball team and we were playing for the championship. I was at first punished by not being allowed to play in the game. The principal changed that and instead I had to spend lunch hour learning how to knit so I would be able to play in the game, which we won. I still know how to knit to this day.
- I felt that our priest and bishop already made the decision to close our school. Felt abandoned that numerous families shared the problems with school and junior high issues were ignored and families left. It was as if it was a done deal. Now our kids sent to other schools. Sad that St. Thomas More and Presentation need to expand. If they had boundaries. This process changed the way a lot of people feel about church again.
- Participation in the Mass was an integral part of life at St. Catherine's/OLOP. Singing at funerals, practicing readings, making banners to decorate the altar, even yummy communion bread were all a part of what we did. Father would often have us on the altar during consecration close to the "action" of our faith. It was in this spirit we chose a name for our new school, Our Lady of Peace. My mother always the comedian, called it Our Lady of Peace and quiet. The cold war is over, the school is closed, and it is up to us to make this world a peaceful place in the little and big things we do. I was going into 6th grade when the schools merged to form Our Lady of Peace. The cold war left a turbulence with kids concerned that we might be involved in a nuclear war. The "Dayafter" was on t.v., "So the Russians Love Their Children Too?" was on the radio and we wondered if Bendix wasn't going to be the big target X on the map.
- Our Lady of Peace demonstrated to me the traditional role of the Catholic church and school combination. Tradition. A part of my faith. My own grade school memory involving my eating turtle chili for lunch during lent. Sister had a real problem with this until a note from my mom assured her that the turtle was aquatic.
- I remember the faculty at St. Catherine School which was exemplary. In particular, I remember Sr. Theodosius, and elderly nun who tutored my eldest son in math throughout an entire summer. Toda he is and expert in computer engineering.
- Instead of mourning the loss of the school I'd rather celebrate the life that the school brought to the neighborhood, the parish, the families of the children that attended the school. Ask anyone that attended the school, taught at the school or worked extra to send their kids to the school. The spirit lives on!!
- OLOP provided and extended family for my husband and I and our three children. From the very beginning we were welcomed, my children made many friends as well as my husband and I. Our family spent a lot of our time together as a family at Our Lady of Peace School functions and sports activities. Those memories will be with us always. May the Lord bless OLOP families.
- I miss seeing all the children, all the activities. It is like a death and now everything is very quiet. It is sad. I am sorry it happened but I think the school died because I think it was not run like a business and I fear the same fate for our church.
- The day of the hall run was the most crazy hilarious thing ever! It was my favorite!
- I started school at St. Catherine's in 1966. I attended with all of my siblings and neighbors. All of my children graduated from OLOP except one. The school is very much missed. :(
- I remember the "stuffed clown doll" in Sister Maureen Teresa's room. I would plan in my head that if there was ever a fire, I would be sure to get the clown out to safety!!:)
- The word I thin of when I hear Our Lady of Peace is "family". As a parent and a teacher, I felt as though each day I was surrounded by a huge extended family. The experiences that I had at OLOP had a great impact on my life and on the lives of my family. We will always be grateful that were able to include Our Lady of Peace in our life's experiences.

- Thank you to all the staff and teachers who love our children as much as we did.
- OLOP: I remember my younger siblings and then my daughter running across the parking lot, eager to greet their friends and the school staff. I was never anxious about their safety when I knew they were at OLOP :).
- The school closing felt like losing a friend or family member in death. However, the foundations and values for life live on in my son, who was a student @ OLOP/St. Catherine's.
- After sending 9 kids through St. Catherine's/OLOP we have many lasting memories of the school and hated to see it close. One memory I have is of the school monthly lunches the kids looked forward to. Hamburgers and a candy bar. All the work and friends, the good teachers and the principals that had a hot line to our house due to some of the kids but thanks to them the kids grew up with good values. The school was like family and a very important part of our lives.
- I wish I had the money to bring the school back as a viable learning center.
- I feel sad and horrible. I had been there since I was 3 years old and did not get to graduate with all of my friends.
- I feel like we lost our community. No other school has the sense of community as we had here.
- Lovely community and great friends
- All good things must come to an end it seems.
- I remember the happy sounds of the full school with all the kids in their uniforms
- Schools are what binds communities. Loss of schools deteriorates a community.
- All the teachers were really nice.
- All 3 of my children attended OLOP and they so appreciate the education and friendships that they obtained there. The teachers were loving, gifted and dedicated and my children have very fond memories of each teacher, each classroom. The school was a blessing to each of them and to me. I knew there was no better place that they could be.
- How hard everybody worked to keep the school open, making good friends and getting a good education.
- Everybody knew each other and got along. The 8th graders at the end of the year would run down the hall and play volleyball against the teachers.
- I remember the desperation and pleading the voice of the man who spoke at Mass when the school was about to close. His children attended OLOP. He begged and pleaded for help to keep it open. It was a sickening feeling. We were losing a valuable part of our parish.
- I remember the principal would stand outside every morning and she knew everyone's name and greeted them as such and of course the famous hall runs.
- Painting the lockers and then going out to eat Chinese with the girls in our class and Mrs. Kirse.
- Last day of my 8th grade year (1967).
- I remember running through the halls and decorating my classmates with silly string on the last day of 8th grade. The friends I made at OLOP I still have now, and even though our school has closed it lives on through us.
- That school was my life for 45 years: Baptisms, 1st Communions, work, teachers I had taught my own children.
- I miss hearing the kids play on the playground. When it closed, it was like a death of a family member.
- I miss seeing the children playing and oh how I miss grandparents day.
- Should mention the many volunteers who coached the school football, basketball, and volleyball teams.
- We lost a big part of our parish family when the school closed.
- As one who lives in the Birchwood neighborhood, I so enjoyed driving to work and seeing the cars file into the school each morning to drop off students. I will miss the vibrancy of life represented by each one.
- St. Catherine/Our Lady of Peace was a great school where children were taught about Christ and His great works.

- The school was the foundation for many meaningful lives. Much hard work and dedication went into the formation of our students.
- A sad day when it came to a close.
- Would hope that we could bring it back.
- The school has served a very useful purpose to educate our children and provide a religious education. Sorry to see it close.
- Made many new friends there. Had many good times.
- Great community and friends watching and helping our kids grow up.
- All of my children still see their OLOP friends often.
- I had 5 children who attended St. Catherine's first through 8th grade. Good memories. All of my children turned out very good.
- When our children came to St. Catherine's (the last year with that name) our daughter was in the 8th grade and truly came out of herself. She was so shy. Our 2 boys enjoyed 7 and 5 years here, learned a lot, made good friends and have treasured memories to carry into life.
- I loved my teachers and they are gone but it's good some of my friends are gone. With all the laughter of them.
- My oldest son was taught by a former high school girl friend.
- It was fun, as a parent of one of the students, to volunteer as a school nurse.
- Sorry to see St. Catherine's School close. My children spent a number of years there. I'm thankful!
- I had the good luck to meet my new best friend while working in the kitchen at OLOP just a few years before they closed.
- Ms. Kline's first grade. Making first friend on the first day of school.
- If my childhood school closed I would feel sad. It is a catholic school but is struggling to keep open. Families do not have money to support the community like in years gone by.
- The school of my childhood will remain in my memory.
- OLOP was a great school when our girls went to it. Of course that was a long time ago. The youngest is 33 years old but I feel our neighborhood is changing because the school has closed. I trust that God will guide us to do what needs to be done. I know in the last few years there was a lot of anger.
- I attended 8 years at St. Catherine's. My older sister and brother also attended. My memories include May crownings, Christmas programs and Mrs. Hunt my favorite teacher.
- The well structured classes and the discipline will last a lifetime no matter what happens to the school.
- I remember my son being offered to skip a grade, along with 3 or 4 others. I think only one chose to. It wasn't him. I remember Fr. Bob Hager and how much he brought to the kids and families—truly a man of God.
- Sad—a part of our lives gone away but also the good times and the people we were blessed to know. The community was a real foundation of our lives.
- Nothing lasts forever except love. The love present in OLOP nurtured our children and grounded them in faith and that will never end.
- Schools, like our life experiences have ups and downs. But we know from experience that good results come from adversity. With faith, all good things survive.
- We feel much sympathy for those mourning the passing of our St. Catherine's/Our Lady of Peace. Both grade schools and highs schools for us have been closed in the K.C. district. The church where we were married 56 years ago, along with the school—St. Augustine—also St. Bernadette' school closed. To see the empty building brings sadness.
- In 1961 when my oldest son started to school, there were 1200 students in the school. Two hundred fifty first graders. We had nuns and the discipline was great and tuition was only \$50 a year.
- I attended St. Louis Elementary. Sr. Georgeanne was my 2nd and 4th grade teacher.

- I still keep in touch with her. She was quite an influence in my life.
- My husband, my children and grandchildren went to school at St. Catherine's/OLOP and it was such a happy time for all. It was always fun for the kids and grandkids to speak of the same school that their dad and granddad went to. It was all good.
- I would have mixed feelings if the school of my childhood closed. It is still open—the only catholic parish in a small Kansas town.
- Instead of walking home for lunch, once each month we would have a group luncheon in what was then known only as “the church basement”. For 35 cents we enjoyed a hamburger, chips, orange drink and a “Hershey bar”.
- At OLOP all the teachers had a fun way of communicating when they taught.
- Miss the children and the altar boys and girls. I think we should have a school.
- Good name “Our Lady of Peace”. What the Blessed Virgin Mary told the children at Medjugorje who she is. The Queen of peace her son Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace.
- I understand all good things must come to an end. I'm sorry the school had to close down.
- I ran the school cafeteria program for 8 years. I loved baking and making homemade good so that all of the children had that “home” feeling, a feeling of family.
- I had 3 children graduate from OLOP, they each have lifetime friends that they went to grade school with. When Marianne Long was principal, each and every child had a hug as they left the school cafeteria after lunch. I too, made life long friends. My husband was in charge of the soccer program almost as long as I ran the cafeteria. I miss the smiling faces of all the children, especially after I handed them a warm chocolate chip cookie!
- Memories include so many of the people who made up the school family on a happy social level and a very painful level—many good priests and nuns who worked for us and all the volunteers like coaches, etc.
- Fond memories of Sister Delores and her staff of dedicated nuns.
- St. Catherine School class of 1961 green uniforms and beanies. We had a great volleyball team! I have good memories of all my classmates. Things come and things go but memories last forever!
- Both schools of my childhood are gone—as adults we move on and provide Catholic schools elsewhere for new families.
- St. Catherine's school full to overflowing with children—nuns as teachers and principal—a surging faith community—what changes years have made.
- Gone but not forgotten. Memories linger on!
- The best school years I remember with family of 10. The nuns knew how to teach all subjects. It was a wonderful time in my life.
- The many children—grown now—working the health room, the hamburger luncheons, reading help, seven of our children claim this their school.
- St. Catherine School had all good meaning for our family. The kids would come home for lunch and the loved it. They got a wonderful education—it's greatly missed.
- St. Catherine's School/Our Lady of Peace great school. Sent 5 daughters through it. Wonderful teachers.
- We were not a part of the school at St. Catherine's but we share in the sadness and the hope that our church can move on in remembrance of the good times.
- The neighborhood was filled with children in the 70's and 80's. The mother was at home. The children ran home for lunch. When there was funeral the children from the school attended the funeral. The PTA was very active and kept our parents and children connected.
- Our Lady of Peace was a school that put religion as their first priority. They took the children's education very seriously and gave them a lot of self discipline.
- I remember building one of my favorite friendships at St. Catherine's. I became a member of the Dujakovich family, going to their home in St. Catherine's Gardens almost everyday, after school. There is still great joy whenever I visit St. Matthew's and see Paula Dujoakovich there. We at St. Catherine's were and are a GREAT family!