

## **What do I value about my Catholic education at OLPH? Why?**

### **Laura Mahoney-8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate:**

Being in a school that teaches religion has greatly impacted my life in drastic measures. My relationship with God is much stronger than it would have been without my Catholic education. I learn about different ways I can help my community, and most important is it inspires me to shine the light of Christ for everyone to see. The idea of “shining the light of Christ” is just one big metaphor that sums up into one general meaning: to love others with the same passion that Jesus did. It is comforting to know that God will always be on my side, rooting for me to show Jesus’ love and kindness. My Catholic education is what taught me that valuable lesson. I have grown from a frightened shy kindergartener unable to let go of her mom’s hand on the first day of school into an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is not afraid anymore because I know God will be by my side as long as I love him. My Catholic identity helped me grow into a more mature young woman with a respect for everyone I meet. People educated in a Catholic environment are bound to grow up to be the leaders of tomorrow. When I am finished at OL,

I will uphold a certain respect for others that can only be obtained through the Catholic education that is received at OLPH School.

### **Rebecca Van Kirk-8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate:**

This is what my catholic education means to me: do not take things for granted because they might not always be there. I can understand things more clearly, I can use it to help those in need, to help those who do not know what to believe religiously, and to help those who have gone down the wrong path in life. With a good Catholic education you know that it is wrong to see a person suffering and keep moving as if you had not even seen them in the first place.

### **Tessa Kindelin-8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate:**

I value very much that my Catholic education gives my life reason and purpose. I appreciate the fact that I can talk about my faith at any time, in any class, with any of my teachers. I feel it needs to apply to every subject, not just religion. All of my classmates can relate to me on my religious journey. The friends that OLPH has helped me make, truly help me grow in faith and happiness.

### **Brian O’Brien-8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduate:**

My Catholic education at OLPH has helped me to learn about God and the Church, has reinforced important values that mold us into the person we become and has helped me to make lasting friendships. My education at OLPH has been the foundation necessary to succeed in life. My parents certainly are the building blocks of my values and behavior, but OLPH continues to make sure that we know their importance. We are raised to know right from wrong, but we have to make the right choices and sometimes that is very difficult. Over the years we have learned that consequences come from those choices, but an OLPH education has made making the right choice easier. Throughout the last nine years I have been able to make some great friendships. They will always be the ones I can count on during my high school & college years and, most likely, later in life.

### **James Tallis-8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate:**

My Catholic education has made me James Tallis. It has taught me countless things in and out of the classroom. From learning to read in kindergarten, to writing full essays in seventh and eighth grade, my Catholic education has prepared me for new schools to come and life lessons for the future. At Catholic school, you feel a sense of unity. It feels like my family away from home. Everyone is united with one common reason, our belief in Jesus Christ. From friends, to classmates to teachers to nuns and priests, there is always someone there who you can turn to for help. Catholic school education teaches you concepts in the classroom that prepare you for high school. The teachers really care whether you do well and understand the material. They are always there to help you. We are pushed to great extent with our schoolwork and are expected to do well. We are pushed for a reason, to learn the material and to mature in our work ethic which includes managing our work time with our studies and homework. Catholic school has made me a very confident person in my actions and myself. I’ve done things I never thought I’d do. I’ve tried things I never thought I would try. I love the sense of family the atmosphere carries around the buildings.

**Kerry Faoro-7<sup>th</sup> grade:**

It has taught me more about my God and ways to keep following on his glorious path. We are very fortunate to have religion class four times a week to learn and read about the mysteries and stories of God. I also value Sister Paulanne for taking her time to teach us religion. She understands how important our faith is and helps us to also understand. I think it is a great experience hearing her numerous stories and being taught by her every day. My Catholic faith means more to me than "just going to church every week." It means loving, believing, and following the one true and regal God for as long as I live. It has not only impacted me, but my whole family. We all go to church together and say a decade of the rosary every Sunday night. If someone isn't there the rosary will be done on Monday. I do not think this tradition would have been started without the great influences of a Catholic education. Doing this not only brings me closer to my family, but closer to God. OLPH students have learned and are taught things every day that will help us become closer to God for the rest of our lives.

**Anna Wetoska-7<sup>th</sup> grade:**

At OLPH, as we progress as young adults, we progress as Catholics. There are many different buildings which represent different grade levels. I feel that these buildings are like stepping stones to becoming a better Catholic. I love and value many things about my Catholic education, but my favorite three would be the important life lessons our teachers teach us, the community service we do, and how we treat everyone like family. Our teachers are kind, patient, understanding and very dedicated to teaching us to the best of their ability. Our teachers teach us more than just the basic subjects and religion. They teach us lessons that will carry us through life and will help us to succeed. They teach us two main principles, discipline and faith. Discipline keeps us grounded and keeps us from doing all the weird, crazy things that some undisciplined teenagers do these days. I've learned at OLPH that when we don't follow the rules, consequences will follow. The teachers tell us know matter how bad a situation might be we should always be faithful to Jesus. Community service makes the world a better place! At OLPH we take many actions to help improve the community around us. I feel that being a part of these service projects has made me realize that one person can make a big impact on their community. At OLPH School our golden rule is treat thy neighbor as thy brother. At school we treat our classmates like family. We always help each other out and encourage one another to do their best. All my teachers have taught me skills that will carry me through life and if I had the chance I would go to every teacher I ever had and thank them for teaching me everything I know today.

**Liam McKeough-7<sup>th</sup> grade:**

The teachers don't just teach a subject, they teach you how to be a good person. In religion class they teach you how to love one another. In science they teach you the basic units of life. Even in art they teach you how to draw images of things you thought you could never have drawn by yourself. Another way I use Catholic teachings is in my social life. I follow the teachings of Jesus by treating people as if they were myself. I treat people the same if they are my friends, my fellow classmates, or people I do not even know.

**Nicholas Sonzero-7<sup>th</sup> grade:**

I value learning about the Gospels as I believe they help us carry out the word of Jesus into the world. We are not only taught religiously, but we have great sports. We are taught to play hard, but that winning is not everything. We are all taught to be good sportsmen and use good sportsmanlike conduct on the fields with our teammates and our opponents. Sister Paulanne is a modern Saint. She is always there to help us, she answers questions and describes things very well. She is a great person and is very helpful to the community and has been at OLPH for a very long time.

**Annie Bredemann-6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

Education: the process of educating, teaching, or practicing. When I looked this word up in the dictionary, I thought there is so much more to our education here at OLPH. When we think about the word education, we think about reading, writing, and arithmetic. Catholic education is a whole different story. Students are not just taught the basics they need to graduate. They are taught to dig deeper in their minds and hearts, and to really think about whom they are and what their religion means to them. I don't know how she does it, but Sister Marie manages to teach the facts to us and make sure they stay in our brains. I am glad we have a nun as a teacher because they have dedicated their entire lives to God, so they know what they are talking about, and the public schools don't have this great advantage. I would have never learned how to use the Bible if I didn't have religion class. Another great reason to come to our school is the spirit of generosity that can be found here. Charity might be one of the most important things we learn here at OLPH. When others are in need, our school and parish are always there to help. Dr. Mills has shown us how to be loving and kind. OLPH makes us think outside of ourselves, and outside of Glenview, where there is suffering and pain in the world. We are taught to follow God's Ten Commandments, and we try to live by these guidelines. I think that detentions are a good idea because they are not really a punishment, but more so a reminder to act as we should. OLPH is committed to helping its students be the best they can be and to help them achieve their goals. This school is like my family.

**Olivia Janickas-6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

The benefits of attending a Catholic education run far deeper than simply attending Mass and having religion class. I have realized there is a special feeling and presence that surrounds the school in every class we take. My Catholic education has taught me that being popular or pretty is not a major priority in life. It really focuses on being the real person you are and what is inside of you. We can celebrate holidays together that public schools would not. I feel comfortable in Church not only because of Sunday Mass, but the church is a big part of school attendance. I feel I am not only blessed with my immediate family, but have a large family in my school and church. It is very comforting to feel the sense of belonging and to feel you are part of something big.

**Colleen Palmer-6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

OLPH is a community that shares the same important values as my family. This community is built on love, honesty, caring, and helping those in need. Throughout my nine years at OLPH, I have learned to love others as God loves me and to treat others as I would like to be treated. I show my love through my thoughts, words and actions. Honesty is something that is demanded from the students at my school. OLPH teachers have helped me to learn that honesty is the basis of a lasting relationship. Honesty is also an important factor in building a good reputation. Caring is a virtue that can be defined on many levels. The way I was taught is that caring is always being there for somebody. I should always show concern and sympathy for anyone who may be going through difficulties, or hard times. I have learned about making the right choices and remembering our Christian duties and will try my best to show the world.

**Claire Biasco-6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

OLPH has taught me to not only trust in what we believe in, but also to live it out in our everyday lives. The Bible has taught us many things about our faith, but OLPH went the extra mile to teach us to trust in it. We learn to believe in it, but why we believe in it too. I believe I am a more confident, Christian person because of the values I have lived as a student at OLPH.

**Erin Riordan-5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

Some reasons why I value OLPH education: community, academics, sports, liturgies, parish life and service. The whole school creates such a loyal association as a community. OLPH is about coming together as we learn and grow in our faith. OLPH commits and helps develop our religious, Catholic faith. OLPH teaches me responsibility, fairness, honesty, justice and more. OLPH is always willing to welcome any new Christians to our school. Playing sports at OLPH requires working together, sportsmanship and setting goals. Liturgies and Prayer Services at OLPH are inspirational. They untie the whole school as a community. All aspects of our parish, community, faith academics, sports, liturgies, and service contribute to my development as a person.

**Cameron Duffy-5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

OLPH is such an outstanding school because it has good teachers, sports programs, and religion and many other activities. My teachers take time to know if we get the concept. If we don't, they will find a way to help us understand. I also like how a priest sometimes visits our classrooms to talk to us. Another thing I like is the school masses we do in our great church. We learn the songs in our Liturgical Music classes and we practice them as a school in the church. Another thing I like is the activities such as Warrior Day, Roundball and the sports programs. Something really special at OLPH is each grade has Buddies. Buddies are a student in an older grade paired with someone younger. You do crafts with your buddy every time you meet. That is a way to meet new people. It is a privilege to have all those things at my school. For these and many other reasons, including meeting my best friend, I am grateful that my parents sent me to such a great school.

**Stephanie Collins-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

When I think about how fortunate I am, I usually think about my education. The teachers are so nice and give every student so much support and help. They really understand how and when we learn well. In Religion class, a class we have every day, we make understandable connections from our lessons to our daily lives. We "dig down deep" and learn about God, finding his importance in our lives. Outside the 5<sup>th</sup> grade halls, there are 900 other students! We learn that we are not just one grade, we are part of a school family that is all in it together. We are united together through Christ, prayer, sports and special friendships. My school not only learns well, but we share well too. Everyone participates in all of the food drives and collections. "OLPH is the best and greatest place for me to learn and grow in my Catholic faith". Through good times and bad, the school family at OLPH sticks together and helps and supports everyone.

**Mary Kate Campbell-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

I like that we get to learn something new every day in Religion class. I like that we don't have to go to a different school every few years, we stay at the same school preschool to eighth grade. Another thing I like are the people you meet who can inspire you like Sister Paulanne, Father Hickey, or Father Paddy. I also like the places and field trips we get to go like the Museum of Science and Industry, Lincoln Park Zoo, Camp MacLean & the Ski Trip. Another thing I like is every year you never get bored because in 1<sup>st</sup> grade we have Grandparents Day. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade you have First Holy Communion and your first Reconciliation. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we read the Holy bible. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade we learn about the Beatitudes. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade we learn about all of the 7 sacraments. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we learn about the Old Testament. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade we learn about the New Testament. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we get Confirmation. I like that we wear uniforms. With uniforms there is equality and no kid is more popular just because of what they wear. Another thing I like is we have good teachers and adults that really influence us. They put in so much effort to get all of us students interested in what we are learning. It is the place I like to sometimes call home because whenever I am there I feel like I am at home because of all the nice people there.