

EDUCATION NEWS

TEACHER CELEBRATES FORTY YEARS AT GRADE SCHOOL ALMA MATER



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When Judy Cassidy entered Holy Child School at Rosemont (then School of the Holy Child) as a first grader in 1951, it was unlikely that she would have imagined still being there in 2017. However, for the past 40 years, Cassidy has taught second grade at Holy Child, imparting the same values that she learned there as a student.

"I loved every single minute of my time there as a child. The philosophy and mission of this school is exactly the same as it was 65 years ago. Each child was thought of as an individual and treated with respect. It was the happiest place that I could be," she said.

When Cassidy began teaching, Holy Child was run by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. She was the school's second lay teacher and taught alongside the sisters who educated her. Cassidy's love for teaching was nurtured during her education at Holy Child, especially by Mother Mary Constance.

"She made me want to be a teacher. She was just so, so kind in the way she did things." Cassidy even remembers playing "teacher" as a young child and making a nun's habit out of sheets. "Yes, I did play teacher, but I took it to the next level!"

A lot has changed at Holy Child since the 50's, including the campus and the size of the school community. "The children are the same. What's really changed is the way that I can implement technology. It makes education so much more alive. It brings to life everything that you teach

them," she said. Throughout her decades of teaching, Cassidy has held strongly to her educational philosophy. "My hope is really to be the advocate for each child that I teach. It's the whole idea of trying to find the thing that's going to make them want to learn. What I want to know more than that is that I've helped them to be good people."

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