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**Long before we ever had children**, we always felt that Catholic school would be the best option for their education. As a Catholic school student myself (K-12), I was already convinced of its immense value. My husband attended a nationally recognized public school, but as an adult convert to Catholicism, he also felt that Catholic school would provide a superior foundation for our children’s lives. When we searched for our first home, we were delighted to find we could live very near St. Catherine of Siena parish. We attended a Mass to get a feel for the parish, and before the last notes of the choir reverberated throughout the sanctuary, we knew this would be our beloved spiritual home for many years to come. We were also thrilled that the parish had started a school. We supported St. Catherine’s in that endeavor, anticipating all our children would one day be students there. We watched it thrive and grow, and were incredibly blessed when the Dominican Sisters arrived. Eleven years after we joined the parish, our first child brought our long held dream to reality when she started Kindergarten at St. Catherine’s. This school is a warm, loving place where she is surrounded by people who truly care about providing her not just the best education, but incredible support in her Catholic faith traditions. Every person from the maintenance staff to the pastor support each other in their faith. The priests visit the school often to bless and spend time with the students. Children are inspired every day to grow their knowledge through a love of learning, to think carefully and critically, to do works of mercy, and to joyfully live their faith. Teachers not only go out of their way to personally tell us about our children’s accomplishments, but the school staff and other parents do so as well. They take time to personally know them, even our preschooler. We can’t wait for her to graduate from the preschool and attend St. Catherine’s next year, because it is so much more than a school - it is a family. St. Catherine of Siena parents, faculty, staff, and students all walk the path to holiness, learning from and helping each other to grow in faith, knowledge, and love along the way.

*The McLure Family*

