

# **OMC: Waiting With Open Arms**

By Peter and Colleen Amuso

A few years ago, if you had asked us why we send our children to OMC Parish School, we would have given you a two-word answer: "Sister Marie." Sister Marie Rein, SSJ, was the long-time preschool teacher at Our Mother of Consolation.

When we first became parishioners at OMC, our oldest, Maggie, was six months old. One of the first masses we attended was the opening mass for Catholic Schools Week. After mass, we stopped into the annual Catholic Schools Week open house to see what the school had to offer.

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As soon as we entered the preschool classroom, Sister Marie scooped Maggie up in her arms and asked us her name and age. When we told her, Sister Marie looked into Maggie's eyes and said, "Maggie, I am waiting for you. I will see you in three years." A year later, we walked in for the Catholic Schools Week open house, and even though she had not seen us for an entire year, Sister Marie said, "Maggie, I am still waiting for you!" We were very impressed.

This went on year after year until finally it came time for Maggie's first day of preschool. She ran into Sister Marie's arms, and Sister said, "Maggie, I have been waiting for you for years and now you are finally here!"

Maggie's preschool experience was a wonderful introduction to learning and to our Catholic faith. In no time, Maggie was teaching the Hail Mary to her brothers and lecturing us all on the meaning of Christmas. We could not imagine a better teacher than Sister Marie.

Then came kindergarten and we met Christine Gallagher, with her perfect combination of affection and discipline. Soon, Maggie was keeping track of the days of the week in Spanish and reading her bedtime story to me. We could not imagine a better teacher than Ms. Gallagher.

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Then came first grade and we met Ms. Tobin. Once again, we could not imagine a better teacher. Soon Maggie was lecturing the family on the lives of the saints and helping me with the crossword puzzle in *The Inquirer*.

This experience has continued into second grade (Mrs. Weir), third grade (Mrs. Feeley), fourth grade (Mrs. Logan) and with our sons Frankie and Chip. One incredible teacher after another working together as a team weaving Catholic Values and Academic Excellence to foster the best possible learning environment.

Ms. Gallagher is now the preschool teacher. Following in the footsteps of Sister Marie, Ms. Gallagher is now the one who scoops up our youngest, Finn, and says, "Finn, I am waiting for you."

**Why do we send our children to OMC Parish School?  
The Teachers**

So we still have a two-word answer to why we send our children to the parish school: "The teachers."

Stop in for a visit. The teachers are waiting for you with open arms.