

Family, Church, School and Community Memories  
Submitted by Elaine Heying

As a lifetime member of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish I have many fond memories. Larry and I received all the sacraments, attended school through eighth grade here and DeSales for high school. We were married here in 1968 and Larry was buried in this cemetery in 2013. Our children received all the sacraments in this church. Our daughters were both married here.

Larry and my parents and grandparents were life-long members of this parish with most receiving the sacraments at Our Lady of Seven Dolours. They are also buried here in St. Mary Cemetery. Both Larry and my siblings received all the sacraments in this church and attended St. Mary School. So many special occasions all taking place in Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church. I am sure many families have similar stories to share from the past 175 years.

As you know there have been many changes in the Catholic Church through the years. I think the biggest change I remember is the Mass going from Latin to English and the priest facing the congregation during Mass. Other changes are fasting from midnight to receive Holy Communion was required; receiving Holy Communion by mouth only and now, receiving the host in one's hands.

I also remember attending May devotions every Sunday night as a child, Forty Hours devotions, Corpus Christi processions, attending Daily Mass every morning to start our school day. These are some of the many changes from then until now.

Back in the day, neighbors' car pooled to bring children to school. Sometimes there were as many as a dozen children in a car for the three to four mile ride to school. We would be triple decked to get everyone in the car. I don't think that would fly these days. I am sure some even remember walking to school.

The many hours of volunteer work has been an impressive part of our parish. From serving on parish councils, school boards, rosary society officers, lectors, lay ministers, choir director, secretaries, snow removal, cleaning the grounds in the spring, pulling weeds, cleaning tombstones, cleaning church and parish center, decorating altars and church for Mass, and other jobs which may come up. These are all things that make our church community great!

I feel we have a very generous parish community and everyone is willing to help out when needed! May God continue to bless our parish and keep it strong for many generations to come.

Our Lady of Seven Dolours Pray For Us!

Elaine & Larry Heying  
1968



