



Memories of St. Brigid School from Sister Margaret Platte Principal 1975-1978

My first year of teaching at St. Brigid School was 1974 -1975. I taught 5th and 6th grade Math plus other subjects. That year we still had about 9 seventh graders but with so few, a decision was made to discontinue seventh grade since some of their time was already spent at the public school. That year Sister Noreen Burns was Principal and I was there to observe all she did so I could take over as Principal the next year. I took over as Principal in 1975 – 1976. That year the St. Brigid School Board decided to add a Kindergarten classroom with hopes that it would help build enrollment. The Kindergarten classroom was fitted with tables and chairs and materials appropriate for 5 year olds.

During that time the Redemptorist priests were in charge of the parish. Father Tobin was pastor and Father Hilary and McKeever were assistants.

Sister Mary Charlita Smith taught first grade and prepared children for First Communion. Catherine Rowland taught second grade, and Jackie Nephew taught 4th grade. (I don't remember the names of the other teachers) Sister Mary Ann Thue and Louis Begin worked in the parish in music ministry and also worked with the school children to sing at the school Masses.

Sister Charlita Smith, Sister Mary Ann Thue and myself lived in the convent located on Ellsworth St. and Rodd St., about two blocks from the school. It was a 4-bedroom, two story house with a garage

As my first experience as a Principal, I found the teachers and parents very supportive of me and the school. We had excellent teachers who were very dedicated to their students. We refurbished the playground during that time and had a carved, wooden alligator for the children to play on as

well as a wooden totem pole. We purchased a large parachute from a surplus store and during gym class the children enjoyed standing in a large circle and waving the parachute up and down along with other activities with it. They also enjoyed playing indoor hockey.

During my third year as Principal, the school continued to struggle with low enrollment and it became a financial challenge for the parish. In discussion with the Pastor, I decided that it would be my last year there as it looked like the school might close. However, a group of parents rose to the occasion and helped to raise funds and encourage enrollment. Catherine Rowland and Jacquie Nephew offered to take over as co-principals for the coming year.

That year Sister Mary Charlita also felt it was time to move on to another school. So, we were the last two Mercy Sisters at the parish and the convent was sold.

I was totally delighted and amazed to see that a brand-new school was built after I left and that the school continues to thrive as a parish school. May God continue to bless St. Brigid School and congratulations on your 100th anniversary.

(the above photo was taken on my 50th anniversary as a Sister of Mercy in 1960.)

