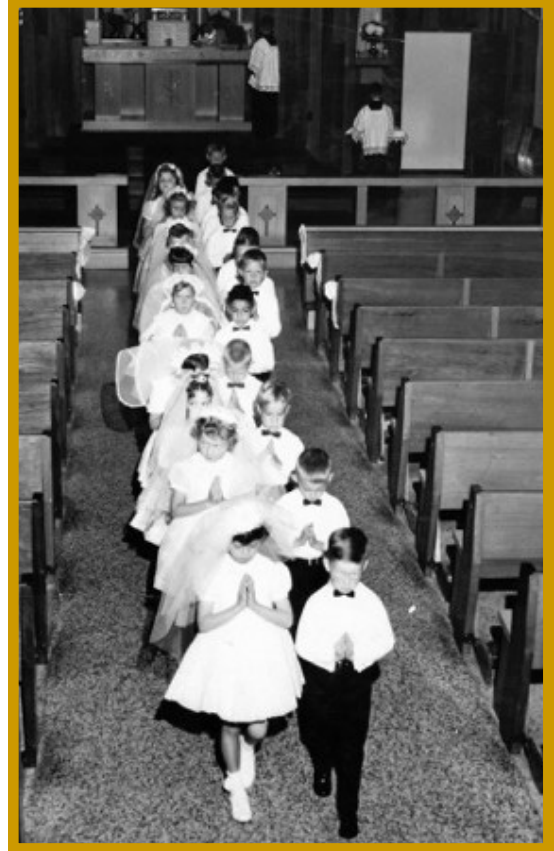




I am grateful that I am an alumnus of both St. Joseph and Immaculata. I went through Grades 1-12 here in Kelowna, graduating in 1974.

Amazingly, all of the buildings that were there “way back then” are all still active now. Most of them were in some form of disrepair then and they are certainly long overdue for replacement.

The quality of the facilities aside, there was a lot of learning that went on throughout my Catholic education. Some of the learning was in the classroom, some of it on the courts and playing fields, and some (although I didn't know it at the time) was the result of learning a lot of life lessons from many of the religious and lay teachers and coaches I had over the years.



Don Turri—5th from front on the right

One of the key things I learned from my Catholic education was the importance of servanthood. Being aware of the needs of others and treating everyone with dignity, respect and kindness was exhibited so many times by my teachers and coaches that it became intuitive. I could have learned this in other secular settings, I suppose, but servanthood is such an important fundamental of our Catholic faith.

Another key life teaching was that persistence (in studies, in work, in life) pays off. We were taught that staying focused on a task and seeing it through to completion was critical to a successful education, career and life.

All of the religious, lay teachers and coaches during my school years were extremely dedicated to Catholic education. They weren't in it for financial gain that is for certain. Back then there was no government funding at all for private schools. They were dedicated to ensuring students received the best possible Catholic school experience. Dedication was another life lesson that has stayed with me over the years.

Kelowna has grown a lot since I attended St. Joseph and Immaculata; some graduates still live in the area and others do not, but we all share the connection that comes from the special experiences of our time together in Catholic school.

Submitted by

Don Turri
Alumnus