



*So much has changed since I was a child growing up in Latrobe. It seems like yesterday when I first learned to ride a bike, got a library card and walked to school by myself. Reflecting back, I realize how blessed I was to attend Holy Family, now Christ the Divine Teacher School. Although many things have changed, the commitment and dedication of the teachers at Christ the Divine Teacher School have not. Let me tell you about my experience with Miss Sandra Romano who is celebrating her 40th year of teaching at our school!*

*I was a student of Miss Romano's for three years, and she taught me to love English and to become a writer. In the classroom, I learned tedious synonyms and antonyms, adverbs and adjectives, paragraph writing and—ugh—diagramming sentences. Then there was the fun—themes. Each holiday, Miss Romano would come up with three or four opening lines of a story. I now realize that Miss Romano “tricked” us into writing fun stories as a way to teach us how to write anything, sentences still had to have a subject and verb, and paragraphs still had to have a beginning, middle and end, whether you were writing about haunted houses or Abraham Lincoln.*

*Of course, not all of Miss Romano's teaching happened in the classroom. She also directed the school play. After holding auditions, Miss Romano invited 15 or 20 of us to her HOME for the first “read through” of the play. Of course, I didn't realize at the time just how extraordinary this was!*

*Miss Romano influenced my life. She gave me an excellent foundation for becoming a pretty good writer, for which I remain thankful. And she taught me that learning can be fun, both inside and outside the classroom. She always encouraged me to challenge myself and be the best that I could be.*



*Teachers like Miss Romano continue to touch hundreds of lives everyday at Christ the Divine Teacher School. This gem of a school has been providing Catholic education to children in our area for years. It is a vital and essential part of our community.*

*All good stories, Miss Romano taught me, must have an ending. I hope the memories of the teachers who influenced your life will inspire you to lend your support to our annual fund. She inspired me to become the woman I am today.*

*Warm regards,*

*Jill Paone Simmons  
Class of '84*