

Kathleen Smith

Teacher Recruitment & Retention Fund

Ms. Kathleen Smith is a renowned figure in the halls of Sacred Heart High School and a legacy among its graduates. She is known for rigorous instruction, but also for her commitment to learning and willingness to help her students succeed. Sacred Heart alumni proudly report that they are well prepared for even the most challenging college Math courses, thanks to Ms. Smith.

This year, Ms. Smith celebrates 50 years in education. She began her career in 1970, with her first teaching job at Sacred Heart. She spent four years in administration and ultimately recognized that she was made for the classroom, so she joined the faculty at UCA. Ten years later she returned to Sacred Heart to teach 7-12 math. She says "It was nice to be able to return to Sacred Heart in 2000. I can finish my teaching career where I started it."

Of her 50 years spent in education, 39.5 years have been in Catholic schools. This kind of dedication to Catholic education is commendable and it is for this reason that Sacred Heart Catholic School has chosen to create the **Kathleen Smith Teacher Recruitment and Retention Fund**

This fund is being established to create a sustainable plan for ensuring that Sacred Heart can continue to recruit and retain the very best teachers. Although it is named for Ms. Smith, it is meant to honor and recognize all those who have and continue to serve as educators at Sacred Heart. For as Pope John Paul said, "*... no Catholic school can be effective without dedicated Catholic teachers, convinced of the great ideal of Catholic education. The Church needs men and women who are intent on teaching by word and example – intent on helping to permeate the whole educational milieu with the spirit of Christ. This is a great vocation, and the Lord himself will reward all who serve in it as educators in the cause of the word of God.*" – Message of John Paul II to the National Catholic Educational Association of the United States, April 16, 1979

At Sacred Heart, we recognize and value the excellent teachers who choose to teach in Catholic schools, despite the inherent personal financial sacrifice. It is well-known that Catholic school teacher salaries are far below that of public school teachers, thus making it increasingly difficult to hire and retain quality teachers. This fund will allow us to support our teachers now while also building a comprehensive long range plan for future growth. The pace of improvement will directly depend on the rate of investment from our donors. The creation of this fund marks a pivotal moment in our school's trajectory as we look toward the future.

We invite you, our alumni, parents, parishioners, and supporters who believe in and support Catholic education, to join us in this effort. Through your support of the annual fund, you are helping us support the current salary needs of the school, while also investing in the Kathleen Smith Teacher Recruitment and Retention fund. Your donation helps us continue to invest in our faculty, sustain and improve our school, and serve families for many more generations.



When you make a donation to the Annual Fund, Project Promise, or Day of Giving, your gift helps directly support our teachers every year and in the future.

www.sacredheartmorilton.org