

My name is Joe Steindl and I'm speaking on behalf of the 1968-69 St. John of the Cross 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, which was Mrs. Greene's (or as we knew her, Miss Malloy's) first class.

And, for all the young people today, to answer your question that I'm sure you are thinking, yes, believe or not, there are still people alive that were part of that first class.

My classmates all have stories of how Miss Malloy influenced them and the impact she had on their young lives. I wanted to share my story about the things I learned in that class and how it became part of who I am today.

I've been a project manager for the past twenty years and now work for a major Pharmaceutical company in Philadelphia. There is a certain way project managers have to think, a certain way you have to layer your thought process to create project plans. Through the years, I often wondered how I developed these skills that were needed for my career. One day I realized those seeds were planted back in 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Miss Malloy's class.

You see, Miss Malloy would write history and geography outlines on the chalkboard that would start at the front of the class, continue to the chalkboards to the side of the room, back to the front of the class and continue on and on and on. It seemed like it went on forever but she was very thorough. This was a very structured approach to thinking which, without fully realizing at the time, I absorbed and embraced as it became my way of thinking in life.

For years, I had hoped one day to be able to talk to Miss Malloy to thank her for teaching me this way. But, I didn't know where to find her. A few years ago, I ran into Sue McLaughlin Johnston, who was also part of Miss Malloy's class at St. John's. She mentioned to me, that by coincidence, her son was attending St. Luke's school and was a student of Miss Malloy, who was now Mrs. Greene. Here, I thought, was my opportunity to meet up with her and talk about how much her teaching had shaped my life and my career.

I e-mailed Mrs. Greene and we agreed to meet one day after school at St. Luke's. The day we met, I made sure I brought my 4<sup>th</sup> grade report card as I had a C in conduct in the third quarter that I really thought should have been a B. After some discussion with Mrs. Greene, she agreed she was rather harsh in her assessment of me that quarter and would try to change it in my permanent record if she could.

We talked a good two-three hours or so, reminiscing about the days of St. John's, some of my classmates she might have remembered, and where our lives had taken us for the past 40 years. After we were finished and ready to leave, there was still one important question left unanswered. I explained to her the outlines she wrote on the board from that class were the basis of my career and it left such an impression on me. Where did she come up with the concept and how did she know it was going to work?

She paused for a moment. Her reply was, 'well, I had just graduated from Cardinal Dougherty in June, they wanted me to teach in September, so I had to come up with something fast and it seemed to be the easiest thing to do.'

In truth, it was not quite the answer I was hoping for. But, I realized that, she was a great teacher back then, I could only imagine what kind of teacher she must have been when she actually had time to prepare for an upcoming semester

On behalf of your 1968-69 St. John of the Cross students, I want to thank you, Mrs. Greene, for being a wonderful teacher to us. We must have not been too bad of a class because you didn't retire after that first year. It took an additional 39 years. We wish you a happy and joyful retirement. Thank you.