



St. Francis Xavier School Ignite '24 Awardee

Joseph and Beatrice (posthumously) Nelligan, Sr.

Joseph W. Nelligan, Sr.

Bea and I moved from the South Side to LaGrange Park and joined Saint Francis Xavier in 1964. From the first Mass we attended, we were welcomed with open arms by the many great families in the parish. Our seven children attended Saint Francis Xavier Day School, which was the center of our family activity. Whether it was school events, sports, attending Mass or parish picnics, St. Francis Xavier was the focal point.

Families are what make Saint Francis Xavier what it is. Bea and I were lucky to meet and work with so many generous and dedicated friends when we volunteered as Eucharistic Minister, lector, coach, scout leader, school nurse, and helped on the school board, athletic board, in the women's and men's club, and served on the building & grounds committee.

Bea and I always felt so blessed that we were able to raise our family in such a wonderful parish, and are grateful to all the priests, nuns, teachers, coaches and fellow families. Throughout the years, it has been special to see several of our children move back home with their spouses to raise their families in the parish and give back as RE teachers, coaches, librarian, RCIA team member, PPC member, FSA President, BEDS volunteer, cantor, and choir members. How proud we were to see ten of our grandchildren graduate from St. Francis Day School, five from the St. Francis School of Religious Education, and three of our grandchildren serve as Kairos leaders. The beautiful church of St. Francis Xavier has been the setting of family baptisms, first communions, confirmations and weddings. In fact, our great grandson will be baptized here this spring.

As we learned from the other families when we joined the parish, you get back what you put in! I hope you and your families contribute to St. Francis Xavier and make it even better.