



I am blessed to be a part of the Saint Joseph Family. I began working here in 2008 and became a member of Saint Joseph Parish in 2006.

I was born in Saint Joseph Hospital to Cristobal and Elisa Jordán, my first teachers! Students ask me all the time to tell stories about my time as a student. Although I learn new things every day and still consider myself a student in many ways, I thought I would share with you some facts about me that tell about my school-life that led me to being a fellow student at Saint Joseph.

When I was 3 years old I went to preschool for two years at Martin Luther King Montessori. It was then off to Waynedale Elementary for kindergarten. I still had not mastered English after that year so I stayed another year for Reading-Readiness. They don't do this anymore today but the benefit for me was to have that extra time to build up my English skills while developing my academic foundation.

For grades 1st through 8th I attended my parish school, St. Therese. In third grade I was convinced that God wanted me to become a sister. Although He had other plans for me, my years at St. Therese had the greatest impact on my faith-life. My favorite years as a Crusader, (the mascot for St. Therese back then) were those when I played CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) Sports but what I didn't realize at the time was my personal relationship with Christ began here. I always felt that Jesus sat next to me at school Mass and Miss Yahle, (Mrs. Driscoll now), taught me that singing was twice the prayer and how together we bring the liturgy to life. Thanks, Mrs. Driscoll!!

My high school years I spent at Canterbury and continued to play sports there as well. Learning to balance the academic rigor of Canterbury while fulfilling my extra-curricular opportunities was one of the greatest life skills I gained. I learned to keep my grades up while playing sports, performed in plays, and leading my fellow Cavaliers as student body president. My biggest accomplishment there was earning the Most Improved Student Award my Senior year. My fondest memory of my high school years was when I gained my driver's license. This was huge for me. It meant I could go to church whenever I could! During school vacations I could attend weekday mass if I wanted! Sometimes I would go to mass twice on the weekends because I really missed that nourishment. Even better, my younger brothers Buck and Gabe would come with me!

My sister, Punkin, (Alice Jordan-Miles to most people) was the first to go to college in our family and her experience made me believe that I could too! With parents who believed in me, in education, and that all things are possible with God, I pressed on to college. I attended Sweet Briar College, a small women's college in Virginia with fewer than 600 students. I played volleyball, swim team, and lacrosse as a Vixen-Sweet Briar's mascot! The most interesting year of college was my junior year. Most people go abroad to another country their 3rd year of school and I did too, ok- kind of! For that year I attended an all men's college. I was a foreigner! In all my years of college, I have to tell you that it was my sports that kept me

close to my faith. In Virginia, there are very few Catholics. It was on my sports team where I found the greatest numbers of fellow Catholics. We prayed together before meals, before games, and before tests, we prayed for each other! For me and my Catholic teammates, it was clear that if our local schools back home did not have CYO Sports, we may not have found each other and stayed as strong in our faith so far away from our parish communities.

After receiving my first college degree from Sweet Briar, marrying my wonderful and ever supportive husband Joe, I felt called to go back to school in Detroit where we moved to after our wedding weekend. This is where my love for education made a turn for me as an educator. I worked in a charter elementary school in the heart of Detroit, and later taught high school in the suburbs. I started my Masters in education in Bilingual & Bi-cultural Education. My last teaching job in Michigan was in Adult education which I loved just as much!

When Joe and I moved back home to Fort Wayne I used those Adult Education skills as program director to start up an Adult Education program at here at Saint Joseph. That led to a teaching position at the school. God knew what he was doing because little did I know that the following sequence of events would lead me to you today!! While teaching at the former school, Joe had a stroke and I decided to finish up my Masters in School Administration (my principal's license) should Joe's health become more serious down the road and if I became the sole provider for our family. Instead, God blessed us with great health for Joe and the diocesan need to repurpose Saint Joseph and just as I finished my degree the plan for Saint Joseph was put forth and I was asked to be the principal. Now, here I am with you!!

I ask the Lord to bless us with 3 things. First, your prayers - for me and each other. That I may always serve you as God would like me to; to put Him first in my decisions which includes you as students, families and parishioners. Pray for balance in heart, home and health of us all. Second, I ask for your support in me and in the needs of Saint Joseph. You are what make Saint Joseph great and you are a big part of making us who we are and Saint Joseph is all of ours. Ours to support, hold up and make strong and great. I pray that I may show appreciation of all you do and when you do not know how to help may God provide us ideas or ways to help you care for our second home: our school! Third, I ask you to lead by sharing the talents you feel called to bring to this beautiful school and the lives we touch.

Heavenly Father, may we never lose sight of what our mission is - which is to have a hand in bringing all we meet closer to Christ through the self-discovery of the gifts within us and to use them for the good of others. I ask in your name, Amen.

Dios te bendiga. Your servant,

Cristy Jordán

Cristy Jordán