



Sacred Heart Herald

Lisa lives her life confidently

By Renee' Toft

Lisa Card is a very warm, energetic, personable and a giving lady, who is devoted to her children, Laylah (eighteen years old) and Deon (thirteen years old), her students and her church community.

A native Detroiter, she fondly recalls frequenting Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, where her mother, Patricia Abner-Smith, had attended elementary school. Later, they became parish members and Lisa's mom joined the choir.

After high school, Lisa attended Central State University in Ohio, began working for the Detroit Public Schools system and eventually attended Madonna University, where she obtained a master's in special education.

Because Lisa felt she lacked nurturing and self-confidence as a child, she chose a teaching career. She says, "I wanted to help young people develop into self-reliant individuals." As she taught her students, Lisa also learned to live her life very confidently and unapologetically.

After teaching at Osborn High School for ten years, she was recently promoted to lead special education teacher at Central High School, which, ironically, is in the same neighborhood where she lived as a child. Lisa considers herself much more effective because she knows the members of the community. "Working in this neighborhood gives me a special connection because I know the relatives of my students and can reach out to them, when necessary," Lisa says.

Lisa's godmother, Sherall Wade, a long time Sacred Heart choir member, has influenced her in two significant ways. "I mimicked Sherall's career by becoming a teacher and joined the choir as soon as I graduated college," says Lisa.

Father Thomas was instrumental in helping Lisa overcome her fear of singing in the Sacred Heart choir. Once she confided to Father her anxiety about singing with the choir, he let her know that being uneasy indicated her sincerity. Father told her, "It is good to be nervous because it means you care about the message."



Lisa Card

Is a government name important?

By Davina Withers



Wanda and Divina Withers

To write a short paragraph about “My Mom” would be a millisecond of an explanation of how great and wonderful she is. Naturally, I am calling her “My Mom,” not by her government name, because that name does not stir my spirit as much as calling her “My Mom.”

Many Sacred Heart parishioners have the pleasure of knowing “My Mom” as Wanda Withers, one of the greatest unmasked (Well, she wears her COVID mask), uncapped superheroes I have ever met. In her kind and gentle way, “My

Mom” manages to maintain high standards and never lets her feathers get too ruffled in any situation. Her calm manner is what I admire most about her because, in this day and age, peace is extremely valuable.

“My Mom” is and exudes love and is a wonderful reflection of God’s light on earth. Through “My Mom,” I shine. I love you, “My Mom.” Happy Mother’s Day!

“Sasha is handling her life like a champ”

By LaVette Anderson-Cooper



LaVette Anderson-Cooper,
Sasha Bennette-Sims, and
Rose Bennette-Sims

My daughter, Sasha, is a young mother, who rears her daughter, Rose, with such love, passion and care that I think I must have done something right rearing her.

When Sasha was 21 years old, married, pregnant and working, I asked myself, “How is she going to handle all of these challenges at such a young age?” Much to my pleasant surprise, Sasha is handling her life like a champ and then some. With a few minor setbacks, she is continuing to rear my smart, loving, caring and well behaved seven-year-old granddaughter, who loves and appreciates her mother unconditionally.

In addition to rearing her beautiful daughter, Sasha has been a source of support and unwavering love for me during the very difficult past few years. She is my rock. I pray that I have been her rock as well.

I give a major salute and so much love to a wonderful, loving, caring and incredible daughter, Sasha Bennette-Sims.



They live by her favorite scripture

By Kasia Rivers

Being a mother is one of the most brave and noble tasks a woman can do. To be a mother requires giving, giving and giving. My mom, Carla, has six children and she has given us all so much. She embraces motherhood, with all its joys and all its challenges, but she makes giving look so easy. Mom laughs and plays with us and she cries with us, too. Our most staunch supporter, Mom has spent hours staying up with us late at night, helping with school projects or just listening to us talk. She is a superhero and we are so grateful for her.

A truly amazing woman of strong faith, Mom fills my life with so much happiness. She lives and teaches us to live by her favorite scripture, "Be joyful always, pray without ceasing, and be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Mom is creative, fun-loving, nurturing and kind. These qualities are evident in everything she does. Whether my mother was reading to my siblings and me as kids, holding us and rubbing our backs till we fell asleep, decorating for birthdays and holidays, or just singing along with us to our favorite songs, I love the way she spent time with us. Honestly, my favorite thing to do with my mom is to be in the car with her, as she drives around running the many errands she always has to take care of, and to talk, laugh and sing with her.

She is a beautiful, vibrant, and endlessly loving person. I am so thankful for her. I could not have dreamed of a better mother or best friend.

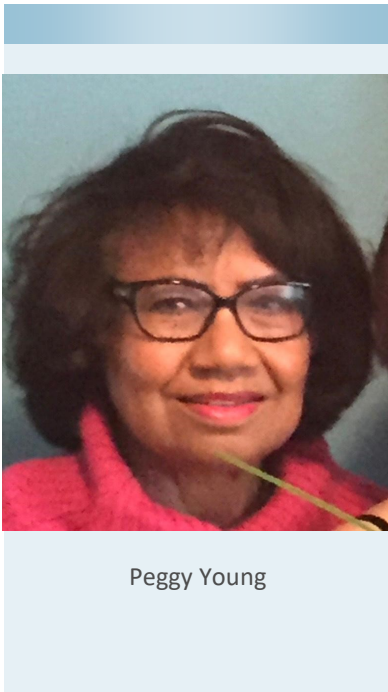
Rivers Family Seated Christopher, Kasia,, Kana, Caden. Caia, Karis. *Standing: Ronald and Carla.*

"My mom, Jackie Henry, is the most selfless person I know and has shown me true, unconditional love throughout my entire life. At age 79, Mom is still the first one to offer me help when I need it and even when I don't. I am so blessed to have her in my life. Happy Mother's Day Mom!"

- Renee Toft



Jackie Henry and Renee Toft



Peggy Young

She is her own boss

By Musette Bonds

My mother, Peggy Young, is an extraordinary person, kind of fearless and a person of many firsts. She has been the rock for our family for more than 50 years. Many family members come to her for advice in business or finance and she has employed several family members, including me, throughout the years. Motherhood was a joy for Peggy,

but becoming her own boss was her dream.

In 1980 Peggy started her own corporation, Peggy Young & Associates, Inc. Even though I had not planned to work for my mother, the boss, I started working for her during my senior year and have done so ever since.

My mother is a guiding force in my life.



Laura and Sheila Hightower

“She was truly a living angel”

By Sheila Hightower White

I did not realize how blessed I was to have Laura Hightower as my mother until after she died in 2005. She was an amazing mother, a kind lady, who was always ready to help others. A dedicated church leader, my mother always provided support for the bereaved at funerals and ministered encouraging words to family and friends.

Momma forgave the man who murdered her daughter and prayed for his salvation. She was truly a living angel and always told her children to trust in the Lord. As she was lying on her deathbed, I promised her that her children would always trust in the Lord. An awesome role model, my mother made me the woman I am today.



Teresza Fields and Erika Fields-Daniels

“Mom helps me feel better”

By Teresza Fields

My mom, Erika Fields-Daniels, is the best. She buys me food from my favorite place. Also, she buys me pretty clothes. When I am not feeling well, Mom helps me feel better. I love my mom because she takes good care of me and will love me forever.

“For 34 years I have been enormously blessed”



Sister Cathey DeSantis

Sacred Heart Church

Father Norman P. Thomas, Pastor

1000 Eliot Street
Detroit, Michigan 48207

Phone: 313-831-1356

Fax: 313-831-8603

Sacred Heart Herald

Mary Ramsey, Editor

Writers

Musette Bonds

Kyndall Bouldin

Denise Miller

Delphine Palkowski

Renee' Toft

E-mail: Maryr513@aol.com

Father Norman P. Thomas, Publisher

A native Detroiter, Sister Cathey DeSantis will celebrate being a nun for 60 years, September 12. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph at age 19, after two semesters at Wayne State. Education is a high priority for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph so she continued her education, receiving a bachelor's degree at Western Michigan and master's degree in education at Marygrove College.

After 26 years as a high school teacher, she was hired by the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance (DCPA) and served as the director for another 26 years.

Sister Cathey became a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church just before the Catholic churches in Detroit began to close in 1989. Hesitant, at first, about joining the Sacred Heart community, once she became a parishioner, she knew that she had made a good choice.

She says, “I immediately knew that becoming a part of Sacred Heart Church was one of the best decisions I had made in my life. Father Norman Thomas and the community filled me up.”

She continues, “For 34 years I have been enormously blessed. I had searched for a church for a very long time. Nothing was like Sacred Heart. I am forever grateful for its warm acceptance and subsequent involvement in the community.”

The DCPA and Sacred Heart worked well together. Her new church was influential because of its number of parishioners and its leadership in the DCPA. Sister says, “They (DCPA and Sacred Heart) were so connected, Sacred Heart being the largest congregational member in the Alliance and Fr. Thomas, the chair, that among Sacred Heart, the Alliance, and my Congregation, I wanted for nothing but to give back.”

The Congregation of St. Joseph provided Sister Cathey two significant experiences, a trip to Durbin, South Africa, and the chance to work with parishioners involved with the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She explains, “For six days I lived in Durbin, South Africa, attending the World Conference Against Racism. Also, I love the ongoing opportunity to work with parishioners who are Associates of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the promise of more to come.”

Being a godmother delights Sister Cathey, who mentions two of the ladies she has known most of their lives. She says, “I am proud of all my godchildren. Rosie, my niece, has a deep sensitivity to who wins and who loses in our society. Sparkle Berry, who has overcome tremendous obstacles to become a loving, wonderful mother of three children, will soon be a college graduate.”