Our Alumni Spotlight is shining on:

The Shivers Sisters: Three Sister Educators

“When I asked Mama why she sent us to a Catholic school when we were not Catholics, she simply said, ‘So that you could have the best education possible’ - and that is what we got at OLLS: excellent training for professional careers and contributing to society. After graduating from OLLS, we followed the same paths to Howard High School, Spelman College, and graduate schools which led to doctorate degrees” – so recalls Dr. Marian Shivers as she reminisces about her formative years and the paths chosen by these Shivers sisters - Jacquelyn, Vivien and Marian.

Dr. Jacquelyn Shivers Daniel (’52), the first to receive a college degree in the family, majored in mathematics and became a high school mathematics teacher in the Atlanta Public Schools. Her career spanned 40 years until her retirement. During her career with APS, she served in many capacities as promotional opportunities became available. She was a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Operations Supervisor, Administrator for Secondary Schools, Executive Director for Student Placement where she set up the first APS Tribunal System, and Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Each position came with higher levels of responsibility.

Dr. Vivien Shivers Stocks (’54) embarked on a journey which took her to the Atlanta Public Schools upon her graduation from Spelman. She also majored in mathematics and became a high school math teacher. Her career with APS ended with retirement after 34 years. Like her sister before her, she too progressed through the ranks, becoming a Department Chair, Assistant Principal,

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Principal, and Operations Supervisor for the elementary division.

Dr. Marian C. Shivers (‘57) continued the journey with her sisters by beginning her teaching career with APS. Her path somewhat deviated as she taught in the elementary schools. She was one of the first African American elementary teachers to integrate the public schools when she was assigned to Spring Street Elementary School. She was the first APS elementary school counselor. Her tenure with APS ended very early when she resigned after four years to move to California. In California, she served students in the Yuba Community College District for 30 years. She served as a Psychology teacher, Counselor, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean, Executive Dean/Campus Director and Assistant Superintendent for District Development. Dr. Shivers was the first African American and first African American female to serve in any administrative position at Yuba College. She currently serves as an educational consultant, adjunct professor for the Morgan State University Community College Leadership Doctoral Program and Dean of the Leadership Development Institute for African American Midlevel Administrators in the Community Colleges for the National Council on Black American Affairs.

All three of these accomplished OLL graduates remain faithful parishioners at our sister parish, St. Paul of the Cross.

Finally, we must pay tribute to the oldest sister, Dorothy Shivers Ashton (‘49), deceased, who paved the way from OLLS to Howard HS and on to Spelman College. In Marian’s own words, “She made our journey a little easier and we are grateful to her for leading the way.”

No doubt, St. Katharine is smiling down on the fruits of her labor. ~

Be sure to visit the Our Lady of Lourdes Church website and stay up to date on all the exciting happenings at the Mother Church of African American Catholics in Atlanta! Watch the 10:00 am mass live every 2nd & 4th Sunday. www.lourdesatlanta.org

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