

Faith in a Person

In our society, the interactions between individuals are essential. It's how we function, it's how we learn, and it's how we grow. Positive and negative experiences with other people shape our outlooks and our attitudes, and those attitudes help to define our individual personalities. Some people are greater influences than others, and we tend to respect those who stand out as important to us. I have had many outstanding influences in my life: classmates, teachers, bosses and coworkers, and of course friends and family. However, one relationship in particular stands out above any other: My friendship with one Mrs. Janet Davidson.

My relationship with Mrs. Davidson has grown exponentially since our first conversations. We met at a critical juncture in my adolescence: I myself was beginning to discover many feelings, thoughts, and beliefs, but was unsecure in my spiritual faith. Mrs. Davidson, as a teacher of the Catholic faith, approached this insecurity and helped me grow in faith and knowledge. With my insecurities gone, the rush of novel sensations in my tender age became clearer and easier to handle. Her value as an experienced teacher is limitless still to this day. What I truly admire about Mrs. Davidson's importance is that it continued to grow on so many levels as our relationship went on.

After teaching me the essential knowledge of practicing the Catholic faith, she accepted to being my Confirmation sponsor. Not only was she a teacher and a friend, now she would be as much a part of my family as my parents and sister were. Mrs. Davidson would be my spiritual sibling, enforcing and harboring the growth of my faith in the church. Every time we come in contact, we have something to discuss. I'll have questions and she'll have answers. I feel absolutely no discomfort when talking with her, and I'm certain she feels the same way.

Even after she moved away for a new job, our relationship has still grown. Soon after she left, I volunteered to teach the third grade Catechism class at our church. The experience was enriching on so many levels, and I would have never considered doing such a thing if Mrs. Davidson hadn't shown me the strength of community our faith shares. As of now, I can relate to her as a friend, student, fellow teacher, and family.

Knowing Mrs. Davidson has helped me grow from being a confused child to an adult with unshakable convictions. I still keep healthy contact with Mrs. Davidson, and her faith in prayer and the church is as strong as ever. I admire her commitment still; it's motivated me to take on and accomplish so much thus far. My relationship with Mrs. Davidson is one that I will never take for granted, as well as one that I hope will last forever.