

Dawn's History

Darlene Rae Sutton (Dawn as she liked to be called) was born on July 5, 1946. Dawn always thought that this date was kind of special as it was a celebration enjoyed by the country on July 4 and Dawn liked the family gatherings enjoyed by her family. Dawn's parents were Alice Marshall Sutton (Mom) and Alvin Clifton Sutton (Dad). Richard McBane (Step Dad) was a very influential part in her life. Dawn had a brother, Ronnie, who was two years younger than she was. Dawn also had a half sister, Lisa, who was eighteen years younger than she.

Dawn's Mom was the oldest of nine children. It was believed that she was the third in line of the family birth order. Dawn's Mom was very talented in making clothes, smocking, knitting, and crocheting. She sewed from the time she was twelve years old. Her mom sold handkerchiefs for her when she was a young mom. Mom also sold AVON at night. She was a very hard working woman.

Dawn's Dad started a trucking and busing business that became a multi-million dollar business. Ron and his children operate it now.

Dawn became Catholic because of Dawn's Mom's sister, Edith Margaret Santa Barbara (Aunt Edith). From the start of first grade, Dawn seemed quite spiritual-minded. Dawn walked to Mass each Sunday alone and sang in the choir. Needless to say Dawn's favorite subject was religion. She, also, enjoyed history and health. Dawn went to daily mass in eighth grade. Dawn did normal things and joined the Girl Scouts. Dawn loved the walk to the library, the 'Book Mobile'. Dawn was not really an academic type. Dawn attended tenth to twelfth grade at Padua Academy and was taught by Franciscan nuns. Dawn was an average student. Dawn decided to study nursing around the seventh and eighth grade. An interesting note about this is that her mother advised her not to go into nursing because she didn't like blood. Dawn wanted to prove that her mom was wrong. Dawn agreed that she hated blood, but Dawn loved the 'mind' or psyche. Psychiatry was a great interest for Dawn so she studied psychology. As a result she became a psychiatric nurse. Her youngest child, Katie, has her past-doctorate in clinical psychology.

Dawn always loved young children. God gave Dawn a gift in loving children from the early beginning. Besides nursing, Dawn home schooled Jocelyn for a year. Dawn worked closely with the poor. As a result of Charlotte, who is a best friend of Dawn's, and Charlotte's husband, Adam, Dawn developed an active prison ministry about fifteen years ago. Dawn's prison ministry included visitation and release (picking them up).

Dawn, currently, continues this prison ministry by doing letter writing. Dawn began her Carmelite vocation (third order) in 1994 and was processed in 2000.

God also gave Dawn a gift of generosity. Dawn's Mom always told her that she viewed the world through 'rose-colored' glasses. Dawn loves talking and being with people, although may be quiet at first. Dawn is a sensitive, happy person. Dawn has a poet's soul always looking for the beauty in life. She enjoys the fine and aesthetic things in life. A hobby that she enjoys is photo journaling. Dawn's life has not been an easy one, but God has been in it from the way. In her adult life Dawn's confessors told her, that she is a 'hard-wired' people pleaser. That is right on and undoubtedly true as she doesn't like conflict. Dawn does not like to 'rock the boat' so to speak. Dawn is often heard during a conversation or discussion as having said, "Let's pray for that or them." However, Dawn does stand up for people, albeit politely and civilly. Dawn takes a strong stand with the Catholic position on abortion, marriage, the poor, etc. Dawn is adamant in these beliefs, but will defend these beliefs with honesty and tact.

Dawn met James Anthony Tuzeneu (Jimmy) in 2019 on the online dating service, 'Catholic Match'. Dawn messaged him on January 1 through January 6. Since then they have been messaging or talking to each other and have met each other on several occasions. Dawn is ready for a change and wants to get it right this time. Dawn would like to have someone to love and cherish until death do they part.

On Dawn's wish list are several things. Dawn will get a huge inheritance and hopes to build a Montessori school or a kind of home school. She hopes it would grow large enough so she could build schools in Nigeria and Kenya which would put her feet on most of the continents. With some help Dawn would like to write a book or her memoirs. Lastly, but not least, she would like to live a long, healthy life.

Dawn had three children: Marcus born in 1970, Russell born in 1974, and Katie born in 1979. Dawn loved being a 'stay-at-home' mom. She taught CCD for four years and was a Girl Scout leader for four years. Dawn got divorced in 1999. Jim Waehler, her husband, asked for the divorce. Dawn had no choice, really, and it was a shock. The main reason was that Jim Waehler had no faith and that Jim and Dawn just couldn't connect spiritually even with some other relationships. Dawn just could not ask Jim Waehler for a divorce. Dawn's parents had divorced (non-Catholic) and she understood what it meant to make a vow before God. It was about 2015 that the marriage was annulled. Dawn has several grandchildren: Marc and Svya's children who are Stella born in 2010 and Evan Zev born in 2015. Russell and Karen's children are Lucas born on January 14, 2016 and Dillon born on April 9, 2017. Kate's child, Nova, was born in 2013.

Along with the responsibility of raising three children, there are often are interesting if not funny stories that happen as a result. Here are three interesting and funny stories involving each of the three children.

'Marcus the Superman'

The family was visiting Jim Waehler's parents in Westfield, NJ. Marcus was a little over 3 years old. Dawn and he were always walkers and outdoors folks. They wanted or even almost had to get outside and do some walking otherwise they would climb the walls so to speak. The two of them were walking on Lawrence Avenue, and Dawn was a few feet ahead of Marcus. Dawn turned around to ask him to keep up, and to her utter surprise Marcus was behind a car trying to stop it as it was being backed out of the driveway. Apparently, Marcus was pretending to be Superman and stop the car from reversing down the driveway. Dawn's screams, fortunately, were heard by the driver even with his windows closed. Marcus and Dawn stayed together from then on.

'Katie and Her Bath'

Dawn was preparing Katie's bath water; Katie was undressed and ready to immerse. Then she decided to inspect a partially finished attic floor. Her cries were heard downstairs even with the water on. Dawn's question to Katie was, "Why are you in the garage without your clothes on?"

'Russell at College'

Russell was at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. It was a terribly snowy day in Delaware. Dawn was the only one home and truly prayed all day for everyone. It was a Friday. The boys were away at college and Katie was in boarding school. On Sunday Russell called, and Dawn asked about his week and weekend. He said, "Mom, I had the strangest thing happen." He proceeded to tell her that he and his friend were traveling on Rt. 81 near James Madison University. They applied their brakes on black ice and began to spin. A big truck was near, and if there was not divine assistance, they would have collided and who knows what. Her reply was, "Do you know what I was doing all day?" He replied that she was praying. Prayer works!

In all three incidents all three children were miraculously lucky that nothing happened. It's only looking back that the humor and funny side of the incidents can be seen and can be laughed about. With the passage of time they become good stories to pass on. Without this trying to top Art Linkletter's show, *'Kids Do the Funniest Things'* here are a few more interesting stories.

Marcus was in high school, a couple of days before his prom, and he was complaining about bats. During the day we heard noises coming from the garage and thought that it might have been a bat. Any way at night Marcus crept slowly to our bedroom, knocking on the door, and whispered, "Mom, there is a bat in my room." Dawn told him to go back to sleep. Well, this happened two or three more times. Finally, Dawn told Marcus' father to go and check it out which he did. Lo and behold there was a bat in the room. They spent several minutes literally trying to sweep it out of the room.

Another story, this time involved Katie when she was three or four, and had a dentist appointment. She was potty trained and was wearing 'big girls' diapers. After Dawn told her to get ready for the dentist, they got in the car and proceeded to the dentist. While in the waiting room for their turn and Katie was playing, Dawn was shocked that under her skirt she had no underpants on. Dawn quickly took her to the drug store nearby to buy some 'pull-ups'. Unfortunately, they didn't have one in her size only

the Pampers. She made a fuss, that they were not 'big girl' pants, but Dawn insisted and they went back to the dentist for the appointment.

One more incident involved Marcus again. He was in grade school probably, 7 or 8. One Sunday after Mass he asked the priest if he could take a joke. The priest said that he could. At the point Marcus pulled out a water gun and squirted the priest with it. Dawn needless to say was mortified at the Marcus' little joke.