

# ELIZABETH & W.F. "SID" SOWLE, SR., FAMILY FUND

---



**Liz & Sid Sowle**  
circa 1985

Being from a family that had to budget for everything during their lives, William F. Sowle, Sr. [Sid] and his wife, Elizabeth I. Sowle [Liz] knew that saving up for a catholic education, specifically at Sacred Heart Academy in Mt. Pleasant, meant giving up some luxuries.

Sid was born to Sidney and Mary Agnes Sowle on July 1, 1909 in Boyne City, Michigan, and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1926. Soon after high school he worked at the Mt. Pleasant Lumber Company and the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools before joining his father in the family's moving business, Sidney Sowle & Son Moving in 1945, a company started by his father in 1910. As president of the Michigan Movers Association and The General Tariff Bureau of Michigan, he would encounter families in his daily life who came from broken homes, and could not afford a good Christian education.

Sid's wife Liz, born to George and Elizabeth Bugbee, was one of eight children. Before she married Sid on June 6, 1926, Liz converted to the catholic faith. Liz was a homemaker all her life but was highly involved in the community and supported her husband in his work and community service. She was a charter member of the Sacred Heart Parish Junior League.

Early on in their marriage, Sid and Liz lost four children shortly after birth. When their children Elizabeth [Bette], William Jr. [Bill] and Ruth Anne were born in the early 1930s, they knew that their children would attend Sid's alma mater, Sacred Heart Academy, where all three of his brothers attended in the early 1900s. Sid's parents had to scrounge to find the necessary funding to send their four boys to SHA to give their sons a quality education, which focused on Christian values and character formation.

Early in the 1940s Sid became heavily involved with Sacred Heart, becoming the president of the Sacred Heart Athletic Association and was a member of the first Sacred Heart Parish Council. For many years until his death, he was also a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club, and the Elks, to name a few. Sid's efforts and membership with the Mt. Pleasant Senior Housing Commission also helped produce the Riverview Apartments in downtown Mt. Pleasant.

Sid and Liz traveled frequently in their travel trailer, but he found time to be a charter member and sponsor of the Sacred Heart Academy Foundation, along with close friends Betty Johnson, Joseph Hauck, Earl Hartman Sr., and William Myler Sr., to name a few.

Sid and Liz frequently said to family and friends *"Do something good for a child today"* and the money in this endowment fund established by William F. Sowle Jr., wife Peggy, and his children Elizabeth and William III, benefits tuition assistance.



For further information about the **Elizabeth & W.F. "Sid" Sowle, Sr., Family Fund** or other Named Funds, contact the SHA Foundation at [SHAFoundation@sha.net](mailto:SHAFoundation@sha.net).

**SACRED HEART ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**P.O. BOX 522 | MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48804-0522 | (989)772-1385**