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# THREE POEMS BY SHARON WALLACE

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## **Frocks of White Robes**

A band of adolescence descendants  
Assemble around the baptismal pool  
Draped in white robes

Like lambs/submissive and timid  
Parents and elders  
Behold

A Gang of babes  
One by one  
Step down into the watery tank

Opalescent-clad shepherd of God  
Greet's them with open arms  
As each child

Is submerged in holy water  
Purified sins not yet satisfied  
Are washed away

Wet pearly gowns  
Carry the burdens  
Of denied trespasses

Anointed innocence  
Ceremonial rites  
Frocks of white robes/resemble angels

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## **2646 West Grand Avenue**

2646 West Grand Avenue  
Between Linwood and Lawton  
Sizzling, smothering hot summer days/upstairs

In a three-family flat  
Fan blowing in search of a breeze  
Laughter hangs in the air

Sweaty sun-baked kids

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Race through a cool spray of water  
Showers from a candy red fire hydrant

Times were different/simple/playful/innocent  
Chalked covered sidewalks  
Marked games of hopscotch

Girls played with dolls on the front porch  
Boys shoot marbles across the pavement  
Mr. Softy and the Good Humor Truck serenade down the street

Selling soft vanilla custard  
Chocolate cover ice-cream bars  
Summer's sweet treats

Block club parties  
Vacant lot/soft ball games  
Next door to The House of Joy Beauty Salon

Armed with bats and gloves  
Neighborhood boys and girls  
Gathered/selected teams

Hub caps/cardboard boxes  
Sand lot bases  
Games were intense

Childhood was full of exhilaration and gaiety  
As they frolicked  
On Urban streets.

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### Thread

Suspended by fear  
She hangs in limbo  
Living on a thread

Green are the apples  
Sour to taste

Faces out of focus

Champagne on ice  
Beer flat

Dog dead  
Cat dead

Madonna grows weak both are weary  
Living on a thread  
Suspended by fear

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