



McCollum's Celebrate GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Dan & Mary Beth McCollum with Fr. Bill Bleilu who renewed their wedding vows for their Golden Anniversary July 2010

They Met Their True Love in Wildwood

She really didn't want to go to the shore on that July 4th, 1929. She had a hectic week working for Bell Telephone. But too late, this handsome man was walking toward her on Wildwood's beach. He had noticed the Miraculous Medal that she wore and asked what Parish she was from, the standard question till this day for Philadelphia Catholics. She said 'St. John the Baptist in Manyunk, and you?' He said the 'Gesu in North Philadelphia.' Then he asked her about her school. 'St. John the Baptist Girl's High School' she said. He went to Roman Catholic and till his dying day he referred to it as 'Catholic High.'

And so it began for Ann Tyrrell and Patrick McCollum over 80 years ago. They married in 1930, full of youth, promise, and faith. They raised three boys, Jack, Joe, and Danny. They lived in West Oak Lane in St. Benedict's Parish. Pat worked for the Gas Company. He worked in all the neighborhoods of Philadelphia repairing stoves, heaters, and all the major gas appliances. He could fix ANYTHING!! His trademark was his curved pipe. Years later when we had to have the gas man come to our house we would ask them if they knew Pat McCollum. Most of the time they said, 'Yes, he taught me what I know.'

He was a Philadelphia legend with his pipe and his skills. He was the mentor for many.

Pat and Ann always took their sons to Wildwood for their vacations. They had to be near St. Ann's Church, at that time it was known as The Twelve Apostles, so they could walk to Mass.

Ann was a homemaker and for years she hosted the neighborhood rosary at her home. The ladies also made bandages for Sacred Heart Cancer Home where, sad to say, Ann spent her final days. She passed away at age 55, way before her time. Pat lost the love of his life, his sweet Ann, but found solace in the fact she was in no more pain. He put his trust in God, forged ahead and doted on his 17 grandchildren. He joined his Ann at age 73.

The sons are a great tribute to their parents. Jack is married to Ann (ne Keenan) for 52 years. Joe is married to Toni (nee Schmid) for 51 years. Danny and I are celebrating our Golden Anniversary in July. We have four children and three grandchildren and we reside in North Wildwood.

Who would have thought that the meeting on Wildwood's beach would come full circle with us living here. I am grateful to God for allowing that meeting so many years ago.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Sheeran McCollum



Dan & Mary Beth's children, Danny, Judy, Chris & John



Patrick McCollum with his bride-to-be Anne Tyrrell