

# Milestones

## Columnist, family cheer on couple who go for the gold

By Gregory F. Pierce  
Guest contributor

In the movie "Bye Bye Love," the character played by comedian Paul Reiser bemoans the divorce of a couple who had been married 11 years.

"They ought to lower the bars for the awards in marriage," he said. "You should get silver for staying together for five years, gold for 10. Anything beyond 10, you go platinum!"

This summer my wife and three children and I will travel to Rochester to join in the celebration of a couple who won the gold prize the "old fashioned way."

My parents, Francis Pierce (Aquinas Institute class of '42) and Mary McCarthy Pierce

(Nazareth Academy class of '42), will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10. Their eight children and numerous children-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends will gather to recognize one of the most heroic accomplishments of our time: the long-term, successful Christian marriage.

My parents were married right after World War II. Both were in their early 20s, and neither had any money. What they did have was a commitment to the ideals of fidelity and reciprocity and compromise and love. They viewed marriage as a sacrament that lasted "til death do us part," and it never occurred to them that if things didn't work out they could get out of their solemn vows.



Mary & Fran Pierce

It's not that things were always easy for them. My father went through many jobs before he finally bought into a grocery store that provided a good living for

the family for many years. My mother stayed at home with the children, which was wonderful for us but certainly put a lot of financial pressure on them. Although they both wanted lots of children, having eight was certainly above and beyond the call of duty. (My youngest sister was adopted when my parents were in their 40s, which gives you some idea of their generosity.)

They have been active in the Cursillo movement, were lay leaders in several different parishes, worked on various social justice causes and ended their work careers by opening a Christian bookstore.

Through it all, my parents remained in love and were always each other's best friend. They also provided a great role mod-

el as both spouses and parents to their children — one that we have all strived, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, to emulate.

The Vatican announced recently that it is looking for a married couple to canonize. First of all, I hope my parents aren't eligible for a long, long time. When they finally are, I'm sure they will be considered because they weren't martyred for their faith, didn't found a religious order, and never took the vow of celibacy.

Still, in my eyes and those of others who love them, they have defined what the holy work of marriage is all about.

Gregory F. Augustine Pierce is co-publisher of ACTA Publications, Chicago, and a Courier columnist.

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### James & Rose Provenzano

Ss. Peter & Paul Church,  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Jan. 26, 1946

### Joseph & Jeanne Puceta

St. Michael's Church, Rochester  
Oct. 19, 1946

### Valentine & Wanda Prywer

St. Mary Magdalene Church  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
July 13, 1946

### William & Jane Raab

St. Boniface Church, Rochester  
Oct. 5, 1946

### Walter & Irene Raczk

St. Stanislaus Church, Buffalo  
Oct. 2, 1946

### Nick & Mary Riccardo

Holy Family Church, Rochester  
May 18, 1946

### Donald & Rosemary Ripley

St. Casimir Church, Elmira  
March 2, 1946

### Nicholas & Rose Rotolo

St. Andrew's Church, Rochester  
April 27, 1946

### Carl & Mary Anne Santangelo

St. Michael's Church, Rochester  
May 4, 1946

### Max & Winnie Silka

St. Stanislaus Church,  
Amsterdam, N.Y.  
Sept. 22, 1946

### Robert & Ann Marie Smith

St. Columba Church, Caledonia  
July 20, 1946

### Leroy & Dorothy Snyder

St. Patrick's Church, Elmira  
Aug. 17, 1946

### Robert & Ethel Spahn

Holy Family Church, Rochester  
Jan. 19, 1946

### Ronald & Stella Steve

St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic  
Church,  
Rochester  
Sept. 28, 1946

### John & Dolores Tango

St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic  
Church,  
Rochester  
Oct. 5, 1946

### George & Violet Taylor

Corpus Christi Church, Rochester  
Nov. 27, 1946

### Al & Grace Torregrossa

Blessed Sacrament Church, Roch.  
Nov. 16, 1946

### Joseph & Helen Urban

St. Ann Church, Binghamton  
Oct. 12, 1946

### Myron & Alberta Van Dusen

Church of the Assumption, Fairport  
Aug. 24, 1946

### David & Eileen Wasnock

Our Lady of the Rosary Church,  
Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
June 20, 1946

### Peter & Angele Weber

Holy Rosary Church, Rochester  
Aug. 31, 1946

### Warren & Dolores Whitcher

St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Humboldt Street, Rochester  
July 13, 1946

### Arthur & Mercedes Wilbert

Holy Cross Church, Rochester  
Nov. 28, 1946

### Howard & Virginia Williams

March 15, 1946

### Joseph & Esther Zannie

Holy Family Church, Rochester  
Oct. 26, 1946

### Bernard & Rita Zapf

St. Boniface Church, Rochester  
June 29, 1946

## 25 Year Anniversary

### James & Arlene Alessi

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester  
Feb. 13, 1971

### Mike & Rose Bennett

St. Anthony's Church, Elmira  
June 19, 1971

### James & Carol Brady

St. Mary's Church, Elmira  
July 17, 1971

### John & Ann Byrne

Blessed Sacrament Church, Roch.  
Oct. 9, 1971

### Tom & Jean Carroll

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,  
Rochester  
June 19, 1971

### Patrick & Ruth Casey

St. Pius X Church, Rochester  
Oct. 9, 1971

### George & Jane Chapman

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,  
Rochester  
Oct. 9, 1971

### Peter & Nancy Chesterton

St. James Church, Rochester  
March 20, 1971

### Bob & Linda Cleclerega

Sacred Heart Church  
Bowmansville, N.Y.  
Sept. 4, 1971

### Thomas & Lynn Clifford

Holy Ghost Church, Rochester  
July 31, 1971

### Richard & Janet Courtright

Holy Apostles Church, Rochester  
April 3, 1971

### Charles & Debbie Dhalle

St. Francis Church, Phelps  
June 19, 1971

### Lorenzo & Filomena Dorini

St. Theodore's Church, Gates  
July 24, 1971

### Ralph & Joanne Farabell

St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester  
June 26, 1971

### Paul & Mary Ann Firfit

Holy Trinity Church, Utica  
Aug. 28, 1971

### Lawrence & Katherine Fischer

### Holy Cross Church, Rochester

Aug. 21, 1971

### Rodney & Barbara Garceau

St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester  
June 5, 1971

### Damien & Joyce George

Blessed Sacrament Church, Roch.  
July 23, 1971

### Tom & Pam Gosnell

St. Anne Church, Rochester  
Aug. 21, 1971

### Patricia & Gary Gross

St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Greece  
April 17, 1971

### Richard & Sandra Hill

University of Rochester  
Interfaith Chapel  
Oct. 16, 1971

### John & Kathleen Holtz

St. Mary's Church, Olean, N.Y.  
June 12, 1971

### James & Roseann Jackura

St. Mary's of the Immaculate Con-  
ception  
Michigan City, Ind.  
Feb. 27, 1971

### Roger & Lorene Jump

Immaculate Conception Church, Itha-  
ca, Aug. 7, 1971

### Steve & Joan Kehoskie

St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn  
May 1, 1971

### Charles & Joyce Kossick

Holy Cross Church, Rochester  
July 17, 1971

### Leonard & Jeannine Kozlowski

Holy Trinity Church,  
Central Falls, R.I.  
Oct. 30, 1971

### Richard & Anne Kupferschmid

Holy Cross Church, Rochester  
Dec. 18, 1971

### Anthony & Linda Lattuca

St. Cecilia's Church, Irondequoit  
June 12, 1971

### David & Jean Lippa

Holy Cross Church, Rochester  
Nov. 6, 1971

### Mike & Jeanne Maira

St. Andrew's Church, Rochester  
June 5, 1971

### Theodore & Tanya Malone

St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horse-  
heads  
Oct. 16, 1971

### Robert & Shirley McDonald

St. Michael's Church, Newark  
Oct. 16, 1971

### Richard & Kathy McEntire

St. Paul's Catholic Church  
Rome, N.Y.  
Sept. 4, 1971

### Daniel & Catherine McGrath

St. Felix Church, Clifton Springs  
July 10, 1971

### Jim & Iris Mercik

Holy Trinity Church, Webster  
April 24, 1971

### Ross & Rosalie Mical

### St. Ambrose Church, Rochester

June 12, 1971

### William & Catherine Morrell

St. Patrick's Church, Elmira  
Sept. 25, 1971

### Jay & Betty Murphy

St. Leo Church, Hilton  
Nov. 12, 1971

### Kevin & Connie Murray

St. Mary's Church, Corning  
June 12, 1971

### John & Patricia Nicolosi

Blessed Sacrament Church, Roch.  
March 27, 1971

### Samuel & Mary Lou Ognibene

St. Helen's Church, Rochester  
July 31, 1971

### Samuel & Paula Olney

St. Patrick's Church, Victor  
June 12, 1971

### Richard & Sandra Perry

Blessed Sacrament Church  
Kenmore, N.Y.  
April 17, 1971

### Warren & Sandie Purdy

Holy Trinity Church, Webster  
May 8, 1971

### John & Kathleen Raycroft

St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Humboldt Street, Rochester  
Oct. 2, 1971

### John & Sheila Scumaci

St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester  
May 15, 1971

### Jack & Barbara Serphillips

St. Gabriel's Church, Hammondsport  
July 3, 1971

### George & Margaret Sichak

Church of the Assumption, Fairport  
Jan. 2, 1971

### Barry & Linda Smith

St. John the Evangelist Church,  
Greece  
July 24, 1971

### Bob & Lori Spatola

Church of the Annunciation,  
Rochester  
March 27, 1971

### James & Sonja Stencik

St. Stanislaus Church,  
Rochester  
Sept. 4, 1971

### John & Marcia Taylor

St. Thomas the Apostle Church,  
Irondequoit  
Aug. 21, 1971

### Tom & Jill Vente

Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece  
Sept. 18, 1971

### Ken & Gerry Waite

St. Theodore's Church, Gates  
Sept. 25, 1971

## Special

### William and Evelyn Miller

Holy Redeemer Church, Rochester  
April 18, 1942; 54th anniversary today

# Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

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Thursday, April 18, 1996

Timothy W. Dwyer