

Fifty Years of Blessings

by Jim Walton 11-13-2021



I was a cradle Catholic. In 1966, when I was 16-years-old, my family moved from Nebraska to Waldport, Oregon, and joined St. Anthony's Parish. At nearly the same time, Charlene Loper's family moved to Waldport from California.

I met Charlene in 1969, just 3 blocks away from St. Anthony's Church. We dated until November 27, 1971 when I married the "Love of my life," "My Soul Mate," Charlene, at St. Anthony's Church.

Charlene studied with Fr. Martin Colett to become a Catholic. The week before our wedding, she was Baptized and made her first confession...and became Catholic. At our Wedding Mass she received her First Communion and became a St. Anthony's Parishioner.

We wanted children. Finally, in February, 1974, God Blessed us with twins, Josh and Jenice. The pregnancy was rough with twins...PRE-ECLAMPSIA. Doctors recommended we have no more children.

In 1980, Charlene became pregnant. Due to her history of the twins-birth, the doctors said to have an abortion to save Charlene's life. I agreed, even if it was against my beliefs. The abortion was scheduled. The day of the procedure, Charlene followed God's Will and said "No" to the abortion. Thank God!

In March 1981, she proved the doctors and me wrong. She was so courageous! Kimberly Ann was born!

Through the following years, our three beautiful children have given us nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In our 50 years of marriage, we have seen ten different priests at St. Anthony's. We have both been involved and worked serving the parishes many needs: St. Vincent De Paul and Knights of Columbus Breakfasts and Dinners and events. Bingo, Altar Society, Flowers for the Altar, Funeral Receptions, Office work and Bulletin, Religious Education Teacher, Strawberry Festivals, Carport/Garage sales, Church Janitors/Grounds keepers, Eucharistic Minister, Mass Server.

Structurally, St. Anthony's Church has not changed much—it's just been continuously improved cosmetically. But the Parish has changed dramatically over the years with the people it has seen and served. So many people have been here, worshiping our Lord. I know that Charlene and I have met, served with, and worshipped with many St. Anthony's Parishioners who were "Saints." We all can and should strive to become Saints, even if it is "sAINTS" with a small "s".

God has blest me so much, giving me Charlene for my life and St. Anthony's for our Home!



Happy 50th Anniversary, Charlene and Jim Walton



November 27, 1971
Father Martin Colett,
pastor



St. Anthony Catholic
Church
Waldport, Oregon



Wayne Meusey (blind musician who played at Beulah's in Yachats) played organ and sang. His dog and his wife were by his side at the back of the church. It was a stormy, windy, rainy day. The reception was held at the Bayshore Beachclub in Bayshore Estates. Rice and canned coffee grounds greeted us as we left the church and when we left the Beachclub for our honeymoon.