

## Happy Birthday Baby Brother!

I've always wanted to keep my blog relative to its origins, basically about style, entertaining, and celebrations. So today I'm writing about my baby brother, who today is turning 39 (none-the-less he's still my *baby* brother!). And what exactly does his birthday have to do with the aforementioned? Well, if you ask me, the answer is everything, because my commitment to celebrating life is rooted by family, my early years and the bonds that I've created with all my loved ones.

My brother was born when I was 14 and was currently holding the position of the baby in the family-that was my first issue! I will admit that I was more than a little annoyed when I found out that my mom was pregnant; parents were not supposed to be doing *that*, after all my mom was "old" (all of 40, ha!). However, regardless of my disapproval of the entire situation, Mark came into my life exactly a month after my own birthday....that alone was a little irritating.

Yet, the day Mark came home from the hospital I did something I had never done before, I made a big dinner for our newly defined family- I grew up a little that day. Surprisingly, I had a great time putting it all together. It was in a sense a celebration, although I would have never admitted it back then. Soon the milestone celebrations started ...Mark's baptismal, first birthday, first communion, high school and college graduations, etc... I felt this (self-assigned) responsibility to coordinate all of Mark's events and my mom happily turned them all over to me.

Then one day, Mark grew up and decided to get married and I clearly wanted to have a role in this event. Seriously, up until that point I had always been in charge of all his life celebrations, yet now there was a bride to contend to (I *do* love her!), a Mother of the Bride, and a Mother of the Groom...what was I going to do? That's when my baby brother accepted my role in his life and deemed me Mother of the Wedding! I coordinated his engagement party, couples shower, rehearsal dinner, and the décor in his beautiful wedding. Yes, I will forever cherish that role!

In retrospect that little irritating thing that occurred 39 years ago today changed my life forever. Unknowingly, my passion for celebrating life was ignited by the birth of my baby brother!

Happy Birthday Mark!