



March 21, 2016 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



William Roy Matevie Class of 1960

William (Bill) Matevie distinguished himself by dedicating his life to serving and ministering to the less fortunate and jailed populations of Michigan and North Carolina.

Bill was an average student while attending Roosevelt High School. He achieved good grades in the classes he enjoyed. He liked attending sporting events, but a full-time paper route from ages 12 to 19 didn't leave much time to actively participate in a team sport.

Following graduation, Bill work full-time for Security Bank as a collections manager, at the Wyandotte Chemicals Employees Credit Union as a loan officer, and for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company as an office and credit manager. Bill was drafted into the United States Army and from 1964-1966 served as a military policeman.

In 1969, Bill married and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was employed at Michigan Bell Telephone. Over the next several years, Bill enjoyed his three children and adjusted to married life and fatherhood. It was during this point in Bill's life that he felt a need to be involved in social concerns in his community. He volunteered in the Big Brother program where he mentored two young boys.

In 1980, Bill moved his family to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he accepted a job in business marketing for Southern Bell Telephone. It was shortly after his arrival in North Carolina that his life changed forever. A significant spiritual experience directed Bill towards a commitment to more actively serve those in his community that were downtrodden, desperate for help.

This new direction in life began with Bill spending nights in homeless shelters serving the "least of his brothers" and functioning as a pro-life coordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. His next volunteer effort was answering calls for a "Suicide Hot Line" where the silence on the other end of a call could be deafening. The years 1985-1995 found Bill serving with the Kairos Prison Ministry Program which took him inside several South Carolina maximum security prisons. As

coordinator of prison ministries for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, he ministered to three death row inmates at Central Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Accepting early retirement from Southern Bell in 1991, Bill went to the Mecklenburg County Jail in Charlotte, North Carolina, spending the next four years as a volunteer jail chaplain. In 1995, he was hired by the Mecklenburg County Sheriff to a full-time jail chaplain position. Bill spent the next 16 years in that capacity ministering to the spiritual needs of some 2,000+ male, female and youthful offenders. He retired in 2011.

Bill Matevie did not pursue the degrees and employment sought by many of his peers at Roosevelt High School. He received a different calling, and dedicated over 40 years of his life to serving and ministering to the less fortunate and incarcerated individuals in our society. He made our world a better place.

Bill lives in Stallings, North Carolina, where he recently completed his memoirs, "Wounded Lambs-A Journey to Jesus." He enjoys life with his wife, three children and six grandchildren.