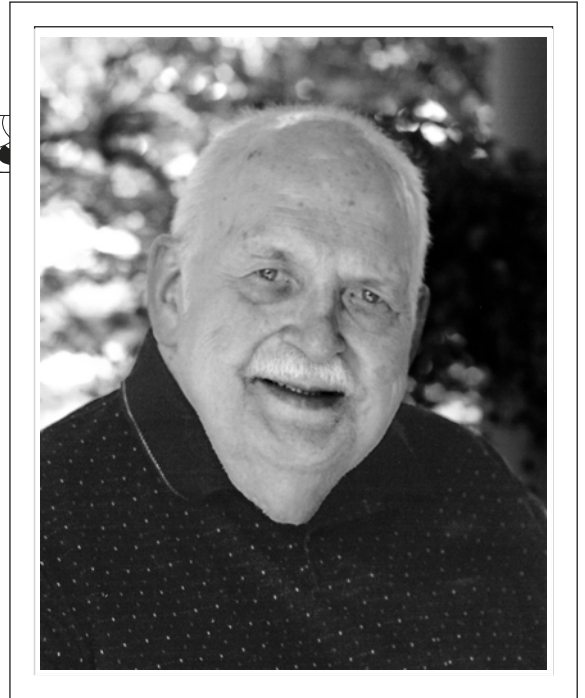




2010

William F. McGee



A courageous life of service rooted in the Catholic faith defines William McGee. Bill graduated as the 1946 class president of St. Cecilia in Detroit. After receiving a nursing degree from Minneapolis General Hospital and becoming a nurse at Detroit Mt. Carmel, Bill met Bernadette Rooney, a nursing student at Mercy College.

In 1956, they began a marriage that instilled Catholic teachings in their nine children. As members of Immaculate Conception Parish, it was commonplace in the McGee household to have a priest or nun at the dinner table. During the Lenten season, the entire family would be on their knees praying the rosary.

There are many others who looked to Bill as a father figure. The McGees took into their home unwed mothers, troubled teens and young adults, and VISTA volunteers who worked at the Peshawbestown Indian reservation. Bill and Bernie's smiles, hugs, positive comments, listening ears, guidance and genuine love always made people feel better about themselves.

Bill was a member of the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Board of Education from 1973-1985. During the tumultuous times of consolidation and dual enrollment, Bill had courage, vision, and the ability to articulate a plan for the schools. He brought healing to

parishioners and gave direction to "stay the course."

Surviving a near fatal auto accident in 1971, Bill physically and spiritually exceeded the normal bounds of faith in action. His faith never faltered and still provides him with strength to persevere and to endure pain and suffering as he continues to serve others.

Most Reverend Bishop Robert Rose stated, "Bill's outstanding work made a substantial contribution to the Diocese of Gaylord and my episcopal ministry."

In 1994, Bill received the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools Achievement Award for "extraordinary service in non-public education."

Bill may best be known to hundreds of students as mentor and teacher in photography and yearbook from 1975 into the 2000s. There was rarely a school event that he did not attend and photograph. In lieu of monetary payment, Bill was reimbursed through the respect, love, and appreciation of those he taught.

Bill McGee has never sought special recognition, rather he lets his faith lead the way. His selfless acts, leadership, and determination, helped GTACS flourish and impact countless students' lives.