Pioneer Parishioners

Will Richardson

Real Estate businessman Will Richardson remembers the early days of St Matthias. He notes, "I had the pleasure of instructing our first group of alter boys. And, in those days, they had to learn the responses in Latin." In addition to helping alter boys, Will also brought his lawn mower over on weekends to tend to the St. Matthias property.

Will was born in Ohio. In 1950, his father moved the family to California. Will says, "I was not happy to leave my Ohio friends and start the 8th grade in a strange school." He adds, "But I am so grateful we moved…or I would not have met my wonderful wife of 51 years, LaVonne."

He attended McKinley and Sequoia Schools and then CSM. He remarks, "I was working at United Airlines at night, going to school in the daytime and also working at a gas station on weekends." On the 4th of July in 1957, he volunteered to help a friend pull a float for the Redwood City parade. Will says, "After the parade we were invited to a barbecue party. As we were welcome to bring dates, my friend introduced me to LaVonne and her sister and asked them to join us."

Will remembers, "I told my friend later that evening that I had just met the woman I was going to marry." The following year, Will took LaVonne to the Hawaiian Gardens to celebrate her birthday and proposed." He continues, "We were married a year later, the day before she turned 18."

LaVonne and Will have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren (with another coming soon.) He also has served as sponsor for 3 St. Matthias RCIA candidates and has 8 godchildren. Will is fond of Fr. John. He says, "He is truly delightful and one of the reasons for the continued success of St. Matthias."

Although they have moved out of our parish, Will often attends Sunday mass at St. Matthias. He says, "My granddaughter calls to invite me to go to 10:30 mass with her, and I never refuse. So I am proud to say that I am still a part of the St Matthias family."

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