

Jerry Coyne: Poverty made him be Catholic benefactor

By JOE ROSSITER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Growing up in the projects on Chicago's South Side in the 1930s and '40s, Jerry Coyne was schooled in the harsh realities of poverty at an early age.



Jerry Coyne gave.

students.

A skilled basketball player, Mr. Coyne earned all-city honors in high school and was offered a scholarship to play at the University of Detroit by then-coach Bob Callihan.

Taking full advantage of a great opportunity, Mr. Coyne enjoyed success in the sport but

It was a lesson he never forgot and one that gave him the impetus to provide thousands of dollars in scholarship money to needy Detroit area stu-

more importantly graduated with a bachelor's degree in business in 1954 and vowed to someday help others less fortunate reach their educational goals.

Mr. Coyne of Bloomfield Hills died of a cerebral hemorrhage Wednesday at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. He was 73.

"He was a kind, humble and generous man who was interested in everyone else but himself," said his second wife, Loretta Nagle Coyne. "His ultimate mission was to give as many kids as possible a good education, and he accomplished that goal."

After graduation, Mr. Coyne married the former Catherine Nagle in 1956 and started his own company, Coyne and Associates, as a manufacturers representative in Southfield.

Once established financially, he set his sights on Most Holy

Trinity, the small Roman Catholic parish in Detroit's Corktown area. It was there he founded the Most Holy Trinity Educational Fund, providing disadvantaged children the opportunity to receive a first-rate education and a promising start in life. In the last decade, Mr. Coyne helped raise \$1.2 million as an endowment to assist parents in meeting tuition obligations.

"As a father, he was a wonderful role model," said his son, Jerry Jr. "He spent a lifetime helping and giving back to others, and there's nothing more admirable than that."

In addition to his wife and son, survivors include sons Kevin, Michael and Brian; a brother and seven grandchildren; seven Nagle children and 27 Nagle grandchildren.

Visitation will be today at 10:30 a.m. followed by a funeral mass at 11 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, 32340 Pierce, Beverly Hills.

Contact JOE ROSSITER at 313-222-6594 or jrossiter@freepress.com.