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## DWC Honors Art Roche with Matthew 25 Award

At age 13, Art Roche moved from his home near Detroit to the SVD minor seminary at Perrysburg, Ohio. Graduating from Divine Word College in 1970, he chose a vocation as a family man, but the lessons he learned from the SVD would influence much of his life, which has focused on peace and justice and helping those in need.

“My time with the SVD gave me an appreciation for the people who live on the edges of society,” Roche said. For his decades of service to others, including 15 years on the DWC Board of Trustees, Roche was honored with the 2019 Matthew 25 Award, which was presented at a prayer service and banquet on March 20.

“Art has been influential in many areas in reaching out to the homeless, the abused, immigrants, those with housing needs and in particular the peace movement,” said Father Ken Anich, SVD, in his nomination. “When one reads the list of his involvements, it becomes obvious he has seriously integrated the principles of Matthew 25.”

Over the years, Roche has volunteered his time to more than two dozen non-profit organizations. Currently he supports the

Sisters of St. Francis in their Sister Water Project, which has brought clean water to a half million people in Tanzania and Honduras. He also helps local immigrants of the Marshall Islands, who left their homes because of the ongoing health problems associated with U.S. nuclear testing in the 1950s. Following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, he and his son Andy helped found Dubuque Peace and Justice, which continues to be active today.

During his senior year at DWC, Roche was an orderly at Mercy Hospital, a job he continued after graduation. As opportunities presented themselves, he moved from patient services to administration. He retired from the medical center as director of planning in 2016. That same year he retired from the college board of trustees, which he joined in 2001, working first in finance and then in strategic planning.



*Matthew 25 Award recipient Art Roche (l) with his former teacher, Fr. Bill Shea, SVD*