



William Atkinson was born on January 4, 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1961 he entered the novitiate of the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova to begin his journey to religious life. Not quite half way through this first year of preparation, he was severely injured in a toboggan accident that injured his spine and left him a quadriplegic. It was not the end of the journey toward his desired goal, however. After five years of hospitalizations, surgeries and rehabilitation, Bill started over again, confined to a wheelchair, but far from broken. He resumed the formation process, professed vows as an Augustinian on July 20, 1970, and was ordained a priest on February 2, 1974. For the next 30 years Fr. Bill was teacher, coach and confessor, school chaplain and football team moderator, known for his great sense of humor, compassion and spirit of purpose.

Fr. Bill touched many lives, and is remembered as a true witness to faith, courage and the power of grace.

For favors received or for more information write

Fr. Bill's Cause - Augustinian Provincial Offices  
PO Box 340 - Villanova, PA 19085

Blessed are you,  
Father of life, source of goodness and peace,  
in whom all creation has its origin  
and by whom every person is loved.

In Father Bill Atkinson  
your mercy and compassion  
were made manifest  
as he brought solace to the suffering  
and hope to the needy.

By carrying the cross of life faithfully  
he proclaimed confidence in your love  
and conformity to your will,  
and so drew others to you  
and to the generous gift of your grace.

Hear our prayers  
which we offer through his intercession  
so that as your work continues to unfold  
among us it may bring honor to you,  
comfort to your people,  
and, according to your will,  
glory to your servant.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
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