

Fr. Bob has had a profound influence, first on my life and, later, on my wife and family. I met Fr. Bob in the fall of 1957, when he was rector of Cavanaugh Hall and I was a new freshman at Notre Dame. He continued my rector when Cavanaugh became a sophomore hall the following year. As president of his Hall Council, I worked closely with Father during those two years. Fr. Bob was also chaplain of the varsity swim team of which I was a member until graduation.

After graduate school, my wife Sue and I moved to Brazil. Thru his Latin American role at the Alumni Association, Fr. Bob was a frequent visitor to Latin America, often to Brazil. He and I maintained contact, and in 1982, Fr. Bob and Fr. Ted stayed with Sue and me, visiting Brazil and other Latin American countries, engaging ND alumni in those countries in support of ND efforts to increase the number of Latin Americans enrolling at Notre Dame and, also, in support of ND initiatives in the region such as the new Kellogg Institute. In 1985, Fr. Bob and Fr. Ted invited a handful of alumni leaders in Latin America to a meeting in Bogotá to plan further Notre Dame involvement in the region. That was the origin of what would later be officialized as today's Notre Dame's Latin American Caribbean Advisory Council.

Fr. Bob was later instrumental in Sue and my eldest daughter, Kristin's, invitation to join the first Peace Studies class at Notre Dame. There, Kristin met Lou Nanni who, in 1994, married our youngest daughter, Carmen, a 1993 ND alum. Carmen and Lou are still at Notre Dame. On subsequent visits to Brazil, mostly for LANACC, Fr. Bob has stayed with Sue and me, giving us the privilege of special quiet times with him. Whenever Sue and I are at Notre Dame, we visit with Fr. Bob, and whenever possible attend his Mass at St. Mary's. We are not alone in this. As he has worked to broaden and deepen Notre Dame's relationship with Latin America in so many ways, Fr. Bob has maintained similar relationships with many former students and former dorm residents in North and Latin America. His impact on so many Notre Dame alumni on

both continents should not be overlooked. Fr. Bob's dedication to Archbishop Romero has its roots in his relationship with Napoleón Duarte, a Notre Dame alum who served as president of El Salvador from 1984-1989. It is fitting that your celebration of Fr. Pelton's contributions to LANACC comes on the first of 2017's Romero Days.

Over these 60 years, I have come to admire not only Fr. Bob's many contributions to LANACC, but also to his students like me, to Notre Dame, and to its broader relationship with Latin America. Father's quiet but efficient, steady work in the region on behalf of the University has been one of the critical building blocks leading to last year's announcement of Notre Dame Gateway Centers in Mexico City and São Paulo to serve Central and South America. I know of no one who has done more than Fr. Bob to bring North America and Latin America closer together. I wish I could be with you to celebrate.

Abraços,

Chris Lund