



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Born after the baby boom, my generation has been called ‘Generation X.’ Always in the shadows of the boomers and their experience of the 60’s, we are now overshadowed by our younger “millennials.” As an undergraduate student at Notre Dame in the 1980’s, our defining social involvement was neither in Southeast Asia nor the Middle East—it was Latin America. And for so many of us, we owe our awareness, our identity, our growth, and our commitment to the great work of Fr. Bob.

Attending the Romero lectures as a naïve college student awakened me to a world I did not know. It was the gateway to a reality, a people, and a faith that has sustained me for the decades since. In over 30 years of connection to El Salvador, I can look back at my days at ND as the starting point. Fr. Bob’s endless energy, his enthusiasm, his vision were all at the heart of it. In many ways, his tireless work through LANACC is much like my generation. Sure, it might get overlooked at times in the midst of so much else going on at ND, but Fr. Bob’s quiet endurance has borne fruit that will last for generations. One of my enduring memories on campus was seeing Fr. Bob pedaling his bike across campus wearing his raspberry beret. With echoes of the Prince song in my head, I salute you, Fr. Bob, and fully expect you to keep on rolling.

In life, we don't often get to see the fruit of our labor. Hopefully, this evening serves as a glimpse into the wonderful harvest you have sown, Fr. Bob.
¡Gracias!

Michael Lee