

Notre Dame's Next Generation: Transformational Leaders Program PAGES 4-5



Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame. Design by Elissa Chudzicki

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Briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

New Leadership

NEW ACADEMIC LEADERS APPOINTED

David Go, the Viola D. Hank Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and chair of the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, was appointed vice president and associate provost for academic strategy, effective June 1.

In this newly created position, Go will take a leadership role in the University's strategic framework process for the academic core, working closely with **John McGreevy**, the Charles and Jill Fischer Provost, and serving as a member of the President's Leadership Council and the Provost's Advisory Committee. Go will also remain an active researcher following his appointment, dividing his time between the Office of the Provost and his research laboratory.

Go holds several patents and patent applications that have resulted in two licensed technologies. His research — which focuses on plasma science, heat transfer and fluid dynamics — has been supported by nearly every major federal agency, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and NASA.

A native of South Bend and Notre Dame alumnus, Go joined the University as an instructor of aerospace and mechanical engineering and has steadily advanced in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, where he is a concurrent professor.

Go is a faculty affiliate with iNDustry Labs, a member of the IDEA Center Faculty Advisory Board and a mentor in the Building Bridges program of Multicultural Student Programs and Services.

Keona Lewis, former associate director of research and evaluation for diversity, equity and inclusion at the Georgia Institute of Technology, is the new assistant provost for academic diversity and inclusion as of Feb. 1.

As assistant provost, Lewis will oversee the vision, strategy and community-building programs for academic diversity and inclusion. The position reports to **Maura Ryan**, vice president and associate provost for faculty affairs. Lewis will also hold an appointment as assistant professor of the practice in Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns.

In her previous role at Georgia Tech, Lewis played a lead role in developing, supporting and evaluating programs for faculty, staff and

students. She also led training programs on a variety of topics, including assessing conscious and unconscious biases and microaggressions.

Prior to joining Georgia Tech, Lewis taught in the anthropology and criminology departments at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in criminology and her doctorate in applied anthropology from the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Jeffrey F. (Jeff) Rhoads, a leading mechanical engineering researcher and pioneer in engineering education, has been appointed vice president for research effective July 1.

Rhoads joins Notre Dame from Purdue University, where he currently serves as executive director of the Purdue Institute for National Security and as a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering. His research interests include dynamics and vibration, energetic materials, additive manufacturing and micro- and nanoelectromechanical systems.

Rhoads will assume oversight of Notre Dame's research infrastructure of more than 30 core facilities along with support programs for all disciplines of research, scholarship and creative endeavor. He will also hold an appointment as a full professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

Rhoads earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a doctoral degree, each in mechanical engineering, from Michigan State University.

University News

WALK THE WALK WEEK

The annual Walk the Walk prayer service was held on Sunday, Jan. 22. The prayer service was part of a weekend of events beginning Walk the Walk Week, a series of campus-wide activities and discussions designed to invite reflection about diversity and inclusion and honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Jan. 19 to 27.

Following a moving rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" led by the Voices of Faith choir, President **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, exclaimed, "Great start!" before offering a warm welcome to the standing-room-only audience of students, faculty, administrators and staff, along with many visitors, including the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church,



Rev. Curry



Trethewey

and other members of The Episcopal Church's national and local clergy.

Guests filled the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to hear the sermon from Bishop Curry. A prophetic leader and skilled orator, he delivered an engaging, emotional and sometimes humorous 40-minute address that moved the audience to witness, applaud and nod along throughout.

The prayer service included additional musical interludes by the Voices of Faith and a touching version of the Prayer of the Faithful where six students of various nationalities read intercessions in their native languages.

Attendees recessed from the Basilica, collected a lit candle and processed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue to place the candle in a silent moment of reflection.

Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize winner and U.S. Poet Laureate, shared reflections detailing her trajectory to becoming a writer who would turn pain into poetry during a meditation on Thursday, Jan. 19. Titled "Why I Write," the presentation and Q&A that followed served as the kickoff to Walk the Walk Week. Held in McKenna Hall, the space was full with students, faculty, staff, community members and aspiring writers.

Trethewey serves as the 2022-23 artist-in-residence for the Notre Dame Initiative on Race and Resilience, which promotes multiracial collaboration, qualitative and quantitative study methods and inclusive teaching.

In his welcome and introduction, **Father Jenkins** underscored the importance of the conversations that allow us to consider how we — both individually and collectively — can take an active role in making Notre Dame more inclusive.



Go



Lewis



Rhoads

NOTRE DAME FORUM

In the first of three spring semester Notre Dame Forum keynote events, the University hosted a weekly film series throughout February, which reflected on the experience of war from a variety of angles: direct experiences of war, the plight of refugees from war zones, the perspectives of families of genocide victims and experiences of occupation. A short panel discussion featuring University experts followed each film.

The Notre Dame Forum, hosted by University President **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, has been held annually since 2005, with events each year focused on a central theme of particular importance to the University, the nation and the larger world. This year's forum theme is "War and Peace." Films were shown in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

SPRING 2023
STAFF TOWN HALL

MONDAY, MARCH 20 2:00-2:45 p.m. Dahnke Ballroom	TUESDAY, MARCH 21 1:00-1:45 p.m. Dahnke Ballroom
10:00-10:45 p.m. Carey Auditorium	

Contact Us

ndworks@nd.edu
Visit ndworks.nd.edu

Natalie Davis Miller
Managing Editor
631-0445
nataliedavismiller@nd.edu

Jenna Liberto
Editor, Director
Internal Communications
631-6646
jliberto@nd.edu

Brittany Kaufman
Copy Editor
631-6335
collins.189@nd.edu

Jennifer Laiber
Electronic Media Coordinator
631-4753
laiber.1@nd.edu

Elissa Chudzicki
Senior Graphic Designer
631-4632
echudzic@nd.edu

Matt Cashore
Senior University
Photographer
574-220-7288
mcashore@nd.edu

Barbara Johnston
University Photographer
484-889-6890
bjohnsto@nd.edu

News

Recycling at Notre Dame: Who, what, when, where ... and why

By Jenna Liberto, NDWorks

A new year and a fresh perspective cause us to reflect on what's important in our own lives and as a community. It's also a chance to renew our commitment to those initiatives by taking the time to familiarize ourselves with the processes that move us toward our common goals.

When it comes to recycling at the University, ongoing changes in industry standards — including the acceptable level of contamination (trash) in recycling bins — demands of us the ability to continually refresh our collective strategy for the campus community and those leading the charge.

Recycling at Notre Dame is a collaborative effort between two Campus Safety and University Operations departments: Building Services and the Office of Sustainability. The success of their efforts depends on faculty, staff, students and visitors on all corners of campus.

"We are committed to a streamlined, efficient recycling program here at Notre Dame. We also acknowledge that things have been tough. World events, like COVID-19 and market changes, have made it difficult to adapt at the regional and campus level," says Vice President for Campus Safety and University Operations **Mike Seamon**. "Nationwide, it has become more difficult to recycle, and that can lead to confusion about our efforts here on campus."

The good news is: We are still recycling.

"Given the regular industry changes, we're focusing on what we call a single-stream toter system," says **Chris Hatfield**, senior director for Building Services. "This system mimics the residential recycling pickup program you probably use at home. Blue rolling toters — located in most buildings across campus — are picked up on a regular basis, and we rely on all members of the campus community to make sure their loose recyclables make it into that single receptacle."

Here's how the toter recycling program works right now.

- Find the blue single-stream recycling toter in your building. Toter locations are listed on the recycling resources webpage. This page also includes instructions for contacting the Office of Sustainability if you do not yet have a toter.

- You are responsible for emptying your personal recycling bin into the blue toter, making sure your recyclables are loose and free of any plastic bags used for collecting.

- Use the A-Z directory accessible by scanning the QR code below for the most current and comprehensive information. In general, you can recycle:

- Paper:** clean paper including newsprint, envelopes, copy paper and magazines
- Empty bottles:** plastic, aluminum and glass
- Empty cans:** aluminum and steel
- Cardboard** should be flattened and collected in a gray designated cardboard recycling cart in or outside your building. If you have a large amount of cardboard, submit a work request order to schedule a pickup. Refrain from placing bulky cardboard in the blue toter, as it does not allow enough room for the collection of other recyclables.

"Recycling is just one part of the waste diversion process," says **Geory Kurtzhals**, senior director of sustainability. "As individuals, you

can make a difference by thinking about waste diversion at the time you make a purchase. If you buy products on behalf of the University, consider what you will do with the item when it has served its purpose. If it will end up in a landfill, consider whether there are alternative options."

Building Services and the Office of Sustainability continue to work together to review and evolve the campus recycling program in an effort to get the most recyclable materials possible to our recycling partner.

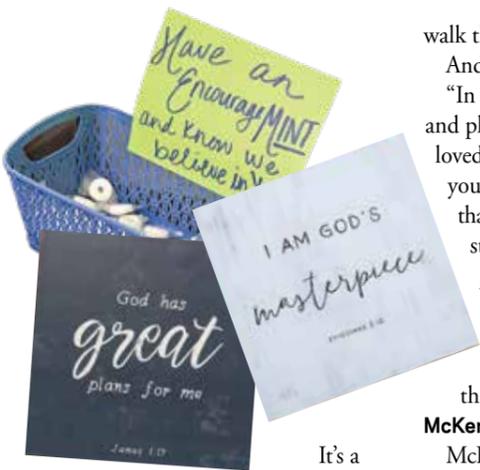
Next Generation

Transformational Leaders Program

Staff and faculty shape student experience through personal accompaniment



By Jenna Liberto, NDWorks



It's a wide-open room, filled with study tables and comfy chairs with colorful pillows. There are snacks in baskets beneath inspirational signs and plenty of outlets for phone and laptop charging. The wall art is eclectic, yet intentional—chosen to represent diverse cultures and the beauty of the human race. A local coffee shop? That's not far off, at least in terms of ambience. This space has seriously good vibes that embrace you as soon as you

walk through the open doorway. And that's exactly the point. "In life, you need to find people and places where you feel safe and loved and seen and heard for all your gifts. Everyone here knows that our mission is to accompany students along their academic journey to develop into the fullest, best versions of themselves so they can go out and do transformational things in the world," **Maria McKenna** says.

McKenna, a professor of the practice in Africana studies and the Institute for Educational Initiatives, serves as director for the AnBryce Scholars Initiative and the Transformational Leaders Program (TLP). She and seven other full-time colleagues represent varied experiences and expertise from across the Notre Dame campus. Together, they're building a concept centered on investing in students as the University's most important and precious resource, while acknowledging that not all students come

to higher education with the same preparation or resources.

Working with the Enrollment Division, Undergraduate Education and scholars' programs across campus, McKenna's team identifies and invites first-generation, under-resourced or differently prepared students to join. The program, which started in 2021 with about 250 students, has grown to almost 400. TLP is on track to double that number in the coming years. The goal: to help each scholar reach their full academic and personal potential, while staying healthy, grounded and connected.

"Whether that's a chance to have a funded internship, to do a global professional experience or to make a connection more easily to the first-generation community within the career center, or to find just that perfect mentor or faculty member or staff member to provide a little bit of extra support along the way, we hope that our students find their people and their spaces more easily," McKenna adds.

The vision

REV. HUGH R. PAGE JR.
Vice President for Institutional Transformation and Advisor to the President

REV. DANIEL G. GROODY, C.S.C.
Vice President and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

"The Transformational Leaders Program has created for under-represented students a place in which they receive personal accompaniment along their journey to become the kind of leader their unique experiences have cultivated them to be. I am passionate about that principle, because Notre Dame exists to prepare young people for the world, and each student deserves to have an environment in which they feel they can become the person they want to be and the person God created them to be."

"The Transformational Leaders Program (TLP) is the result of critical reflection, discussion with colleagues and research on best practices focused on creating nurturing communities of learning for students from various backgrounds. We looked at similar efforts across the country, and at programs already in existence at Notre Dame, to create a synergistic framework capable of connecting emerging leaders with the resources and people needed for them to make the most of their Notre Dame experience. I am delighted to see the remarkable growth of TLP under the leadership of Dr. Maria McKenna and her team; and Fr. Daniel Groody's creative incorporation of it into his exciting and holistic vision for undergraduate education."



Next Generation



Eight full-time staff members support students who take part in TLP. They are Jason Landrum, Itzxul Moreno, Tracy Nissley, Maria McKenna, Amanda Springstead, Adrienne Skinner, Manny Fernandez and Rev. Joe Corpora, C.S.C. Additionally, Annie Eaton (not pictured) rounds out the team as an embedded care consultant. (Photos by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)



The impact

ALEXANDRA ROJAS-MONSIVAIS
SOPHOMORE
QuestBridge Scholar
Longview, Texas
Major: math and gender studies

“What I really value and appreciate is their constant unconditional support. It’s really unique here, I think. You just really do feel the support academically and emotionally, on all fronts. That’s really necessary here because being away from parents, family, you might be lacking in one form or the other and they can make up for it.”

KRISTEN LEMUS, SOPHOMORE
QuestBridge Scholar
Chino, California
Major: political science, with minors in public policy and civil and human rights

“I definitely feel like I found my family. I would say that it’s transformed my vision of Notre Dame. Especially this year, I’ve been taking advantage of having those connections, and they helped with the transition to college.”

LIZETTE MENDEZ RAMIREZ
SOPHOMORE
Monterey, California
Major: political science and psychology

“TLP is part of what made me feel more at home at Notre Dame, because it’s given me opportunities and the ability to have some of the same experiences as my peers that I wouldn’t normally be able to have. Whether it be exposure to different events, or helping me financially or just helping me find those opportunities, it has definitely made it easier to call Notre Dame home.”

Read more about the impact >



What personal accompaniment looks like

The support each person receives can be as unique as the students themselves. TLP provides access to mentoring, academic support, education and outreach specialists, as well as community building activities. It works alongside academic advising and in collaboration with academic advisers across campus, the Office of Student Enrichment, and the Center for Student Support and Care to help students navigate the resources that exist in different corners of campus. Support might also look like a potluck for students who can’t go home for a holiday or transportation for a future leader with an off-campus internship.

For Program Manager **Tracy Nissley**, it feels like building bridges.

“I was a first-generation, under-resourced, minority student at IU in Bloomington. I had no idea what the higher education world looked like. I just knew I wanted to graduate in four years to reduce my debt,” Nissley shares. “I didn’t have a program [like this]. This is a full-circle moment for me to be able to serve the student that I was, and to use the resources and connections that I’ve made at Notre Dame and with the community to serve the students better.”

Nissley recalls a community-building exercise during which TLP students shared their journeys with each other.

“It’s meaningful to hear pieces of their stories that are pieces of my story and pieces of each other’s stories, and [know that] there can be community around painful moments that turn into healing and resilience,” she says. “The

each person as an image of God,” he says. It’s the lens through which Father Joe frames his life and his work, as he gives words to the energy that’s present, yet hard to describe, in the room occupied by TLP.

“I think part of the energy is that the students know how to find each other. They have all had difficulties, but they just find

to McKenna, to be given a place in the Main Building, a visible representation of the University’s commitment to first-generation and under-resourced students. The program is located inside the Office of Institutional Transformation on the Main Building’s second floor, furnished with unique, eye-catching pieces that, just like the students, have their own story to tell. Collected from departments and buildings all across campus, they’ve found a new home and a new purpose.

The same could be said for the program’s passionate leaders.

“The thing I love most about my job is when a student pops their head in my door or knocks on my door and they ask, ‘Do you have a minute?’” McKenna says. “When they ask if you have a minute, the answer always needs to be yes, because they’re about to show you a drawing that they just completed for the first time for an architecture class, or they’re about to tell you about an opportunity they got to shadow a physician at Cleveland Clinic. Or they close the door and the tears start to come because they had something happen back home that they need somebody to talk through [with them]. So the best parts of my day are when a student knocks on my door and says, ‘Do you have a minute?’ Because I get to say yes.”

“The best parts of my day are when a student knocks on my door and says, ‘Do you have a minute?’ Because I get to say yes.”

MARIA MCKENNA

things I went through — you usually hope that there’s a reason for it, right? And for me to be able to identify with the students in a capacity, it’s just so fulfilling.”

Finding community

Rev. Joe Corpora, C.S.C., serves as associate director of education and outreach for the Transformational Leaders Program, but much prefers to think of himself as a grandfather figure. “We see

each other, and they’re totally at home with each other, and there’s nothing to defend,” he says. “I think about that a lot, because, to be honest, it should not have worked so well, so fast. We have to attribute that to God, but also to them.”

At home with each other, students gather and build community in this inviting space that’s situated in the most iconic building on campus. “A gift,” according



People

Fr. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.

By Natalie Davis Miller, NDWorks

There is more to the collar when one takes a long look at the life and legacy of **Rev. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.** He is an inspiring, ever more interesting, yet unassuming figure, sharing stories about his life and work, all while sitting at a conference table in his office — one he made with his own hands, from a felled tree from campus.

There are other mementos in this space — a chalice made from the wood of a refugee boat, a photo with Pope Francis, a photo of Father Groody during his days of competitive downhill skiing. There are many layers, indeed.

The initial occasion to speak with Father Groody is the release of his latest book, “A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ.” The foreword by Pope Francis reads something akin to the letters from Paul to one of the seven churches. It begins:

“I received the manuscript of your book. ... I read it with great care, and I feel moved by the beauty, the tenderness, the pain, and the commitment that comes

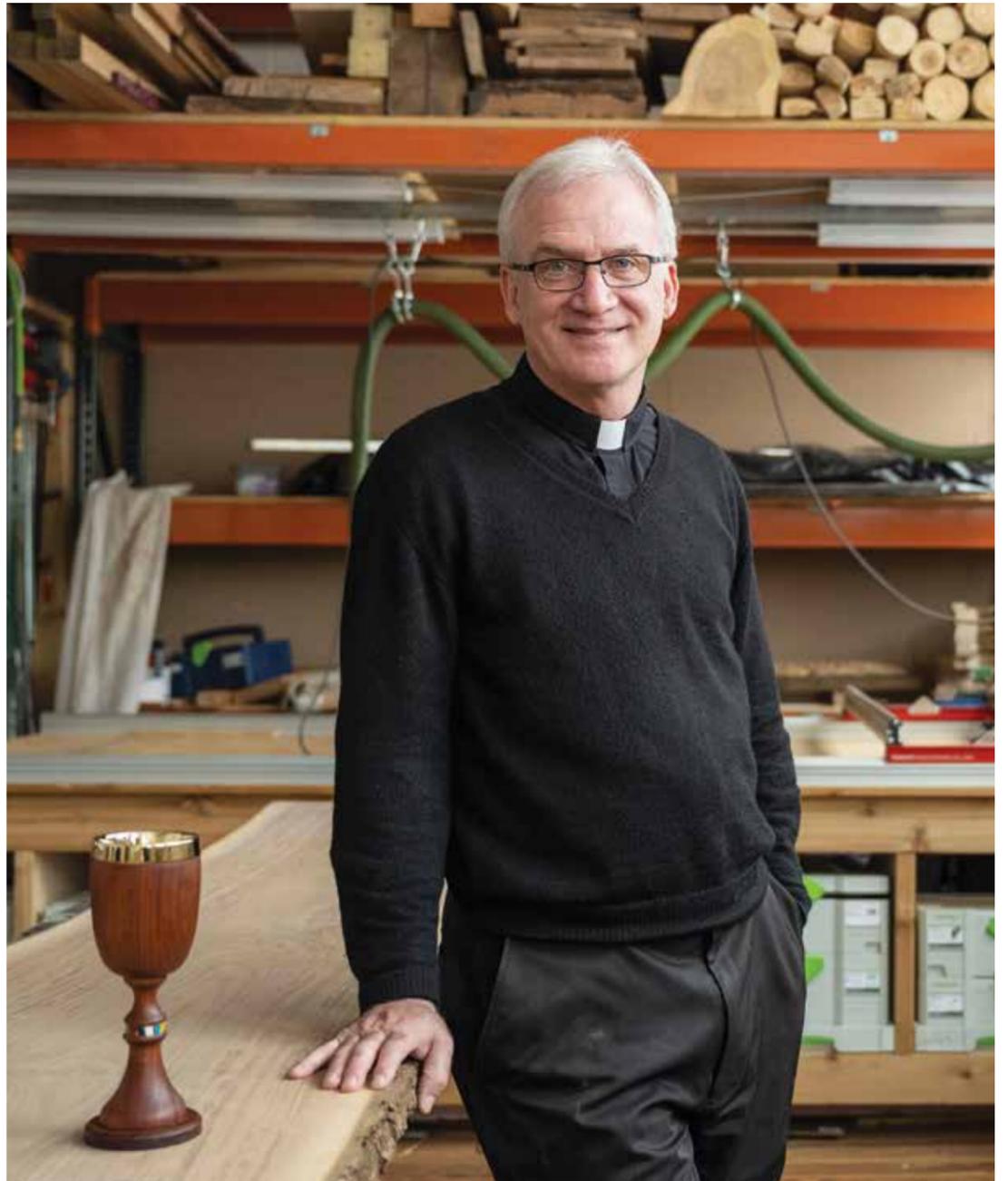
forth from each of its pages.” It continues, “Thank you for everything you do and propose; may your book mobilize and help us become more sensitive to this reality. God bless you and bless all migrants and those who become companions on their journey; and please do not forget to pray for me.”

This book is a look at today’s migrant and refugee reality in the reflection of migrations of the past. It is also a reflection of a life that looks into the heart.

Writing about his passion for the migrant life is just one layer of who Father Groody is; a few moments of conversation moves us to a more complete picture of the man himself.

Father Groody is the vice president and associate provost for undergraduate education. He is also an associate professor of theology and global affairs and a Fellow and Trustee of the University. He teaches The Heart’s Desire and Social Change, a course he describes as helping students get connected to the deepest desires of their heart as they also connect to the needs and challenges of the world.

The heart analogy is apropos for Father Groody, who transitioned from professor to vice president and associate provost — an act he fondly described as “going from being a cardiologist to administration in a hospital.”



A chalice made from the driftwood of a refugee boat led to Father Groody’s reignited interest in woodworking. He stands in his woodshop in the annex near the lakes. (Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)

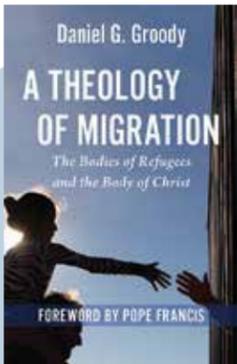
In his present role, he continues to practice matters of the heart while overseeing undergraduate education, making the undergraduate experience even better for students. One way this is happening is through the Transformational

Leaders Program, also under Father Groody.

“We are trying to do a lot of things in the Transformational Leaders Program,” Father Groody said. “We’re trying to help our students who are coming from

under-resourced backgrounds, who are differently prepared, to have an optimal experience when they come here.”

Father Groody is no stranger to the student experience at Notre Dame. He was born in Philadelphia



Father Groody sprays down a project in his woodworking shop. (Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)

People



Father Groody, during his competitive downhill skiing days. (Photo provided)

“I love the way wood tells a story. I take a dead tree and bring it back to life like this.”

where his father worked for the telephone company. That career led his family to move to Connecticut, New Jersey and Ohio. During those early years he saw international business or international law as possible careers. An avid downhill skier with an eye to competing in the Olympics someday, Father Groody seriously considered attending Dartmouth because of its ski team. But a few wise words from his father's cousin shifted his thinking.

“He said, ‘Why don't you take a look at Notre Dame while you're looking at schools.’ I came out for a football game and I had an experience of a weekend here — from the game to the people I met to staying in the dorm with a student to going to Mass the next day,” Father Groody recalled. “That whole package just said to me this is the place that can really help me develop as a person. It was then I realized what I wanted more than a gold medal. I wanted to study under the Golden Dome.”

A “foundational experience” would later put Father Groody on the path to priesthood. As an exchange student in Uruguay in 1981, a language barrier gave him quiet time for introspection into the direction of his life.

“That was a time of military dictatorships,” Father Groody said of the oppression and human rights abuses that were taking place in Uruguay. “That awakened in me a desire to want to respond to injustices in the world.”

Father Groody entered the seminary with the goal of sorting out what God was calling him to do.

He began working in foreign missions, particularly in Latin America, going back to Chile, Peru and Mexico where he did a substantial amount of research. “God interrupted my plans and put on my heart a desire to search more intentionally about my vocation.”

It comes as no surprise that Pope Francis would be asked to write the foreword for Father Groody's book. In 2013, in his first trip outside of Rome as pontiff, Pope Francis celebrated Mass in Lampedusa, Italy. He was moved by the deaths of refugees fleeing North Africa while trying to cross the Mediterranean.

“Pope Francis used a chalice at Mass made by a local craftsman from the driftwood of a refugee boat,” Father Groody explained. He too has a chalice made from that same wood.

“Thousands of people die each year in the Mediterranean and no one knows about it. And the only thing left is the remnant of pieces of the ships,” Father Groody said as he describes the small pieces of colored wood encircling the base of the chalice, which was completed with a supportive base made by Father Herb Yost. The base was made from mesquite from the deserts of the American southwest, “where the economic migrants cross the southern border. You literally have a migrant and refugee crisis as part of the story of this chalice,” Father Groody said.

It was this story

of the making of the chalice and his own writing and research on refugees that awakened in him a desire to pursue woodworking, something he hadn't done since high school shop class.

“I woke up one day and said, ‘I've got to get back into wood.’” After a “40-year break,” he found himself back in the craft, building a woodshop during COVID, using trees recovered from campus for many of his projects. “I started working with the gardeners on campus. Whenever they cut a tree down, they call me up and say, ‘Father, I have a tree.’”

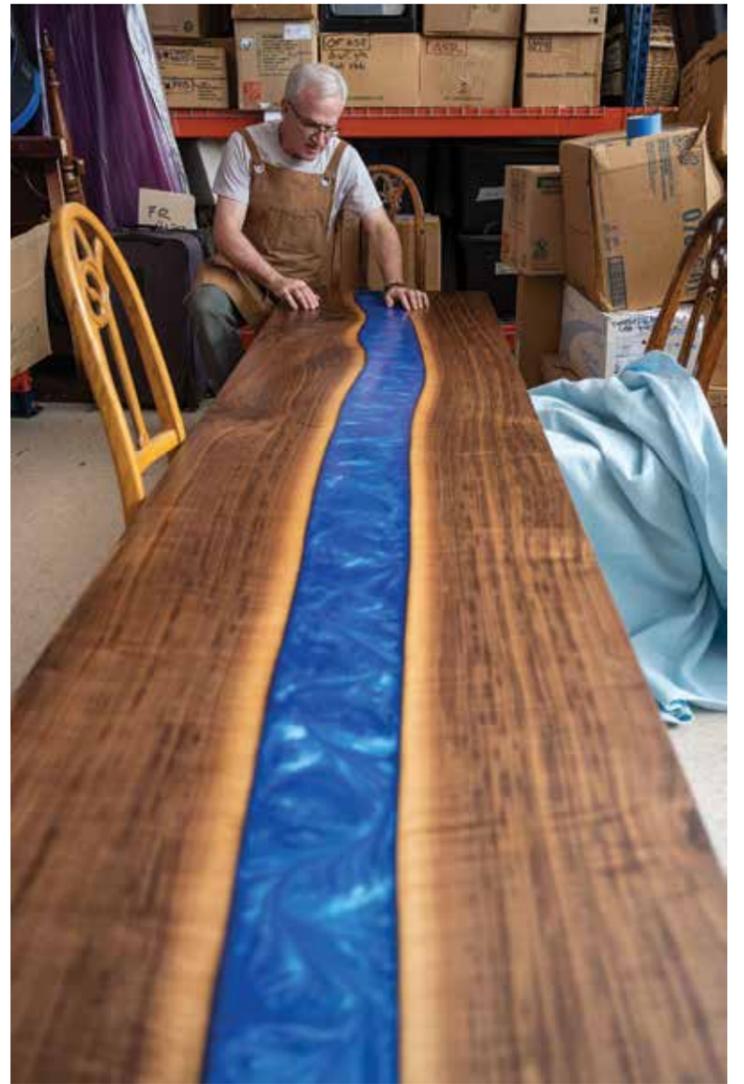
A man who describes himself as working in the “death and resurrection business,” Father Groody established the Sacred Heart Woodworking shop in the annex between the lakes on campus.

“I love the way wood tells a story. I take a dead tree and bring it back to life like this,” he said, motioning to his conference table.

Father Groody works in his shop whenever he has a free moment, even if that moment is at 5 a.m.

and just for a half hour.

He has a number of projects in progress, including making cabinets for his



Father Groody points out the blue epoxy running the length of a countertop he made. (Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)

apartment on campus. His faith is etched into his woodworking, as he contemplates a cabinet that will depict not just the physical architecture found on campus, but also the “spiritual architecture.” The etchings will include the Dome, the Hesburgh Library, Corby Hall, the Log Chapel, the Basilica and the Grotto.

“These particular buildings of campus reveal a more universal spir-

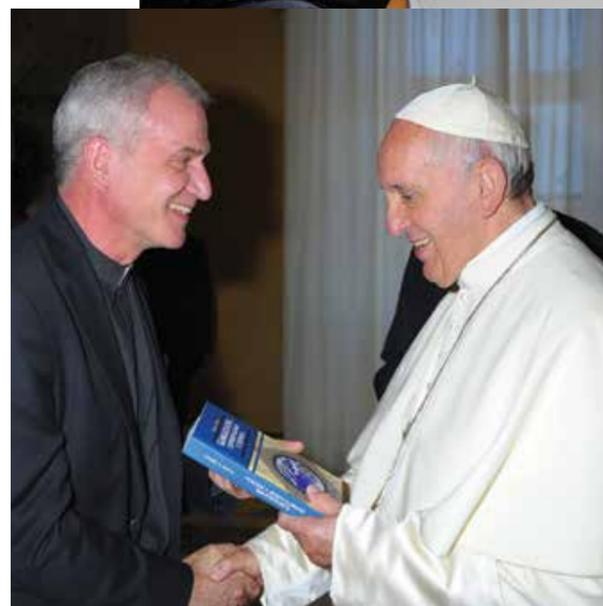
itual architecture at the heart of Christian faith. They remind us of who we are before God and how every person has a role to play in God's kingdom. As we live out this mystery together in a common mission, then our labor itself becomes a prayer. And we begin to realize that all we do is a participation in the work of resurrection for the renewal and transformation of the world.”



Father Groody is sanding down the epoxy in his woodworking project. (Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)



Father Groody at work in his office in the Main Building. (Photo by Barbara Johnston/University of Notre Dame)



Father Groody meeting with Pope Francis. (Photo provided)

What's *your next* step?

Engage and listen to our students more, especially underrepresented voices

Fr. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Recruit students to join me on ND's Diversity Council to advocate for others

Olivia Hsin '24
President of Diversity Council

Modernize our science core curriculum to be more inclusive

Santiago Schnell
The William K. Warren Foundation Dean of the College of Science

Lead student government in initiatives that help every Notre Dame student feel at home here

Patrick Lee '23
Student Body President

Genuinely value ideas and contributions of all, regardless of their status

Tracy Kijewski-Correa
Professor of Engineering and Global Affairs

Continue creating space for people to become their fullest, truest selves at Notre Dame

JP Abercrombie
Executive Associate Athletic Director — Culture and Engagement

Watch the videos



(Photos by Matt Cashore/University of Notre Dame)