

Dear Bob,

I can still recall the day I walked into my first Romero Days Conference. You noted my nametag and it was "love at first sight" for both of us!! That day I experienced the depths of your hospitality and care; you introduced me to everyone – literally – everyone, and ensured my every need was met. I have never felt so comfortable in my life!

That first experience characterized every subsequent visit I made to Notre Dame University, and every phone conversation we shared! While I celebrate and congratulate you on your accomplishments and successes - more numerous than the stars in the sky – it is your person and heart that I treasure most deeply! No other person has supported or encouraged my vocation and scholarship as a Theologian than you, Bob, and for this I am eternally grateful. You have set the bar high for me to follow, and I pray I shall not disappoint!

For the gift of your love and friendship, the gift of yourself to the Latin and North America Churches, the frontiers you have explored and the horizons you have set, and the love we share for Archbishop Romero, I celebrate you and thank you!

With deep affection, Damian Zynda