

# SORIN FELLOWS PROGRAM

## INTEGRAL STUDENT FORMATION

### IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION

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UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME

DE NICOLA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND CULTURE



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The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture  
is committed to sharing the richness of the Catholic moral and  
intellectual tradition through teaching, research, and dialogue,  
at the highest level and across a range of disciplines.

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Students are the lifeblood of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.

Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students' participation in the life the Center illuminates the goodness present in Our Lady's students and supports Notre Dame in realizing its most noble vocation: to accompany and provide students with integral human formation in the Catholic tradition so as to be truly a "powerful force for good in the world," echoing the university's founder, Rev. Edward Sorin, CSC.

At the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, we recognize and embrace that individuals have unique gifts and talents and are called to particular personal and professional vocations. The universal call to holiness—the proper end of integral human formation in the Catholic tradition—underscores the diverse manifestations of sanctity and virtue possible within the contours of the faith.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 9:4)

Inspired by the witness of the earliest disciples, these "manifestations of the Spirit" rely upon habituated, coherent, and virtuous ways of thinking, praying, and acting that allow for fruitful discernment and subsequent action, rather than the mere accumulation of intellectual or technical expertise.

In a university setting, this compels the de Nicola Center to engage and form students from across all disciplines who—out of a desire to realize the fullest meaning of their gifts and talents—seek to place their social, intellectual, spiritual, and professional development in direct relationship with similarly convicted peers and mentors and in dialogue with the wisdom of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition.

In this spirit, the fruits and goals of the Center's dedicated student formation program – the Sorin Fellows Program – aims to accompany and assist students in developing habits of thought and practice that impress the private and public responsibilities incumbent upon a Christian practice of charity and provide the capacity to discern what is required of themselves and to their families, communities, and the world.

Whether you are a student at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, or Holy Cross College, or the parent of a prospective or current student, I invite you to read further and come to know the unique opportunities available at the de Nicola Center for truly integral student formation in the Catholic tradition.

In Notre Dame,

O. Carter Snead  
Director, de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture  
Professor, Notre Dame Law School

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

At the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, we believe our student formation efforts lie at the intersection of Blessed Basil Moreau's pedagogy that "the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart" and Father Edward Sorin's vision that Notre Dame is called to be a "powerful force for good in the world."

We believe that integral human formation in the Catholic tradition—in this case, integral *student* formation—rests in the conviction that human persons are made in the image and likeness of God, and that their final end is communion *with* God. This theological anthropology understands human persons to be endowed with a rational nature, to be naturally inclined toward the transcendent, and to be nourished most fully through participation in the life of the Catholic Church.

The **Sorin Fellows Program** is a community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College inspired by the richness of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition and committed to pursuing truly integral development in the context of their collegiate experience and in the discernment of their vocations.

Through this student formation program, Sorin Fellows are supported by the de Nicola Center and provided opportunities to encounter role models and befriend mentors who exhibit virtues of integral formation, consider enduring and contemporary issues through the lens of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition, nourish their interior life and appreciation for the spiritual heritage of the Catholic Church, and discern and cultivate their gifts and talents through grant funding and internships.

"The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture served as an indispensable integrative resource for me throughout my tenure at Notre Dame. The Sorin Fellows Program's commitment not merely to my intellectual development, but also to my social and spiritual formation, aided me in cultivating my gifts and talents such that I could respond courageously to what was demanded of me in all that I am – as a future leader in my local community, aspiring public voice, and as a Catholic. Engaging with the de Nicola Center's faculty, staff, and fellows revealed to me not simply what Notre Dame can be at its best, but modeled for me the relational path forward for renewing culture through the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition."



"The benefits of my engagement with the de Nicola Center were clear while I was a student, but the support of the Center has become even more meaningful as an alumnus. Starting post-graduate life in a new city and working in management consulting has been exciting, but challenging. However, I have always been able to rely on the Center's extensive community for advice and support in my spiritual, intellectual, and professional life. I am lucky to have experienced caring mentors as well as fellow young Center alumni who are true friends. The de Nicola Center was a uniquely formative part of my college education and I know it will continue to be an integral part of my life."

## OUR COMMITMENTS

Our approach to "integral student formation in the Catholic tradition" is informed by three commitments:

**Integrity informed by Virtue:** The human person is a unified being of body and soul, created in the image and likeness of God, whose final end is communion with God—as such, we are called to develop and habituate virtues that allow for the fullest expression of our personhood across all activities of our private and public life.

"Unless there is a telos which transcends the limited goods of practices by constituting the good of a whole human life, the good of a human life conceived as a unity, it will both be the case that a certain subversive arbitrariness will invade the moral life and that we shall be unable to specify the context of certain virtues adequately...There is at least one virtue recognized by the tradition which cannot be specified at all except with reference to the wholeness of human life—the virtue of integrity...This notion of singleness of purpose in a whole life can have no application unless that of a whole life does" (After Virtue, 202).

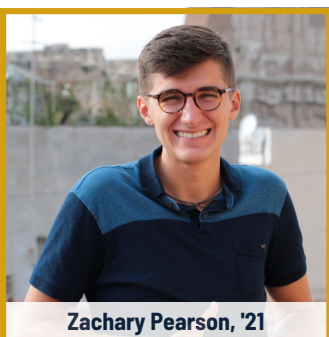
**Fidelity illumined by the heritage of the Catholic Faith:** Out of gratuitous love, Jesus Christ safeguards the fullest expression of God's Revelation in the Catholic Church—and, through the exercise of faith and reason, human persons can apprehend truths about our individual and shared humanity in such a way to illuminate principles that affirm human dignity and advance the common good.

"The Catholic Church's Magisterium exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent...and for the people who unflinchingly adhere to this faith, it penetrates more deeply with right judgement and applies more fully in daily life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, cf. 74–100).

**Charity inspired by Truth:** Integral human formation and charity are not possible without a commitment to truth, which is an "exacting and indispensable" form of charity.

"Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity" (Caritas in Veritate, cf. 1-2).

"It is because of my involvement with the dCEC that I know exactly why I am at Notre Dame. Being a Sorin Fellow has put me in the midst of a community doing precisely what I had hoped for in college—exploring, understanding, and bringing to bear on our society the vast treasures of the Catholic Church—in addition to opening my eyes to a university experience and a network of people that I could not have even imagined existed."



"The de Nicola Center has helped lead me to truth in Christ through abundant and profound prayerfulness. An authentic community is centered around and continually walks together towards God; the dCEC is at the forefront of that journey here at Notre Dame. The Center challenges us when the world asks our complacency. The dCEC doesn't shy away from truth. It shines truth. It calls the entire campus community to participate in the truth of Christ."

## OUR METHODOLOGY

The life of the Sorin Fellows Program is grounded upon participation and engagement in a community of students, faculty, staff, and professionals committed to the relational character of formation. This approach facilitates the opportunity for students to consider, encounter, and explore various manifestations of integral formation inspired by or reflective of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition.

A helpful way to organize the methodology of the Sorin Fellows Program is as follows:

### MODEL

Provide students access to role models and mentors in academia, the Church, and the public square who exhibit and witness virtues of integral formation (spiritual integrity, professional excellence, intellectual vivacity, social philanthropy, community engagement, etc.).

### INFORM

Engage students with specialized opportunities to directly consider ideas and issues of enduring and contemporary import to human dignity, authentic human freedom, and the common good as understood through the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition.

### NOURISH

Sustain students with opportunities for prayer, worship, service, and pilgrimage that cultivate the interior life in dialogue with social, intellectual, and professional values.

### SUPPORT

Equip students and Sorin Fellow alumni with relevant financial and human resources to excel in their professional, post-graduate pursuits as well as in efforts to self-organize in the promotion of causes toward cultural renewal.

## OUR PROGRAMMING

The Sorin Fellows Program offers regular programming throughout the academic year for undergraduate, graduate, and professional Sorin Fellows.

### Model

**Supper Clubs:** Offered throughout the academic year, Supper Clubs welcome fellows into the homes and family lives of Notre Dame faculty and staff to underscore the distinctively relational character of integral human formation and to form lasting and enriching relationships during their college years and beyond.

**Integritas Forums** - Structured as interview-style conversations, these forums provide Sorin Fellows opportunities to hear from and engage with professionals from a wide range of sectors (business, medicine, architecture, law, etc.) about their experience maintaining personal and ethical integrity across their professional, familial, and faith lives. Conversations include maintaining a work-life balance, growing in faith after college, as well as ongoing discernment and professional development.

**Cor ad Cor Mentorship** - Inspired by Saint John Henry Newman's pedagogical model and coat of arms, "cor ad cor loquitor," (heart speaks to heart), the Sorin Fellows Program seeks to cultivate mentor-mentee relationships between (1) graduate/professional Sorin Fellows and upperclassman (juniors + seniors) Sorin Fellows and (2) upperclassmen and underclassman (sophomores and freshman) Sorin Fellows. Fellows are matched based on a variety of descriptors, including: academic profile, personal interests, and professional goals.



### Inform

**Faculty Seminars** - Rooted in the scholarly ethos of the de Nicola Center, these seminars facilitated by Notre Dame faculty are intended to engage Sorin Fellows with enduring and contemporary topics surrounding and informed by the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition.

**Book that Changed my Life Lecture** - Features a prominent Notre Dame faculty member speaking on a book that changed his or her life and shaped the ways in which he or she was – and is – uniquely changed, challenged, and enriched by it. The faculty's reflection is followed by conversation and community. Fellows registered to attend the lecture receive a copy of the featured book.

**Bread of Life Dinner** - Designed to provide an opportunity for Notre Dame undergraduates and faculty to meet, reflect on, and discuss their attitudes toward culture of life issues. In the context of a meal, a university leader offers a reflection on the intersection of his or her work and life with building a culture of life. The reflection is followed by small group discussion and a question and answer period.

**Lunch and Learn Seminars** - Intended to engage Sorin Fellows with leading scholars at and visitors to the university, the Sorin Fellows Program hosts regular lunch and learn sessions on campus. Past lunch and learn facilitators have included preeminent theologians, philosophers, bioethicists, federal judges, etc.



## Nourish

**First Friday Series:** Offered on the first Friday of every month during the academic year, the First Friday Series provides fellows the opportunity to attend a Mass and social with Sorin Fellows. Students contribute as lectors, sacristans, acolytes, cantors, and musicians.

**Vocation to Love-** A women's discussion and faith-sharing group inspired by the writings of Edith Stein and Saint Pope John Paul II on authentic love and women's role in the Church and the world. The group meets once a week in the evening and is led by Suzy Younger (MS, CFCP).

**Seasonal Pilgrimages** - The Sorin Fellows Program offers seasonal pilgrimages to various holy sites significant to the Catholic tradition. These pilgrimages are led by dCEC faculty, staff, and religious and provide fellows the opportunity to encounter the rich spiritual heritage of the Catholic Church around the world.



## Support

**Sorin Fellows Program Grants and Internships** - Offered throughout the academic year, the Sorin Fellows Program assists its student fellows to explore their interests, cultivate their gifts and talents, and pursue integral formation in the Catholic tradition through Center-supported internships and funding opportunities.

**Research Grants** - Supports Sorin Fellows who seek to engage in domestic and international research projects and initiatives.

**Conference Grants** - Supports Sorin Fellows who seek to participate in or present a paper at domestic and/or international conferences and seminars.

**Formation Grants** - Supports Sorin Fellows who seek to participate in service projects, spiritual retreats, or similar formative projects.

**Placement Grants** - Supports Sorin Fellows who have secured internships, employment, and/or placements that take place over the course of the mid-semester, winter, or summer recesses.

**Placement Referral Requests** - Supports Sorin Fellows who seek to be referred to and supported in applications for summer internships and placements with organizations that share an intersecting mission with the de Nicola Center.



"It is with the consistent financial and relational support of the de Nicola Center that I have been able to pursue professional and vocational formation during the school year and throughout the summer. From New York to Washington, DC, I have been able to serve the poor and those in need with the Sisters of Life, as well as advocate for religious liberty for all as an intern at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. The Center's guidance and generosity is truly unmatched in walking with and providing opportunities for students as they seek to discern their gifts and follow God's call."



Maggie Garnett, '22



## OUR GOALS

The goals of the Sorin Fellows Program follow from its fundamental commitments, mission, and methodology.

Students who participate fully in the life of the Sorin Fellows Program will exhibit the following habits of thought and practice as graduates of the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, or Holy Cross College.

**Committed to Enduring Friendships** – Sorin Fellows will have developed the habit and established the practice of living out the relational character of human flourishing through the development of enduring friendships as grounded in Christian charity.

**Enhanced Catholic Intellectual Competency** – Sorin Fellows will have gained deeper knowledge and appreciation of enduring and contemporary issues as understood through the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition, by way of engagement with scholars, faculty, and leaders at Notre Dame and beyond.

**Deepened and Integrated Faith Life** – Sorin Fellows will have established a deeper appreciation for the spiritual heritage of the Catholic Church and an understanding of the interior life as directly engaged with their social, intellectual, and professional development.

**Cultivated Gifts and Talents** – Sorin Fellows will have explored and developed their gifts and talents in light of personal discernment, and will have assessed ways of placing professional goals at the service of the Church and culture.

"Being a Sorin Fellow introduced me to an intellectual community of undergraduates, graduate students, alumni, and professors, all of whom were interested in engaging with the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition and applying it to their lives. Since graduating, I have been able to remain part of that community, in large part because the Center organizes so many opportunities to gather and celebrate together. I now live far from South Bend, but I feel just as much a part of the dCEC community as when I was a student at Notre Dame."



"The Center's commitment to a kind of integral student formation – a formation that embraces the complementarity of faith and reason, upholds the unity of the human person as body and soul, and responds courageously to the call to speak truth into a relativized culture – breathes into the world graduates who, like myself, are eager and willing to be the leaders of tomorrow across a wide range of industries and sectors, all the while rooted in and nourished by the deep wells of tradition."

