Frank and Mary Twardzik’s youngest son left Shenandoah, a small coal mining town in northeastern Pennsylvania, to attend Notre Dame. Theodore F. “Ted” Twardzik (’51), who followed his brother Louis (’49) to South Bend, earned his bachelor of science in accounting degree and was active in the Glee Club.

But he never forgot the delicacies created in his mother’s kitchen. Mary Twardzik made delicious pierogies, an Eastern European culinary tradition, and Ted would go on to build a business on these stuffed pasta pockets—the famous Mrs. T’s® Pierogies.

The business grew from several family members seated around the kitchen table to become Shenandoah’s largest employer. Mrs. T’s® Pierogies are now distributed throughout the United States and in several international markets.

Ted, now retired, and his wife, Jean, have three sons, two of whom are graduates of Notre Dame. Family ownership of Mrs. T’s® continues through their children. At the University, Ted and Jean are members of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society Founder’s Circle.

The Twardzik Endowment will be funded by a charitable remainder trust and will provide major ongoing assistance to the Hesburgh Libraries as they build collections in Polish studies.

The Twardziks have also funded a Presidential endowment.