

President's passion for flowers in

FULL BLOOM

At the end of a long day filled with many decisions and meetings, DWC President Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD likes to retreat to a place of deep spirituality – the garden.

If you've ever noticed the bright, cheerful blooms across the college campus, there's a good chance that Fr. Tom literally had a hand in putting them there.

His lifelong enthusiasm for gardening started at a young age. It was a direct result of growing up with a father who was an agricultural scientist. The late Dr. Robert Ascheman, PhD. spent his career focused on corn and soybeans, while his son delighted in growing beautiful and colorful plants, like tulips. Under the careful guidance of a masterful grower, Fr. Tom developed a gift for gardening and an appreciation for creation.

"I love to take care of the flowers because they remind me of God's beauty and the beauty of God's kingdom that is growing up all around us," Fr. Tom said in his homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the 2021 graduates. He likes to joke that God is the gardener and he just pulls the weeds. Judging by the stunning flowers across campus, Fr. Tom and God make a pretty good team!

