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### THE PRESIDENT

#### A Medal of Mary

A boy was working at a train station. He shined shoes for people who came by. The boy wore a silver medal around his neck and one of his clients noticed it. The man asked, "What's that around your neck?"

The boy replied, "It's a medal of Mary, the mother of Jesus."

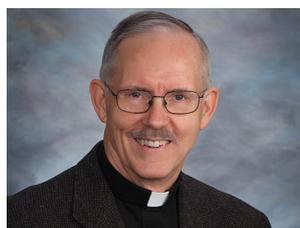
The man considered the answer as his shoes started to gleam from the polish and the shine cloth. He said, "Why her medal? She's no different from your mother."

The boy answered, "Could be, but there's a real big difference between her son and me."

Last weekend during the double celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a medal of Mary was given to each person. They were a gift from Dr. Richard Mani, an SVD alumnus who is now a generous benefactor of DWC. As the medals were distributed I couldn't help but think of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, the Aztec man who was given a sign by Mary to carry to a skeptical bishop. As he hurried to the city, Juan Diego clutched some flowers to his chest, nestling them in his cloak. In the presence of the bishop, he opened the cloak and the image of Mary appeared draped across his chest.



In the final weeks of Advent the gospel readings will focus on two people: John the Baptist and Mary. John the Baptist proclaimed: I am not the Messiah; I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap. That sounds like the shoeshine boy's humble recognition that there was a real big difference between Jesus and him. As missionary disciples of Jesus, we also know that we are not the Light, we are not the Promised One; we are messengers, not the Messiah.



Mary heard a startling greeting from the angel – Hail Mary, Full of Grace. We can identify with Mary in her confusion. Together

with her, we wonder what the greeting could mean. Perhaps we are reminded that Grace is more original than any sin. Mary was not the Messiah either, but she accepted the risky grace of carrying the long-awaited Savior in her womb. And she praised God.

Tomorrow, Wednesday December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As missionaries, like Juan Diego, we too want to carry the Word of God written in bodies. Receiving communion brings us close to Mary, the Christ bearer. A medal of Mary can remind us of the incredible grace we too receive.

For anyone who would like to receive a medal of Mary please do stop down to see me so I can share Dr. Mani's gift with you.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Faculty Annual Performance Evaluations due 14 December 2018

In accord with the Faculty Handbook sections #230 and #260, Undergraduate and IELI faculty are reminded that self-evaluations and annual planning goals were due to the respective Chair/Director by 1 December. If necessary, faculty have some extra time to submit these documents but not later than 14 December 2018. The annual faculty performance evaluation requirement does not apply to adjunct faculty.

### Student Course Evaluations

Students are strongly encouraged to do the course evaluations at the end of this semester/term. These course evaluations provide very important feedback regarding course effectiveness and student learning. The purposes of this process are stipulated in Faculty Handbook #603:

- [to] facilitate the routine evaluation of each course
- [to] encourage teaching staff to reflect on effective course design and delivery
- [to] provide a mechanism for students to provide feedback to enhance the quality of learning and teaching
- [to] collect information concerning the implementation of the Student Learning Outcomes
- [to] gather evidence that may be used to demonstrate quality teaching and curriculum design.

Students should view course evaluations seriously and take the opportunity to provide free and honest feedback. These evaluations are anonymous. No teacher will know your individual identity or comments, and the aggregated results can only be viewed after final grades are posted. Course evaluations for the Fall 2019 semester and the ESL Term B are available in Populi from Wednesday 12 December 2018 until Monday 17 December 2018.

### Final Grades Due on 18 December 2018

Faculty are reminded that final course grades are due no later than 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday 18 December 2018. Instructors should finalize and lock their courses in Populi by this date/time, otherwise the Registrar will do so automatically.

## Joint DTP & DIS Departmental Meeting on 9 January 2019

As noted in the VPAA memo dated 3 December 2018, Undergraduate faculty will begin the process of individual course mapping & bench-marking of the provisionally-approved Core Competency Student Learning Outcomes (CC-SLOs) in departmental meetings. In order to facilitate this process, the Department of Theology & Philosophy [DTP] and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS] will hold a joint departmental meeting from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Room 101 on Wednesday 9 January 2019. This joint meeting will allow for all Undergraduate faculty to receive the same instructions and guidance at the same time, with an opportunity for questions in common. As this is a regularly-scheduled departmental meeting for the beginning of the Spring 2019 semester, all DTP & DIS faculty will be required to attend. As usual, adjuncts are invited but not required to attend.

## ESL Tutoring Orientation on 14 January 2019

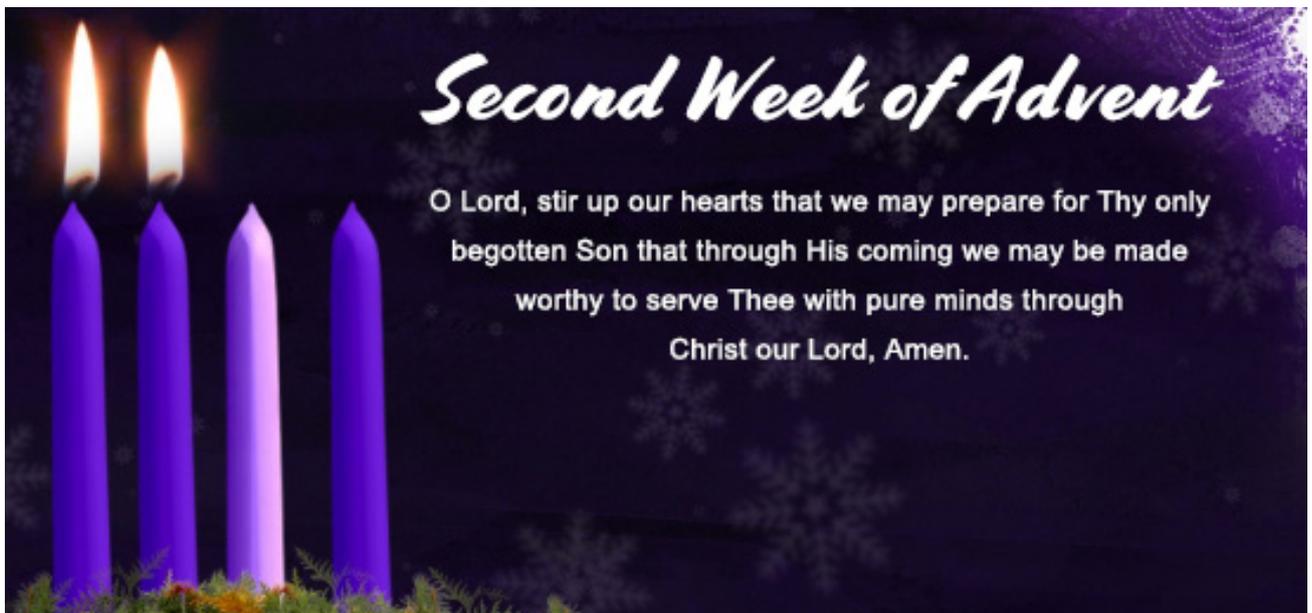
An orientation session for new/returning ESL volunteer tutors and students is scheduled for 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday 14 January 2019 in the dining room. Attendees will hear about the ESL tutoring program, and learn some practical tutoring tips and perspectives on intercultural communication. This is also an opportunity for tutors and students to meet each other and set up schedules. Thanks to so many generous volunteer tutors and eager students who make this academic support program a success!

## Professional Article Publication and Creative Achievement Award

Full-time faculty are eligible to apply for the DWC \$250 Professional Article Publication and Creative Achievement Award for each new scholarly article published or new creative achievement executed while under contract at DWC. See Faculty Handbook #212.4 for further details and requirements. This Award is just another of the many ways that Divine Word College encourages and recognizes faculty professional development and scholarship.

## Blessed Christmas!

Congratulations to all faculty and students on completing another academic semester/term! May the heart of Jesus, the Divine Word made flesh, live in the hearts of all.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

### Promote the SVD and DWC

As we prepare for Christmas break, many of us will travel to visit family and friends around the USA and across the globe. Each of us will be in contact with people who may not know much about the Divine Word Missionaries or Divine Word College. Please consider telling people about where you work or go to school. Invite others to consider a religious vocation. Feel welcome to visit the vocation office and take some vocation literature with you to share with others. We have an assortment of prayer cards and brochures about the SVD and DWC.

As a reminder for current students, the Vocation Office offers a \$200 honorarium if you refer an SVD candidate to the Vocation Office and the candidate eventually enters SVD formation!

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

### Health Insurance

Open enrollment for health insurance begins today and will close on January 10, 2019. If you want to make a health insurance plan change, you need to fill out an open enrollment form. Forms are located in the business office. If you are going to keep the same plan, you do not have to do anything.

## Parade of Nations

