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Birthday Corner

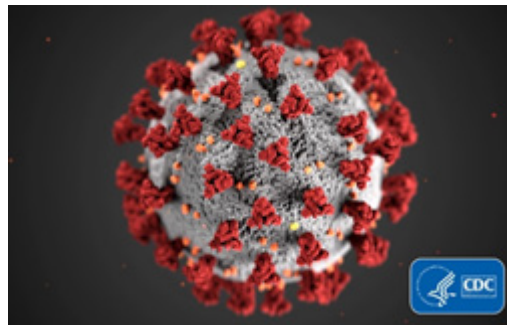
March

- 5 Yasmin Rioux
- 5 Sr. DieuTuyet Nguyen, LHC
- 8 Masa Iwasaki
- 9 Mongle Destine
- 9 Patti McDermott
- 9 Tu Dinh Anh Nguyen
- 11 Donna Puccio
- 13 Lam Quang Nguyen

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

The Xenophobia Virus

Ongoing news reports about the spread of the COVID-19 (Corona) virus give a good opportunity to practice the first of the five core competencies of a DWC education, that is, Critical Thinking Acuity. Let's ask ourselves, *is there a deadly virus loose across the globe?*



Corona Virus

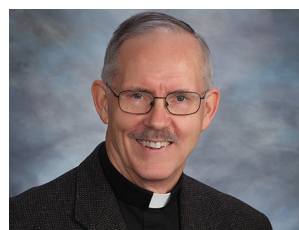
COVID-19 is a respiratory disease whose symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, similar to influenza or a bad cold. It was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and has now spread to more than 60 countries. The World Health Organization reports that so far there have been nearly 90,000 confirmed cases

of coronavirus illness, and approximately 3,050 deaths. The CDC (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) predicts that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

Wuhan Virus? At first, the virus was called "Wuhan virus." We are reminded that in 2009, the media were filled with news of the "Mexican swine virus." The 1997 epidemic was first named the Hong Kong bird flu. The famous epidemic of 1918 was called the "Spanish flu." Why do we give place-names for viruses that spread widely across the earth?

Travel Warnings. As DWC and other colleges and universities are looking forward to mid-semester exams and Spring-break, a number of schools are canceling educational trips to China, South Korea, Japan, Italy and many other countries. They encourage people to stay informed by following the CDC web page regarding [coronavirus disease 2019](#) and travel restrictions.

Since some schools are warning about travel to China, will they also warn about travel to Washington State, to California or to New York City? What about Illinois and Wisconsin? In all of those places, cases of coronavirus have already been confirmed?



Iowa flu? The CDC estimates that so far this season (up to Feb 22) there have been at least 32 million

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cases of flu in the USA. This has resulted in 310,000 hospitalizations and 18,000 deaths in the United States alone! Iowa is one of the hard hit states. The Iowa Department of Public Health says the number of flu-related deaths in Iowa is up to 29 since October. Department officials say flu activity is still widespread and 76 schools have reported an absence rate greater than 10% due to flu.

Why aren't there warnings about people coming to Iowa when flu activity is "still widespread" and where it has killed 29 people so far?

Fear of Foreigners. It seems we spontaneously think of illnesses as a foreign threat. We may overreact when we are encouraged to place a "foreign" name on a virus. So far, the reality of normal flu far outstrips the threat of coronavirus flu. However, we do not respond with the same level of concern, nor with the same precautions. I suspect that an additional virus is on the loose in these first months of 2020. It is a resurgence of the nearly universal virus named "Xenophobia." Our fear of what is strange, our rejection of outsiders, can also be a killing disease.



Xenophobia Virus

What can we do?

For the flu of any sort, the CDC recommends six best practices:

- Avoid close contact.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose.
- Clean your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

For xenophobia, the Bible recommends:

Leviticus 19:33-34. When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God.

Matthew 25:35. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.

Board of Administration Summary

The Board of Administration met on Friday, February 28th, and discussed/approved the following:

- Discussed and approved a final review of the Preliminary Budget for 2020-21.
- Approved the DWC Graduates for the academic year 2019-2020, and recommends approval to the Board of Trustees for the May meeting.
- Approved the Academic Calendar for 2021-2022.
- Reviewed and approved some minor revisions to the Admissions Policy.
- Approved revisions to job descriptions for the Maintenance Worker, Executive Secretary to the President, and the Business Office Receptionist/Secretary.
- Reviewed a report on Financial Indicators Tool (an annual financial benchmarking report) prepared by the Council of Independent Colleges.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Campus Visitors

As you know, Daniel Ochoa has been on campus since Sunday night visiting Divine Word College. He will leave on Thursday—the same day another Come and See visitor will arrive. Tai Nguyen from Arlington, TX will visit and be on campus until Sunday, March 8. Thank you for welcoming our guests and for helping them to have a good experience of community life at Divine Word College.

DAVA 6th Grade Vocation Day

Next Tuesday, March 10, the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA) will host its annual 6th Grade Vocation Day at Divine Word College. Over 200 6th graders from area schools will visit to participate in a program that invites them to learn more about religious life, the priesthood and diaconate. They will be here from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. As a result, our community lunch will be pushed back until 12:20 PM. Thank you in advance for welcoming our guests.

Honor Scholarships

Divine Word College's Honor Scholarships are for SVD Candidates. Historically, they were only for domestic students (U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents). However, the Board of Administration changed the guidelines last year and now the scholarships are available to all SVD candidates who meet the scholarship criteria, including international students. Each SVD candidate should have received an application for the scholarships last week at the Wednesday night formation group meetings. **The applications are due Friday before spring break, March 6.** All SVD candidates are highly encouraged to apply for the nine available scholarships if you meet the scholarship criteria. If you have questions, please see Carolyn Waechter or Len Uhal.

Spread the Word

Most students at Divine Word College learn about the College from Divine Word Missionaries, or from current or former students. Please help spread the word about Divine Word College and the programs we offer for local and international students. As a reminder, the vocation office offers current Divine Word College students a stipend for referrals of young men who may be interested in discerning a religious vocation with the Divine Word Missionaries. See Len Uhal for details.

Some students will leave campus for spring break at the end of this week. Please help spread the word about Divine Word College wherever you visit. Feel welcome to stop by the vocation office to take some prayer cards and brochures with you. Tell others your story—the Divine Word College story—and they may be curious to learn more. The Admissions Office is always grateful for any and all assistance in helping us find more students to attend Divine Word College. Thank you!

Mass for Vocations

Thank you for celebrating our monthly Mass for Vocations last Friday. The members of the vocation office express our heartfelt gratitude to the Ephesians Formation Group for planning the liturgy, especially to Justin for sharing his vocation story.

Where are they now?

Bro. Duylinh is on campus this week and will host a Come and See visitor who will arrive on campus on Thursday. Today, Fr. Adam is in Dixon, Illinois, promoting vocations at the Here I am Lord Conference. He will return to campus later tonight and continue to host his Come and See visitor. Fr. Adam will attend another Here I am Lord Conference in Batavia, Illinois, on Friday before returning to Epworth on the weekend. Fr. Francis is celebrating Mass with the Filipino community in Chicago on Wednesday, will travel to Springfield, Illinois, to visit a candidate on Thursday and then return to Epworth for the weekend. Fr. Anthony is busy in California contacting his candidates and visiting them. Fr. Emilio has not yet returned from the Philippines and Len will be on campus this week.

Be sure to follow along with this interesting and educational series! Available on Facebook!

Fr. Ascherman presents

ASHES -2- Easter

Answers to your questions about LENT



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

New Boiler

Many thanks to Bro. Vinh and Bro. Daniel for removing and replacing the old boiler in the SVD wing. The new boiler is a complicated piece of machinery but nothing that our resident experts could not handle! Some say it looks like a work of art.

You can decide for yourself.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIRECTOR

Mr. Brad Florence

Phone/Email Scams

We have again had someone give out information to people who call, text or email and don't have any reason for contacting you except for fraud.

Do not respond to these scams. Do not give out any personal information to people who contact you and you do not know them. Do not give your social security number, phone number, address, passwords or pins for debit cards, credit card numbers, etc. If you receive one of these scams, please contact the Dean of Students or Mr. Florence before doing anything.





- March 5** **ESL Spring Term C 2020 – Classes End**
- March 6** **ESL Spring Term C 2020 – End-of-Term Testing**
- March 9-13** **NO CLASSES (Spring Break)**
- March 10** **DAVA 6th Grade Vocation Day**
- March 18** **HLC Assessment Academy Orientation, Chicago, IL**
- March 20** **Student Resource Center Workshop**
 “Professional Writing and Professional Presentation” – This workshop explores how to compose professional and effective documents and PowerPoint presentations.
- March 21** **Student Lenten Recollection** 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- March 22** **Donaghey Award & Donor Appreciation Mass and Brunch** 10:00 am Mass
- March 28** **Loras College Antioch Retreat Service** 6 - 9 pm Held in Main Chapel
- April 1-3** **Registration for Fall 2020 Semester (UG)**
- April 3** **Student Resource Center Workshop**
 “APA Seventh Edition...What’s New?” – This workshop reviews major changes to APA citation and style in the new seventh edition.
- April 9-10** **NO CLASSES (Holy Week Triduum)**
- April 18** **Seniors CCTST (California Critical Thinking Skills Test)**
- April 24** **Employee Retirement & End-of-Year Party**
 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at “The Barn House,” 13527 Gun Club Road, Epworth, IA
- April 30** **Recognition and Awards Luncheon** 11:50 am – 1:30 pm
- May 1-2** **Board of Trustees Meeting**
- May 15** **Commencement**
- May 16** **Summer Break begins**
- June 3-5** **HLC Assessment Academy Roundtable, Chicago, IL**
- June 15-17** **Dubuque Archdiocesan Priest Convocation**