



THE LOG

Divine Word College

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A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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Birthday Corner

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Can I get a WITNESS?

At a Spirit-filled charismatic prayer meeting, or maybe at a pentecostal church service, the leader might call out at one moment or another, "Can I get a witness?" The "Sensational Nightingales" make just such a call out in their song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDkkSy7JOGw>). People responded to them with calls of enthusiasm, some clapping and singing. In a more secular mode, you may remember the hit song of Marvin Gaye begging for a witness. You have to be old enough to remember this one; check it out (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whTb96zr9_w).

When Jesus appeared to his disciples on the evening of his resurrection, he showed them his hands and feet, and he opened their minds to the scriptures. Jesus told them of the amazing news of life beyond death and that it would be preached to all the nations. Then he said: "You are witnesses of these things."



Imagine the disciple's confused discussions later. "What? He said we were witnesses. What did he mean by that? What are we supposed to do?" Their questions and doubts, their hopes and enthusiasms, came tumbling out all together. Christians of today are in the same boat with the first disciples. We are called to be witnesses to all the nations.

Divine Word Missionaries and Holy Spirit Sisters were founded by St. Arnold Janssen and other holy men and women of the founding generation to live out the call they felt in themselves. The SVD constitutions describe the missionary service that we aspire to:



"The witness of a truly Christian life on the personal and community level is the first step in the realization of our missionary service.

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People must be able to recognize that we have experienced in our own lives the kingdom that we proclaim to others” (constitution 106).

What do you think? Are you able to recognize the Kingdom of God in the way SVD confreres and SSPS Sisters live with each other? Can you sense the Kingdom of God in the way we live with you? I so hope that you **ARE** able to see us as witnesses, even if only in very small ways.

Divine Word College was founded to help people be the witnesses Jesus wants. A favorite phrase of mine in the Prologue to the SVD constitution is: “We propose to make **the goodness and kindness of God** visible in our life and service.” If they can say that about me at my funeral, I will be jumping for joy on the other side of life.

The SVD constitution goes on to say:

“As a community of brothers from different nations and languages, we become a living symbol of the unity and diversity of the church. Our communion with the Lord and with one another is strengthened and deepened by celebrating the Eucharist, by attentively listening to the word of God and by praying together in the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

What do you think people in our town of Epworth or in the surrounding area think about Divine Word College? Can they see something of the goodness and kindness of God in our life and service? We are a community from different nations and languages. We are a living symbol of the presence of the whole world here in this corner of Iowa.

Let us continue to grow together as brothers and sisters. Then when someone asks, “Can I get a witness?” we will be ready to share the joy in living that we have found in one another.

DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Quarantined	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed
Before Sept. 15	~200	9	9	~15	9	
Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	220	8	8	~80	8	
Jan. 1 - March 1	354	33	33	~80	33	16
Mar 2 - Apr 5	108	0	0	1	0	22
Apr 6 - 12	3	0	0	0	0	15
Apr 13 - 19	6	0	0	0	0	13

The availability of vaccinations has continued to improve. As a result, we expect **98% of the DWC community to be fully vaccinated** by graduation or shortly after! 57% of Dubuque County residents have already received at least the first dose of vaccine!

The Dubuque County Health Department is announcing **WALK-IN vaccinations**, with no requirement for a previous appointment. Please share the information with you families and friends.

- The vaccines are free of charge.
- All adults over 16 years of age are eligible.
- No appointments necessary

Four walk-in clinics will be held between Tuesday and Saturday, mostly at the Kennedy Mall Vaccination Clinic located at the former Younker's women's store at 555 J.F.K. Road.

- **Tuesday, April 20**, from Noon - 5 p.m. at the Kennedy Mall Vaccination Clinic at 555 J.F.K. Rd., operated by Grand River Medical Group.
- **Wednesday, April 21**, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Kennedy Mall Vaccination Clinic, operated by Grand River Medical Group.
- **Thursday, April 22**, from Noon - 7 p.m. at the Grand River Center Vaccination Clinic located at 500 Bell St. This is a drive-thru only clinic operated by the Dubuque Fire Department.
- **Saturday, April 24**, 8 a.m. - Noon at the Kennedy Mall Vaccination Clinic, operated by the Dubuque Visiting Nurses Association & UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Roadside Cleaning

Special thanks to Br. Brian McLaughlin, SVD and his members of JPIC for organizing the roadside clean-up. Thanks to all the students, SVD members and staff who for the love of the environment volunteered their time and energy for this wonderful exercise. God has certainly taken note of your efforts. God bless you.



Sport and Recreation

As the academic year comes to an end, it is a busy time for you to get your assignments done. Nevertheless, I still want to encourage you to make time for some form of exercise and recreation.

Regular exercise, as you know, is the best and most effective way to release all forms of stress. In addition, it helps you function better academically.

ACSA end-year party

ACSA will have an end-of-year party on Saturday, April 24. The gym will be reserved for their use from noon until 6:00pm. Thanks for your understanding.

Vocational Mass

Our last vocational Mass for this academic year will be scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, at 8:00 am in the main chapel, organized by the Galatian Formation group. Antz-Carly Cadet will share his vocation journey. Please come to pray for an increase of vocation, especially for Fr. Raymond Akumbilim, SVD, and members of the Galatians.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The 4th Sunday of Easter is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the day that the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As noted on the USCCB website, “The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, ‘Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest’ (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

“As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.”



You can learn more about World Day of Prayer for Vocations and find a vocations prayer by visiting the [National Religious Vocations Conference \(NRVC\) website](#).

One project that NRVC recently completed to help promote vocations was a video series entitled Abundant Hope. Divine Word College’s very own, Fr. Bill Shea, SVD, was featured. [Click here to watch Fr. Bill’s video!](#)

Online Discernment Program

The Vocation Office is hosting its third online discernment program in a four-part series this Thursday, April 22 at 8:00 PM. This month’s program is entitled Discerning the Call to Mission: It is Mercy I desire. The program is intended for men ages 18-35 who are considering religious life. Current Divine Word College students are welcome to attend. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Where are they now?

Fr. Francis is headed to California for retreat this week and he will also visit St. Bridget Church in Hanford over the weekend to preside at liturgies and meet with the Confirmation class. Fr. Thinh is headed to Springfield, Missouri, to participate in his first face-to-face vocation promotion event—a vocation fair with Catholic high school students. While Fr. Anthony is going to San Jose, CA, to visit a candidate and visit St. Elizabeth Church, Fr. Emilio will be at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Redlands, CA. Fr. Adam is going to Michigan for the upcoming weekend and Len will be on campus all week.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

April 22 is [International Mother Earth Day](#) which recognizes a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and the Earth, to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity. 2021 Theme: [Restore our Earth.](#)

Other resources with a focus on earth and Laudato Si' are available on www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org.
(Source: JPIC Commission Secretariat)

PUBLIC RELATIONS



One student and one employee/SVD will WIN
a DELICIOUS homemade dessert just for liking the college Facebook page!

Contest runs through April 30 at midnight.

PS - If you already LIKE the college on Facebook, you are automatically entered into the drawing!