



READY TO HELP wherever needed

Most Divine Word College students don't have the opportunity to go home to see their families for summer break, Christmas break and other special times of the year, especially those from other countries. Junior Ha Nguyen is from Vietnam and his family – parents, one sister and two brothers – still lives there.

Since he can't go anywhere else, Ha usually stays on campus during the various breaks, but he's never bored. The maintenance staff keeps him busy by letting him help with numerous projects. It's something he loves to do.

"I like to go around fixing things, or any kind of activities that make my body work. I also like to play instruments. Since I came to Divine Word, I have had a lot of chances to try and play many instruments."

While still in high school in Vietnam, Ha was faced with the same decision all high school students face, what should he do after high school. Ha came to a very profound decision for a high school student.

"I was considering what colleges I should go to after I graduated from high school. But, somehow, with many things that happened to me at that time, I felt that going to college, making money and having a wealthy life didn't seem like it would really make me feel happy. I thought being with the poor and helping them in terms of spirituality is more important than anything else. Then with the motivation of the Holy Spirit, I decided to be a missionary."

Since Ha's uncle was a Divine Word Missionary Priest and there is an SVD house near his hometown, joining the Society of the Divine Word was an easy decision.

Ha will graduate in May 2022. He said being at Divine Word College has helped him become a good missionary. He has grown intellectually and spiritually, and learned a lot about intercultural living and service to others.

Ha hopes to one day be a Divine Word Missionary Priest.

"As a sinner, I feel very shy and guilty when I go to confession. Sometimes I feel afraid, too. I think there are a lot of people who have that same feeling. So, I think, as a priest, I can go to them rather than waiting for them to come to confession."