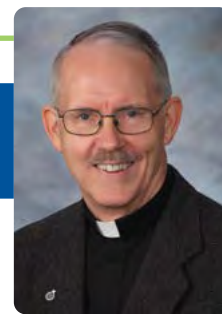


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fr. Tom
Ascherman, SVD

The Mass is Ended, You've Got a Job to Do!

Every one of Jesus' disciples is called to mission, to help spread the good news. At Mass, Jesus gives every one of us a job.

Three images come to mind.

First image: When I was about 10 years old, I went to fetch some bottles of 7-Up. (It was long ago – there were *glass bottles!*) I had been thinking about pistons, who knows why. So as I walked along, the bottle in one hand would go down and the bottle in the other hand would go up. When those “pistons” really got moving, the bottles suddenly exploded! That must be why we call it soda **POP**.

Second image: I am an uncle many times over. I used to tease my youngest sister that I planned to sugar up her kids and then send them home! Now imagine something much more frustrating... give a six-year-old nephew plenty of chocolate, sour candies, and some apple juice. Then tell him that he has to sit quietly on a chair and do absolutely nothing. What a torture!

Third image: You are invited to a club meeting. As the group gathers, you are instructed to sit quietly, not talk, having no responsibility at all. Unless they give you something to do, I doubt you would visit that club very often.

These images help us focus on what happens at Mass. Jesus fills us with an “explosive” mixture of His Word, His Body and His Blood. Unfortunately, we can get the impression we are supposed to do nothing, sit in silence, and then leave in silence. So sad! That's not the way it is supposed to go.



At the end of Mass, after the blessing, the priest or the deacon announces the dismissal. Sometimes it is: “Go forth, the Mass is ended.” That is a direct translation of the centuries-old Latin formula, *Ite, missa est*. In 2007, Pope Benedict

XVI wrote a long letter to all the members of the Church about the celebration of Mass. It was entitled, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (The Sacrament of Charity). At one point he noted that over the centuries, the word *missa*, which originally had the simple meaning of *dismissal*, has come to mean *mission*. Pope Benedict stressed that the Mass (*missa*) doesn't end with a dismissal. Instead, Mass is just getting started as we carry the good news into all the other parts of our life. This is mission ANIMATION.

The Pope endorsed some newer mission animation forms for the dismissal: “Go in peace;” or, “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” At Divine Word College, no matter the formula we use, I imagine the dismissal to be a mission-sending: The Mass is ended, now you've got a job to do! Or, the Mass is ended, say hello to somebody! Or, following Jesus' words at the multiplication

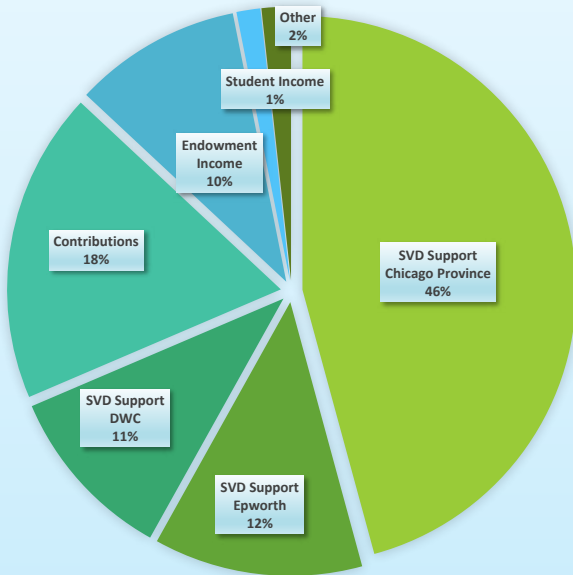
of the loaves and fishes, the Mass is ended, “you yourselves, give them something to eat” (Mt 14:16).

Benedict concluded his letter with a promise that Jesus made: “I am with you always, until the end of the world” (Mt 28:20).

PRESIDENT'S FINANCIAL REPORT



Divine Word College Income 2023 Fiscal Year



SVD Support Chicago Province	\$4,156,270
Contributions	\$1,669,288
Endowment Income	\$900,126
SVD Support Epworth	\$1,119,903
SVD Support DWC	\$950,814
Student Income	\$127,703
Other	\$156,890

Benefactor Contributions 2023 Fiscal Year



Most DWC students have limited financial means, but no one who is seriously considering religious life is turned away for lack of money.

Last year, DWC students received more than **\$1.1 million** in scholarship assistance.