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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Celebrating a New Year – On the Way to the Kingdom

This week is the last week of the liturgical year, starting with Sunday's Solemnity of Christ the King and leading to next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent. The readings at all the Masses focus our hearts on the coming of God's Kingdom.

Around the world, there are many celebrations to mark the turning of a New Year.

The **western secular** calendar, based on solar reckoning and taken over from the Roman calendar, marks New Year's Day on January 1. For most people in the USA, it is spent with parades, football games, and recovery from the revelry of New Year's Eve.

The Japanese New Year is also held on January 1. A highlight is the ringing of the bells in Buddhist temples all around the nation. The bells are tolled at midnight 108 times to exhort the Japanese people to get rid of the 108 worldly desires and to purify sins of the past year.

Tết Nguyên Đán is a massive Vietnamese celebration of Lunar New Year that marks the First Morning of the First Day. It especially emphasizes the gathering of the family and reaching out to friends and neighbors.

Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, celebrates the creation of Adam and Eve and of the whole world. This year, the 5782nd year of the Jewish calendar, was held on September 6-8.

Hijri (Hegira) New Year, the Islamic New Year, commemorates the emigration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina. For Muhammad, this was a move from persecution in Mecca to a warm reception in Medina. In 2021, Hijri was observed in mid-August.

These New Year holidays celebrate freedom from temptation, gathering of family, creation, and freedom from persecution.



Is there a "Christian" New Year?

More than 60% of Christians follow the same calendar of scripture readings, including Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Anglicans

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and Methodists. Next Sunday starts the Advent season and the churches will begin a new cycle of readings focused on the Gospel of Luke. The First Sunday of Advent can easily serve as a kind of “Christian” New Year.

The dominant theme for the beginning and the end of the liturgical year – the coming of God’s Reign – is what Jesus stressed at both the beginning and end of his public ministry. Last Sunday, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, we remembered the encounter between Jesus and Pontius Pilate:

“My kingdom is not here.”

So Pilate said to (Jesus), “Then you are a king?”

Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (Jn 18)

On the First Sunday of Advent, the readings will direct our hearts to the future coming of God’s Reign. The gospel reading will remind us that Jesus spoke to his disciples about what is coming upon the earth. He said:

“(You) will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (Lk 21).

Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father... thy Kingdom come.” The Reign of God is a constant theme for all Christians. All of us are called to give some special witness to the dawning God’s reign. Franciscans, for instance, stress the presence of the poor in God’s reign. Benedictines might stress community and hospitality, while Jesuits underline the personal call Jesus makes to everyone. Married people live out the values of fidelity and the generous sharing of life.

Everyone is Included

Is there a special witness that missionaries give to the Kingdom? I think we especially emphasize that God’s plan intends to include **every human being**. All are invited to the table in the Father’s house: people of many cultures, races, and languages; people of many religious backgrounds, the poor first and also the wealthy, faith-seekers and those who only dimly experience God’s presence. Saints and sinners are called to the Kingdom. All of us are created to be present for the eternal banquet.

A missionary can celebrate a Christian New Year by giving thanks to Christ the King for his invitation and welcome to us. Then we can turn to our brothers and sisters, especially to those on the margins of the Church, calling out an invitation to them and opening our arms in welcome when they come. Perhaps not everyone will accept the invitation, but as missionaries, we keep inviting and looking forward to their arrival.

In the USA, the transition from the old year to the New Year is marked by raising a glass of champagne and kissing the one you love. In Japan, you ring a bell to mark the death of sin. As missionaries, we could reach out this week of transition to a Christian New Year by inviting someone we do not know well to share some food or a few moments with us.

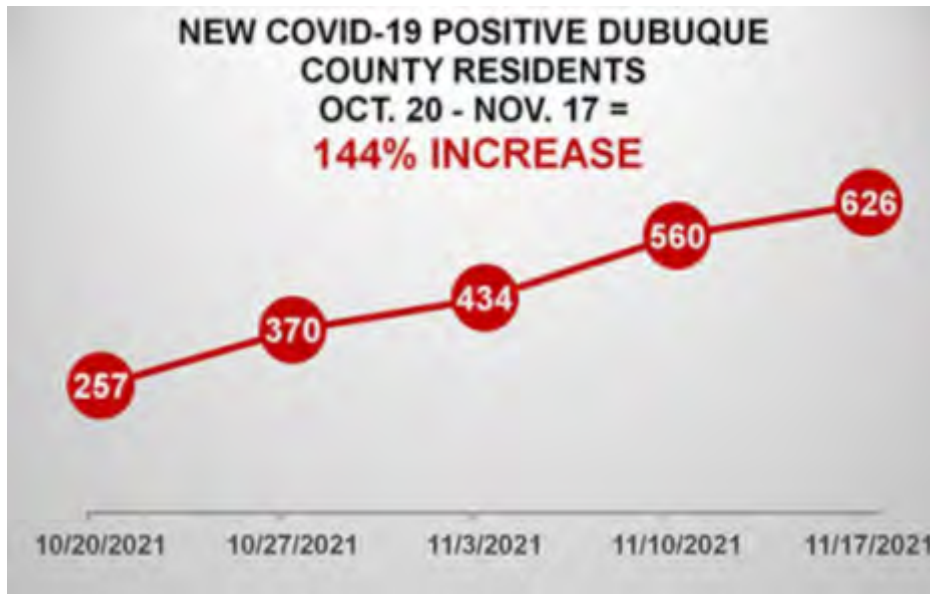


DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed	Booster
2020-2021	913	50	50	50	129	0
August 1- Sept. 4	231	0	0	0	4	0
Sept. 5 - Oct. 2	78	0	0	0	2	0
Oct. 3 - 30	105	0	0	0	0	12
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6	21	1	1	0	0	1
Nov. 7 - 13	30	0	1	0	0	2
Nov. 14 - 20	25	0	0	0	0	12

The College strongly recommends that everyone in the DWC Community receive appropriate COVID-19 booster shots. Everyone who works at DWC, attends classes here, or lives on campus is qualified to receive a booster after two to six months (depending on the vaccine) after completing their initial vaccination. Information on where to get a booster shot is available at: <https://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov/567/COVID-19-Vaccinations>

Booster Shots On-Campus. Vaccine booster shots will also be available on campus on Tuesday, Nov 30. Please sign up on the lists available on the Student and SVD Community bulletin boards.



The CDC continues to rate Dubuque County, and the entire State of Iowa, as a zone of HIGH community spread of COVID-19.

A month-to-month comparison also shows the **sharp increase** in persons with a COVID-19 infection. In October 2021, a total of 1,048 residents of Dubuque County became infected; by *mid-November*, an additional 1,613 persons were infected. Infections are disproportionately

occurring among younger people, 28% of cases in the 0-17 yr. age group, and 17% more in the 18-29 yr. age group.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Senior Synthesis Capstone Presentations

Four graduating seniors will present their synthesis capstone projects on Thursday evening December 2, 2021 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for earning their respective Bachelor of Arts degrees. Each presentation will last about 20 minutes with up to 10 minutes for follow-up questions and discussion. Capstone presentations provide an opportunity for students to showcase their learning and research in areas of particular interest. Audience participants will have an opportunity to engage presenters in meaningful dialogue regarding their capstone projects... while avoiding nasty "gotcha" questions intended to stump or confuse students. (Please note there are no capstone presentations held on Tuesday, November 30.)

Thursday, December 2, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Main Chapel

Sr. Duong Thuy Thi Nguyen, LHC-H – "A Pilot Ministry Program of the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross for Children with Down Syndrome in Hue Diocese-Vietnam."

A Theology & Mission Capstone Presentation

THM Capstone Instructor: Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology

Sr. Tuyen Thanh Thi Nguyen, IHM – "A Narrative Gerontology Approach for The Immaculate Heart of Mary in Nha Trang, Viet Nam."

An Intercultural Studies Capstone Presentation

ICS Capstone Instructor: Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD – Instructor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Sr. Norelly Rodriguez Manosalva, RCS – "Engaging Laity as Volunteers in the Ministry of the Religious of Social Communication (RCS) in Cajicá - Cundinamarca, Colombia."

A Theology & Mission Capstone Presentation

THM Capstone Instructor: Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology

Sr. Tho Thi Trinh, ICM – "Religious Community Life as a Source of Energy for Mission: Implementing a Holistic Renewal Program to Foster an Authentic Sense of Belonging in the Society of the Incarnation-Consecration-Mission."

A Theology & Mission Capstone Presentation

THM Capstone Instructor: Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology



What is the difference between summative and formative assessment?

Summative assessment is a process of assessment that measures the student's/students' overall learning experience (skills, comprehension, knowledge, etc.) at the end of a course, intervention, or program. This type of assessment is useful for curricular improvements.

Formative assessment is a process of assessment that measures the student's/students' comprehension or ability to perform a task throughout a course, intervention, or program in order to gain an understanding of how a student or group is doing while they are presently taking part in an educational lesson or method of instruction. This type of assessment is also useful for course or curricular improvements.

Advent Luncheon – 11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Friday 3 December 2021 Modified Class Schedule

The annual DWC Advent Luncheon will take place from 11:50 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on **Friday, December 3, 2021***. In order to accommodate this college-wide event, classes will be held according to a modified schedule. Please carefully note the starting and ending times for each class period as listed below.

Friday, December 3, 2021 – Modified Class Schedule

Undergraduate Classes

9:00 a.m. class	9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	No change
10:00 a.m. class	10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	No change
11:00 a.m. class	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Ends 5 minutes early
1:00 p.m. class	1:15 – 2:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes
2:00 p.m. class	2:15 – 3:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes
3:00 p.m. class	3:15 – 4:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes
4:00 p.m. class	4:15 – 5:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes

ESL Classes

9:00 a.m. class	9:00 – 10:50 a.m.	No change
11:00 a.m. class	11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Ends 5 minutes early
1:00 p.m. class	1:15 – 2:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes
2:00 p.m. class	2:15 – 4:05 p.m.	Start delayed 15 minutes

* The change from the originally scheduled Wednesday, December 1 date as published in the Almanac is necessary due to an important SVD Regional Assembly at Techny, IL on that day.

SVD Seminarian in Print

Fr. Huy Hoai Nguyen, SVD, a 2019 graduate of Divine Word College and current seminarian at Divine Word Theologate in Chicago IL, recently translated an award-winning book into Vietnamese and had it successfully published in collaboration with the original author, Bro. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB. The original English book is entitled “How We Love: A Formation for the Celibate Life” (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2019). Both the original English text and the Vietnamese translation will be available in the Matthew Jacoby Library soon. Congratulations, Fr. Huy! Here is a synopsis from Amazon.com:

In this volume, Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, a Benedictine monk and clinical psychologist, provides a well-researched and thorough program for celibacy formation for men and women, adaptable to both religious and seminary settings. Attending to the theological and the psycho-sexual dimensions of what it means to pursue a life of chaste celibacy, Br. John Mark identifies and expands on four major content areas, including motives for chaste celibacy, theological aspects of celibate chastity, sexual identity, and skills for celibate living. Formation goals and benchmarks for discernment are discussed for each content area, and implications and suggestions for ongoing formation are offered.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION
DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving to all! It is a time to be grateful for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us, our families, and our community here at DWC. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you, staff, faculty, SVD members, and students, for everything that you have done for our community at DWC. I wish you and your family a grace-filled Thanksgiving.

Those students going away during Thanksgiving are expected to return before midnight on Sunday, November 28. Please check the Student Board for all the activities during Thanksgiving.

THURSDAY, November 25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

8:00 AM	Breakfast
11:00 AM	Thanksgiving Eucharist
Noon	Thanksgiving Lunch
2:00 PM	Christmas lights in the courtyard (Romans & volunteers)
5:30 PM	Supper

FRIDAY, November 26

8:00 AM	Eucharist
8:30 AM	Breakfast
Noon	Lunch
5:30 PM	Supper

SATURDAY, November- 27

8:00 AM	Eucharist
8:30 AM	Breakfast
11:15AM	Eucharist
Noon	Lunch
5:30 PM	Supper

SUNDAY, November 28

8:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	Eucharist
11:00 AM	Brunch
05:30 PM	Supper
	No vespers

Formator on-call: Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD



Advent Reconciliation

In preparation for Christmas, the birthday of Christ, an **Advent Reconciliation Service** is scheduled for Monday, November 29, 7:30 pm in the main chapel. This service will replace weekly formation meetings. Fr. Akiouz Kamina, SVD, will lead the service.

Student music recital and capstone presentations

The Student Music Recital and Senior Synthesis Capstone Presentations will take place on Thursday, December 2, at 1:00 pm and 7:30 pm in the main chapel, respectively. Please come to support your classmates.

Christmas break

Christmas break is coming up. Please get in touch with Fr. Son Le, SVD, for your travel arrangements. All traveling and contact information must be approved and submitted to Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD, as soon as possible.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Come and See Visitors

The vocation office will host five Come and See visitors this week. Fr. Anthony will arrive with them later this afternoon (Tuesday) and they will be on campus until after Mass on Friday. Our visitors include:

- Benjamin Quoc Dung Vu from Thornton, CO
- Peter Viet Hua from Garden Grove, CA
- Dylan Quan Tran from Santa Ana, CA
- Thien Quoc Noah Tran from Santa Ana, CA
- Dinh Phi Tran from Santa Ana, CA

Thank you in advance for helping them feel at home in our community.

Traveling for Thanksgiving?

For those traveling this Thanksgiving holiday, please consider helping promote the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College wherever you go. Share your experience about being at Divine Word College. Stop by the vocation office and get some literature to leave at a parish where you might visit or to give to a friend who may be considering religious life. Any help to promote religious vocations and Divine Word College is most appreciated. Have a wonderful holiday break!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

Vector Solutions Training

A reminder to all that the deadline for completing Vector Solutions (Safe Colleges Training) is December 31, 2021. If you have difficulty logging on to your account please contact Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations.

Backup generator update

The concrete pad was poured and electrical equipment installed in preparation for the backup generator. We are expecting the diesel generator to arrive on Tuesday, November 30. We hope to have the installation completed and operational by mid-December.



JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Join us for the next **Food for Thought** conversation on Wednesday, November 24 at 11:45 in the Pourhouse. This month's topic will be:

What is the reality of "and they all lived happily ever after?": Sensitivity toward Indigenous People

There will be some food provided. You can also get food from the dining room and bring it down to the Pourhouse. See you there!





Many former students of SVD schools in the USA and Canada keep in touch with their classmates and with the Divine Word Alumni Association. The principal purpose of the association is to encourage all the members to be active in missionary outreach, no matter their life-situation.

The Alumni Association includes men and women who have studied or worked at SVD schools and are now SVDs, lay people, diocesan clergy and members of other religious communities. The association is gathered into six geographic regions, and benefits from the efforts of a number of alumni coordinators, including:

WEST (WA, OR, CA)

Jim Keck, California (Bordentown, Conesus, Techny 1953-1964)
 Thien My Nguyen, California (East Troy, Epworth 1990-1998)
 Anh Dinh, Washington (Epworth, Techny 2002-2006)

MOUNTAIN (NV, ID, MT, WY, UT, CO)

Eric Trieu, Colorado (Epworth 2002-2005)

SOUTHWEST (AZ, NM, TX, OK)

Khanh Tran, Texas (Epworth 1997-2004)

MIDWEST (ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WI, IL, IN)

Art Roche, Iowa (Perrysburg, Epworth 1962-1970)
 Ho Nguyen, Illinois (Epworth 1994-2000)
 Jim Kelly, Illinois
 Paul Loewen, Wisconsin (East Troy 1985-1989)

NORTHEAST (MI, OH, PA, NY, VT, NH, ME, MA, CT, RI, NJ)

Fr. Binh Nguyen SVD, Washington DC (Epworth, Techny, Chicago 1985-2002)
 William Reed, Virginia (Bordentown 1977-1981)
 Dave Barry, Michigan (Perrysburg, Epworth 1962-1972)
 Hoang Nguyen, Virginia (East Troy, Epworth)

SOUTHEAST (AR, LA, MS, AL, TN, KY, GA, FL, SC, NC, VA, WV, DC, MD, DE)

Pat Leddy, Florida (East Troy, Epworth 1961-1966)
 Manh Nguyen, Louisiana (Epworth 1994-1995)
 Tuan Nguyen, Florida (East Troy 1985-1989)