

SPIRIT OF SERVICE ALIVE IN ALUMNI

Tim Mayworm
DWC Class of 1974
Executive Director of Journey House

Tim started his studies with the Divine Word Missionaries as a high school student at the Brother’s candidate minor seminary at Techny, Illinois. He continued at novitiate programs in New York and Mississippi before enrolling at Divine Word College in Epworth.

After graduating from DWC in 1974, Tim earned a master’s degree in Religious Education from Loyola University in Chicago. He was assigned to a parish in Los Angeles and found great joy in his work. During his time there, he also served as a chaplain at juvenile detention facilities.

In 1979, Tim joined the De La Salle Christian Brothers and transitioned into teaching high school. By 1983, Tim felt called to engage more deeply with probation youth. With community support, he opened Journey House, a six-bed group home in Pasadena, California. After more than 30 years of vowed religious life, Tim left the Christian Brothers to work full time at Journey House. Today, he and his staff work with more than 300 emancipated male and female foster youth who are over the age of 18 and pursuing higher education. Tim has served as the Executive Director of Journey House for four decades.

“I loved my years with the SVDs,” Tim said. “It instilled in me the call to be a missionary to the underserved and underprivileged. Today, I continue that missionary call to serve in an underserved and underprivileged community of former probation and foster youth.”

Long after leaving the classrooms of Epworth, Divine Word College students continue to answer the call to missionary service for the Church. Whether they pursue religious vocations or serve as laypeople, they are united by their generosity of time and talent. Their dedication to making a positive impact on the world continues to be a testament to the values instilled during their time at the college. Their efforts not only enrich the communities they serve but also inspire others to contribute to the common good. From small acts of kindness to significant societal contributions, the spirit of service that began at Divine Word College continues to thrive, creating ripples of positive change across the globe.

Paul Danen
DWC Class of 1987
Volunteer with Catholic Charities



In his junior year at Divine Word College, Paul relocated to further his studies at Divine Word University of Tacloban in the Philippines. “Some of my favorite memories while studying with the SVD include my friendships with the amazing and gifted people that are part of the SVD family,” he said. After completing his sociology degree at DWC, he joined the novitiate and later discerned out of the formation program.

He went on to get married and have two daughters. With a career spanning over 30 years, Paul dedicated himself to working with children and adults coping with serious mental illness and those involved in the legal system.

He’s been an active volunteer at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, St. Vincent’s Program, assisting with food packaging and distribution. Additionally, he serves in various capacities at Holy Cross Church in Sparks, Nevada.

Paul says his spirit of service was ignited during his time with the SVD. “My first volunteer experience started with Divine Word College where I volunteered at a local nursing home, hospital, soup kitchen and thrift store. I can’t say it was easy, but it gave me the start or willingness to volunteer today,” he said.



Fr. Thanh-Tai Peter Nguyen
DWC Class of 2006
Parochial Vicar at Christ Our Savior in Santa Ana
and Founder of An Binh Charity Foundation



Originally from an undeveloped area of Vietnam, Fr. Thanh-Tai recalls his family facing hardships when he was just a boy. With limited income, his parents struggled to afford school fees for their kids. Some of his

older siblings had to leave elementary and middle school to find work and support the family.

Fr. Thanh-Tai later moved to the United States. He studied at DWC from 2000 to 2006 and continued to the Novitiate program in Techny. “The SVD taught me how to become missionary no matter who you are and what you do. They taught me about brotherly love and fellowship,” he said. After his father died, Fr. Thanh-Tai decided to return to his home diocese in California, where he studied theology and

was ordained in 2012. Over the years, he has ministered at various parishes in the Diocese of Orange and served as the Bishop’s Secretary for four years.

Driven by a profound commitment to assist families facing educational challenges similar to those his parents encountered, Fr. Thanh-Tai founded a non-profit called the An Binh Charity Foundation. The organization provides educational opportunities and basic medical assistance to underprivileged children, regardless of their religion, gender or race, to help them reach their full potential, so that they, in turn, can enrich and have positive influence in the lives of others. It also assists in promoting vocations and providing healthcare for retired clergy. Each year, the group provides more than \$100,000 in scholarships to help underprivileged children.

During the Covid pandemic, Fr. Thanh-Tai launched a YouTube channel featuring interviews with clergy members, religious figures, and musical performances to promote spiritual engagement, particularly within the diocese. The channel has more than 600 videos and nearly 90,000 subscribers. “I can’t believe that my YouTube channel has reached so many people and has enriched their spiritual lives,” he said.



Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS
DWC ESL 2014-2015
Vocation Promotion Directress for SSpS Chicago Paraclete Province

Originally from Indonesia, Sr. Skolastika came to Divine Word College for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. “As a new student there, I felt so much support and encouragement from the Divine World College community,” she said. Next, she moved to Illinois and studied at College of Lake County for two years. She spent the following 10 months in a program preparing to profess Perpetual Vows in 2018. Her first mission appointment was to the SSpS community in Memphis, Tennessee, where she worked in a parish and volunteered at a nursing home.

From 2020 to 2022, Sr. Skolastika returned to her studies, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in theology at Loyola University in Chicago. Since then, she’s been focused on her current mission appointment – promoting vocations. She travels to religious vocation conferences around the country to represent her congregation and meet with young people.

“Meeting and creating friendships with many people – such as young women, families, and parish communities from different parts of the United States – is most rewarding,” she said. “Collaborating with other vocation directors and learning from one another to be better in doing this ministry is a growth process. Above all, I feel privileged to listen to many stories and accompany young people in discerning their vocation.”

Religious life provides her time to nurture her spiritual life and build a deep relationship with God. “As a religious missionary, I try my best to love others by joyfully living in an intercultural and international community and we enrich each other in so many ways,” she said. “Together, we love and serve the Lord through our religious life commitment and various ministries that we have been doing for God’s people.”