

# DWC Smashes Record for Refugee Fundraiser



Tomerot Lambert

It started with a conversation and led to a call to action that would strike a chord with members of the Divine Word College community. In the end, they would smash records for a local effort to ease the plight of the world's refugees.

In early September during his weekly ministry service in Dubuque, junior Tomerot Lambert was helping an immigrant with his English when he mentioned the local events surrounding the United Nation's International Day of Peace. One was the Hike to Help Refugees on September 22. People were to raise pledge money for the entry fee of \$10 to \$20 and walk a two-mile route from Loras College, past the University of Dubuque to Clarke University. All funds go to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Wanting to take part, Tomerot brainstormed with Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD, and Sr. Carol Welp, SSps, of the DWC Peace and Justice Committee, and came up with a fundraising competition. They would enlist people to walk and then collect donations for each one. By Monday, September 17, ten walkers were signed up and listed on a graph to gauge their support. Sitting at a table in the dining room at lunch, Tomerot, Fr. Sam and Sr. Carol started to collect donations.

"That Monday we hit \$179, so then we set a goal of raising \$50 for each walker," Tomerot said. "By Wednesday, we got that. By Friday, we had over \$800 and the contributions still came in."

In the seven years Dubuque activists organized the Hike to Help Refugees, they typically raise \$200 from a dozen walkers. This year's tally was \$1260. DWC contributed \$1066 and 17 of the 30 walkers.

"I felt very proud of the students and faculty who came for the walk and that they were supported by practically everyone at the school," said event organizer Art Roche, a graduate of DWC and long-time member of the college board of trustees. "Many at the college, either themselves or people they know, were refugees or otherwise displaced from their homes."

Tomerot said the response from the college community was about walking the talk as followers of Jesus.

"It says that not only do we speak of doing things, but we do them," he said. "This school does a great job of helping us find ways to help others."



Outside Christ the King Chapel at Loras College, organizer Art Roche (center left) addresses the approximately 30 walkers before they began their two-mile Hike to Help Refugees.

## DWC Folk Group Album Showing up Rare on eBay



An album by DWC's own, 1960s era folk group, The Hemlock Singers, has been selling on eBay for \$100 and sometimes more. Fr. Ken Anich, SVD—who led the group for much of its time in Epworth—got the news about their second album, "We're On the Move Again," last summer.

"Someone in the United Kingdom was selling it for \$105 or \$109 under Rare Albums," he said. "A friend recently sent me two copies he bought off of eBay. I think he paid \$10 for them."

The group of nine to ten seminarians started at the former SVD novitiate at Conesus, New York—located on Lake Hemlock, hence the group's name—in 1964. It moved to Epworth the following year and for the next four years, it became a popular local performance group and, in 1966 and 1967, recorded two, limited-run albums of 500 copies each.