

— FROM THE PRESIDENT —

# Missionary Grandfathers and Grandmothers



Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Through Baptism, God calls ALL of us to share in God's mission. With Jesus as our light and the Holy Spirit as our energy, we set out on a great pilgrimage to the fullness of the Father's Kingdom. Every day, as we journey along, we pray "thy Kingdom come," and we reach out to neighbors and friends along the way. For some people, their journey passes through Divine Word College. Hundreds of young people come here to discern whether God is calling them to missionary service as priests, brothers or sisters. Happily, some do become priests and religious, but our goal at DWC is to help ALL the students become dedicated missionaries. I am very glad that some of our alumni are addressed as Brother, Sister, or Father, but I am also glad that many are addressed as Mom, Dad, Grandpa and Grandma!

Did you know that an estimated 99.87% of the members of the Church are laypeople? Only 13 out of 10,000 are priests, deacons or religious brothers and sisters. The great missionary journey is primarily a parade of lay folk! Mr. Leo Chinelly has a beautiful reflection in this newsletter. He tells how his experiences at DWC in the early 1970s helped him live a missionary life. He has served as a social worker, city employee, and pastoral worker. He's also a husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. With the Holy Spirit working through him, he is bringing a whole tribe of people along as he makes his way to the Kingdom! Leo is one of the missionary grandfathers that DWC has helped to form. Personally, it is a great joy for me to hear the hope-filled story of a man with whom I studied nearly 50 years ago. As you read these lines, I hope you know that your journey also is passing through Divine Word College. We are humbled and grateful that we can be a part of your pilgrimage.

*Fr. Tom*

## Faith goes digital

Sharing the Word of God is a skill that's important for missionaries, but finding the best method to reach people in the digital age can be a challenge. That's why a new communication class at DWC is preparing students to meet people where they're at during these busy times.

In his Digital Public Witness class, Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Joshua Young's students are learning to create and record a podcast. They develop themes, create episode outlines, write scripts, record audio files, upload content and promote the podcast. Each week, the class releases a new episode. Some installments share a scripture reading followed by a student's reflection on the Bible message. Other episodes focus on a student's personal missionary experience or other related topics. "It's very useful for us to know how to do ministry in this way," said Sr. Tram Thuy Thi Nguyen, MSC, who is taking the class. "By using technology and social media, we're able to distribute the message and share the Gospel with young people who prefer to use their phones or computers these days."

As students learn to use this emerging communication channel, Joshua said they're further developing skills like crafting scriptural reflections, personal testimony and teaching Catechism. They're also building on foundational communication concepts they've been learning. "Students have been very excited to produce content and get feedback," he said. "They want to produce something they can be proud of that they can share with others."



For more information about Divine Word College, call 563-876-3353, email [info@dwci.edu](mailto:info@dwci.edu), or visit: [www.dwci.edu](http://www.dwci.edu)



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