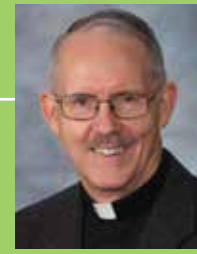


School year starts with faith and fortitude



Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Persevering during difficult times isn't easy, but every missionary knows that there will be ups and downs on a journey. You just have to keep at it. This summer, the Board of Administration spent many hours discussing COVID-19 and its impact on the upcoming academic year, determining the best course of action to take in the interest of both education and safety. It was a complex matter that schools everywhere had to evaluate.

Here at Divine Word College, there are a few things that make us different from other colleges and universities. The primary difference is that we are a missionary college, but another important distinction that sets us apart is that *this is our home*. Most of the college's 101 students live on campus and about 35 members of the SVD community do, too. We have some faculty and staff members who come from off-campus, so it seemed right to invite them to join us back here this fall. We also had the missionary goals of the college in mind when deciding what this school year would look like. While the COVID-19 health crisis presents many unknowns, missionary life teaches us the importance of being flexible, a skill that will serve our students well after graduation.

Even though it feels a little strange to wear a mask and to stand six feet away from a friend, being together in community helps to reassure us and keep us safe. We know that we are following Jesus, and so we can move confidently forward.

Fr. Tom

Spirit of Service SVD alumnus bequest creates new scholarship



Dr. William Goertz

Even in death, Dr. William "Bill" Goertz placed the needs of others before his own.

He graduated from the Divine Word high school in Bordentown, New Jersey in 1957, completed his

novitiate and associate's degree at St. Michael's Mission House in Conesus, New York in 1961 and studied one year at Techny, before discerning that religious life was not his calling. He went on to graduate from St. John's University and enjoyed a long career as a teacher and librarian.

After "retiring" at age 62, Bill earned a master's degree in theology, a certificate as a chaplain and finally a Doctor of Ministry degree. He volunteered countless hours visiting patients in local hospitals, leading prayer services at nursing homes and teaching scripture lessons at an adult day care center. Bill even created a program to bring spirituality back into the lives of nursing home residents who were living with advanced dementia.

Bill died April 23, 2015 at the age of 78. He had a strong desire to help Divine Word Missionaries and future Divine Word priests and brothers. He was a member of the Legacy Society and left his estate to Divine Word College. The college received outright gifts of \$465,000 and the remainder of Bill's estate created a trust that will pay nearly one full year of expenses for a Divine Word College student. This \$15,100 annual scholarship will cover all but about \$6,000 of a student's tuition, room and board, and other expenses.

Even after death, Bill will continue to help others for many years into the future.



For more information about Divine Word College, call 563-876-3353, email info@dwci.edu, or visit: www.dwci.edu

