

Spanning a section of wall behind the podium in the DWC dining room are six, brilliantly colored, stained-glass panels, which tell a story of individual faith and SVD spirituality. Father Toan Vu, SVD, a graduate of DWC now on mission in Ecuador, designed the panels when he was a novice at Techny in 2000.

More traditional stained glass had filled the wall recesses when the college decided to replace them, so the call went out to the wider SVD community to come up with a new design. Novices at Techny are encouraged to explore their creativity as they discern their path to religious life, and this project appealed to the young novice Toan.

“I read books about the SVD,” Fr. Toan said. “I also recalled what I had learned at the college about SVD charism and mission, the mission of the Church, about society, and I put a little bit of everything together in my mind.”

Of the six panels he designed, two relate to personal struggle and faith. They bracket four panels that connect to SVD spirituality.

“This is a story, not just for any missionary, but for any lay person, for religious priests, brothers or sisters,” Fr. Toan said. “I was thinking about everybody.”



Fr. Toan Vu, SVD

## Stained Glass Storyline



The first panel, “*Challenges*,” depicts a boat in turbulent waters. Some see it relating to the story of Noah, but in fact, it is about the challenges we face in life—individually or in a wider sense, the church or society.



The second panel, “*Passing Over to Other Cultures*,” depicts the world as a circle filled with colorful and connected pieces, representing its many cultures. It relates to the SVD concept of humbly reaching out—“passing over”—to dialogue with other cultures.



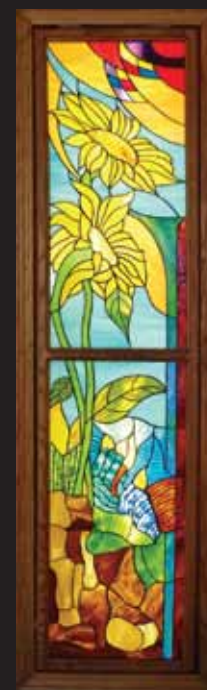
The third and fourth panels, “*Passing Over to Other Religions*,” celebrates the same SVD concept of reaching out, in this case to other faiths, represented by various symbols.



***Based on Fr. Toan’s designs, Bro. Ray Albers, SVD, created the six stained-glass panels in his workshop at East Troy, Wisconsin.***



The fifth panel, “*Passing Over to the Poor*,” shows a dipper pouring soup into a bowl, which tilts to flow into another bowl. It symbolizes helping the poor, who return the blessing because Jesus identified with the poor, so by helping the poor, we experience his presence.



The sixth panel, “*Humble Openness*,” shows a sunflower blossom upturned and facing a multicolored sun. The sunflower represents each of us and our need to turn our face to God.