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Birthday Corner

September

16 Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Patient Persistence

Many life lessons can be harvested in a garden.

I recall a day at school when I was six or seven. Each of the children was given a cup of soil and a bean seed. We planted the seed, labelled our cup and placed it near the window for some sunshine. Each day I went to check on my bean to see if anything had happened – nothing for three days. Other beans were already sprouting so I asked my teacher if I could dig in the soil to see if my bean was coming.

She said to be patient. (Patience does not come easily to a seven-year-old.) The weekend came – and on Monday morning, I rushed into



school to see my bean cup. It had sprouted! In my eyes, it was beautiful, miraculous even.

I can also recall a day at school when I was sixty-seven. I was in the garden when someone came by to praise the beauty of the flowers in the courtyard. My response was: “I’m in charge of water and weeds, God sends the flowers.” The answer came out of my mouth before I could even think about it. Every day, together with some student helpers, we give the plants some water and we pull some weeds. And God works a miracle! Of course, too much water can drown the plants. Too much weeding can trample the plants or uproot them along with the weeds.



A student needs both patience and persistence just as much as a gardener. The hard, persistent work of paying attention, asking questions, reading and studying can seem very unrewarding. But then comes the

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moment of insight! From nowhere, understanding dawns. Many language students experience this rhythm of learning. They go to class and listen but can only understand a little. They memorize vocabulary, some of it sticks, some of it doesn't. They write a sentence, but it needs three corrections! After considerable hard work, something clicks, and the new language comes as if by magic. Maybe it is a miracle.

A missionary also needs patient persistence. Building bridges of friendship with faith-seekers, with the poor, with people of other cultures and other religious traditions takes real effort. Above all, missionaries must spend their lives with the others, even when the outcome is unclear. Experience testifies that wonders do happen. New friendships bloom, new hopes for the harvest arise. The road to the new creation comes into view as we join our fellow pilgrims.

DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed
2020-2021	913	101	101	101	129
August 1- 14	165	0	0	0	1
August 15 - 21	46	0	0	0	0
August 22 - 28	8	0	0	0	0
August 29 - Sept. 4	12	0	0	0	3
Sept. 5 - 11	13	0	0	0	0



Wear a Facemask

There is a nasty cold circulating in the area. Several families of our instructors have been affected. If you are feeling sick, the following steps are VERY important.

Stay home. Please stay home, or stay in your room if you are not feeling well.

Test. Get tested for COVID-19 as a precaution, whether at a pharmacy or at DWC.

Facemask. Wear a facemask! It can help slow the spread of COVID-19, but also the spread of colds, flu and other viruses.

We are grateful to the faculty members who followed these steps and have kept us all healthier.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Jason Reed, Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Theology & Philosophy [DTP], has been granted professional development funding to attend and present at the 95th Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association from 18-21 November 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme for the 2021 Annual Meeting is "The Diakonia of Truth." Dr. Reed will deliver a presentation entitled: "Divine Simplicity in Aquinas: A Response to Craig and Mullins."



September Is National Suicide Prevention Month

If you or someone you know needs help, free and confidential support is available 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. Resources are available at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling 1-800-273-TALK (-8255). If you are uncomfortable talking on the phone, you can also use the Crisis Text Line to reach a trained counselor by texting NAMI to 741-741.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Liturgy Prep

On Thursday, September 16, Liturgy Prep will resume as usual at 1:00 P.M in the main chapel. It is mandatory for all students to attend.

Mission Garage Sale

Our annual Garage Sale in support of the missionary work of the Church begins this Wednesday, September 15 and ends on Saturday, September 18. This year's proceeds will be sent to the SVD missionary project in Ghana to help build a local clinic in Likpe Agbozome. Please check the Student Board for job assignments and Garage Sale schedule. Many thanks to all the formation groups, in particular to those students who have already signed up to help.

SVD Perpetual Vows

Saturday, September 18, two former DWC students, Frt. Derek Nguyen, SVD and Frt. Carl Edward Gales, SVD will profess their perpetual vows as Divine Word Missionaries at Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Chicago. Please keep them in your prayers. The celebration is available via livestream at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9CiluByjeI>

Flu Vaccination

You are reminded that the Flu Vaccination is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, beginning from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, in the gym. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Student Board. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so before Thursday, September 16. Employees and new SVD members, please bring your Medical Insurance Card. Students do not need to bring your Medical Insurance card. Please wear a short sleeve shirt since the Vaccination will be given in your shoulder.

Pray A Holy Hour For Myanmar

People in Myanmar are facing incredibly challenging circumstances, in which they perhaps feel unprepared for. Let us come together to express our solidarity with people in Myanmar, in particular with three of our students, Fr. Polycarp Thawng, Nay Kaw Sho and Do Tuang, in praying a Holy Hour on Monday night, September 20, at its usual time 7:20 pm, in the main chapel for the God's mighty hand to bring healing, hope, comfort and peace to that country.

Mini Olympics

The sports department is organizing an exciting sports competition (Mini Olympics). All the formation groups including the sisters can participate in it. There will be track events and other games. This will be held next Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The goal is participation of everyone. Staff and Faculty are invited to come and have fun too.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

Thank you!

On behalf of the Emergency Planning Committee and Emergency Response Team, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the fire drill on Thursday, September 2. During our drill, you should have received a text message or email letting you know that this was a fire drill. To receive emergency text messages and emails from Divine Word College, you need to sign up through the Populi system. If you would like to sign up for emergency text and email messages or to change your contact information, please contact Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth in the Registrar's Office.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Events for the International Day of Peace

Tuesday September 21, Olga Segura will speak at Loras College on the theme "Faith Communities and Liberation." The talk will begin at 7:00 and will take place at the Alumni Campus Center. Segura is a writer for the National Catholic Reporter and the author of Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church. You can attend this event in-person or join via livestream at: www.facebook.com/dbqdayofpeace/.



Friday, September 24 4:00 - 5:00 PM Hike To Help Refugees begins at Loras College (directly across the street from Christ the King Chapel) and ends at Clarke University. All proceeds from this event will go to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). To register for this event or to donate, please visit www.iowauna.org/.

Sunday, September 26 7:00 PM Ecumenical Peace Vespers at Divine Word College. This event will be in-person and online. Let your family and friends know that they can join us at www.facebook.com/dbqdayofpeace/.

Flu Vaccination Clinic

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21
11 AM to 1 PM
Gym

Please note:

- Employees need to bring your Medical Insurance Card.
- New SVD need to bring your Medical Insurance Card.
- Students *DO NOT* need to bring your Medical Insurance Card.

Deadline to sign up is **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16.**

Please wear a short sleeve shirt since the Vaccination will be given in your shoulder.

Please see Bro. Mike Decker, SVD with any questions!



WHERE



Fr. Khanh Ha SVD

Fr. Khanh graduated from DWC in 2013 and took final vows and was ordained in 2020. He was originally from Trang Bom, Vietnam and arrived at DWC in 2007 for ESL studies. For his first assignment, Fr. Khanh (also known as Pablo) is now serving God's people in the Virgen de Guadalupe parish, Ventanas, Los Rios, Ecuador.



Mr. Phat Vu

Phat Vu graduated from DWC in 2010. He came to the U.S. with his family in 1997 at 12 years old. He finished high school at La Quinta High School in Santa Ana, CA and came to DWC in 2003. He spent a year abroad at Nanzan University. Rather than continue on to novitiate, he did further studies in Physical Therapy and earned his doctor's degree (DPT). He now serves prisoners with physical therapy needs in a local state prison.



September 15, 2021 – **ESL Field Trip** – Dubuque Mural Project, Dubuque, IA: ESL 072 and 052 students will visit the Dubuque Mural Project in downtown Dubuque to view and analyze public art displays and write a response as part of a class writing assignment.

September 18, 2021 – **SVD Perpetual Vows:** Frt. Carl Gales, SVD & Frt. Derek Nguyen, SVD

October 1-2, 2021 - **Divine Word College Board of Trustees Meeting**

October 17, 2021 - **Diaconate Ordination:** Frt. Carl Gales, SVD & Frt. Derek Nguyen, SVD

October 24, 2021 - **Mission Sunday**