



# THE LOG

## Divine Word College

February 20  
2024

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

Vol. 43 No. 20

### In This Issue:

Artist Reception	2
Lenten Recollection Day	4
Living Lent Series	6
Library News	8
Donna Puccio Award Nomination Form addendum	

### Birthday Corner

#### February

- 20 Sr. Cecilia Fukah Egho, SUSC
- 27 Sr. Comfort Nguyongo SON

### THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

#### Thinking of Sin?

The beginning of Lent focuses attention on sin and salvation. There are many images we use to talk about sin, three stand out in my experience.

First, sin is like a young boy *playing in the mud*. I have some personal experience. I liked to make mudcakes, houses of mud, and everything else I could imagine. On returning home my mom said, "You can't come inside with dirty hands."



I looked at my hands, then I notice my shirt. Instantly I wiped my hands onto the shirt! Not an improvement; now I had dirty hands and a dirty shirt. Sin is like that, it spreads around. We can't get rid of it by ourselves. We need some help to wash it away.

Recently, Fr. Sonny mentioned in a homily that he visited the Jordan River. It was so muddy. He commented, maybe that is because it has washed away so many sins.

A second image of sin is *getting lost*. As a junior at DWC, I lived and studied in a Japan as an exchange student at Nanzan SVD University in Nagoya, Japan. More than once when I went out exploring, I got seriously lost. I couldn't read the signs because they were written in Japanese characters. The streets in Nagoya, a city the size of Chicago, do not run north-south, east-west. They run in irregular patterns, crossing over, then switching back! It



was easy to get turned around. No cell phones in 1975. I prayed for someone who could point me in the right direction. My Japanese was very limited, but I could say: 南山大学はどこですか? (Nanzandaigaku wa dochidesu ka?)



It was a huge relief when another student took my hand, led me to a main road, and pointed me in the right direction. I felt what I think the Israelites must have felt when they had the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day to lead them in the right direction.

A third image of sin is *breaking the law*. Toddlers get an early introduction to the word, "NO". We do need to hear that word if we are in danger. Of course, a transgression of the law is generally accompanied by a punishment – a slap on the hands, a fine, or even imprisonment. We can be misled to think that sin is arbitrary, just an external breaking of rules.



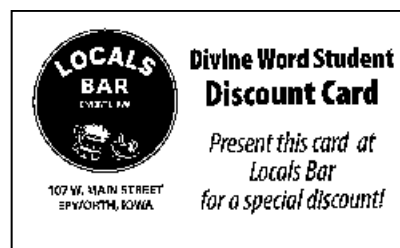
Sometimes in the Sacrament of Penance I hear adult penitents confess the same way that they likely confessed when they were in elementary school: "I told three lies, I got mad twice, I missed Mass on Sunday (there was a lot of snow), and I watched a bad movie." Surely someone who makes the effort to confess their sins does feel genuine sorrow. I am happy to give absolution even if the confession seems a bit childish. Still, I am unhappy with the understanding of God that lurks behind such a confession. Is God a perfectionist? A harsh judge? A jailer? Jesus' story of the loving father who forgave his prodigal son, or the story of the crazy farmer who let the weeds grow up with the wheat suggest that God is more a protector than a punisher.

There are many more images of sin: a stain, darkness, slavery, infidelity, etc. However, I find help in thinking of sin in ways that lead me to look to God as cleansing water and as guide.

How do you think of sin?

## Locals Discount

Locals Bar on Main Street in Epworth is a good place to meet "local" folks and to share a drink and some food with friends. Dan and Angie Kramer, the owners of Locals, are especially happy to welcome students, staff, faculty and SVDs from Divine Word College. Discount cards are available in the dining room. Angie assures me that the discount is good for everyone from DWC and not only students.



## Artist Reception TODAY - February 20

# THEOLOGY IN COLOR

an icon exhibition by Drazen Dupor

FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 20

RECEPTION FEBRUARY 20  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

*all artwork available for sale, for inquiries on purchases, please speak with the front desk.*





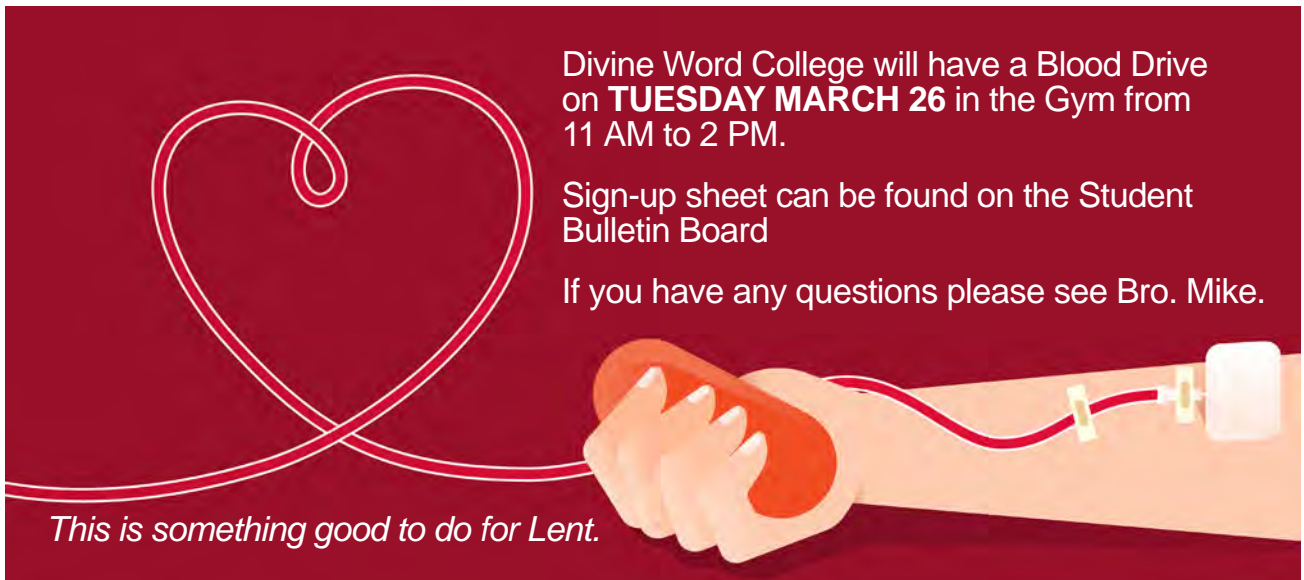
# Assessment Bites

from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

As mentioned during the January Faculty Senate, and published in the February 6 LOG, we have changed the way we go about collecting data-driven recommendations from faculty. While you are no longer requested to provide your insights following the completion of projects, the reports will still be uploaded to the "Assessment at DWC" page.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please always feel free to contact me!

The Institutional Assessment Committee will still examine the available data reports.



Divine Word College will have a Blood Drive on **TUESDAY MARCH 26** in the Gym from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Sign-up sheet can be found on the Student Bulletin Board

If you have any questions please see Bro. Mike.

*This is something good to do for Lent.*

## Town and Country Days Appreciation Open House Celebrate 25 Years

Wednesday, February 21  
6 - 10 PM

Please come to Silker's store and celebrate 25 year's worth of amazing volunteers who make T&C Days a success! Come share stories and enjoy drinks and food provided by Silker's.





## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS**

*Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD*

### **Volleyball Tournament – Student vs. DWC Staff and Employees**

After a long and hard-fought battle between the Student Team and the DWC Staff and Employees Team, the DWC Students came out victorious. The teams played three intense sets, and each set was close. Both teams worked together effectively to earn their points, showcasing the spirit of teamwork and competition. With that in mind, I want to congratulate the Student Team for winning this year's volleyball match against the DWC Staff and Employees. A special thank you goes to Mr. Steve Winger and Mr. Hung Cong Nguyen for their roles in organizing this annual volleyball event. Many thanks to all the players who practiced and participated, making this awesome game possible and to the enthusiastic crowd who came out to support the teams. We are looking forward to next year's game.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Just a reminder that during the season of Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:30 PM in the main chapel. The Stations of the Cross reminds us of the infinite love of God. God is so good and gracious to us that He gave up His only Son, Jesus Christ for our redemption. Praying the Stations of the Cross helps us to focus on Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. It should remind us of what Jesus had to go through for our salvation. All students are highly encouraged to gather in the chapel every Friday during Lent for this special prayer.

### **Lenten Recollection Day**

This Saturday, February 24, 2024, our Lenten Recollection for all students will be led by Fr. Alex Roedlach, SVD, professor of Anthropology at Creighton University. The theme of this year's recollection is Mission as Accompaniment. The recollection will be all day so please do not make any plans for that day. All students are required to attend. I will post the schedule and the small sharing groups on the student bulletin board later this week. I hope that this recollection will be fulfilling for all of us as we use this time to encounter the love of God in our lives.

### **Vocation Mass**

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, the formation group of the Colossians will lead and organize the Vocation Mass. During this Mass, Mr. Bao Louis Nguyen will share his journey of vocation. Vocation Masses hold a special place in our hearts, as the stories shared are powerful sources of inspiration that help us strengthen our own vocational calls. Let us come together to join in prayer for an increase in vocations to religious life, especially for Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD, and all members of the Colossians formation group.

### **Mission Support**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support towards the missionary project aimed at assisting the underprivileged in Vietnam. Special thanks to the VSA for initiating a fundraiser during the Lunar New Year celebration and to set up a donation box at the gym. The collection raised a total of \$1,000. These funds will be forwarded to Fr. Thien Nguyen, SVD, to support the impoverished community in Daknong, Vietnam. Thank you!



## Humor and Wellbeing

*Have you heard about Laugh Therapy? Is this true? How does laughter affect your well-being? Researchers have found that laughter can relieve stress, strengthen relationships, and boost mental health.*

We may be familiar with the term 'fight-or-flight'. We heard this in the Dean's Forum last week. This response enables us to escape from a threatening situation we are facing. It should be a quick resolution of that 'bad' situation. However, the constant stress that many of us experience daily triggers that response continually.

The 'fight-or-flight' response comes from our autonomic nervous system, the sympathetic nervous system. The job of this nervous system is to prepare the body for action in a dangerous situation. Your body's reaction can be that your breathing gets shallow, your heart pounds faster, and your pupils dilate. If your body activates a lot of the 'sympathetic nervous system,' you are at risk for obesity, heart disease, cancer, and a variety of other illnesses.

On the other side is the parasympathetic nervous system, where your 'chill mood' originates. Your body slows down while it is experiencing parasympathetic nervous system stimulation. Breathing becomes easier, and your heart rate decreases. When your body determines that it is okay to let down its guard and that you are not in danger, your parasympathetic nervous system activates. Things that help your nerves relax and give your 'fight-or-flight' reaction a much-needed break include deep breathing, gentle exercise, and, yes, laughter. So, laughing naturally produces favorable physiological and psychological effects that promote mental relaxation. So, enjoy a little bit of humor today.

*I think it's important that we Catholics preserve our identity. Penance is important. With the shortage of priests, maybe we should have a drive-through at our churches to speed things up for confession. You pull up in a family van and go to your parish for confession. You got the whole family with you. Go to the 'drive through' line. The priest says over the microphone: "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." You say into the microphone: "Bless us, father, for we have sinned. I had a Number 3. My wife had a Number 9. My daughter had a Number 8. And my son had a combo – 5, 8, and 9."*

*(Holy Humor by Cal & Rose Samra)*

The Counseling Center is open **five days a week, with appointments on weekends and holidays**. Please reach out to us at [auntarto@dwc.edu](mailto:auntarto@dwc.edu) | Room 220 | Ext. 377 for more information.



by  
Sr. Aprilia  
Untarto, SSps

## JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Last week the JPIC Council sponsored Food for Thought. At our gathering, we talked about figures of African descent who contributed to the mission of the Catholic Church. One of the videos that we saw was a documentary on Sr. Thea Bowman, who used her powerful gifts to educate and challenge the church and society to grow in racial inclusivity. If you would like to watch this documentary in its entirety, please click here:



### Watch: *Thea Bowman documentary - FSPA News*

A new documentary from NewGroup Media and the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, with portions filmed in Wisconsin, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood," presents the riveting life of Sister Thea Bowman. [www.fspa.org](http://www.fspa.org)

For other influential people of African descent to the mission of the Catholic Church, please watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aYKuR19kuA>.



### Who will be the first Black Catholic saint in the United States?

Read "Who will be the first Black Catholic saint from the United States?" at <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/01/21/black-catholic-saints-united-states-239730> There are 11 saints associated with the Catholic Church in the United States. None of them are of African descent. But, an initiative by the Institute for Black Catholic Studies.

A screenshot of a Facebook profile header. It features the Divine Word College logo (a stylized 'D' and 'W' with a globe) on the left. The text reads "Divine Word College Seminary - Epworth, Iowa" and "1.4K likes • 1.8K followers". On the right, there are buttons for "Liked", "Message", and "Search".

### Coming Soon!

Get ready to embark on a transformative journey with *Living Lent*, a captivating series of videos set to debut soon on our college's Facebook page!

Discover insightful perspectives from members of our community as they share their strategies for embracing Lent and deepening their connection with God throughout the 40-day period.

Make sure to **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** our page to stay tuned for these uplifting messages. Don't miss out on this enriching experience!

Two video thumbnails from the "Living Lent" series. The top thumbnail features Sr. Maurine Okpara, SST, a student, with the text "Give of yourself" and a quote: "and just giving to somebody because you see that they need." The bottom thumbnail features Sr. Joellen Price, PBVM, a spiritual director, with the text "and you can envision that the people in the crowd". Both thumbnails have a "LIVING LENT" logo in the bottom left corner.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

*Mr. Len Uhal*

### Strategic Plan Outcomes – Admissions Goal

While the College community is absorbed in planning for the next strategic plan (2024-2027), it is good to look back on the past three years as we come to the end of our current strategic plan. Below is a short summary of the goal and objectives we set for the Vocations/Admissions Office. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you to all for your support and assistance in our vocations/admissions endeavors.



#### Divine Word College: Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 Admission Goal Outcomes

#### Goal B: Admissions

**Achieve and maintain a total enrollment of 125 students, including 50 SVD candidates.**

In January 2020, we reached our goal of 125 total students with 50 of them being SVD candidates. However, with the onset of the pandemic, our enrollment fell the following year. From Fall 2021 to Spring 2024, we averaged 101 students each semester with a range of 93 to 107. During that time, we averaged 23 SVD candidates, but we also averaged 6 SVDs in vows and 3 SSps Sisters/candidates.

**Objective 4: While maintaining outreach to all potential students, make a concerted effort to admit underrepresented populations.**

We focused on three student populations for this objective: Hispanic SVD candidates, non-SVD Pre-Theology Students, and lay students in ESL and undergraduate classes. We enrolled two Hispanic students, ten lay students (9 entered the IELI and 1 entered the undergrad program), and we accepted five Pre-Theology students, but unfortunately, they could not get visas and therefore, did not enroll.

**Objective 5: Increase SVD referrals to ten (10) per year.**

For the three years prior to the strategic plan, we received only 17 referrals from Divine Word Missionaries. We did well in the first two years of the plan—receiving 12 and 11 referrals respectively. However, while in the middle of the third year, we have only received one SVD referral.

**Objective 6: Identify future personnel needs for the Admissions Office.**

In collaboration with the USC, USW and USS Provincials, we were able to identify vocation office personnel and establish the current team of five Divine Word Missionary vocation directors, one lay vocation director/administrator and two office staff members.

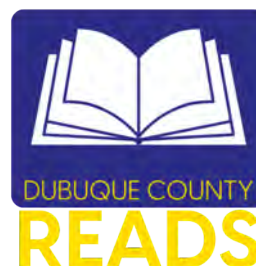


# Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

## Dubuque County Reads

Divine Word College is participating in the Dubuque County Reads program this year! Dubuque County Reads is an annual initiative to encourage community members to read a common book and come together for productive conversation. This year's title is "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. It is a historical fiction novel that tells the remarkable true story of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian Belle da Costa Green.



If you would like to participate, the Matthew Jacoby Library has 10 print copies available in the display case at the entrance to the library. The library also has an [eBook](#) and [audiobook](#) copy available through Overdrive/Libby. If you start reading soon, you will have a little over a month to finish the book before the discussion events begin. The Matthew Jacoby Library is hosting a discussion on April 9th at 12 PM, but if that time doesn't work for you, you can attend a discussion at a different library.

Complete details are available online at <https://libguides.dbq.edu/dubuquecountyreads>. If you are unsure about how to participate in a book discussion check out these "[Tips for Participants](#)."

## Black History Month Library Display

The Black History Month Library display will be up until the end of February. Stop by the library and check out a book today!



## Kanopy Movie Streaming

Kanopy has a curated Black History Month collection containing 29 videos that explore different aspects of black identity and culture in the United States. Check out the collection [here](#).

