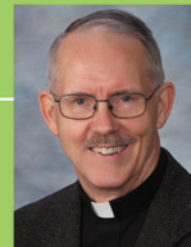


WE CAN THRIVE WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...



Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD

In the mid 1960s, John Lennon and Paul McCartney of the Beatles wrote a song for their friend and bandmate Ringo Starr. The lyric and tune can really get into your head, “I get by with a little help from my friends.” Since then, more than 50 other artists have recorded their own versions of the song. When I sing the song, it usually comes out as: We can thrive with a little help from our friends!

Making friends is a basic skill for every missionary. Inviting newcomers to follow Jesus to God’s Kingdom is not so much a crowd activity as it is a person-to-person sharing. Missionary service best takes root in the fertile earth of friendship. Jesus said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.... I have called you friends... (and) chose you to go and bear fruit that will remain.” (Jn15)

Sometimes we imagine that missionaries are lonely heroes; but mostly, missionaries’ lives are crowded with friends. Some are fellow missionaries; some are poor people; some are folks of other cultures and religions; some are faith-seekers. And, some are benefactors and prayer partners.

As I count up my own friends here at Divine Word College, I can’t help but hum a tune, “we just THRIVE with a little help from our friends!”

Fr. Tom

Public events return to DWC

The academic year at Divine Word College is looking more “normal” than it has since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

While still observing health safety measures, the school started holding public events again. In the fall, the community returned to its annual public celebration of World Mission Sunday. This spring, the college will once again host hundreds of sixth graders from area Catholic schools for a Vocation Awareness Day field trip. The event is sponsored by the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA). Students play games, participate in activities and listen to presentations by members of several religious congregations as they explore the concept of a religious vocation. The aim of the annual event is to raise awareness about religious life and provide students an opportunity to interact with religious sisters, priests, brothers and deacons.

Along with the return of a few regular events, a group of the college’s faculty members initiated a new workshop on trauma and healing that will be offered this spring. They hope to help area professionals who regularly encounter trauma in their careers, like first responders, educators and clergy. Whether it’s at daily Mass or while hosting groups like the Knights of Columbus or the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, the DWC community has been grateful to return to its missionary roots and welcome people back to the Divine Word College campus.

If you’re in the area, **JOIN US** for daily Mass at 8 a.m. Monday – Saturday or at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the main chapel.



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



Mission Sunday celebration in October 2022