

“We endeavor always to be loving towards others because of the love of the Holy Spirit towards us. He is the God of love, the love of the Father and the Son.

- Saint Arnold Janssen

the DWWC World

Spring 2019

Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries



Did You Know?

Divine Word College lives up to its role helping young men discover God's call to religious missionary life.

Among the Class of '19—you can see the graduates on pages 2-3—are four young men who will move on to the SVD Novitiate at Techny, along with an associate student with a previous degree.

They follow in the footsteps of three former students—Fathers Charles Moat, SVD; Bau Nguyen, SVD; and Victorin Oussoi, SVD—who were ordained on May 25.

Congratulations to all!

Lessons in Letters Home

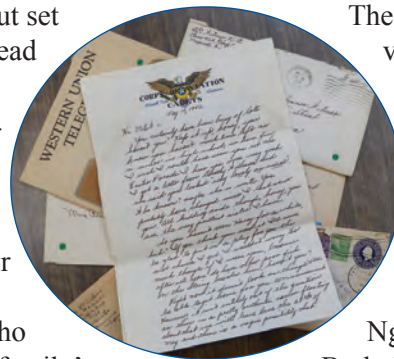
They were bundled in a dresser drawer for decades—letters home from two sons who joined the U.S. Army Air Corps around the time of Pearl Harbor. In 1985, that drawer's jumbled contents was purchased at auction by Dr. Marilyn Taylor, associate professor of writing. The letters were saved but set aside, so though they were first read in the early 1940s, the words on each page were not seen again ... until this semester.

The letters formed the basis of a unique educational experience for Taylor's freshman writing class, thirteen international students, who pulled together these pieces of a family's personal history during a time of war. Each student received specific letters, one at a time and in chronological order, to read and understand. They had to do interviews, look up terms, learn about the war... and be curious.

“Those are the skills they need to do research,” Taylor said. “What do you want to know? Where do you look for it?”

Partnering with a seasoned SVD, each student would open an assigned letter, read it aloud,

discuss it, ask questions and later transcribe it. From dated terms and family relationships, to military life, censorship and the war—all raised questions. Then they would write papers about what they learned.



The students also interviewed local veterans, like U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Bill Mausser, Retired (pictured above in uniform), who spoke to the class about his military experiences in the reserves. Epworth veteran Neal McDermott sat down with seminarian Lam Nguyen and Sr. Phuong Phan, FMV.

Both their families are rooted in Da Nang where McDermott was stationed during the Vietnam War.

“What are the odds of that happening?” McDermott said. “They asked some good questions and I was more than happy to be here.”

Perhaps the strength of the project was the reality of the letters. They are personal and authentic. “I knew this was going to be interesting,” Taylor said, “but it went far beyond my expectations.”