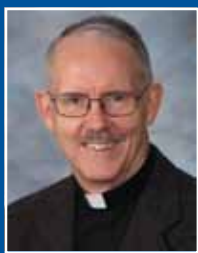


## A Word from the President:



Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Missionaries like to tell heroic tales of dramatic happenings, massive gatherings and long journeys. But most missionary service is a series of small things.

True, there are some big events at our small missionary college. This past summer three of our administrators were called to participate in the world-wide SVD General Chapter in Rome. But then look at our wonderful Mission Sunday celebration in October. Yes, the church overflowed with guests, the music and food were spectacular, the liturgy was a thing of beauty, but we got to that BIG event by way of many small steps. It meant chopping vegetables, practicing a dance, setting up chairs, and welcoming people to the feast.

If you think about it, Jesus once fed thousands, but it was one young boy who offered the fish and barley loaves; and it was the disciples who served and gathered up the fragments. Truly, Jesus' mission is our mission and it is often realized because of the small things we do along the way.

This issue of DWC World tells of everyday missionary moments. Consider noticing the small, ordinary things that God calls us to do.

Fr. Tom

## DWC Through the Eyes of a German Reporter

It was one of many “Ah-Ha” moments for Christina Brunner.

The vice-editor of *Stadtgottes* (City of God)—a German Catholic magazine founded by Saint Arnold Janssen—was sitting in a class taught by Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD, when he said a word that his international students did not understand. Recognizing the confusion, Fr. Sam wrote the word on a white board. Then came the collective “Ah, yes!”



Christina Brunner and Joerg Boethling

“He understood that English is a foreign language for them, and it was striking for me that he really saw their need,” she said. “It was only a moment, but it shows what you are doing here, helping students achieve understanding and then go on. It was a nice experience.”

In September, Brunner and photographer Joerg Boethling traveled to the U.S. to report on the work of the SVD in the Chicago Province. During a stop in Epworth, they witnessed DWC’s intercultural community life and its many ways of “educating tomorrow’s missionaries.”

Shadowing senior Marc Declama led them to Fr. Sam’s class, which revealed some interesting discussions. One was about men showing their feelings.

“It was really interesting, because every student, from every culture, it’s not allowed for boys and men to cry,” Brunner noted. “I never thought about it, but it seems to be so all over the world.”

Another dealt with relationships. Religious sisters will not always be dealing with women and SVDs will not always be dealing with men. Fr. Sam pointed out that missionary life is about working with others and understanding views related to men and women in other cultures.

“I sat there and said, ‘OK, this is also a place where students can learn about things they may not discuss back home,’” Brunner said.

On a ministry trip to Dubuque, they watched students serve meals to the less fortunate with a smile and genuine compassion. At DWC, they saw students from different countries sharing meals together with SVDs. They saw students washing dishes, mopping floors, preparing food and doing a host of other jobs. All these experiences add depth to a missionary education.

“Here it’s much more than just learning from books. It’s learning life,” she said. “That is really fine, so it will be a good story, I’m sure.”