



## Keeping God's Love Alive

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Our Christian faith calls us to go beyond the figures and numbers that are valued so much in a results-oriented world, and delve deeper into God as the source and giver of all blessings.

St. Paul echoes this sentiment in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

If God is the ultimate source and the giver of blessings, where do we fit in as benefactors and donors? The answer rests in God's invitation for us to be cheerful givers. St. Paul urges us to not only give what we have but to provide out of willing hearts.

The focus, then, is not on whether we ought to give, what we ought to give, nor how much we ought to give, but truly on how we give.

It goes to the heart of the dual commandment – love of God and love of neighbor. How we give to our neighbor speaks not only to the authenticity of our love for God, but it also reveals our love for our neighbor. It reveals the extent to which we sacrifice for the sake of our neighbor. And that, in turn, covers whether we ought to give, what we ought to give, and how much we ought to give.

As people throughout the world grapple with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, we as Christians are reminded to look deep into our hearts to appreciate the depths, lengths and heights of Jesus' dwelling in our souls. Perhaps it doesn't matter how much we give so much as whether we still have the desire to reach out to others in need, whether we still want to stand in solidarity with people in their helplessness and suffering. Ultimately, the greatest gift we can give one another amidst the present difficulties is our persevering faith in the Almighty God, who carries us steadfastly through each moment of life as it unfolds.

## Donors make roof repairs possible

Thanks to generous bequest gifts from Dennis Groetken and the Daniel J Till Charitable Foundation, Divine Word College started replacing the roof on the campus' main building this summer. The \$1,090,000 project is on track for completion this fall.

In the mid-1990s, the original 1963 roof was sprayed with a foam sealant that was expected to last 15 to 20 years. In recent years, its deterioration resulted in several leaks. Initially, Vice President of Operations Steve Winger said he expected to pull from the college's annual budget over several years to cover the cost of the project. He estimated that the work could be spaced over three to four years, but the Planning Committee and Board of Trustees decided to use the bequest gifts, putting the project on a fast track.

Typically, bequests are used for student scholarships, but since the need to replace the roof was urgent, the college decided to use the gifts now rather than place them in the scholarship fund.

"The cost of doing the project over successive years would have increased the final cost due to material increases," Winger said.

"Thus, doing the project in one shot saved money. It is also less disruptive to school operations." Megan Hall, the nearby building that serves as a residence for many of the religious sisters who study at DWC, is also in need of repair. Parts of the structure date back to the late 1800s. The stucco on the building is unstable and pulling away, so the college is exploring options to update it.

A \$100,000 bequest gift from the Daniel J Till Charitable Foundation has been set aside specifically for the Megan Hall siding project. The final cost is yet to be determined. Both exterior building updates were identified as important projects with specific timelines in the college's five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

"In 1876, when St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the Society of the Divine Word, was asked where he would find the money for a new building, he said, 'St. Joseph always sends me just as much as I need.'" said DWC President Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD. "St. Joseph always kept a roof over Mary and Jesus, and it seems he still takes care of us!"

