

## The Mother of Invention?

*A popular proverb, sometimes attributed to Plato, reminds us “necessity is the mother of invention.”*

At DWC, we have certainly experienced some of that old wisdom during this past year of COVID restrictions. The stories in this newsletter tell about a few of the “inventions” that necessity has inspired us to discover. I am sure you, too, have also been reinventing many parts of your life in the past months.

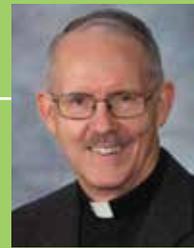
For missionaries, adapting and innovating are like breathing in and breathing out. We learn new languages and cultures; we find new friends who become like family; we try to find new hope through the Spirit as we share our lives with people living in desperate situations. St. Paul wrote about his own journey of faith in Jesus: “We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...” (2 Cor 4:7-9).

Biblically, we all look forward to the fulfillment of a great promise for the end of time. The Book of Revelation (Rev 21:5) tells us that God, seated on his throne, will say: “See, I am making all things new.” Though God’s plan for creation and for all of us may have been detoured by sin and death, we are not afraid nor discouraged.

God’s plan for a New Creation will be the greatest invention ever imagined.

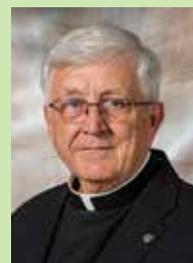
Perhaps it would be better to say: God is the mother of all invention!

*Fr. Tom*



Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

## Faculty learn remotely, too!



Fr. Ken Anich, SVD

Just like the students at Divine Word College, many faculty members also found themselves poised for virtual learning as a result of the pandemic this school year.

In December, Fr. Ken Anich, SVD, semi-retired professor of counseling psychology, attended a virtual conference for the first time in his 46-year career in education. The Evolution of Psychotherapy is a premier event in the field that’s usually held every four years in California. Instead of traveling to attend the conference as he did four years ago, this winter Fr. Ken planted himself in front of his computer for five days of online presentations.

After months of travel restrictions and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fr. Ken says he was already resigned to the fact that he wouldn’t be traveling for this year’s conference. So when he learned that it was moved online and attendees would receive access to all presentations for a full year, he deemed the opportunity too good to pass up.

Fr. Ken said the digital format allowed him to attend more sessions than he could get to in the past. The line-up of presenters included several heavyweights from the world of psychology. “I was exposed to some of the most recent research in the various psychological fields and will continue to access presentations throughout 2021,” he said. “I was able to pick up 37 contact hours of instruction in five days.”

While Fr. Ken acknowledged that he missed networking in person with fellow professionals and friends he’s made in the field, he said the experience was overall very positive.



For more information about Divine Word College, call 563-876-3353, email [info@dwci.edu](mailto:info@dwci.edu), or visit: [www.dwci.edu](http://www.dwci.edu)

