

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.”

- St. Francis

# the DWWC

World

## Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries

Winter 2019



## Did You Know?

Our SVD vocation directors literally travel from coast to coast meeting with young men interested in becoming a Divine Word Missionary priest or brother. From California to the Carolinas and from Canada to the Caribbean, last year our vocation directors traveled 126,000 miles...by car.

Add in another 20,000 to 30,000 airline miles, and you can say the guys really get around...but always prayerfully.



Divine Word College

## Numbers Jump in January

Enrollment in Divine Word College saw a nice increase in the second semester when 20 new students brought the total enrollment to 125. Len Uhal, vice president for admissions, said the new student number includes eight young men who are interested in becoming a priest or brother in the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

“I think that is a testament to the hard work of the vocation staff for getting out and visiting more venues,” he said. “We have increased our staff by one, so now we have six full-time vocation directors who are helping young men in their discernment, promoting Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College.”

DWC also welcomes referrals by Divine Word Missionaries who are working with the people in parishes and elsewhere.

“Those SVDs are our best referral source,” Uhal said. “When a young man is referred to us by a Divine Word Missionary, almost 25-percent of them have entered formation.”

Some referrals come from SVD provinces in other countries who send their young men to

study in the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI), which coordinates the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at DWC.

“We also get referrals from dioceses and other religious communities that send their members here to learn English, and we have another three lay students who live off-campus and commute daily,” Uhal said. “A strong ESL program that is respected by people in this country and internationally definitely helps our enrollment.”

The number of religious sisters who come to study has also increased. The women's dorm at DWC, Megan Hall, is nearly full. By partnering with Dubuque religious sister communities and others, DWC has been able to accept a dozen sisters who commute every day as full time students.

Overall, Uhal says maintaining a consistent enrollment level is a challenge year in and year out. “We’ve seen ups and downs particularly regarding religious vocations and the call to religious life,” Uhal said. “Our job is to accompany young men in discernment whenever we can.”



Len Uhal