

**FULL
CIRCLE
MOMENT**
for newest
member of
vocation team



Fr. Think Ngo, SVD at his ordination in August with his confrere and fellow Vocation Director Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD

Fr. Think Ngo, SVD was excited to learn that his first assignment as a Divine Word Missionary priest would be serving as a vocation director for the SVD Tri-Province Vocation Office in the USA. Newly ordained, he knows exactly what young men are experiencing as they discern their call to religious life because not long ago, he was in their shoes.

In 2008, the California native was searching for meaning in his life. He briefly considered a career in firefighting because he wanted to help people but something about the profession just didn't feel like the right fit. When he attended a Missouri festival for Vietnamese Catholics called Marian Days, Fr. Think said he started to seriously contemplate religious life. His mother encouraged him to attend daily Mass and he started researching religious congregations, but still felt uncertain about his future.

One day, his mom told a woman at a local religious store that her son was thinking about becoming a priest. The woman told her about an SVD vocation director who lived nearby. That night, Fr. Think asked God to guide him. He asked for a sign to show him where he belonged. The next day, he received a call from former Vocation Director Fr. Trung Mai, SVD.

“He talked to me and he was like, ‘I’ll be at your house in 45 minutes,’” Fr. Think recalls. He had his sign.

That December, Fr. Think traveled to Divine Word College for a Come-and-See visit. The following month, he enrolled in classes and started diving into discernment. For three years during his undergraduate program, he was assigned to the Vocation Office for his work-study. It was rewarding to be part of the process as new candidates learned about the Society of the Divine Word and explored their own call. After completing his graduate courses and serving two years as a missionary in Chile, Fr. Think graduated from Catholic Theological Union with a Master of Divinity and in August 2020 he was ordained. He rejoined the vocation team at the college as a full-time staff member this summer.

“I went through the program here so I know the whole process from beginning to end. I’m a product of this whole system,” he said. When he found out that he’d be coming back to DWC for his first assignment, Fr. Think said it felt like a homecoming. “God calls people in different ways that impact their lives. During my journey, I’ve experienced a lot of grace from God,” he said. “It feels right. I think that’s when you know you’ve found the right path – it feels right.”

DWC grads take next steps



This summer, five Divine Word College alumni professed First Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as Divine Word Missionaries, and six others entered the SVD Novitiate.

*Top: Bro. Mathew Zemel, SVD, Fr. Tim Lenchak, SVD, Fraters Thong Tran, SVD, Joseph Huy Nguyen, SVD, Kodjo David Emon, SVD, Marc Declama, SVD, Ryan Agbim, SVD, Fr. Quang Duc Dinh, SVD, Fr. Walt Miller, SVD
Bottom: Novices Tu Nguyen, Wisvel Joseph, Baruch Zinsou, Michelet Boncoeur, Sam Lollar, Joubert Felix*