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Birthday Corner

October

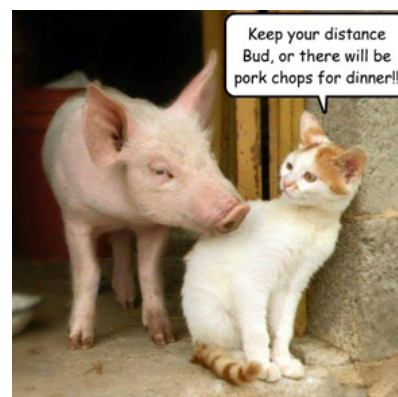
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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD*

Please keep your distance

The five defenses we have against the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- Wear a mask.
- Wash your hands.
- Watch your distance.
- Walk away from crowds.
- Wipe down surfaces.



How are we doing?

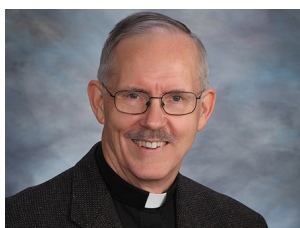
We seem to be doing pretty well about wearing facemasks, but we forget to watch our social distance. In the chapel and in the dining room there are marks on the floor to indicate six feet of distance between people. In chapel, people do seem to observe a safe distance, in the dining room it is a different story.

Dining Room. People often forget the six-foot markers in the food line! While waiting to approach the food line, people are pretty observant. Then they sanitize their hands, grab a tray, and stand right behind the person in front of them! It must be the smell of the sanitizer that is sooo appetizing! Is it really wise to stand shoulder to shoulder in the food line? We will all get through the line just as fast by keeping our distance.

The tables and chairs have also been set six feet apart. So please, do not push the tables closer together. Please do not add chairs to the tables. If need be, sit at a new table. Someone will surely come to join you in a few moments.

It is especially important to keep our distance in the dining room because it is there that we remove facemasks, and we sit for 20 to 40 minutes!

There are other more informal gatherings: at picnics, parties, and in the Pour House. People gather around the food, shoulder to shoulder, chatting away happily. That was normal behavior before. Now it can put us all in danger.



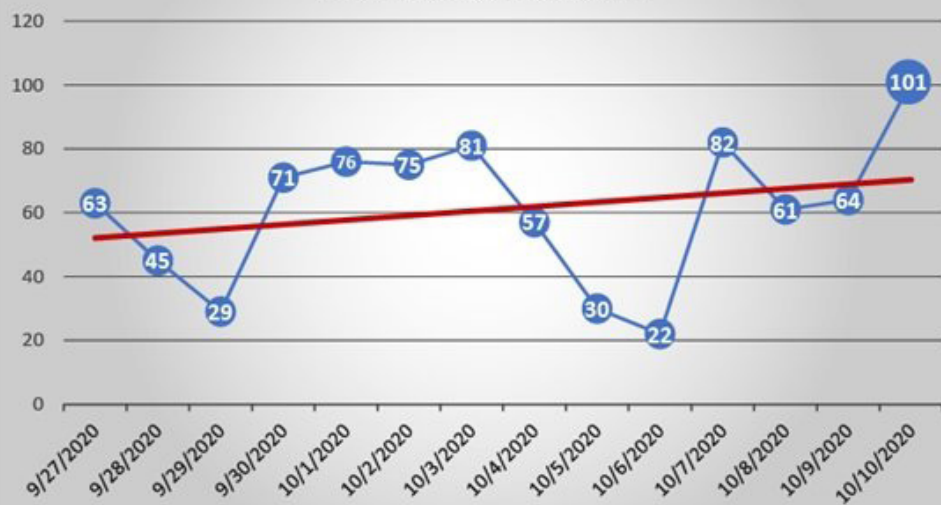
PLEASE, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

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DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Quarantined	Number Recovered
Before Sept. 15	~200	9	9	~15	9
Sept. 15 - 21	14	0	0	4	0
Sept. 22-28	20	0	0	1	0
Sept. 29 - Oct. 5	15	0	0	2	0
Oct. 5 - 12	20	1	1	4	0

**14-DAY TRENDLINE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES
IN DUBUQUE COUNTY**



HLC Virtual Roundtable: Five Promising Practices

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy Virtual Roundtable will take place on 28-30 October 2020. The Roundtable is a multi-day event for Academy Teams to gather information on strategies to improve assessment of student learning and define an Academy Project. In preparation for this event, members of the DWC Assessment Academy Team held its first meeting on 18 September 2020 and reviewed five promising practices gleaned from past successful academy participating institutions.

1/ Focus on Learning – Student learning is the focus of assessment; not everything needs to be measured and not all of the time; instead, a helpful mantra for encouraging strategic assessment practices is “measure what you value, not value what you measure.”

2/ Develop Leaders – Assessment is a shared responsibility across the institution, all have a responsibility to participate and contribute in meaningful ways; the leadership team should engage a cross-functional team of faculty, staff, and administration.

3/ Build Infrastructure – Create an institutional culture of assessment; publish organizational structures and standardized policies and procedures; perform curriculum mapping; eliminate meaningless exercises and tools.

4/ Engage Constituents – Seek input from faculty, staff, and administration; provide clear instructions, ask meaningful questions, have reasonable expectations.

5/ Address Opposition – Expect the possibility that not everyone will get onboard; some 15% may resist any change, another 15% may resist the specific project itself, but some 70% will support the Academy Project and assessment initiatives; admit past mistakes and failed endeavors, but keep future oriented and positive!

Assessment: Context Question #1

The DWC Assessment Academy Team collaborated on responding to four context questions designed to provide other Academy participating cohort institutions and facilitators with information about DWC and its assessment practices to date ahead of the actual Roundtable event. Our team’s response to context question #1 appears below, with subsequent responses appearing over the next few weeks.

Please introduce your institution to other Academy Teams. Provide contextual information on your institution including but not limited to institutional type, size and student populations served. (100-200 words).

Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service as priests, brothers, sisters, and laypersons. For this purpose, DWC offers an education that combines spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning, and mission preparation within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world. This spiritual, academic, and experiential preparation serves the particular learning needs of our students, promotes their development as whole and responsible persons, and fosters a lifelong commitment to serving God’s people.

DWC offers undergraduate degrees in Philosophy, Theology, and Intercultural Studies, along with a Certificate in Pre-Theology. These degree programs provide the academic foundation required for graduate studies and missionary service in the United States and the across the world. Given that

approximately 80% of students are international, DWC boasts of a well-developed English as a Second Language program. The co-curricular Religious Formation Program facilitates students' spiritual growth, human maturity, and intercultural competence.

DWC has an average enrollment of 125 students representing more than 20 countries from various cultural backgrounds. Indeed, DWC's small size, enthusiastic religious spirit, and authentic intercultural community are among its greatest strengths.

Sabbatical Application Requests due Monday, November 2, 2020

By way of reminder to all eligible faculty members, any sabbatical leave application requests for the AY 2021-2022 are due to the VP for Academic Affairs no later than Monday, November 2, 2020. The policies and procedures governing sabbatical leave are published in the Divine Word College Policy Handbook 07.07.01. The application form may be found on the College website under [Faculty & Staff Forms > Application for Leave](#). The application must be accompanied by a clear and meaningful proposal for one's sabbatical project, and is subject to project approval and departmental staffing needs.

- "The purpose of the sabbatical leave is to provide faculty members a period of release from regular duties to pursue professional development activities such as writing of a monograph or articles, developing a new course, learning about developments in one's area of teaching or research, conducting research, or other scholarly and creative activities." (DWC Policy Handbook 07.07.01)

Student Resource Center Workshop: The College Essay

Dr. Richard Garrett, coordinator of the Student Resource Center, will conduct a workshop on writing college essays and explaining the basic tenets governing the writing of academic papers. Undergraduate students are encouraged to attend this optional but valuable workshop scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 in room 107.

Want to see more cool stuff like this?



"Like" and "Follow" [Divine Word College Seminary on Facebook!](#)

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

World Mission Sunday

In 1926 Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday for the whole Church to recognize our baptismal commitment and responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world. Pope Francis, in his message for this year's celebration taken from the Book of Isaiah, "Here am I, send me" (Is. 6:8), also reminds us that the COVID-19 pandemic is truly an opportunity for mission and service to others. This year is our first time to celebrate World Mission Sunday without public attendees due to COVID-19.

The program is posted on the Student Board. The multilingual liturgy will be at 3:30 PM followed by a banquet with cultural entertainment in the gymnasium. To make the celebration meaningful, all formation groups are encouraged to pay attention to the program and participate actively in all the activities. Formal attire (or traditional dress) is required.

Faculty In-Service

Monday, October 19, is **Faculty-in-Service Day**. There will be Mass in honor of the Holy Spirit at 8:00 AM as usual. There will be no Language Mass and No classes. Have fun and enjoy a day off.

COVID -19

Let us all be reminded that the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over yet. Let us continue to observe the fundamental protocols: **maintaining social distancing, wearing of mask, and washing and sanitizing of hands**. With these, we shall get through it together healthy and strong.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Come and See Weekend

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Vocation Office canceled many Come and See visitors last spring. As we look to help students in the discernment process who are considering the formation program with the Divine Word Missionaries at Divine Word College for next semester and next year, we will need to host some men for campus visits. We intend to do this as safely as possible to balance welcoming our guests to campus and helping them feel at home while simultaneously keeping our college community healthy.

Visitors were required to get a COVID test prior to traveling, they will wear masks, physically distance and eat separately from the community in Room 143 during their visit. They will use the choir loft/balcony in the chapel during their visit to attend chapel prayer times. Instead of allowing visitors to choose classes to attend, the Vocation Office assigned the visitors to specific classes, allowing them to attend smaller classes with larger classrooms. We will not assign student and faculty hosts to the visitors at this time. Hopefully, these precautions and others will provide for a safe visit.

From Wednesday night, October 14 to Monday morning, October 19, the following men will visit Divine Word College for a Come and See Visit:

Dominick Do Tong	Seattle, WA
Tu Thanh Truong	Seattle, WA
Phuc Hong Nguyen	Portland, OR

Thank you in advance for helping our guests to feel welcomed in our community, especially with all the COVID restrictions in place. After they complete their visit, please feel welcome to contact Len Uhal with input and feedback about their visit—what went well and what needs to improve if we invite further visitors to the college in the future.

Scholarship Opportunity for Seminarians

Students at universities and colleges always look for scholarships to help them cover expenses related to their education—even at seminaries! Students at Divine Word College are no different. Here is a scholarship opportunity that is available to seminarians here at Divine Word College.

Msgr. Richard J. Schuler Seminarian Fund

Catholic United Financial Foundation established the Msgr. Richard J. Schuler Seminarian Charitable Fund in 1996 to honor his 30 years as the Spiritual Director of Catholic United Financial and to commemorate his years of priestly service. Grants are awarded annually to seminarians who are studying for the priesthood in the following Dioceses and Archdioceses: St. Paul/Minneapolis, Bismarck, Crookston, Dubuque, Duluth, Fargo, La Crosse, New Ulm, Rapid City, Saint Cloud, Sioux Falls, Sioux City, Superior, and Winona. We have verified that seminarians studying at Divine Word College are eligible. The application is available by [clicking here](#). The deadline for applications is October 31, 2020.

Weekly Facebook Vocation Program

As reminder to all: Be sure to watch the weekly SSPS and SVD Vocation Offices' programs on Facebook. Every Thursday at 11:00 AM, the vocation offices post a program on Facebook; and sometimes, the program is live! The video recordings are posted on the [SVD Vocation Office Facebook Page](#) and you can view all of them for the last seven months at any time. At present, we are in the middle of a five-part series on the facets of religious formation – this week is Part Two: Human Formation.



*Being Transformed
into the Image of Christ*
**Part 2-Human
Formation**

JOIN US!
**Thursday,
October 15, 2020**
11:00 a.m (CDT)/ 9:00 a.m (PDT)
www.facebook.com/svdvocationsusa

Hosted By:
Mr. Len Uhal & Fr. Think Ngo, SVD

Presented By:

 Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
www.spps-usa.org

 Society of the Divine Word
www.svdvocations.org

Fr. Anthony will arrive on campus on Wednesday with our Come and See visitors and be here until Monday to host our guests. Fr. Francis will return to campus for a couple days after visiting a parish in Michigan before leaving again to visit a parish in the Chicago area. Fr. Adam will also return to campus this week after visiting candidates in Georgia and he will be here for Mission Sunday. While Fr. Emilio is in California contacting candidates, both Fr. Thinh and Len are on campus all week.

Ms. Megan Sutton, LMHC

The Formation and Student Life Committee would like your input regarding your experiences in dealing with and managing COVID-19 within the Divine Word Community. We are interviewing members of the student body, staff, and faculty, asking questions about feelings, coping strategies, the possible presence of depressive or anxious feelings, and other difficulties and concerns that may have risen since the beginning of the pandemic. Students and staff will be contacted by email asking for your participation within the next few weeks. We hope that you will consider participating. You will find a copy of the questionnaire at the end of this issue of The LOG. Thank you.



Bro. Mike Decker, SVD

Guidelines:

- Must feel well on the day of donation
- Must weigh at least 110 lbs.
- Bring Photo ID
- Do not take any aspirin medication for 48 hours before donation
- Must be 56 days since your last donation
- Students who are from countries that have malaria need to be in the USA for 3 years without going back to their country in order that they can donate.
- Sign up by Tuesday, October 20, 2020



October 14	ESL Fall 2020 Term B – Classes Begin
October 14	Student Resource Center Workshop
October 15-20	CEA Accreditation Virtual Workshop
October 16	NO CLASSES (UG and ESL)
October 18	Mission Sunday
October 19	NO CLASSES (UG & ESL)
October 19	Faculty In-Service (UG)
October 27	Faculty Senate
October 28-30	HLC Assessment Academy Virtual Roundtable

COVID-19 Questionnaire
Divine Word College Seminary

The Formation and Student Life committee would like your input regarding your experiences in dealing with and managing COVID-19 within the Divine Word community. The following survey asks you to identify any concerns you are having in regard to your feelings of safety, how you are coping, to identify any concerns you may have, and to build a stronger sense of community. Please include any comments you may have on the current policies that have been placed regarding COVID-19, as well as any suggestions you have on ways to improve the COVID-19 response on campus.

1. How do you feel you are coping with the changes that have occurred due to COVID-19?
(Circle one of the numbers best fitting what is happening: 1 being not coping well and 5 very well).

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

2. What are your major concerns at this time regarding COVID-19?
3. Have you been in quarantine and if so, how and what was the experience like for you? What are some of the ways that you used to cope or did you have coping mechanisms?
4. Have you noticed an increase in fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones? What do you find yourself worrying about most?
5. How has your concentration been carrying out your responsibilities? *(On a scale of 1-5, 1 being unable and 5 no problem)*

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

6. How has your ability to sleep at night been? *(On a scale of 1-5, 1 being unable and 5 no problem)*

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

7. Have you noticed an increase in chronic health issues? What kind of health problems have you been experiencing?
8. Have you noticed an increase in feelings of anxiousness or depression? What strategies, if any, have you been using successfully to manage these feelings?
9. Are you experiencing any difficulties from social distancing and the lack of interpersonal contact? If so, what are you experiencing?
10. How has COVID-19 impacted you and your family?
11. What, if any, types of coping strategies have you been using to reduce the emotional impact of COVID-19?

Please include any other comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement.