



THE LOG

Divine Word College

November 24
2020

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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Birthday Corner

November

- 25 Mr. Truong An Duc Nguyen
- 27 Mr. Max Darly Emile
- 28 Mr. Junior Jean Baptiste
- 28 Sr. Ndigue Formilack
Magdalene, SST

December

- 1 Mr. Mark Singsank

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Give Thanks - ZOOM

Thanksgiving is a favorite feast for many people in the United States. Here in Iowa, it is associated with harvest time and family gatherings. Now, the fields are mostly prepared for a winter's rest, the crop is stored or already sold, and families start to look forward to Christmas. We take a day to rest, to gather, and to give thanks to God for one another and for the amazing blessings of the year.

I am especially thankful, this year, for two things.

ZOOM. The gathering of families will be much reduced this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I plan to be ZOOMING my brothers and sisters and their families on Thanksgiving Day. When I was living in the desert in Mexico in the late 1970's and 1980's, and then when I was in Rome in the 1990's and early 2000's, my contact with my family was very limited. One or two phone calls a year and an intermittent exchange of cards and letters were treasured. Email changed all of that in the late 1990's, and then computer phone calls became possible in the 2000s. In comparison, ZOOM is fabulous! I will set up the call for my family and leave it on all afternoon long. I will be giving thanks!!



BVM, OSF and PBVM Sisters. In the past couple of years, three communities of women religious in Dubuque have been welcoming some of our DWC students to live with them. This has blossomed into a wider relationship and a more heartfelt appreciation of the amazing ministries that these women maintain in Dubuque and the surrounding areas. Over the years, DWC has recognized the service of two Presentation Sisters and one Franciscan Sister with our



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Matthew 25 award. And, two Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM Sisters) have served on the DWC Board of Trustees; including Sr. Kate Hendel who was elected as Trustee in October.

We can all be grateful for the furnishings for the DWC chapels we have received over these past months. I received many hand-me-downs from my own sisters, Elaine and Kay, and maybe that it makes me especially glad to receive hand-me-ups from our Sisters in Dubuque. Just last Monday, three BVMs visited the College from Chicago. They arrived bearing a special gift. Sr. Mary Gene Kinney, Sr. Ruth Evermann, and Sr. Colleen McGinnity brought a handcrafted tapestry of Our Lady of Guadalupe to adorn our little chapel Reina de las Americas. Sr. Ruth (2nd from the left) was the principal artisan. We celebrated Mass in the chapel and had a great (socially distanced) visit. I told them it isn't often that three queens from the east (Chicago) come bearing another queen (Guadalupe) as a gift. We laughed, and we took a photo. It was a blessed moment and I give thanks for all our Sisters.



Thanksgiving - an Intercultural and Interreligious Celebration

On Thanksgiving, we remember and honor some early immigrants from Europe and the Native American people who helped them survive.

The earliest roots of the Thanksgiving holiday go back to the 1620's when the first European immigrants came to the coast of what is now the State of Massachusetts in the United States. Many of those first immigrants came to the "new world" looking for religious freedom. They landed in early November, and then spent a cold and hungry first winter in 1620. With the help of local Native Americans, about half of the 100 immigrants survived and were able to plant a crop the following spring.



The "Pilgrims" made their landing in the territory of the Wampanoag people. They took shelter in an Indian settlement that had been abandoned several years earlier because of a four-year epidemic that decimated the indigenous population. The epidemic had arrived years earlier, a result of contacts with European traders. The Wampanoag were likely frightened by the Europeans. They were also afraid of their rivals, the Narragansett Indians who wanted to invade from the south. The Wampanoag leader Massasoit chose to make peace with the Europeans and then helped them learn to survive in their new home.

In the fall of 1621, after the harvest, the Europeans invited their Wampanoag allies to a feast to celebrate the harvest and the gift of life. There were about 50 European settlers and about 90 Native Americans gathered for the feast. In a very tense situation, intercultural and interreligious collaboration was chosen as the best road to travel. The paintings of the first Thanksgiving are highly idealized. They don't tell the story of suffering and fear that form the background of the feast.

College-wide Quarantine

The number and rate of infections in Iowa and in Dubuque County is exploding. Across the country, there are more than one million new cases per week!

In the past two weeks, six members of the DWC Community have self-isolated for ten days as a result of positive tests for COVID-19; 1 on-campus and 5 off-campus. There have also been more than 17 on-campus and 7 off-campus members who were/are in quarantine.

To deal with the rapid spread of COVID-19, the Board of Administration has decided to place the full College on quarantine until the end of the semester. More information can be found in the attached COVID-19 Guidance #25.

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
Oct. 13-19	33	1	2	12	2
Oct. 20 - 26	18	0	0	3	0
Oct. 27 - Nov. 2	14	0	0	8	0
Nov. 3 - 9	30	1	1	10	0
Nov. 10 - 16	16	2	2	11	1
Nov 17- 23	22	3	5	24	2

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS*Fr. John Szukalski, SVD***Distance Learning For All Undergraduate & ESL Classes Effective Monday, November 23 Through Friday, December 11, 2020**

The Board of Administration met today to discuss the recent increase in COVID positive cases at Divine Word College, and the consequent quarantine and isolation of a significant number of staff, faculty, and students over the last few days. While our DWC protocols have been very effective over the last several months, this new development has prompted the need to implement more stringent regulations to protect the health and safety of our community and the ability to continue with essential college operations.

Effective Monday, November 23, all undergraduate and ESL classes will be conducted by distance learning only. No undergraduate or ESL classes are authorized for face-to-face delivery. This change in mode of delivery will remain in effect through the end of the academic semester / term on Friday, December 11, 2020.

- Faculty who opt to work remotely may take their webcam or other portable equipment home. Kindly notify the VPAA with a short email note listing any equipment taken off-campus during this period.
- Alternately, faculty are authorized to work from their on-campus offices. Faculty choosing this option should go directly to/from their office and strictly avoid contacting anyone, work with the office door closed, and not hold any in-person appointments. Faculty who do not have strong Wi-Fi at home, or who find working from home distracting, may find this option more feasible. Faculty may go through the food line but should eat lunch alone in their office. Those experiencing any symptoms, however, are not allowed on campus at all under any circumstance.
- No F-CAR forms are required and no PTO will be deducted so long as faculty are providing bona fide and verifiable distance learning opportunities for students through Zoom, Populi, or other platforms. In consultation with department chairs, faculty may opt for synchronous learning via Zoom or other platform at scheduled class times, or asynchronous learning by placing lessons, assignments, videos, and other content on Populi. Document lesson expectations for each class period on Populi, and maintain clear communication with students at all times.
- Students must comply with the lessons and assignments provided by their teachers. Students who fail to complete required assignments on time may receive lower or failing grades for those particular assignments.

Questions or concerns may be directed to the VPAA by email (jszukalski@dwci.edu). Thanks for your compliance and patience as we implement these distance learning protocols.

Annual Faculty Performance Evaluations: Self-Evaluation and Planning Goals Due December 1, 2020

In accord with the Divine Word College Policy Handbook (09.01), all undergraduate and ESL faculty are reminded that self-evaluations and annual planning goals are due to the respective Chair/Director by Tuesday, December 1, 2020. If necessary, individual faculty members may request extra time to submit these documents but these are due at the latest by Friday, December 11, 2020. The annual faculty evaluation/planning requirement does not apply to adjunct faculty, but are required for SVD faculty members who taught any course in the Spring 2020 or Fall 2020 Semesters. The goals of Annual Faculty Evaluations are to:

- Ensure that the College cultivates a faculty of outstanding quality, dedicated to excellence in teaching, professional engagement, and service;
- Foster a collegial environment among undergraduate and ESL faculty members and the administration to further the Mission of the College;
- Recognize faculty members' accomplishments;
- Encourage faculty members' continued professional development in the areas of effective teaching, scholarly and creative activities, and generous service;
- Assure equitable salary increases based on performance, and opportunities for eventual promotions in rank, and;
- Provide a just and positive approach for accountability and planning. (09.01.01)

Faculty Self-Evaluation: Provide a narrative self-evaluation addressing performance goals from previous year's Annual Plan (if applicable) and actual performance in each area of teaching effectiveness, professional engagement, and service (see 09.01.04)

Faculty Annual Plan: Provide specific performance goals related to teaching effectiveness, professional engagement, and service for the following academic year (see 09.01.05)

Senior Synthesis Capstone Presentations:

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Chapel

Mr. Wisno Elie – "Haiti's Independence Debt and the Earthquake of 2010"
An Intercultural Studies Capstone Presentation
ICS Capstone Instructor: Bro. Brian McLauchlin, SVD – Instructor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Sr. Hien Nguyen, LHC – "A New Approach to the Human Formation Program for the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Baria: A Renewal of the Understanding of Self-Awareness"
A Theology & Religious Studies Capstone Presentation
TRS Capstone Instructor – Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology

Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Chapel

Sr. Hong Pham, LHC – “Responding to the Challenges of Vietnamese Culture and Social Context: A Renewal of the Formation Program for the Novices of the Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Govap”

A Theology & Religious Studies Capstone Presentation

TRS Capstone Instructor – Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology

Sr. Tran Huyen Phan, OCist – “Who is God to Me? An Exploration of the Impact of the Images of God on the Prayerful and Spiritual Lives of the Vietnamese Catholics”

A Theology & Religious Studies Capstone Presentation

TRS Capstone Instructor – Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD – Assistant Professor of Theology

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

SVD Candidates Gathering

Just a reminder that a formation night for all the SVD candidates will be on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:30 P.M in the main chapel. Those students in quarantine will attend from the reserved choir loft. Welcome to all!

Thanksgiving Day

With COVID-19 affecting all of us in our daily lives, I am thankful to you—our dedicated faculty, staff, SVD members and all students—for your patience, understanding, support and prayers. I am mindful that Thanksgiving may look different for many of us this year; however, I hope each of us find time to give thanks for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us and our community here at DWC. I am grateful that we are blessed to celebrate a thanksgiving together as a community while millions of Americans across the United States hold a virtual gathering with their families and loved ones. Except those members in quarantine, I encourage the rest of the community to come together and share a thanksgiving meal at 5:30 P.M in the dining room after Thanksgiving mass. Please check the schedule posted on the Student Board for further information. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

THURSDAY, November 26th HAPPY THANKSGIVING

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (main Chapel) Thanksgiving Talk by Br. Brian McLauchlin, SVD.
10:00 AM	Christmas lights in the courtyard (Romans & volunteers)
Noon	Lunch
4:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eucharist (both main Chapel & Crypt)
5:30 PM	Dinner in the dining room

Advent Reconciliation

To help our community enter the advent season in preparation for Christmas, there will be an advent reconciliation service for students on Monday, November 30, at 7:30 pm in the main Chapel. The service will be guided by Br. Brian McLaughlin, SVD.

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Ms. Megan Sutton, LMHC

The Mental Health Benefits of Gratitude

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful and showing appreciation for what we have. At a time when many of us are struggling to adapt to a new normal, practicing gratitude is more important than ever.

Showing gratitude has the following mental health benefits:

- **Expressing gratitude can improve your mood.** People who regularly express gratitude for the positive things in their life are shown to be happier overall, leading to lower rates of stress and depression.
- **Showing gratitude can make you more optimistic.** Studies show that those who express gratitude regularly appear to have a more positive outlook on life.
- **Sharing gratitude can improve social bonds.** People have reported feeling more loved and more connected to others in their lives when they routinely practice gratitude or those around them practice gratitude.
- **Practicing gratitude can improve your physical health.** People who actively express gratitude tend to be more engaged in activities to take care of their physical health, like eating well and exercising. This leads to higher energy levels, better sleep and a stronger immune system, or the ability to fight off illness or infection.



When we practice gratitude on a regular basis, it not only impacts our mental and physical health, but those around us.

(Adapted from Nationwide Children's)

Happy Thanksgiving!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Knights of Columbus Scholarship available for SVD Candidates

The St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council in St. Charles, Illinois, is offering a \$500 scholarship to one SVD candidate studying at Divine Word College. This scholarship is available to both domestic and international SVD Candidates. If you are interested in applying for the scholarship, please complete the application that Len Uhal sent to you by email or contact him for the application. Submit the application to Patti McDermott in the Admissions Office by Sunday, November 29. Please put the application in mailbox 211 by Sunday night. The Scholarship Committee will review the applications on November 30 and select a recipient before December 3.

Monthly Mass for Vocations

Thank you to the St. Teresa of Calcutta formation group for preparing today's Mass for Vocations and to Sr. Paschaline Dzelimnyuy Kengran, SST, for sharing her vocation story during the Mass. The vocation team is filled with gratitude that the community supports our ministry with so many prayers. May God bless all Divine Word College students as you continue to grow in your vocations and serve God's people.

The Word Among Us

The vocation office staff put the new issue of *The Word Among Us* in student mailboxes yesterday. We also put a few copies in the SVD lounge and there are some extras in the vocation office. If you would like a copy in Spanish, please send an email to [Patti McDermott](mailto:Patti.McDermott@divine-word.org) and she will put one in your mailbox.

Hosted By:

Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD

Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSps

Characteristic Dimensions
— Part Three —
Communications

JOINUS!

Thursday,
November 26, 2020
@ 11am (CDT)/ 9am (PDT)
www.facebook.com/sdvocationsusa

Presented By:

Society of the Divine Word
www.sdvocations.org

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
www.sspss-usa.org



November 26-27	NO CLASSES – Thanksgiving Break
December 1	TRS/PHI/ICS Capstone Presentations
December 2	Advent Luncheon (CANCELLED)
December 3	TRS/PHI/ICS Capstone Presentations
December 4	Classes End (UG)
December 7-10	Final Exams (UG)
December 10	Employee Christmas Social (CANCELLED)
December 10	ESL Fall 2020 Term B – Classes End
December 11	ESL Fall 2020 Term B – End-of-Term Testing
December 12	Christmas Break begins



Divine Word College

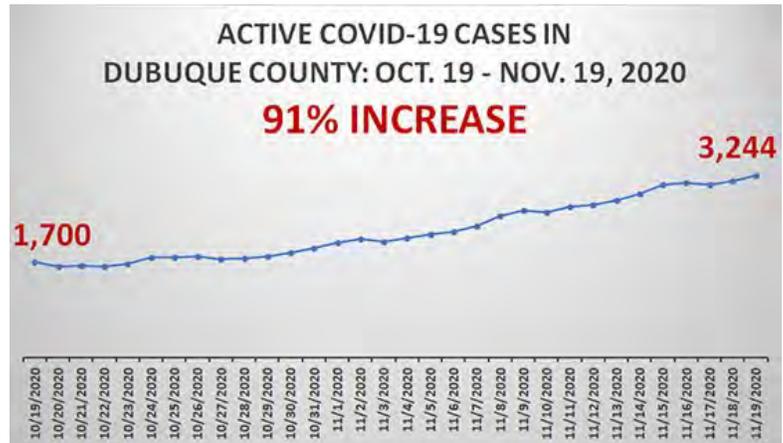
COVID-19 Guidance (#25)

November 20, 2020

Divine Word College, in coordination with state and local public health experts, is closely monitoring reports and recommendations from national and regional health departments regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.

The number and rate of infections in Iowa and in Dubuque County is exploding. Across the country, there are more than one million new cases per week!

As of today, there are 4 members of the DWC Community in isolation because of positive tests for COVID-19; 1 on-campus and 3 off-campus. There are also 15 on-campus and 6 off-campus members who are in quarantine.



COLLEGE-WIDE QUARANTINE

To deal with the rapid spread of COVID-19, the Board of Administration has decided to place the full College on quarantine until the end of the semester.

- **Faculty and students** are advised that classes and exams will be by distance learning only. Fr. John Szukalski has sent a memo to the faculty with fuller instructions.
- **Off-campus staff** should contact their supervisors for any necessary adjustment in work hours or place of work. In general, employees are to avoid one on one contacts with the on-campus community and with other off-campus employees. Use the telephone, email, and/or zoom.
- **On-campus residents** should **STAY ON CAMPUS** as much as possible. Exceptions should be cleared with the Dean of Students or the Rector. Travel should be limited to medical care, essential purchases, and supply work.
- **On-campus residents** should avoid one on one contacts with off-campus persons, and with other on-campus residents. Use phones, zoom and email. **WEAR MASKS AT ALL TIMES** when you are out of your own office or room. **KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE** even while wearing a mask.
- **In the dining room**, please **replace your facemask as soon as you finished eating**. Be more careful with watching social distance of 6ft. Otherwise, you may find yourself restricted to your private room for fourteen days!
- **In the gym**, please **wear a facemask while participating in a sport**. It can be done! (The girls volleyball state championships featured teams that wore facemasks throughout their games, and they played better volleyball than we do!) The gym is reserved to people who are playing a sport. No spectators. If possible, open the outside door for better ventilation.
- **Out of doors**, **continue to wear a facemask** if you are walking with someone, or if you are likely to encounter another person. If you are alone, outside, a facemask is optional.

By taking this decision, we hope to keep the community healthy enough to go on planned Christmas vacations.

STAY IN YOUR OFFICE, STAY IN YOUR ROOM, ZOOM

Questions? Suggestions?
Please contact me or one of the VPs.

Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD
President



QUARANTINE & ISOLATION

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. It also helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. Preventive steps are:

- Stay in your room
- Watch for fever (100.4F)—cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Stay away from others, especially members of the community at higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19.
- Try to use the bathroom during less busy times
- Wear a mask when leaving your room
- Avoid crowds—You can go and walk outside if you can stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Keep a social distancing of at least six feet wherever possible.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching any surfaces on the way to or from the restrooms.
- Use hand sanitizer when you cannot wash.
- Attend daily mass from the choir loft.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of the tissue and immediately wash your hands.

Self-Isolation is used to separate someone infected with COVID-19 from members of the community who are not infected. Preventive steps are:

- Stay in your room
- Use separated bathrooms that are marked for the men's dorms. A separate room on the third floor is reserved for showers for students who live in the main building.
- Receive wellness checks from Br. Mike Decker, our College Health Services Coordinator. Monitor your symptoms and temperature taken morning and evening. If you have an emergency warning symptom (including trouble breathing) seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Have food delivered to your room
- Avoid contact with other members of the community
- Do not share personal items like cups, towels, or utensils
- Wear a mask when leaving your room.
- Attend daily mass through Zoom.
- Trash, including food containers, should be closed into plastic garbage bags. They will be picked up regularly.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of the tissue and immediately wash your hands.

Any questions, contact Br. Mike Decker or the Dean Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD
(Information taken/adapted from CDC and WHO)