



# CLASS OF 2024

In May, Divine Word College honored the graduating class of 2024. The commencement speaker was the Most Rev. Pabilito M. Tagura, SVD, and the valedictory address was given by Sr. Francisca Doofan Aorakaa, SON. May these graduates be blessed with wisdom, courage, and strength as they move forward to the next phase of their lives.

## MAY 2024 GRADUATES



**Sr. Hilda Alonyo, LSMIG**

Kiryandongo, Uganda

B.A. Theology & Mission and B.A. Intercultural Studies

• *Plans after graduation?* After four and a half long years, I am excited to return home to Uganda, reunite with

my loved ones, and follow whatever ministry God has in store for me.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* I intend to approach everyone I minister to with a deep sense of humanity and recognize them as God's cherished children and acknowledge the goodness in them, regardless of their backgrounds or origins. Above all, I strive to be the best version of myself, as per God's creation.



**Sr. Francisca Doofan Aorakaa, SON**

Lessel Benue State, Nigeria

B.A. Philosophy and B.A. Theology & Mission

• *Plans after graduation?* I will return to my country, Nigeria, and I am willing to share what I have learned with my fellow sisters.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My faith has been strengthened and deepened through community activities, such as the formation program, ministries, classes, retreats, conferences, recollections, and meaningful Mission Sunday and Holy Triduum celebrations, which have helped me comprehend the profound meaning of what I am called to be.



**Sr. An Linh Thi Hoang, LHC-QN**  
Daclak Province, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *Plans after graduation?* I will return to my country and continue my ministry.

• *What is the greatest lesson you*

*learned at DWC?* The greatest lesson I learned at DWC is a willingness to accept differences from other cultures.



**Hung Cong Nguyen**

Originally from Vietnam and currently residing in Riverside, California

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *Plans after graduation?* I will enter the SVD Novitiate program in Chicago and continue discerning

God's call for me.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?*

Before, I thought a leader had to show authority and power and tell people what to do. I learned during my time at DWC that a good leader listens. To serve is not to be served.



**Long Hai Ngoc Nguyen**

Nha Trang, Vietnam

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *Plans after graduation?* I have been accepted to the SVD Novitiate and will continue to discern my vocation.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* I will try to strengthen myself by gaining more knowledge and building up my social skills, so I have a strong foundation for later ministries.



**Sr. Tram Huyen Thuy Nguyen, LHC-TD**

Buon Ma Thuot City, Vietnam

**B.A. Intercultural Studies**

• *Plans after graduation?* I plan to work toward a master's degree in special education.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?*

At Divine Word College, the greatest lesson I learned was the importance of serving others with humility, compassion, and dedication. Through the college's emphasis on mission work and community service, I gained a deeper understanding of the transformative power of selfless acts and the profound impact they can have on individuals and communities alike.



**Sr. Thoa Thi Pham, OP-BC**

Nam Dinh, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *Plans after graduation?* I am going to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California to earn a master's degree in pastoral theology.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* I will continue to improve what I have learned at DWC and be ready to serve God's people, especially those who are marginalized and poor.



**Frt. Engelbertus Salmon, SVD**

Manggarai Barat, Indonesia

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *Plans after graduation?* I will continue to study at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* Although each student at DWC is different in many ways, we are one in the call to live in Christ and bring His love to every heart.

*Congratulations*  
**GRADUATES**





**Sr. Thao Thanh Thi Tran, LHC-KT**  
Buôn Ma Thuot City, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will go back to Vietnam to spend some time with my family before returning to my congregation and waiting for my assignment.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* Living in a multicultural community has impacted my faith in ways that I appreciate the people around me, and their shared culture has helped me realize that we are brothers and sisters walking in the same journey as missionary disciples.



**Marc Anderson Vaval**  
Petit Goâve, Haiti

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will study nursing at NICC.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* Divine Word College shares the world with you in a single campus. My experience here taught me how to connect with people from different backgrounds and build a community based on mutual respect and understanding.



**Sr. Magnouwedeou Rose-Ange Woulaou, PSP**  
Kemerida, Togo

**B.A. Intercultural Studies**

• *Plans after graduation?* I am looking to do Optional Practical Training before continuing with my master's degree.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My experience at DWC has deepened my faith by exposing me to diverse perspectives and cultures, enriching my understanding of God's work in each person as an image of God.



**Fr. Telesphore Dusabe**  
Gakenke, Rwanda

**A.A. Intercultural Studies**

• *Plans after graduation?* Getting experience on how the Catholic Church in America works by serving as the parish priest at Holy Rosary Cluster for the Archdiocese of Dubuque in northeast Iowa.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* My way to share my faith is to be faithful to Jesus Christ, who called me to the priesthood.



**Uriel Rhys Briones**  
Ottawa, Illinois

**Certificate in Pre-Theology**

• *Plans after graduation?* My plan is to continue to enrich my spiritual life; I want to continue this journey with complete trust in God's providence and will for me. I can be within my home community or elsewhere where God may lead me, but I pray that I can be part of ministry duties to whomever I'm asked to serve.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* Perseverance, hope, charity, team building, genuine respect of others, also learning how to handle stress and anxiety. But above all these the greatest lesson is learning how to completely surrender to God, trusting in God's wisdom and goodness. God's love is real, abundant, ever present...and must be shared.



**Hoang Son Vu**  
Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in California

**Certificate of Pre-Theology**

• *Plans after graduation?* I will fly back to Vietnam for six weeks to celebrate my brother's wedding then return to California. Then I will continue with the SVD by entering the Novitiate.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* The greatest lesson I learned is my English skills. I moved to the U.S. in 2016. I learned a lot from people like Fr. Tom Aschman, SVD and Bro. Mike Decker, SVD and other native English speakers. In three years here, I learned more English language and American culture than I did in the five years I lived in California. It's essential for me.





**Sr. Scovia Okello Apiyo, LSMIG**  
Gulu, Uganda

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I have been engaged with the ministries of my congregation.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* I plan to share my faith with others by advocating and uplifting each person's dignity first before offering them any services to easily embrace the divinity of Christ in them.



**Antz-Carly Cadet**  
Cerca-la-Source, Haiti

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* Since graduation, I have been studying at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. This summer, I

will join the SVD Novitiate as I continue discerning God's call to religious life.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* At DWC, the greatest lesson I learned was that no one is alike, yet everyone is the same, and we are called to journey together as God's beloved children.



**Sr. Paschaline Kengran Dzelimnyuy, SST**  
Bamenda City, Cameroon

**B.A. Philosophy**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I plan to be instrumental in the education of the people in my country

and around the world at all levels.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* The greatest lesson I learned at DWC is to live unity in diversity, appreciate cultures different from mine and to love all people because they carry with them the image of God. I will forever remain grateful to DWC for the person I am today.



**Sr. Tinh Le, LHC-V**  
Vinh, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I have been studying for my master's degree in social work at Marywood University in Scranton, PA.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* It was caring for the needs of others as the DWC community and its benefactors have been doing for students through their generosity and care.



**Sr. Dung Kim Thi Mai, LHC-TV**  
Buon Me Thuat, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* Post-graduation, my plan is to further my studies at Loyola Marymount University in California, focusing on pastoral ministry.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My experience at DWC has profoundly impacted my faith, molding me into a missionary dedicated to serving the underprivileged with love and fostering a sense of community.



**Sr. Angela Onyeche Omola, SON**  
Ugbokolo, Nigeria

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I will go for perpetual vows in August. By September, my congregation will send me to Jos, Nigeria for the formation program.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* As a future formator, I will share my faith with others by incorporating all that I learned from Divine Word College into my role. To create an environment for those who are interested in sisterhood to explore and deepen their faith journey.



**Sr. Tuyet Thi Pham, OP-BC**  
Ninh Sa, Vietnam

**B.A. Intercultural Studies**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I am going to achieve a master's degree in theological studies with a concentration in sacred Scripture.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* During my time at Divine Word College, I have learned that DWC is a place for connecting and sharing the whole world.



**Sr. Dien Thi Vu, LHC-V**  
Vinh Province, Vietnam

**B.A. Theology & Mission**

• *What have you been up to since graduation?* I am pursuing a master's degree in education at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan.

• *How did your experience at DWC impact your faith?* When I enrolled in theology classes, I discovered God in many different ways. For example, through knowledge, I could learn how to reflect deeper on recognizing God's love and applying it in my daily life. I am grateful for that.