

Let's Celebrate our

Class

OF 2021

Eighteen men and women graduated from Divine Word College this year. Their hard work, dedication and focus during a time that was anything but ordinary is to be commended.

Congratulations to each and every one!



Mr. Hoang Duy Khanh Do

Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in California

- B.A. Philosophy and Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I applied to the Society of Divine Word Novitiate. I will spend my summer at an SVD community

in Riverside, California.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* The greatest lesson is to be a servant and a companion, rather than a “leader” to others.



Mr. Wisno Elie

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

- B.A. Intercultural Studies
- Minor in Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will continue my formation with the Divine Word Missionaries as a novice in Techny.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* When I first came to DWC, I was impressed by the way the SVD Priests and Brothers live. Coming from a high-context culture, it was a shock for me to see the SVDs collaborating with students during activities and eating with them in the same dining room. The formation program also helped me with personal development and prepared me to serve society in any aspect that might come my way.



Sr. Hien Thi Nguyen, LHC

Ba Ria - Vung Tau Province, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Religious Studies
- Minor in Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* Since graduation, I have been continuing my graduate work at St. John’s School of Theology and Seminary in Minnesota.

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

The greatest lesson I have learned at DWC is the example of the humble service of the SVD priests and brothers as the image of God’s service. I also learned how to live, interact and work in harmony with people within a culturally diverse environment. With self-awareness, I learned to be open with self-honesty to everyone, especially to the spiritual direction that helps me overcome many difficulties and enrich my religious life.



Mr. Nam Nhat Nguyen

Sioux City, Iowa

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I will go home to spend some time with my family and continue discerning my vocation.
- *How do you plan to share your faith*

with others in the future? I will share my faith with others by continuing to live and work with everyone with a sincere heart every day of my life.



Mr. Truong An Duc Nguyen

Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in Seattle, Washington

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to go to novitiate.
- *How has your experience at DWC*

impacted your faith? I learned more about the church and her sacraments as essential nourishment for my faith journey.



Mr. Tuan Hoang-Minh Nguyen

Originally from Vietnam, currently residing in Dallas, Texas

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* My plan is to spend time with my family during the

summer before going to Techny for the novitiate.

- *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?*

I understand that in order to have the ability to share my faith and turn someone’s heart toward Christ, I have to live a godly life, that is, to live my faith faithfully. I must constantly pray for God’s guidance as I’m following God’s call.



Sr. Xuyen Thi Nguyen, OP

Hai Phong, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Religious Studies
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I am pursuing a Master of Arts degree in ministry at St. John’s School of Theology and Seminary in Minnesota.

- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?*

Studying at DWC has deepened my understanding of God and the Church’s mission by exploring new aspects of the Bible, the Church’s history, the Church’s teaching, psychology and pastoral care. Through that, my faith is nourished and strengthened.



Mr. Friday Onoja

Nigeria

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Theology & Religious Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I look forward to beginning my novitiate year in August.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* One of the most important lessons is to love. The vocation journey is a challenging one, but if we don’t love what we are called into, there is no way we can become a missionary. And when we do, God’s grace will lead us and sustain us in every step of our journey.



Sr. Hong Thuy Pham, LHC

Can Tho City, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Religious Studies
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I will continue to study for a master’s degree at Boston College.
- *How do you plan to share your faith*

with others in the future? I really want to share what I learned at DWC with the sisters in my community and the people I meet in my ministry. I want to show them how God loves them and help them strengthen their faith in God so they can live their lives happily and enjoy it even in the midst of difficulties.



Sr. Huyen Tran Chau Phan, OCist

Dong Nai, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Religious Studies
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I will come back to California for my ministry to help some Vietnamese communities

in San Francisco and study more about Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center Burlingame in Burlingame, California.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* I think the DWC community is like drawing a picture of how heaven looks. Indeed, the atmosphere of people from different ethnicities, backgrounds, cultures and nations at DWC opened my mind to have a bigger picture of the kingdom of God with acceptance and respect for other people who are different from us. The program provides a basic understanding of our Catholic theology that prepares us for our faith and ministry in the future.



Sr. Kim Cuc Thi Tran, LHC

Vietnam

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Theology & Religious Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* Since graduating from Divine Word College

in December, I have been studying at St. John’s University in Minnesota.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* For me, Divine Word College was a good environment to live and study. Not only did I get a good education in the field that I need, but my religious life was also cultivated by the strong faith life of each member of the Divine Word College community.



Sr. Tuyen Thi Thanh Tran, FMI

Ban Me Thuot, Vietnam

- B.A. Intercultural Studies
- Minor in Theology & Religious Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I have applied to a few master's programs and I am waiting for results. I hope to receive good news and continue my studies. If not, I

will work in my community for a year before going back to Vietnam.

- *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* What I have perceived, especially in DWC, I will assuredly use to serve, love and be a witness for my faith to all people through my encounters in my ministries.



Mr. Phuc Hong Truong

Morrow, Georgia

- B.A. Philosophy
- Minor in Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I plan to continue my studies in a different field.

- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* It has helped me to know more about my faith.



Mr. Duc Minh Vuong

Vinh Long, Vietnam

- B.A. Intercultural Studies
- Minor in Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to continue discerning my vocation.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* I appreciated all formators who accompanied me on the road of my faith, and other experiences. I could see exemplary lives of prayer and service from our older SVDs.



Frt. Thinh Quoc Cao, SVD

Ha Tinh, Vietnam

- A.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I will continue to pursue my SVD vocation by studying theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in the spirit of listening to God's call.

- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* Living in a diverse community could be challenging, however, the experience strongly strengthened my faith as the community gave me a sense of belonging, which raised my awareness that we are all brothers and sisters, all created in the same image of God.



Frt. Joao Manuel Domingus Pinda Neto, SVD

Nzeto, Zaire, Angola

- A.A. Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will move on to theological studies at Catholic

Theological Union, which is the next step of my formation.

- *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* The greatest lesson I learned at DWC is the sensitivity required to respect cultural differences. I also learned a sense of service, simplicity, cooperation and responsibility from the SVD community.



Frt. Pedro Francisco Saveia, SVD

Cazengo, Angola

- A.A. Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will go to Chicago to continue my formation at the Catholic

Theological Union.

- *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* As a missionary and a future priest, I want to announce the good news in the future wherever my congregation sends me. And I will also denounce injustices and work with the marginalized by sharing what I learned during my formation.



Mr. Tung Cao Vu

Kien Giang, Vietnam

- A.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to go to the SVD Novitiate in Chicago.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* I think serving the poor is the aspect that impacts me the most.

