

We are family

Religious congregations share founder, resources, mission



The Vocation Teams for Divine Word Missionaries and Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters sponsored a discernment retreat in December for people who are interested in religious life. DWC Counselor Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS is seen here in the bottom left.

The term “family” has a lot of meanings. Some families are related by blood, some are connected solely by love and still others – like the Arnoldus Family – are bonded by a common religious charism.

In 1875, a German priest named Arnold Janssen inaugurated a Mission House in Steyl, Holland, and established a missionary order of priests and brothers called the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). Then in 1889, Father Janssen founded a missionary order for religious women named the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS). Finally, in 1896 he founded a cloistered branch called the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (SSpSAP or “Pink Sisters”) who devoted themselves to prayer and perpetual adoration for the missions. Today, the three congregations continue to serve God’s people and share their resources to strengthen and uplift one another in the pursuit of their common mission. This year, Sr. Aprilia Untarto,

SSpS, is sharing her professional skills as the counselor at Divine Word College. Several SSpS sisters have studied ESL at Divine Word College through the years and this January, the College welcomed the first SSpS candidate to enroll in the undergraduate program.



Sr. Aprilia and the other SSpS sisters at the College join the SVDs for weekly bible sharing, socials, recollections and conferences. “It feels like I work with my own siblings, my brothers and sisters,” Sr. Aprilia said. The three congregations founded by St. Arnold naturally gravitate toward each other in

ministry. The SSpS and Divine Word Missionaries often establish mission houses that are close in proximity to combine their efforts at mission sites. Since the Pink Sisters are a contemplative order, their physical interactions with the other members of the Arnoldus Family are limited, but they exchange mutual prayers. The three congregations established a Joint Immigration Venture in the United States to promote justice for immigrants and refugees. The SSpS Sisters and Divine Word Missionaries serve as active workers for the initiative and the Pink Sisters support them through prayer. “Fr. Arnold Janssen intentionally established our congregations as brothers and sisters and co-workers,” said Fr. Thang Hoang, Rector at Divine Word College. “We not only share the same founder but also the same charism and mission focus. The interculturality of these congregations is the main factor that keeps us connected.”

2021 support was amazing!



Mark Singsank, Development Office

Every day we receive donations from across the country to help our students with their education. Most Divine Word College students require 100% scholarship assistance to attend because their families, religious orders or dioceses have limited finances.

It’s because of you, our students are able to receive an education at Divine Word. Thank you very much! This past calendar year, you gave more than \$2.8 million to help our students. Your gifts came in all amounts, for a variety of reasons and through various methods. In recent years, more and more of you have sent gifts from your

traditional IRAs, gifts of appreciated stock and donor advised funds. These are all great ways for you to help Divine Word students and to help you when it comes to tax time. If you haven’t used any of those avenues to make your gifts to Divine Word, please contact your financial advisor or you can call me and I can help get you started.

I’m humbled every day at the generosity and kindness you show to Divine Word students and missionaries. I’m honored and privileged to know you and to be able to help you with your giving.

You are truly amazing!