



In This Issue:

COVID Dashboard	2
Welcome Fr. Simon	4
Feast of St. Arnold	6
Welcome Mr. Hoc Mai	9
MLK Day Celebration	9
COVID Guidance	
#36	addendum
ISOLATION	addendum

Birthday Corner

January

- 11 Sr. Diem Hong Ngo, IHM
- 15 Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM
- 15 Fr. Linh Pham, SVD
- 17 Khoa Kinh Bui

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Grateful for DWC

Recently a benefactor of the college wrote to us from Minnesota after reading a copy of our newsletter, DWC World. He expressed deep appreciation for the encouragement he received from us sixty years ago! Here is what he wrote:



Dear Divine Word,

About sixty years ago, when I was attending a Catholic grade school, I had a pen pal relationship for a couple years with a young man who was a student at Divine Word Seminary. I don't remember his name and I never kept the letters, but his thoughts stirred me to consider the missionary life too.

Although I didn't pursue that specific life, I have lived a socially conscious life and I am very spiritual with a dependence and need for Jesus. I feel now that those letters, maybe, positively influenced my life.

I know there isn't any way to reconnect with that unknown young man. Maybe we'll meet in heaven. I just wanted to say "Thank you for caring about a boy, me!"

God bless you all. I look forward to receiving your newsletter and I'll be thinking of my unknown, and now probably deceased, pen pal as I read of the deeds of your graduate missionaries.



I lift a prayer of thanksgiving for your work.

Most sincerely,
David Elling

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I love that he addressed his note to us with the words “Dear Divine Word...” It reminds me that while we each have a responsibility to call others to a closer following of Jesus, we also have a collective identity as “Divine Word.” I wonder how many people that we, as Divine Word College, will influence this semester. Sixty years from now someone may be writing to give thanks.



DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed	Booster
2020-2021	913	50	50	50	129	0
August 1- Sept. 4	231	0	0	0	4	0
Sept. 5 - Oct. 2	78	0	0	0	2	0
Oct. 3 - 30	105	0	0	0	0	12
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6	21	1	1	0	0	1
Nov. 7 - Dec. 31	71	0	1	1	0	87
Jan. 1 - 8	163	23	23	1	0	2

With the return of faculty, staff, students and SVD members to DWC, COVID-19 has also come along. Our extensive testing, with the “instant” antigen tests and the more sensitive PCR saliva tests, has revealed 23 persons with a COVID infection. Happily, they have not experienced serious symptoms.

Currently there are 8 persons isolating on campus. The other 15 persons do not live on campus or have completed their isolation period over the past weekend.

What can you do to help prevent the further spread of infections?

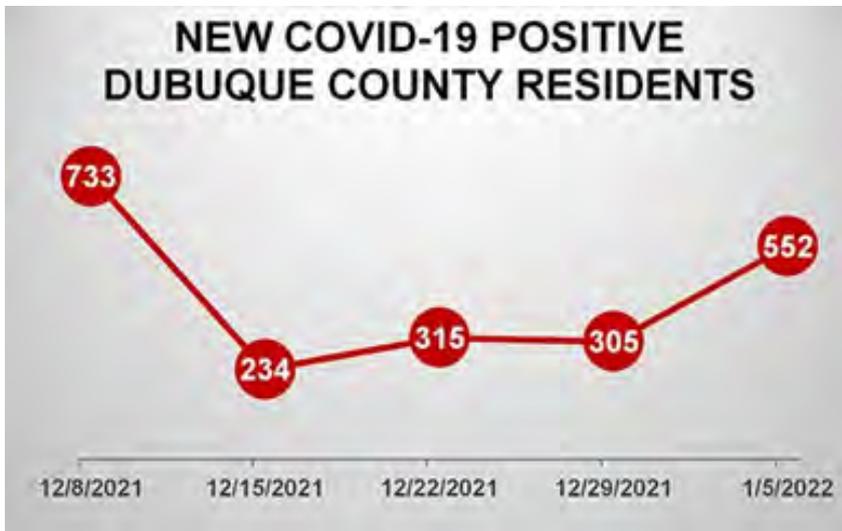
1. **Get tested** as soon as possible if you feel any symptoms: sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever etc. The college has plenty of PCR tests available, and will have more rapid antigen tests in a week or so. In the meantime, rapid tests are also available at Walgreens on JFK Road, and at Lab Elite at Kennedy Mall. Information is available at <https://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov/565/Local-COVID-19-Testing-Options>.
2. **Wear a mask!** Masks help reduce COVID infections, but they also reduce the spread of colds and the flu!
3. **Get vaccinated or boosted** if you have not yet done so. Br. Mike has information available on where and when you can get a shot. You can also find information at <https://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov/567/COVID-19-Vaccinations>.
4. **Avoid crowds of people** if you do not know their vaccination status. (The DWC community is 98% vaccinated, and two thirds or more have received a booster.)
5. **Fans with filters** attached have been placed in most classrooms and many offices. Leave them on at all times. They help reduce the amount of COVID, flu and cold virus in the air.

The most recent DWC COVID-19 Guidance (#36) is attached. I have also included a copy of some clarifications of the DWC guidelines for isolation of those who have become infected with COVID-19.

Isolation and Quarantine. Isolation is a time of separation for those who have become infected with COVID-19. Quarantine is a time of separation for those who have come into close exposure to COVID-10.

The CDC now recommends a shortened time of isolation because scientific research has demonstrated that the majority of COVID transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

The CDC also recommends that *quarantine is not necessary* for those who have received their booster shot, or who have been vaccinated within the past six months.



The number of residents of Dubuque County who have tested positive has risen rapidly since the end of December. The number of infections is expected to continue rising in the coming weeks.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 20% of all county residents (21,135 confirmed cases) have suffered a COVID-19 infection. More information is available at: <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/1649/Coronavirus-COVID-19-Pandemic>



Departure of Fr. Aris Martin SVD

With some sadness, I inform the Divine Word College Community that Fr. Aris Martin SVD will not be teaching in the new semester. Having completed his doctorate degree at the prestigious Jesuit University of Santa Clara in May of 2021, he returned to Divine Word College to prepare his dissertation for publication and to begin teaching at DWC in January 2022.



However, the unexpected deaths of both his Auntie and his brother, within months of one another, have been a very painful blow for him and his family.

Aris has reported feeling emotionally exhausted both because of the deaths in his family and because of the heavy work required for him to complete his doctoral studies. He requested an opportunity to engage in pastoral ministry for some time to prepare himself to set out on a long-term career as a researcher, scholar and instructor.

Fr. Aris is returning to the Philippines where he can be closer to his family and where he can immerse himself in the kind of pastoral work that will give further depth and texture to his study of Filipino Contextual Theology.

Fr. Aris asked me to express his appreciation for the support and understanding that the DWC community has extended to him in the past years and recent months.

Welcome to Fr. Simon Thoi Hoang SVD



Fr. Simon has arrived from Memphis to join the Formation Team. He will work as the Spiritual Life Coordinator, helping to organize the work of the Spiritual Directors. We are grateful for his willingness to accept this new challenge.

Fr. Simon is a 1999 graduate of DWC and professed vows as a member of the Society in 2000. After completing an M.Div. degree and an M.A. in spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, he professed final vows and was ordained in 2007. In his graduate work, he focused on the themes of reconciliation and healing in response to his own experience of leaving Vietnam as a refugee and spending two years in a refugee camp in Hong Kong.

Until recently, Simon served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Memphis, Tennessee, gathering together parishioners from the Vietnamese, Hispanic and English-speaking Catholic community. He has some family members in Memphis and also in his hometown of Hue, Vietnam.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

Applications for Promotion in Academic Rank SRP Submission Deadline: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Eligible full-time undergraduate and ESL faculty may apply for promotion in academic rank upon completion of the stipulated minimum years of service. Faculty members applying for a promotion in rank must prepare a Service Report Portfolio (SRP) documenting achievement of promotion criteria for submission to the Chair of the Faculty Promotions & Awards Committee (Bro. Tony Kreinus, SVD) no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Timeline:

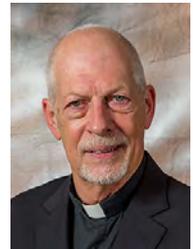
- February 1 – Service Report Portfolio submission deadline to the Chair of the Faculty Promotions & Awards Committee
- March 1 – Faculty Promotions & Awards Committee report and recommendation submission deadline to the Vice President for Academic Affairs
- March 15 – Vice President for Academic Affairs recommendation submission deadline to the College President
- April 1 – College President provides any formal recommendation in favor of promotion in rank to the Chair of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee
- Early May – Full Board of Trustees consideration of applications for promotion in academic rank recommended by the College President at its regularly scheduled Spring meeting.

Any formally approved promotion in rank and associated pay increase granted by the Board of Trustees become effective at the beginning of the next academic year. Consult the DWC Policy Handbook 9.03 and 9.04 for further details and procedures. All eligible undergraduate and ESL faculty are highly encouraged to apply!

Faculty Professional Development

Fr. Sam Cunningham SVD, Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted professional development funding to attend the following online courses for continuing education units as offered through the Professional Education Systems Institute (PESI):

- Mindfulness Certification Course (January 11-12, 2022) – 12.5 CEUs
- Psychopharmacology: Essential Information for Mental Health Professionals (January 20, 2022) – 6.25 CEUs
- Medical & Recreational Marijuana for Mental Health and Healthcare Professionals (February 11, 2022) – 6.25 CEUs.



Bro. Brian McLaughlin SVD, Instructor of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted professional development funding to attend the following online course as offered through the Professional Education Systems Institute (PESI):

- Mindfulness Certification Course (January 11-12, 2022)



St. John's School of Theology & Seminary @ Collegeville MN

Fr. Michael Patella, OSB, Professor of Theology and Rector of St. John's Seminary in Collegeville Minnesota, will be visiting Divine Word College on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Fr. Patella will be available throughout the afternoon to speak with any students interested in the possibility of attending St. John's University for graduate studies. He will help address any questions about degree programs, the application process, accommodations, and scholarship opportunities. Those students who met with Ms. Donelle Poling, Admissions Director at St. John's, may follow-up on their interests with Fr. Patella.



Are faculty evaluated throughout a program assessment process?

No. A program assessment is not intended to evaluate faculty, but to evaluate and examine a program. Faculty performance is evaluated via other measures, such as faculty evaluations or annual faculty reports, but never through a program assessment process. Evaluating a program and assessing it is a process that only aims at examining and improving what is currently in place.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Welcome Back!

It is so exciting to have you back safe and sound! As classes begin, I want to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students, SVD members, staff, and faculty of the Divine Word College. Let us begin this new academic and formation year with new energies and new hopes. I wish you a successful, fulfilling, and safe Spring semester.

Formation Meeting

Formation group meetings will resume as usual. Formators will provide you with further information.

Community services, work-study, and other activities also resume as usual. Please check the Student Board for more information and contact Ms. Karen Young or your supervisor if you have any questions.

Feast of St. Arnold Janssen

On Saturday, January 15, 2022, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Arnold Janssen, founder of the three congregations (Divine Word Missionaries (SVD), Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS), and Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (SSpSAP). There will be a Solemn Eucharist at 11:00 A.M, with live streaming through ZOOM for those in isolation and a special lunch follows immediately in the dining room. Please remember in your prayer three religious congregations. Semi-formal attire is expected.



Please be aware that 8 A.M. Mass is cancelled on Saturday.

Ministry Practicum

All scheduled ministries will resume Sunday, January 16. Early dinner for those students involved in ministries will be served at 5:30 P.M.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

New and returning ESL students are required to attend Liturgy Prep in Room 107 at 1:00-1:40 pm on Thursday, January 13, 2022 - Dr. Seo Hyun Park will offer an ESL orientation where you will learn about ESL tutoring program, vocabulary handbooks, promotion policies, and more.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Welcome Students

While being excited to see all our returning students back at Divine Word College after the Christmas break, we warmly welcome 15 new students to our Divine Word College community. They are:

SVD Candidates

Joseph Simbre	Berkley, CA
Hoa Kim Pham	Houston, TX
Miguel Romo Romo	Mexico (While not a new student to DWC, Miguel is now an SVD candidate)

SSpS Candidate

Ae Pa You Paw (Mu Mu)	North St. Paul, MN
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Religious Sisters

Sr. Thuong Thi Pham, LHC	Vietnam
Sr. Dao Thi Ho, LHC	Vietnam
Sr. Nam Thi Nguyen, LHC	Vietnam
Sr. Duyen Thi Duong, LHC	Vietnam
Sr. Yvette Muyeere Shey, SST	Cameroon

Diocesan Priests/Male Religious

Fr. Roberto Carlos Alvargenga Henriquez	El Salvador
Fr. Huy Huu Quoc Nguyen	Vietnam
Fr. Khoi Huu Nguyen	Vietnam
Fr. Cuong Quoc Phung	Vietnam
Fr. Minh Huu Nguyen, CM	Vietnam
Deacon Ngoc Van Ngo, CM	Vietnam

Lay Off-Campus Student

Suyoung Oh	Dubuque, IA
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New Students

All new students need to visit the Admissions Office to see both Carolyn Waechter and Patti McDermott. Carolyn will assist all new international students with visa information. She needs to make sure all your immigration documents are in order and make copies for our records. Carolyn will also assist all new domestic students with financial aid questions and paperwork. Patti will work with all new students to make sure we have original copies of your educational documents and baptismal and confirmation certificates (for SVD candidates). **ALL NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY!**

The Word Among Us

All students should have received a copy of the January issue of The Word Among Us. The vocation office has a few additional copies in English and Spanish. If you still need one, please stop by the vocation office while supplies last.

Vocation Directors

All of the vocation directors are on campus this week. At least three times a year (August, January and May), they gather as a team at Divine Word College to meet, plan vocation events and be a presence on the campus. Feel welcome to connect with any of the vocation team members if you have ideas on how to further our vocation ministry as we help young people discern their vocations and decide if coming to Divine Word College as an SVD candidate is the best option for them. The team greatly appreciates referrals from current Divine Word College students—thank you to those who have made referrals in the past. Some of the vocation directors will leave the campus soon to continue their ministry of reaching out to young adults around the country. Please keep us all in your prayers.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

DWC employees,

Divine Word College will continue to monitor and test for COVID19 throughout the 2022 spring semester. To do this, we are asking that all employees participate in COVID19 testing over the next 14 weeks. Testing will help us determine whether we have COVID19 circulating within the employee community. We will use a testing schedule similar to the fall semester. Going in alphabetical order by last name, we will test 3-4 employees per week. Please see weekly schedule below to determine which week you should take your COVID19 test.

Note: if you are unvaccinated, you must test weekly

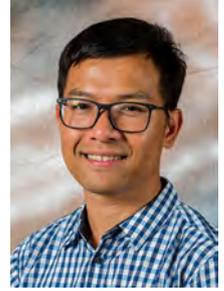
You can use the BinaxNOW test (nose swab) or PCR (spit) test here at DWC or you can be tested off campus. Please send your test results to Mr. Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations.

COVID19 Testing for Week 1 begins on Sunday, January 16.

Week 1	A-Ca	Jan. 16-Jan. 22
Week 2	Ci-Co	Jan. 23-Jan. 29
Week 3	D-Flor	Jan. 30-Feb. 5
Week 4	Floy-Ga	Feb. 6-Feb.12
Week 5	Gh-Heib	Feb. 13-Feb.19
Week 6	Heit-K	Feb. 20-Feb. 26
Week 7	L-M	Feb. 27-Mar. 5
Week 8	O-Pa	Mar. 6-Mar. 12
Week 9	Pe-R	Mar. 13-Mar. 19
Week 10	S-T	Mar. 20-Mar. 26
Week 11	U-Va	Mar. 27-Apr. 2
Week 12	Ve-Wil	Apr. 3-Apr. 9
Week 13	Win-X	Apr. 10-Apr. 16
Week 14	Y-Z	Apr. 17-Apr. 23

Welcome Mr. Hoc Mai!

Divine Word College is excited to announce that we recently hired Mr. Hoc Mai as a Maintenance Worker as of January 1, 2022. You may recall that Hoc Mai worked here several years ago when he was Brother Hoc Mai. While he is no longer a member of the SVD community, he will continue to serve the Divine Word Community through his work in the maintenance department. Hoc Mai will work closely with Bro. Vinh to maintain the facilities and grounds. If you see Hoc Mai please say hello and welcome him back to Divine Word College.



JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

On Monday, January 17, we will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day. As part of our celebration, we will remember Dr. King at Vespers on Sunday, as well as our morning liturgy on Monday. During lunch on Monday, we will play the iconic “I have a Dream Speech” by Dr. King in 1963.



There will also be a special, live-stream event sponsored by the Dubuque Community Schools beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 17. Since we have liturgy at 8:00, you can at least enjoy the first 25 minutes of this event. Please visit <https://www.dbqschools.org/district/community/facesandvoices/> for more information.



Divine Word College

COVID-19 Guidance (#36)

January 3, 2022

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 COVID-19. Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.

As we begin the January semester....

TESTING – During the first "orientation" week, January 3-8, all members of the DWC community (students, faculty, staff, SVD residents) should:

- Take a *BinaxNow* rapid antigen test (or a similar test) as a fast screen for COVID-19 infections.
- AND take a saliva PCR test (spit test) to be assured that they are not carrying the COVID-19 virus.
- AND report vaccinations and test results to Mr. Steve Winger (employees) or Fr. Long Phi Nguyen (SVDs and students).

Tests can be arranged with Br. Mike or at local pharmacies, etc.

ISOLATION – If you test positive, a minimum of **five days** of isolation are required.

- If you do not live on campus, please stay home.
- If you do live on campus, you should remain in your room. Meals will be brought to you. Restrooms will be separated according to the need for isolation.
- If at the **end of five days you test negative** and you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving, you can return to usual college activities. For an additional five days, you must wear a well-fitting facemask at all times, and you should not eat in the DWC dining room.
- If at the end of five days you still test positive, or still have a fever, you should continue in isolation for an additional five days, or until your symptoms subside.

FACEMASKS – are required for everyone until at least January 15.

- In the chapel always.
- In the college generally whenever in the presence of someone else.
- Facemasks are not required in the dining room or when out of doors.

DINING ROOM – The following guidelines are in effect until at least January 15.

- Facemasks are not required when eating or drinking.
- Off-campus persons should not eat in the dining room.
- Unvaccinated persons should not eat in the dining room.

VACCINATION or WEEKLY TESTING –

- **All students and all on-campus residents must be vaccinated and boosted** for COVID-19. (Exceptions can be considered for medical or other reasons.)
- **All off-campus employees are strongly urged to be vaccinated and boosted** for COVID-19.
- **Those who are not vaccinated** should test for COVID-19 infection **each week**.

Fr. Tom Ascheman SVD
President

Isolation

If you test positive for Covid-19, you must spend five days in isolation, apart from the community.

1. First 5 days in your room – Use the designated restrooms and shower rooms. Your meals will be delivered to your door.

2. After the first five days –

- *IF YOU HAVE NO SYMPTOMS*, you may leave your room for normal activities. If quick tests are available, please take one to confirm you no longer have virus.
- *IF YOU STILL HAVE SYMPTOMS*, you must remain in your room until your symptoms resolve.

3. The second five days –

- You must wear a mask at ALL times outside of your room.
- Do not eat in the dining room (because you must remove your mask.) You can gather your food and take it to your room to eat, or to another private place.

4. After ten days – you are free from isolation, *if you have no symptoms*.

(Counting the days of isolation – your test date is day zero. Then count five days. On the sixth day you may be able to return to regular activities.)