

“To proclaim the Good News is the first and greatest act of love of neighbor.”

-St. Arnold Janssen SVD

the DWWC

World

Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries

Spring 2018



Did You Know?

Pope Francis will have the opportunity to meet three members of the Divine Word College community this summer during the SVD General Chapter near Rome.

Father John Szukalski, SVD, VP-Academic Affairs, will once again serve as secretary for the worldwide conference held every six years. Mr. Len Uhal, VP-Admissions, along with Bro. Mike Decker, SVD, representing SVD Brothers in North and South America, will also attend.

The Pontiff will actually meet with all the SVDs in attendance on June 22.

Missionary Ministry of Music

Jill Heitzman is going to miss them. The Class of '18 was rich in talent. The director of liturgical music counted on half of them as her core group of singers and musicians to perform at DWC's Masses.

“Music liturgy really is a ministry and so much a part of formation,” Heitzman said. “They share their gifts and talents with the community and in that way help the community celebrate the Mass.”

Some students come to the college aware of their musical talent. Others discover it after they arrive. All, at one time or another experience this special ministry of music. At the beginning of each school year, Heitzman begins identifying a pool of perhaps 15 students to rotate among the daily and special Masses. Sometimes she comes across truly exceptional talent, as in the case of Dung Nguyen, who studied piano and violin before coming to DWC. He has since become an even more accomplished musician, developing his skills as an accompanist. He also served as Heitzman's work-study student, assisting her by preparing for each Mass and conducting rehearsals.



“For me music ministry is a gift that God gives to me,” said Dung, who is going on to the SVD Novitiate at Techny. “I can develop it and use it to serve God's people and to let people also see this gift from God in me.”

Music is truly a universal language. For a missionary, it offers an invaluable way to connect with people in other cultures. Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD, loved to play guitar and sing when he was a student at DWC.

Before returning to the college as assistant dean of students, he was on mission in Chile.

“I remember my first year or so, my Spanish was not so good, but I could play music, so the people sang and I played,” he said. “It brought us together without speaking the language.”

Luckily for Heitzman, the Good Lord seems to look out for her by introducing new students to step in when others move on. Earlier this year, a visiting student joined in one of her Easter Triduum rehearsals.

“Before he left, he said, ‘Hopefully I'll see you in the fall,’” Heitzman recalled. “I just said, ‘Yes!’ ... He has a beautiful voice.”