

President's Annual Report

We needed a new roof



Fr. Tom
Ascherman, SVD

About two years ago, there was bad news. Bro. Vinh Nguyen SVD, our maintenance director, came to my office to let me know that the main College building really needed a new roof. It could not wait any longer. Needing a new roof is definitely bad news for a homeowner. It is a pricey item, but it can't be ignored.

The roof on Divine Word College is huge! Our building was constructed so that all the different departments are interconnected. There are three residence halls, an administrative block, an academic building, a kitchen, dining room and a sports area. It was like putting a roof on seven buildings all at once! The cost was about \$1 million! To complicate matters even further, the COVID-19 pandemic was just getting underway. I wondered how we would be able to pay for such an investment.

Years ago, when I worked in Mexico I was faced with a similar problem. The church I was serving was in a densely populated, poor barrio (district) on the outskirts of Mexico City. The people had already laid the foundations and built up the walls of the Church with their own hands. It was a big building. Still, there was no roof. That kind of project cannot be handled by weekend volunteer workers, no matter how skilled they might be. The cost for a professional installation was about \$35,000. Our usual weekend collection was only \$500. So, we sold raffle tickets and tacos, held a beauty pageant, and begged for donations in the market. In the end, we had enough for the roof.

The same worry faced us here at Divine Word College. Where could we find enough money for a roof? We held a raffle, we begged for donations from kind and generous benefactors, we even held a golf outing! As you can see in the accompanying financial information, our benefactors came through in a big way, despite the pandemic. Last year, 2020, was amazing. The gifts we received exceeded previous years by more than \$1 million dollars.

The founder of the Society of the Divine Word, St. Arnold Janssen SVD, always insisted, "St. Joseph always sends just as much as we need." I have found that to be true throughout my life as a missionary.

DWC has a new roof now. So, where will we find the money to put new siding on the Megan Hall residence for the religious sisters? I'm sure that St. Joseph will inspire many benefactors to help keep the sisters warm and dry.



President's Financial Report

Unwavering support sustains the mission

It's no secret that the past year has been difficult. Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have touched all of our lives and caused us to lean on one another like never before.

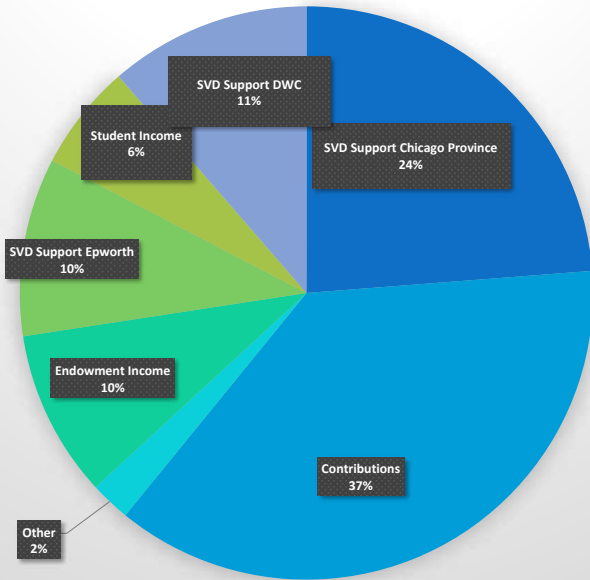
Yet, despite these troubling times, you – our benefactors – have confirmed your belief in our mission through your generous gifts and prayers.

Thank you for your confidence in our ability to educate missionaries for the Catholic Church. We take your support seriously and will continue to journey with our students as they discern their vocation to God and His people.

You are incredible!

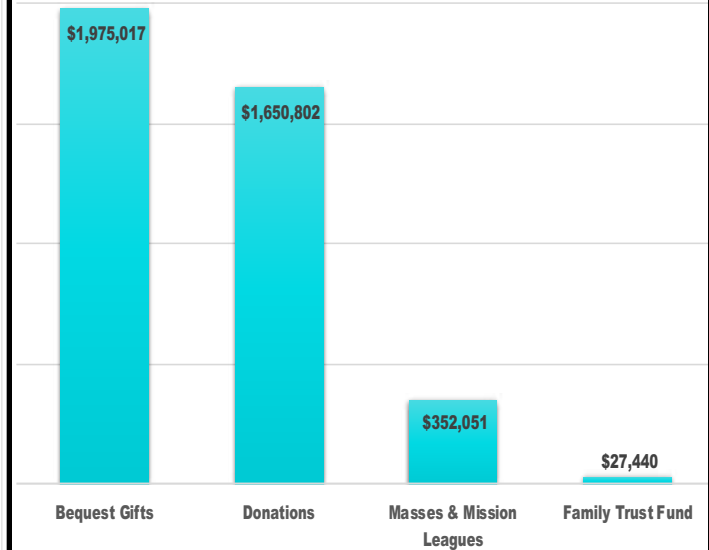
Around here, we like to say that, *“His mission is our mission.”* We know that the mission would not be possible if not for the outpouring of generosity from benefactors like you. From all of the students, faculty and staff at DWC, we'd like to say **THANK YOU!**

Divine Word College Income 2020 Fiscal Year



SVD Support Chicago Province	\$2,502,000
Contributions	\$3,905,000
SVD Support DWC	\$1,196,000
Endowment Income	\$992,000
SVD Support Epworth	\$1,059,000
Student Income	\$631,000
Other	\$239,000

Benefactor Contributions 2020 Fiscal Year



Most DWC students have limited financial means, but no one who is seriously considering religious life is turned away for lack of money.

Last year, DWC students received more than \$1.86 million in scholarship assistance.