

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community | Vol. 45 No. 3 - January 28, 2025

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Birthday Corner:

FEBRUARY

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Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SVD





THE

THE PRESIDENT Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

HOLY BEGINNINGS: INAUGURATIONS AND GOD'S WORD

Everything is new again here at DWC. Our new semester is well underway; this past weekend we celebrated Lunar New Year; and last week, a new president and administration took office in Washington DC.

The readings for Mass last Sunday seemed custom-made for a season of new beginnings. The reading from the Prophet Nehemiah tells of new beginnings for Jerusalem (ca. 428 BCE) after many years of oppression and chaos. The reading from the Gospel of Luke gave us the introduction to Luke's writings, and then recounted Jesus' "inaugural" sermon in his hometown of Nazareth (ca. 30 CE).

In the USA, the custom is for a president to give what is called an inaugural address at the beginning of his term of service. Its purpose is to set the tone and give an idea of what is to come. The inauguration of the President Trump's second term reminded me of something that happened in 1993 during the inaugural ceremonies for Bill Clinton.

Usually when a President takes his oath of office, a family Bible is presented as a kind of testimony to the truthful swearing to uphold the constitution and laws of the country. In this case, President Clinton's wife, Hilary Clinton (later Secretary of State and presidential candidate) presented the family bible, which was "decorated" with a ribbon. When Bill and Hilary tried to open the Bible, it got stuck on the ribbon. As the President and his wife struggled to untangle the Bible, people kind of chuckled. Not surprising, there was some joking about it later in the day.



Unlike the experience of President and Mrs. Clinton, no problems were reported when, at the direction of Governor Nehemiah, Ezra the priest, opened the scroll of the Law (likely the Pentateuch) and read it aloud and explained it for the people.

Unlike the experience of Bill and Hilary in 1993, Jesus had no trouble in Nazareth to open the scroll and begin reading from the prophet Isaiah. What Jesus read out to his hearers, amounted to an inaugural address! He read:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Then Jesus added: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4).

President Trump took his oath of office and gave an inaugural address on Monday, January 20; he also spoke to supporters later in the day. His words announced a project that seems to point in a very different direction from Jesus' ministry:



- In place of glad tidings, the President often speaks of retribution.
- Instead of liberty, the President encourages the crowd to chant "Lock-em up!"
- Rather than freedom for the oppressed, the President promises higher tariffs and mass deportations.
- Contrary to proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord, the President proposes a new "manifest destiny," including expanding territory and taking back the Panama Canal.

In Nazareth, the core of Jesus' message was to bring recovery of sight to the blind. Throughout his ministry he healed people from physical blindness, but his larger concern was spiritual and moral blindness. The blindness he denounced most vigorously was the use of the Law of the Lord to justify ignoring the needs of widows, orphans and strangers. The Spirit was upon Jesus in Nazareth, and he insisted that both Jews and Gentiles are to benefit from the blessings of God. Unity and service are the remedies for spiritual and moral blindness. As Paul would later put it: We Are One Body.

President Trump said he hoped January 20, his inauguration day, would be seen as a Liberation Day for American Citizens. I wonder whether that liberation day might include the rest of the world. The President often emphasizes AMERICA FIRST. If that means that Americans will be first in line to offer generous service to those in need throughout the world, I will be delighted. If, however, it means plans for self-enrichment at the cost of life and prosperity for people elsewhere, and continued suffering for the poor, oppressed, and the captive, then I much prefer Jesus' outlook.

In Washington D.C., unlike in ancient Jerusalem and Nazareth, it is apparently somewhat difficult to open a Bible and take its challenging message to heart. The ribbons on our Bibles should not tie them shut. Rather, they should serve as markers to open them to the Word of God being fulfilled in our hearing, today. We'll try our best here at DWC.



FROM EVERYWHERE For Everyone

A JOURNEY OF FRIENDSHIP: ST. ARNOLD AND ST. JOSEF

The relationship between St. Arnold Janssen SVD and St. Josef Freinademetz SVD, was not instantly close. When St. Josef first met the Founder, Josef noted that he was quite disappointed. Fr. Fritz Bornemann SVD writes in his biography of St. Josef:



"For Freinademetz, the founder of Steyl was a shattering disappointment... On the one side, Freinademetz, by nature friendly and gracious; on the other, Janssen, the mathematician, aloof and business-like. Great enthusiasm for the missions! Indeed. Leave soon for the missions? Yes, of course. But as always on such occasions, Janssen was careful not to show that he was especially interested in the new applicant. Or was it simply a matter of the difference between North Germany and South Tyrol, between the Germans and the Romanics? They were, it is true, men of totally different temperaments, but... (their) faith inspired them to work for the kingdom of God...."

The extended correspondence between the Founder in Europe, and Fr. Freinademetz in China deals mostly with matters of administration and guidance of the confreres. However, the solid respect for one another and their blossoming friendship is also unmistakable.

In September 1907, after 28 years in China, Fr. Josef sent Fr. Arnold a heartfelt letter of congratulations in anticipation of the Founders 70th birthday:



"Most Venerated Spiritual Father, our family celebration, on November 5th of this year, (will be) a true feast of joy for you and all your children scattered over the five continents of the globe. When Your Reverence looks back over the long years of your priesthood, the almost bottomless ocean of graces and signs of favor that God is showering upon you, the stream of blessings that you, Most Venerated Father, have spread over all the world as the result of a wholly extraordinary election of grace made by God, your paternal heart must overflow with outbursts of joy and gratitude before God... Excepting perhaps Don Bosco, I could hardly name a man in many decades past who has done such great things for the Church of God and the salvation of souls as Your Reverence has done with the Grace of God! ... In childlike love and veneration, Your Reverence's greatly indebted son, Jos. Freinademetz."

On December 26, 1907, in a return letter to Fr. Joseph, Fr Arnold wrote:

"To you go also my special thanks for the services you have so faithfully rendered to the Society and the mission over many years. How great will be your reward in heaven! For this reason, you should faithfully

persevere right through to the end! There will surely be no lack of blessings also on earth.... With sincere greetings in all love, your spiritual father in the Lord, A. Janssen."

One month later, on January 28, 1908, St. Josef died unexpectedly from typhus. Fr. Heinrich Stolte SVD, the private secretary of Fr. Arnold, recalled the moments when the founder received news of the death of his confrere and friend:

"I recall very well the arrival of the message announcing the death of Father Freinademetz whom Father Janssen esteemed so very highly. It was around 10 o'clock in the morning. I had to speak with my chief about something. I rapped on the door and entered his room and realized at once that I was not welcome. Father Janssen was seated at his desk, his hands folded in his lap, deeply perturbed. I left him in his sorrow and withdrew without saying a word."

St. Arnold followed St. Josef in death, not quite one year later, on January 15, 1909. They were canonized together by Pope St. John Paul II in 2003.

Erin LaBelle, Photographer and Instructor



Ms. Erin LaBelle has been hired as a full-time instructor at the College. She will serve as an **Instructor in Photography and Graphic Arts** in the Dept. of Interdisciplinary Studies. She will also **collaborate with the Public Relations Department**, and curate the Galleries and Expositions at DWC.

Erin presented a collection of her photographs in the Weyland Gallery from March 25 - May 17, 2004. Her show was titled "*Sacred Sight*." The Gallery currently displays portraits of DWC students, faculty, staff and friends taken during Mission Sunday last October. The show is titled: "*We are DWC*."



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Dr. Joshua Young

Applications for Rank Promotion Due

February 3rd is the deadline for any faculty to apply for promotion in their academic rank. Application requirements can be found in the DWC Policy Handbook. All instructors enter with an academic rank within the faculty based on their experience and academic degree. Teachers in higher education dedicate themselves to teaching, scholarship/professional development, and service. As a faculty member grows in these areas, they show a dedication to their vocation and to our institution. For this reason, DWC dedicates itself to the growth of the faculty through a generous professional development grant available for each full-time faculty member and hosting faculty in-services throughout the academic year. Faculty interested in learning about professional development opportunities should contact the VPAA. Please pray for those that are preparing their rank promotion applications and for God's continued blessings on our faculty.



Higher Learning Commission

The Core of Accreditation: HLC Criterion 3

Of all the HLC criteria, number 3 is perhaps the most important. Basically, it asks DWC to provide evidence that we teach what we say, we measure how successful we are, and we make changes to continually improve. This means we, as members of HLC, commit to learning about ourselves, being critical thinkers, making sure our teaching is reflective of our institutional learning outcomes. The faculty have developed a culture of assessment which helps us grow as individuals and as a community. So, what are some things we've learned as part of our gathering evidence for the upcoming DWC Compliance Report?

- DWC students score consistently on assessment rubrics used at other US colleges and universities with their American counterparts. Some may expect a mostly international student body to struggle with the cultural barriers presented by some rubrics, but DWC students are resilient in overcoming those barriers. This is due to our unique academic community. In part, it's the outstanding Intensive English Language Institute and the support of its faculty and community conversation partners. It's due to the high standards of all our faculty and to the amazing support staff that have dedicated themselves to our students. And, it's due to the dedication of our students as missionary disciples.
- DWC faculty are perhaps some of the most hard-working faculty in higher education today. As a small community, many DWC faculty have more required committee work than the average college teacher, including in the IELI. Between the undergraduate program and the IELI, DWC is accredited by two separate bodies, and with less than 30 faculty members, everyone is asked to do a bit. Despite this, DWC faculty continue to push themselves and the mission of the college to meet the college's goals. And, most are still smiling by the end of the day.

Dr. Yasmin Rioux ASSESSMENT Bites

What is the difference between summative and formative assessment?

Summative assessment is a process of assessment that measures the student's/students' overall learning experience (skills, comprehension, knowledge, etc.) at the end of a course, intervention, or program. This type of assessment is useful for curricular improvements.

Formative assessment is a process of assessment that measures the student's/students' comprehension or ability to perform a task throughout a course, intervention, or program in order to gain an understanding of how a student or group is doing while they are presently taking part in an educational lesson or method of instruction. This type of assessment is also useful for course or curricular improvements.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Gratitude

I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to Frt. Cong Nguyen, SVD and members of the VSA Cabinet for organizing the Lunar New Year last weekend. Also, I would like to give thanks to members of ACSA and AAHA for collaborating with the VSA. It was a busy weekend for all of you, and I want to express my gratitude to each of you for taking time to prepare for this celebration (liturgy, music, entertainment, food, etc.) Your collaboration made the celebration possible and successful, as I have heard many praises from our guests.

Celebration of the Arnoldus Family Continues!

Two weeks ago, Divine Word College joined the rest of the Arnoldus family to celebrate the Feast of St. Arnold Janssen. This Wednesday, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz, our first SVD missionary sent to China to spread the Good News of God. This is the vision of St. Arnold Janssen, to send missionaries to those who have not heard of the gospel before so that the people believe in God. St. Joseph followed this vision, and made an impact on the lives of the Chinese people. To honor St. Joseph Freinademetz, this Wednesday, January 29, 2025, we will have a large community mass in the main chapel at 8:00 am to remember him and pray for all missionaries in this world.

The celebration of the Arnoldus family continues as we remember Blessed Helena Stollenwerk, SSpS on February 3, 2025. Blessed Helena, with St. Arnold Janssen and Blessed Josefa, co-founded the Missionary Sisters Servant of the Holy Spirit (SSpS). On this day, we honor her, and pray for our SSpS sisters who are currently doing ministry and studying at Divine Word College.



THE LOG

Change in Vocation Mass

According to the DWC Almanac, our next vocation mass is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2025. We will change the vocation mass to Friday, January 31, 2025. St. Joseph Freinademetz formation group will organize the mass, and Joseph Quang Vu will share his vocation story. Please join us in this mass to pray for Joseph, the SVD candidates in the St. Joseph Freinademetz formation group, and for more vocations to the Church.

World Day for Consecrated Life

This Sunday, February 2, 2025, the Church will celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life. This day was instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, 1997, to celebrate and pray for women and men in consecrated life. On this day, we give praise and thanks to God for calling us to consecrated life, and continue to ask God for His blessings and guidance that we may faithfully serve Him wholeheartedly.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS



Come and See Visitors

The Vocation Office will welcome our first two Come and See Visitors of the Spring Semester next week. Vocation Director Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SVD, will host Nathan Nguyen from Jackson, Tennessee, and Long Dinh Vuong from Anaheim, California. They will arrive on Tuesday, February 4th and leave on Feb. 11th. Both young men feel God may be calling them to religious life and they want to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries. Please help them feel welcomed and at home in our Divine Word College community during their stay with us.

THE COG

The Word Among Us

As we turn the page on the calendar to a new month, the most recent issue of The Word Among Us is available. Vocation Office staff will put copies of the booklet in all student mailboxes this week. There are usually a few extra copies that are available in the Vocation Office for others. Please come by the 3rd Floor to get one. We put copies of the booklet in Spanish in the Queen of Americas Chapel. Please continue to pray for the benefactors that make this resource available to our community.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS Steve Winger



New Pickleball Ammenities

We are thrilled to announce the addition of new pickleball amenities to our gym! To enhance your recreational options, we have installed a mobile pickleball net. This net can be easily set up and taken down, allowing for flexible use of the gym space. When not in use it can be moved against the wall or into the storage room. Additionally, we have provided a supply of pickleball paddles and balls for your enjoyment.

Paddles and balls can be found conveniently stored under the stage. We kindly request that all users store the paddles under the stage after each use to ensure they are available for others. We encourage you to take advantage of this exciting new addition to our gym facilities. Let's have some fun playing pickleball! <u>Click here for pickleball rules.</u>







"We Are DWC" Gallery Exhibit

Come visit the new exhibit in the art gallery! *We Are DWC* by Erin LaBelle is a collection of portraits made during World Mission Sunday 2024. Her work displays a personal look at the people within our community and the love and unity that is present here. You are encouraged to interact with the exhibit and share your thoughts about what you like best about Divine Word College.



Video: 150 Years of Dialogue of Cultures

Interculturality and humility, they are two characteristics that are deeply woven into the DNA of the Society of the Divine Word. This steyl medien video celebrates the congregation's 150th anniversary and conveys its history, charism and values.

We invite you to watch here.

Divine Word College





It's Time for Hockey!

Tickets are still available for the Divine Word College Night with Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey!

Faculty and staff receive a discounted rate on tickets. Click here to buy online: www.dubuquefightingsaints.com

- Click on "Tickets," then "Single Game" •
- Choose January 31 vs Fargo
- Apply promo code, "Divine13" and click "Apply"
- Select, "Find Tickets," then select your seat and click "Purchase"

Hope to see you there!

Justice and Peace Committee

Immigration Update What's Going On, and How Can I Help? Panelists





7pm ET/6pm

PT















Immigration Webinar

There will be an informative immigration webinar on Tuesday, February 4, at 7:00 pm ET / 6:00 pm CT / 5:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm PT for an evening of learning and discussion about immigration, including current developments, what is likely to happen next, and how all can support immigrants/refugees going forward. There will be a brief presentation, followed by a panel discussion with leaders in immigration advocacy and plenty of time for questions. To register for this event, please click here.







opac.dwci.edu

New Books

Almost 200 books were added to the library's collection recently. The books are prominently displayed at the front of the library. Take a few minutes and head up to the library to see what's new!



Drug-Free School and Campuses Regulations Report

Name of Report:	Annual Drug-Free School and Campuses Regulations Report	
Required by:	Institute of Higher Education (IHE)	
Office Responsible :	Dean of Students	
Date Due:	October 15	
How often submitted:	Annually	
Date presented to Students: January 12, 2024 and August 16, 2024 during orientation for all		
students		
Date Published in The Log:	(January 14, 2025)	

Standard of Conduct

Divine Word College (DWC) is a Catholic educational institution oriented toward religious life and ministry. DWC is a drug free workplace and college. Students enrolling in DWC assume an obligation to behave in a manner compatible with the College's function as a Catholic educational institution.

No employee or student shall unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance, as defined in schedules "I" through "V" of Section 202 of the "Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812).

Workplace is defined to mean the site for the performance of work including any college building or any college premises; any college owned vehicle used to transport students to and from college or college-sponsored or College approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event where students are under the jurisdiction of the College. (Divine Word College Policy Handbook, #5.09)

Sanctions

The College recognizes that students are adults and are expected to obey the law and take personal responsibility for their conduct; however, students will be disciplined if their use of alcohol creates a public disturbance, danger to themselves and/or others, or property damage.

All students are to obey the laws of the State of Iowa and the regulations of the College concerning the use and/or possession of alcohol, prescription or non-prescription drugs, and illegal drugs. The legislation reads in part: "A person shall not sell, give, or otherwise supply alcoholic liquor, wine or beer to any person knowingly or having reasonable cause to believe him to be under the legal age of twenty-one (21), and a person or persons under the legal age shall not purchase or attempt to purchase, or individually or jointly have alcoholic liquor, wine or beer in their possession or control; except in the case of liquor, wine or beer given or dispensed to a person under the legal age within a private home and with the knowledge, presence, and consent of the parent or guardian for beverage or medicinal purposes or as administered to him by either a physician or dentist for medicinal purposes or and except to the extent that a person under the legal age may handle alcoholic beverages and beer during the regular course of the person's

employment by a liquor control licensee, or wine or beer permittee under this chapter." (Code of Iowa, Section 123.47) (Student Handbook #111, 1.1)

In accord with the Iowa Code, students of the legal age (21 years of age and older) may drink alcoholic beverages. To sell or give or otherwise provide a person under the legal age with alcoholic beverages is prohibited. (Student Handbook #111, 1.2)

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is limited to the recreation area: Pour House, student lounge, Arkfeld House lounge, and Megan Hall lounge. (Student Handbook #111, 1.4)

Using or storing alcohol in student dorms is not permitted. Alcohol is not permitted in the kitchen or dining room except during special events when permission has been granted by the Dean of Students (Student Handbook #801.6).

Alcohol is not permitted in any other areas unless permission is granted by the Dean of Students. (Student Handbook #111, 1.5)

The use of alcoholic beverages does not excuse one from respect towards others, towards the property of others, or towards a general atmosphere of quiet in the dorms. (Student Handbook #111, 1.7)

The preceding guidelines are to be considered an integral part of formation for a mature Christian and for someone considering the religious, missionary vocation. They are intended to encourage both responsible enjoyment of alcohol and a gradual self-mastery as well. (Student Handbook #111, 1.8)

The College does not allow student drivers to drink alcohol or use illegal drugs and drive College cars. The College may conduct random drug/alcohol tests if a student appears to be under the influence of any kind of drug. (Student Handbook #804.4)

Health Risks Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Abuse

Drugs are chemicals that affect the body and brain. Different drugs can have different effects. Drugs can change how the brain works and interfere with a person's ability to make choices, leading to intense cravings and compulsive drug use. Consequently, this behavior can turn into a substance dependency, or drug addiction. The risks of drug use can range from changes in appetite, wakefulness, heart rate, blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, psychosis, overdose, mental illness, heart or lung disease, cancer, and even death.

Prevention Programs

The Religious Formation Program offered a formation curriculum throughout the academic year which includes certain topics on the prevention of AOD, namely, Introduction to Addiction, Alcohol, and Drug Addiction.

Besides the formation curriculum of the Religious Formation Program, the Counseling Center

can assist with AOD counseling for students and employees and can make referral as needed. There also are other programs available nearby and nationwide. A number of resources are listed below.

Campus Resource

Fr. Sam Cunningham SVD - Student Referral Assistant	(563) 876-3057 ext. 232
RISE Counseling and Consulting 1021 2 nd Avenue SE, Suite #2 Dyersville, IA 52040	(319) 224-0722
Off-Campus Resource	
Turning Point Treatment Center 250 Mercy Drive Dubuque, IA 52001 Phone: (563) 589-8291	National Institute on Drug Abuse 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
Substance Abuse Services Center 799 Main Street Dubuque, IA 52001 Phone: (563) 582-3784	National Council on Alcoholism 1-800-622-2255

Disciplinary Sanctions for Violations of the Standards of Conduct

Violation of the Student Handbook #111 will be dealt with strictly. Such violations will result in the confiscation of the alcoholic beverage and may result in the revocation, for a specific period, of the student's privilege regarding drinking. It may also result in disciplinary probation. If such violations continue, the student will be brought before the Formation Committee. (Student Handbook #111, 1.6)

DUI Policy A student arrested for DUI (Driving Under the Influence) is ordinarily subject to immediate dismissal from the College. A student may appeal a dismissal decision to the Formation Appeals Committee if there are mitigating circumstances warranting consideration. The decision to consider an appeal rests with the Formation Committee. (Student Handbook #111.2)

Drugs The policy of the College in regard to drugs is that anyone possessing and/or using illegal drugs is subject to immediate dismissal by the Dean of Students. (Student Handbook #111.3)

(Reviewed and approved by the Board of Administration, December 11, 2024)

Biennial Report Drug-Free School and Campus Regulations October 2024

The Biennial Review

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (FSCA) and Part 86 of the Department of Education's General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR Part 86), requires Divine Word College to report on its drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention program.

History

Divine Word College is a Roman Catholic Seminary College located 20 miles west of Dubuque, lowa in the small town of Epworth. Enrollment is approximately 100-125 students in any given year. These students come from as many as 20 countries. Students include Catholic seminarians, men and women in vows and a few laypersons.

As a small seminary College, Divine Word does not experience the issues of drug and alcohol abuse that many larger colleges and universities deal with. All the same, the College adheres to all federal and state regulations regarding Higher Education mandates, rules and regulations regarding drugs and alcohol education and prevention.

Review Process

This report covers the Academic years of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. During these two years, the College administration reviewed and updated its policies where necessary. The Dean of Students continues to worked with sub-committees to review policies and procedures in the Student Handbook, which included the policies on Drug and Alcohol Use and Abuse.

Recently, neighboring states have legalized marijuana use. As the policies were reviewed, the administration felt the current policies and procedures in place adequately address the issue, notably that the College policy adheres to the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812), Section 202: "No employee or student shall unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance." Disciplinary procedures are in place to support this policy.

Reporting

The Annual Drug-Free School and Campus Report is distributed to the students, faculty, and staff each October through publication in the weekly internal news, The DWC LOG, and is also available on the College website, <u>www.dwci.edu</u>. Students are informed of the policies relating to alcohol and drugs during orientation each semester.

Education and Prevention

The Dean of Students and Formation Committee continue to educate students through presentations to formation groups and the student body on alcohol and drugs. The College has procedures in place and assistance is available should an issue arise.

The College contracts with Vector Solutions Online Training Center to provide webinar training sessions to students, faculty and staff. The College assigns required webinars for all students and employees each semester. These webinars have included topics such as *Drug Free Workplace, Alcohol Awareness for Students, Student Drug & Alcohol Abuse,* to name a few.

The College employs a College Counselor who is always on campus during the academic year, should any student, faculty or staff member need assistance.

Approved: (December 11, 2024)

Copies of these reports are filed in the Dean of Students Office and available upon request.