

THE LOG

Divine Word College

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2021

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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Birthday Corner

January

- 27 Sr. An Thi Thuy Ngo, LHC
- 27 Mr. Tuan Hoang-Minh Nguyen
- 30 Sr. Margaret Kissani, SSPS

February

- 1 Fr. Anthony Cong Nguyen, SVD
- 2 Fr. Paul Cuong Nguyen, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Warriors and Defenders

The halls of Divine Word College seem very quiet today. Over the weekend, we had a quick-moving outbreak of COVID-19. On Saturday, we received news that eight of eleven students who were tested on Friday were positive. Thirty more students are scheduled for tests this week.

On Saturday evening, the Board of Administration decided to quarantine the whole college for at least a week. Classes are by remote learning; Mass and prayers are by ZOOM; the dining room is mostly closed, so we eat alone. Employees from off campus are working from home, or coming in on flex hours, or working alone in their offices. In-person meetings of all kinds are held by ZOOM, by telephone or email. All of us are doing our best to stay in our rooms! It is quiet here.



Nevertheless, there is a huge struggle going on. I am reminded of Psalm 149. We pray it often on Sundays and feast days. It tells of a victory celebration after battle. It starts with praises of God with dancing and tambourines and lyres. But the prayer takes a savage turn a few verses later as the people praise God with a "two-edged swords in their hands," and fetters and chains of iron to bind up God's enemies. This psalm has never been a favorite for me, but I might have discovered a new appreciation for it as I consider what is happening this week at DWC.

Those who are infected with COVID are warriors for us all. The virus has entered their bodies, and in their days of isolation, their bodies are destroying the virus. By remaining isolated for ten days, they make sure the vector of virus which has attacked them does not escape to harm anyone else. Truly, as they praise God, they take up a sword and swing it against evil and death.



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Others who are in quarantine are guards and defenders. This includes nearly all of us here at DWC this week! By wearing masks and keeping our distance, we bind the virus in chains and fetters. We make it hard for the virus to spread from one to another. Any who do become infected take up a sword and join the battle against the virus as warriors.

We plan to stay on campus until this outbreak is defeated. For the most part, times of isolation and quarantine are not meant to protect us; instead, we are protecting others around us. Though the virus has come to the college, we will be vigilant to make sure that it does not escape.

A word of thanks to everyone here who has already defeated the virus by successfully completing his or her isolation. You are able to serve in many ways because of the protection you enjoy for several months after your struggle. May your service of washing dishes, carrying meals, and driving others to COVID tests be part of your praise of God's victory over sickness and death.

The halls do seem quiet here, but actually, there is a wild celebration getting underway: "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,... Let (the people) praise God's name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre."

St. Michael is a principal patron of the Society of the Divine Word. Maybe an old, and rather savage prayer to St. Michael will give you courage for the struggle, and a bit of thrill:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

| | Number of Tests | Tested Positive | Number Self-Isolated | Number Quarantined | Number Recovered |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Before Sept. 15 | ~200 | 9 | 9 | ~15 | 9 |
| Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 | 220 | 8 | 8 | ~80 | 8 |
| Jan. 1 - 11 | 148 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 0 |
| Jan. 12 - 18 | 31 | 2 | 8 | 29 | 6 |
| Jan. 19 - 25 | 37 | 9 | 12 | 40 | 3 |

A large number of students tested positive last week, and many more will be tested this week. The results of the tests have led to a decision to put the whole college on a strict quarantine. More information can be found in the COVID-19 Guidance bulletin that is attached at the end of the LOG.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

New Faculty & Formation Personnel for Spring 2021

Divine Word College welcomes the following new faculty and formation personnel.

Fr. Paul Aquino, SVD – Fr. Paul Aquino, a member of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), joins DWC as a Formation Director in the Religious Formation Program and an Instructor of Music in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS]. Fr. Aquino earned a B.A. degree in Philosophy at Christ the King Mission Seminary (1995) and a B.M. degree in Voice (2006) from the University of the Philippines, both institutions located in Quezon City, Philippines. He also did graduate coursework in Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. He did his theological formation at Divine Word Theologate in Chicago, Illinois, earning an M.Div. degree with a concentration in Word Mission from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (2016). Fr. Aquino professed perpetual vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 2015 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2016. Fr. Aquino most recently earned an M.M. degree in Vocal Performance from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC (2020).

Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM – Sr. Anna Trang Mai, a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Nha Trang Diocese in Viet Nam, joins DWC as a Spiritual Director and Formation Director in the Religious Formation Program. She will also teach one course per semester as an Instructor of Theology in the Department of Theology & Philosophy [DTP] beginning Fall 2021. Sr. Mai earned a B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education from Ho Chi Minh College in Viet Nam (1999), and professed perpetual vows as an IHM in 2008. She earned a B.A. degree in Intercultural Studies from Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa (2015). After graduating DWC, Sr. Mai earned a M.A. degree in Spirituality/Spiritual Direction from Loyola University Chicago (2017) and a Certificate in Religious Formation from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois (2019).

Ms. Mackenzie Hackert – Ms. Mackenzie Hackert joins DWC as an Adjunct Lecturer of Math. Ms. Hackert holds a B.A. degree in Communication with a focus in Electronic Media from High Point University in High Point, North Carolina (2014). She has taught in the Dubuque Community School District (since 2016) and is currently enrolled in the College of Education at the University of Iowa. Ms. Hackert is the founder of Long Hollow Canopy Tours in Galena, Illinois.

Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted faculty professional development funding to attend and present at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Conference (online) on 19 March 2021. The title of Dr. Kanjirathinkal's presentation is: "Papal Bulls, White Supremacy, and US Imperialism."

Dr. Karolina Achirri, Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language in the Intensive English Language Institute [IELI], has been granted faculty professional development funding to attend and present at the 17th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (online) from 19 to 22 May 2021. The title of Dr. Achirri's presentation is: "Transformative Internationalization Through Kindness: The Experiences of Chinese Undergraduate Students and Their Instructors at a U.S. Higher Education Institution."

Faculty Professional Development: Annual Data Collection for Calendar Year 2020

Divine Word College encourages and facilitates ongoing professional development for instructional faculty. Indeed, ongoing professional development is necessary for faculty to maintain “a high level of subject matter knowledge and ensures that course content is current, accurate, representative, and appropriate to the position of the course within the student’s program of studies.” (DWC Policy Handbook 7.05.01) One criterion for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission states: “The institution has processes and resources for assuring that instructors are current in their disciplines and adept in their teaching roles; it supports their professional development.” (HLC Criterion 3.C.4)

Through the Office of the VP for Academic Affairs, the College provides ample opportunity and generous funding for faculty ongoing professional development both for internal events (Faculty Institute, Faculty In-Services, web-based training) and for participation in external events (professional conferences and workshops). Understandably, external opportunities have been severely limited due to COVID this past year.

In order to accurately document that all faculty are actively engaged in ongoing professional development activities, the VP for Academic Affairs Office compiles and publishes an Annual Report on Faculty Professional Development for submission to the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees. All faculty, excluding adjuncts, are kindly requested to briefly list their professional development activities during calendar year 2020 (1 January – 31 December) using the six categories indicated below. If there was no activity in a particular category, simply write “nothing to report.” A listing of Safe Colleges Training modules will be included for each member automatically. Please email your report to the Registrar, Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, no later than noon on Friday 5 February 2021. Thanks in advance for your collaboration.

- Professional Memberships
- Publications (Monograph/Article)
- Conference Presentations
- Conferences Attended
- Performances, Exhibitions
- Other (personal study, research, webinars, etc.)

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Covid 19 Situation

As you all know, quite a good number of our students including myself have tested positive for COVID-19. This does not mean life in the community comes to an end, rather we have to do things differently. To stop the spread, let us strictly respect the COVID-19 protocols for isolation and quarantine. Those in isolation, stay in your rooms and have food delivered to your room and use the bathrooms on the third floor allocated to you. Please, those who are not in quarantine be sensitive and try to help out in the essential community service. Stay positive and stay calm for we shall go through this and come out strong.

Formation group meetings on Wednesday will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Mass for vocations is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, at 8:00 A.M. Due to the lockdown, there will be only a virtual community mass and Omar Gonzalez will share his vocation story. Let us join in prayers for an increase of religious vocations, especially for Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD and members of Ephesians.

The Feast of St. Joseph Freinadametz, the first SVD missionary sent to China, is scheduled for Friday, January 29. Due to the lockdown, a solemn Eucharist will be celebrated virtually at 8:00 A.M. in the main chapel and evening prayer at 6:00 P.M. Let us come together to join with one voice in thanksgiving and praise to God for his life and missionary zeal. Pray that through his intercession we may grow in greater holiness and be renewed in our commitment to serving God's people with generosity and joy. Special supper will be served at 6:30 P.M.



Ms. Megan Sutton, LMHC

There's a lot going on in today's world most notably, with people still getting sick with COVID-19. COVID -19 can have direct (and indirect) impact on our lives, making us feel uneasy. This dread and anxiety can be overwhelming and make everything seem hopeless. It can be tough to shake the feeling that this is all temporary, but accepting our new normal and adapting to it is the best way to take back some control when it feels like so many things are up in the air.



What are you hopeful for?

We all want to feel hope, but what does that mean to you? Identifying what specifically you want to see change can help you feel more empowered to do something about it, which often brings hope.

Remind yourself that this isn't forever.

When life gets hard, it can be easy to forget that things will get better eventually. It may not happen as quickly as you'd like, but it will happen.

Control what you can.

A big part of feeling hopeless is feeling like everything is out of your control. Remind yourself of what you can control – like your morning routine and what time you go to bed, or what you eat, or who you keep in touch with.

Combat your negative thoughts.

Our thoughts are directly connected to our feelings. If you're dealing with unpleasant emotions, try to identify the specific thoughts related to how you're feeling. Once you notice those negative thoughts, you can work to replace them with more positive ones

Make time for fun.

Joy isn't necessarily the same as hope, but it's important to make sure you're experiencing happy moments.

Keep up with basic self-care.

It can be tough to find hope in times like this, but it's especially hard if you aren't taking care of yourself. Make sure you're eating well, staying hydrated, getting enough sleep, and moving your body regularly.

It's completely normal to be discouraged by everything going on. If you're grieving, anxious, overwhelmed, or feeling paralyzed – that's okay. Give yourself the time to process those feelings and remind yourself that there is always hope for better days. (*Adapted from: Mental Health America*)

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Come and See Visitors

The Vocation Office is hosting another Come and See visitor this week. He will arrive on Thursday and leave on Sunday. Please welcome Taw Pin Say, and despite all the COVID precautions, help him feel at home here at Divine Word College. Taw is from Stone Mountain, Georgia, and is a friend of Nay Sho. Taw is aware of our COVID-19 precautions and is prepared to be safe in our community during his visit. Per our requirement, he recently took a COVID test and is negative. We are doing all we can to help ensure the safety of the community and continue with our vocation ministry to find new students to enter Divine Word College. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Mass for Vocations

On Wednesday, January 27, we will celebrate our monthly Mass for Vocations. Even with our COVID precautions, Fr. Adam will preside and Omar Gonzalez, a member of the Ephesians formation group, will share his vocation story. We continue to pray that all may discern God's call in their lives and find support as they persevere in their vocations.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

February 2 is the 25th World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life (celebrated in parishes February 6-7). The day was instituted by St. Pope John Paul II in 1997 to pray for men and women who have dedicated their lives to Christ through vows of consecration. Click here to learn more and to register for a special Zoom event on February 2 at 6:00 PM sponsored by the National Religious Vocations Conference.

Where are they now?

I am sure you have seen Frs. Thin, Emilio, Anthony and Adam around campus this week. Frs. Anthony and Emilio are preparing to leave Epworth and return to Riverside, CA, to continue their vocation ministry on the West Coast. Fr. Francis has been in Minnesota this past week visiting different parishes promoting the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. He will travel to Southern Illinois next week prior to returning to Divine Word College on February 4. We pray for all those traveling.

25TH WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF FRATELLI TUTTI

A reflection on Consecrated Life by newer members in light of the Gospel call presented in *Fratelli Tutti*. There will be time for prayer, listening, and small group conversation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 6:00-7:00PM CT | ONLINE VIA ZOOM



Sr. Celia Ashton, OCD
Carmelite Sisters of
Baltimore



Br. Joseph Bach, OSF
Franciscan Brothers
of Brooklyn



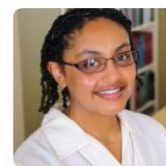
Rev. Steve Dos Santos,
CPPS, Missionaries
of the Precious Blood



Sr. Leslie Keener, CDP
Congregation of Divine
Providence, Melbourne, KY



Br. Chris Patiño, FSC
De La Salle Christian
Brothers



Sr. Nicole Trahan, FMI,
Marianist Sisters, Daughters
of Mary Immaculate

Free and open to all. Registration required.
www.cmsm.org/event/consecratedlife2021

Event co-sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), Religious Brothers Conference (RBC), and the Religious Formation Conference (RFC).

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS Mr. Steve Winger

Employee Health Insurance

Health and dental insurance cards are in the mail. You should be receiving them shortly if you have not already. You will also receive information about myWellmark. This site provides personalized health care information for you and your family. Just go to mywellmark.com to sign up.

HIPAA update:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 are the main Federal laws that protect your health information. The Privacy Rule gives you rights with respect to your health information. The Privacy Rule also sets limits on how your health information can be used and shared with others. The Security Rule sets rules for how your health information must be kept secure with administrative, technical, and physical safeguards. There have been questions recently about COVID testing and what students can be asked to share. We understand that HIPAA does not allow individuals (faculty/staff) to inquire whether a student has had a COVID test or not. DWC can require employees and students to be tested but we will not share individual information unless we have permission from that person. Faculty and staff should refrain from requesting/ requiring someone to disclose whether they have had a COVID test. We do try to give everyone general COVID information as provided by Fr. Tom's weekly COVID dashboard. For more information about HIPAA rules please refer to the SafeCollege training video for this semester.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL


National March for Life

Due to COVID-19, this year's National March for Life will be virtual, taking place on Saturday, January 29.

Pope Francis invites us to build a Culture of Life by honoring and respecting life from the moment of conception to natural death. If you would like to participate in this year's virtual event, please register below.



[Click Here for Virtual March for Life Coverage](#)



Divine Word College

COVID-19 Guidance (#29)

January 24, 2021

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 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.

On Saturday January 23, a number of students and SVDs received results from the COVID tests. **Nine out of ten tested positive!** Two more are awaiting results, and another ten are scheduled for testing on Monday. We have a large outbreak of COVID on campus.

The Board of Administration met on Saturday evening, together with the Rector, Fr. Thang Hoang and the Health Coordinator, Br. Mike Decker. We have taken the decision to **quarantine the entire college for the coming week, Jan 24-31.**

For everyone at DWC:

1. **Avoid person-to-person contact** with others. As much as possible, **stay in your room or office.**
2. **The dining room** is open for people to go through the food-line. All meals should be taken alone. One person at a time may sit at a table in the dining room, but in general, everyone is encouraged to eat in their rooms. Meals will be delivered for those in isolation (tested positive for COVID) and for those who have been in quarantine for the past week (because of contact with a person who tested positive).
3. **All classes, ESL and Undergraduate,** will be by distance learning for next week, Jan 25-Jan 29.
4. **Faculty will be notified** if someone in their classes has tested positive by Fr. John. In such a case, the faculty members may want to be tested for COVID to determine if they themselves should go into isolation. Further instructions for the faculty will be forthcoming from Fr. John as the situation develops.
5. **Staff and Faculty** are welcome to use their offices at DWC if they can remain alone there. Otherwise, some employees may work from home by making arrangements with Mr. Steve Winger or Fr. John Szukalski. Some employees may be able to work flex-hours.
6. **For everyone, there should be no face-to-face meetings for this week.** Please use ZOOM, email or phones.

For those who live on campus:

7. **The STAY-ON-CAMPUS policy** is in effect for all of next week.
8. **Mass and other prayer times at DWC** will be presented virtually. Only the celebrant and a minimum number of assistants will be present for the Mass. A Zoom connection will be available for Mass, starting with tomorrow, Sunday. **Communion will not be distributed; instead, I ask that we make a spiritual communion** with all of the others in the house, and with many more around the world who have not been able to gather for prayer. For the duration of the quarantine, Fr. Thang, as Rector, grants a dispensation from the requirement for Mass and Community Prayer to all of those in the house. He encourages us to take advantage of the virtual prayer.
9. In general, **the gym and the exercise room** are closed. (As an exception, one person at a time may use the exercise room). For exercise, I encourage you to walk outdoors.

The most important thing you can do is – **avoid other people for this week. Stay in your room as much as possible.** Thank you for your patience and understanding. I hope that in a week or so this outbreak will have passed us by. In the meantime, we continue to support one another with prayers and good wishes.

Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD
President