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Birthday Corner

March

- 1 Dr. Seo Hyun Park
- 2 Fr. Sonny de Class, SVD
- 3 Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Get in the Boat!

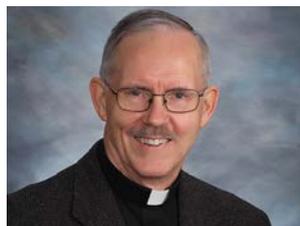
This year, the season of Lent opened with the story of Noah and his Ark. That was the first reading this past Sunday. It seems like a strange story to start this season of fasting, prayer and alms-giving.

While I read about Noah once again, a song from the 1960's came back into my head, and it is still bouncing around there. The Unicorn Song by the Irish Rovers was a surprising hit when I was in primary school. Are you old enough to remember it? "There were green alligators, long-necked geese, humpty-backed camels and some chimpanzees!" YouTube has quite a few versions, but this is the one that has both lyrics and some good pictures. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcPxhX_VQ3U) Be careful, the tune is catchy and it could stay in your head for a long time!

When you are in primary school, Noah and the Ark is by far the best story in the book of Genesis. As a boy, I imagined Noah standing at the door to the Ark counting out the animals as they come in two-by-two. What a parade that would have been. As the rain starts to pour, he is calling out – "Get into the boat!"



Why does the Church give us this story at the start of Lent? I think it is because the animals and Noah's family were delivered from one creation to a new creation. The selfishness, greed and hunger for power that abounded in those days were destroying God's creation. A new start was needed. When the rains ceased, God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant – a promise for protection and life!



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In Lent, we remember our call to a new creation. Jesus says, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." The gospel is our ark of salvation. Jesus is at the door, calling us to get in the Boat!

We even have a rainbow to remind us of the new creation. Our Lenten rainbow is colored with prayer, alms and fasting – good, healing medicine for selfishness, greed and hunger for power. Lenten practice teaches us again to trust in God’s constant blessing, to attend to those in need, and to be obedient to the Truth.

The message of the Unicorn Song is that the unicorns, though very lovely, were too busy playing games, being silly, and splashing around in the water to get in the boat. They just “floated away.” That is why there are no unicorns anymore.

There are no silly unicorns here at DWC. Everybody! – Get in the boat!

DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Quarantined	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed
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	38	10	12	40	3	
Jan. 26 - Feb. 1	32	11	27	37	7	
Feb. 2 - 8	7	3	23	0	13	
Feb. 9 - 15	7	2	12	1	5	
Feb. 16 - 22	65	0	0	0	0	14

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the BVM Sisters for sharing some of the COVID-19 rapid tests. This past week we were able to test all of the students who had previously had only Negative tests. They would be the ones most vulnerable to the disease. We also tested about half of the SVD community. The results indicate that there does not appear to be any community spread of COVID-19 at DWC for the first week since the beginning of January.

Now that some are able to receive the vaccine, we will report those who have completed the full doses required.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Formation Meetings

Meetings will continue in-person, observing proper social distance and wearing masks at all times.

Mass for Vocation

The community of St. Teresa of Avila will organize a vocational mass for Thursday, February 25, at 8:00 A.M. in the main chapel. Please come to pray for an increase of religious vocations, especially for the chaplain, Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD, and members of the community of St. Teresa of Avila so that they remain committed and faithful in their vocations.

Liturgy Education

As part of our ongoing liturgical education, Fr. Raymond Akumbilim, SVD, will present a theological orientation to the Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office on Thursday, February 25th at 1:00 P.M. promptly in the Main Chapel. All students are expected to attend.

Celebration of St. Josephine Bakhita

The Celebration scheduled for Saturday, February 27, in the Almanac, is postponed and rescheduled until Thursday, March 11. It begins with a solemn Eucharist at 4:00 P.M. in the main chapel and the banquet will follow in the gym. Further information and assignments will be posted on the Student Board.

Spring Break Vacation

The Board of Administration decided that due to COVID restrictions and the community's safety, all travel during the Spring Break should be discouraged. Only essential trips and purchases in Dubuque can be allowed with the permission of the Dean of Students. Further information will be announced in the next week.

Early Friday supper

As you are probably aware, early Friday supper has been scheduled at 5:30 P.M. The SVD community will use the dining room this Friday, February 26, for their social gathering at 6:00 P.M. due to COVID restrictions. Please try to finish your meal and leave the dining room by 6:00 P.M.

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Ms. Megan Sutton, LMHC

Mental Health First Aid

Just as CPR helps to assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps to assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. Although mental health first aid is provided through a training course, there are some things you can do to help those that may be struggling with mental health crisis.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

Discerning the Call to Mission

The SVD Vocation Office is debuting a new virtual program to encourage discussion among young men who are discerning a religious vocation. All Divine Word College seminary students are invited to join the four-part monthly conversation via Zoom for Catholic men ages 18-35 February through May. The first program begins on Thursday, February 25 at 8:00 PM and is entitled Discerning the Call to Mission – The Time Has Come. Join your hosts Fr. Adam and Fr. Francis for a discussion exploring how ongoing conversion is an integral part of the call to religious life. [Click here to register to attend!](#)



Honor Scholarships

All students are eligible for the Honor Scholarships offered by Divine Word College if they meet the selection criteria. There are a total of 16 scholarships available next year, *but we have only received 9 applications so far*; thus, there are plenty of opportunities for more students to apply.

All students received an email from Len Uhal yesterday with the scholarship application. You can also [click here](#) to access the application from the website. Please review the criteria and if you are eligible, please submit your application. If you have questions, please see Carolyn or Len Uhal in the Admissions Office.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Carolyn Waechter sent all domestic students (citizens and LPRs / “green card” holders) an email about completing your FAFSA for next school year. Please contact Carolyn and start this process now.

Mass for Vocations

This Thursday will be our monthly Mass for Vocations. We appreciate the St. Teresa of Avila formation group for preparing the liturgy.

Strategic Planning

As the DWC Community is aware, we are in the process of developing a new strategic plan for the College. Below is a draft of the goal, objectives and action steps for the Admissions Office. Please review and contact Len Uhal with any comments, questions or concerns.

Goal: Achieve and maintain a total enrollment of 125 students, including 50 SVD candidates. (Rationale: These numbers represent a sufficient number of students for effective learning in the classroom and sufficient numbers of SVD candidates entering the SVD novitiate).

Objective 1: While maintaining outreach to all potential students, make a concerted effort to admit underrepresented populations.
(Rationale: Increase enrollment by recruiting certain populations and promoting specific programs, such as the IELI and Good Neighbor Scholarship).

Action Step 1: Admit five Hispanic SVD candidates.

Action Step 2: Admit five non-SVD candidates into the Pre-Theology Certificate Program.

Action Step 3: Admit two lay students each year (ESL and undergrad programs).

Objective 2: Increase SVD referrals to 10 per year.
(Rationale: SVD referrals have dropped sharply the last three years and are one of the best referral sources).

Action Step 1: Invite SVD provincial councils and other select SVD members to Divine Word College for a visit.

Action Step 2: Include monthly vocation information in all three province newsletters.

Action Step 3: Vocation Directors to visit 20 SVD parishes each year and attend district meetings within three years.

Action Step 4: Send regular mailings to SVD members to keep vocation ministry a priority for them.

Action Step 5: Provide a program for SVDs members on how to assist youth and young adults with discernment.

Objective 3: Identify future personnel needs for the Admissions Office.
(Rationale: Some team members may leave the team and we need to plan for replacements).

Action Step 1: Identify a timeline for those who plan leave the admissions team.

Action Step 2: Work with DWC administration and province leadership to identify new personnel.

Action Step 3: Invite new people to consider joining the admissions team.

Where are they now?

All of the vocation directors continue to do as much as possible to invite new students to Divine Word College. Fr. Francis returned to campus on Monday after having visited parishes in Pennsylvania and Chicago and having visited a discerner at his home with his family. Frs. Anthony and Emilio are in California visiting some parishes and making contacts with prospective students. Fr. Adam is on campus this week, but is participating in a virtual busy student retreat with Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN. Fr. Thin is also on campus and is assisting at some local parishes/schools with Lenten programs for students, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finally, Len is also on campus and is working with the Dubuque Area Vocation Association this week to host three virtual vocation programs on Zoom with five local schools.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Lenten Project - There is still time to participate!

As we prepare to begin the season of Lent, the PR team is looking for ways to inspire and encourage our social media followers. Most Catholics are familiar with the concepts of prayer and fasting, so we wanted to focus on the third pillar of Lent, Almsgiving.



The pandemic has a lot of people asking “What can I do for others when I can’t even be near them?” *We’re asking YOU to share your thoughts on ways people can give of themselves this year.* Send a short video of yourself explaining one way people can incorporate Almsgiving into their Lenten season. Selfie-style videos on your phone work great! The video should be 3 minutes or less.

Need a little inspiration? Try to answer ONE of these questions:

- What can I do to help the elderly?
- How can I be of service to people who are hungry? Lacking shelter? Out of work?
- How can I give of myself to benefit my local community while staying safe?
- How can I contribute to Catholic missions?

Email completed videos to Emily at eshedek@dwci.edu by March 19. If you’re unable to make a video, you could also email your response.

Here’s the first video in the series! Click the graphic to hear Vuong Vu’s suggestions for being of service during Lent.



JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

LITANY FOR PEACE

By Linda Friern & Tony Bartlett

Let us pray to Jesus Christ that we may be set free from the chains of violence and war.

Jesus the Christ, by your cross and resurrection
... deliver us.

by your nonviolence and love
by your witness to truth
by your passion and death
by your victory over the grave
from the desire for power
from the conspiracy of silence
from the negation of life
from the worship of weapons
from the celebration of killing
from the slaughter of the innocent
from the extermination of the weak
from the nightmare of hunger
from the politics of terror
from a false peace
from relying on weapons
from the spiral of armaments
from plundering the earth's resources
from the despair of this age
from global suicide.

By the light of the Gospel
... give us your peace.

by the good news for the poor
by your healing and wounds
by faith in your word
by a hunger and thirst for justice
by the coming of your reign
by the outpouring of the Spirit
by reconciliation of enemies
by gentleness and nonviolence
by the truth that sets us free
by prophecy and witness
by persecution because of your name
by the power of your love.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
... have mercy on us.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
... have mercy on us.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
... grant us peace.

