



In This Issue:

COVID Dashboard	3
Did You Know?	4
Student Conference	6
Prayer for Christian Unity	7

Birthday Corner

January

- 20 Sr Liem Hong Nguyen, IHM
- 21 Sr. Dung Kim Mai, LHC
- 22 Sr. Thuong Hoai Phan, FMV
- 24 Son Hoang Vu
- 25 Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

The Spirit of Prophecy is Upon US

On Monday, January 17, we remembered Dr. Martin Luther King and his dream where “little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little White boys and White girls as sisters and brothers...”



On January 15 and 29, we celebrate St. Arnold and St. Joseph Freinademetz and their dream of reaching out to people all over the world to build up one human family rooted in Jesus’ loving. Often we pray St. Arnold’s prayer, “may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.”

Other days of remembrance are also coming our way:

- St. Agnes of Rome, a young girl martyred in the 3rd century, is remembered as a witness of innocence and purity;
- St Frances de Sales, a 16th century bishop, is noted for his deep faith and gentleness in facing religious division;
- St. Paul, a great writer and missionary of the first century, is honored for his blinding encounter with Jesus and his subsequent conversion to a world-embracing vision;
- St. Thomas Aquinas, a great philosopher and theologian of the 13th century who learned from the works of Aristotle, reminds us that God is the source of light in both natural reason and faith;
- St. John Bosco, a 19th century priest and educator, and follower of St. Francis De Sales, is commemorated for developing teaching methods based on love and not punishment.

These days, considered together, remind us that our lives are connected to heroes who have gone before. And we live connected to one another, and to Jesus, the one who gathers all of us together. Jesus is the “dream of God” for all the world, for all of the universe.



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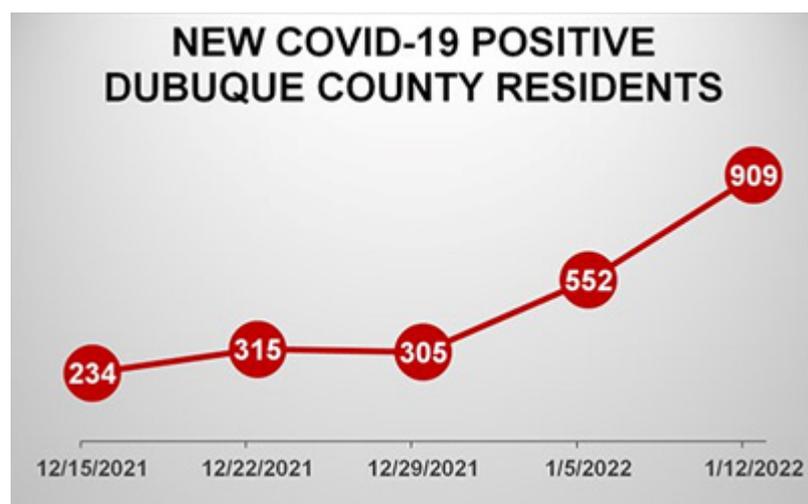
All of us are also part of a great prophetic movement brought to intense focus in the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit of God, was recognized in Jesus' baptism, in the preaching at Nazareth, and in the transfiguration and in Jesus' signs and wonders. This same Spirit continues to call disciples together until our own day. We, too, are children of the Pentecost. Jesus did not work alone, and neither did Dr. King. Many other names can be added to the list: Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, John Lewis, Ralph Abernathy, Roy Wilkins, Bayard Rustin, Jesse Jackson, Theodore Hesburgh and many, many more. Dr. King listened and learned from his supporters. He also listened and learned from the works and example of Mahatma Gandhi, and above all from the Spirit of Jesus.

Arnold Janssen did not work alone. Joseph Freinademetz, Maria Helena Stollenwerk, Hendrina (Josepha) Stenmanns, Adolfine (Mary Michael) Tonnies, Robert (Br. Bernardus) Schwerdtfeger, and John Anzer all helped form the tradition that is a foundation for Divine Word College. The Holy Spirit taught Arnold and his many collaborators to listen, to seek advice, to share encouragement.

The word "prophecy" literally means to speak for God. Our part in this ancient and new prophetic movement is not only to "talk and preach and teach." We are also called to listen, learn, repent, sacrifice, collaborate and love. Before the speaking comes listening. The Spirit of God comes upon us and gives voice to a great dream, but before the speaking comes listening and along with speaking and listening comes joining hands. **God requires our courageous voices, but first, God requires our listening hearts and our welcoming hands.**

If we can welcome, listen, and speak, then we can, in the words of Dr. King: be able to speed up that day when all of God's children... will be able to join hands and sing "free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we are free at last.

In this new year and new semester, we remember that Jesus gathered to himself a group of followers. We are part of that movement.



The number of new cases of COVID-19 in Dubuque County jumped sharply upwards in the week ending Jan 12. Those numbers are reflected in the number of cases detected at DWC.

As of today, Jan 18, one student is in isolation off-campus and five faculty/staff are isolating off-campus.

DWC COVID-19 Dashboard

	Number of Tests	Tested Positive	Number Self-Isolated	Number Recovered	Vaccination Completed	Booster
2020-2021	913	50	50	50	129	0
August 1- Dec. 31	506	1	2	2	6	116
Jan. 1 - 8	163	23	23	1	0	2
Jan. 9 - 15	20	3	3	22	0	1

COVID 19 Symptoms? – TEST!

What are the usual symptoms of a COVID-19 infection? The CDC lists the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Omicron’s symptoms may differ slightly, more resembling a harsh cold: runny nose, sneezing, sore throat and/or body aches.

Even if you are fully vaccinated (and boosted) but develop a fever, feel ill, or experience any symptom that is not typical for you, **please take a quick test to check for possible COVID-19 infection.** Be sure to wear a facemask. Br. Mike has quick tests available; they are also available at Kennedy Mall and many other sites in Dubuque.

Get Vaccinated! Get Boosted!

Divine Word College expects all students to be vaccinated and boosted as soon as they are able. The College **strongly urges** all faculty and staff to be vaccinated and boosted. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are not 100% effective at preventing symptoms, but they do greatly reduce the chances of getting sick; and if you get sick, the symptoms are less dangerous.

How well does a booster shot protect people from the Omicron variant of COVID-19? Dr. Marcus Pereira from New York Presbyterian [answered the question](#) as follows: In separate laboratory studies, both Pfizer and Moderna found that their vaccines have decreased protection against the Omicron variants but this protection seems to be restored after booster shots. Pfizer said its booster increased the level of antibodies by 25-fold. Moderna found that its booster dose of 50 micrograms

increased the level of antibodies by roughly 37-fold. Because these are based on laboratory tests, it doesn't show the body's full immune response, but both mRNA boosters do appear to provide protection from Omicron. Therefore, **it is really important for everyone eligible to get their booster shots.**

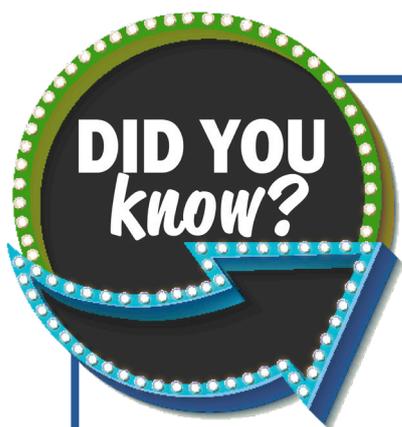
If you have been vaccinated and boosted, you do not need to quarantine after exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wear a facemask at all times, get tested immediately and again after three or four days, watch for symptoms, and avoid the dining room.

*If you are not vaccinated and boosted, avoid crowds, wear a facemask and **be ready to get sick.*** Remember, you can catch COVID-19 more than once.

Board of Administration

The DWC Board of Administration met on January 14 to consider the following matters:

- **Received reports** on the following: Undergraduate Spring 2022 M-Term, the expected graduates for 2021-2022, changes to the accounting of general scholarships, and the student count for the spring semester.
- Discussed the projected cost of **street improvement assessments** for roads at the northwest side of campus.
- Discussed plans for the February 8 **Presidential Forum** – Synodality and the Dubuque Archdiocese.
- Discussed further matters related to **COVID-19 policy.**



Has this ever happened to you?

You are with a friend or a group of people, and you mention that you are a student, teacher, or staff member at Divine Word College. Immediately people start asking questions like:

How many students go there?

How many priests are there?

Where are your students from?

Do you know the answers to these questions -- especially since they can change each semester?

Good news! Now you do! You will soon receive a **fact card** with answers to the most commonly asked questions about Divine Word College. Each semester there will be a new card with updated statistics so you can confidently and accurately provide answers.

Thank you for sharing information about DWC!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Sabbatical Approval

Dr. Seo Hyun Park—Director of the Intensive English Language Institute and Assistant Professor of ESL—was approved for sabbatical leave during the Spring 2023 Semester. Dr. Park will serve as a visiting scholar in the Department of English at the University of Burgos (UBU) in Burgos, Spain. During her sabbatical, Dr. Park will:



- Join one of the department’s research groups entitled “Identity and Change in the English-Speaking Countries and their Literatures” with particular attention to teaching English to adults with learning disabilities
- Investigate how English is taught for academic purposes at UBU and what administrative support is offered in its intensive English program
- Teach an intensive ESL course for senior undergraduate and master-degree students at UBU
- Study Spanish at UBU’s International Spanish Center with the goal of achieving basic oral and written proficiency (A1 CEFR scale).

Upon her return to DWC in Fall 2023, Dr. Park will make a presentation to the Faculty Senate regarding her sabbatical project, research findings, and implications for improvements in DWC’s Intensive English Language Institute. Congratulations, Dr. Park!

Congratulations, Dr. Heiberger!

Dr. Ashley Heiberger—Assistant Professor of ESL in the Intensive English Language Institute [IELI]—recently co-authored a chapter in Research Anthology on Fandoms, Online Social Communities, and Pop Culture published January 2022 by Information Resources Management Association (IRMA), a research-based professional organization dedicated to advancing concepts and practices of information resources management in modern organizations. Congratulations, Dr. Heiberger! The study appears as Chapter 16: **“The Integration of Popular Culture in K-12 and Higher Education English Language Curricula: Enhancing ELLs’ Literary Development through Popular Culture”** (B.A. Garling & A.S. Heiberger), pages 276-295.



<https://www.igi-global.com/book/research-anthology-fandoms-online-social/290064>

The chapter abstract reads:

In this chapter, the authors present the approaches and benefits of integrating popular culture into the English language learning classroom. They provide background information on classroom use of technology and popular culture as well as student demographics. This chapter addresses counterarguments against the inclusion of popular culture for literacy development and explains why the advantages outweigh the concerns. Also discussing the teaching approaches that are supported by the incorporation of

popular culture, the authors provide reasons and examples of effective curricula, including lessons, materials, and topics. The authors base their argument on research as well as personal experience to claim that the incorporation of popular culture will support linguistically and culturally responsive teaching approaches and will promote student engagement, connections, and motivation in ways that support learning for English language learners in both K-12 and higher education settings.



Definition of Mission:

“A holistic vision of the values and philosophy of a program, department, or institution” (Allen, 2004, p. 169).

Our Mission:

Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service as priests, brothers, sisters and laypersons. For this purpose, we offer an education that combines spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning and mission preparation within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world. This spiritual, academic, and experiential preparation serves the particular learning needs of our students, promotes their development as whole and responsible persons, and fosters a lifelong commitment to serving God’s people.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Student Conference

On Thursday, January 20, instead of Liturgy Prep, the college counselor, Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS will give a talk titled “Own Your Choice of Actions” at 1:00 pm in the main chapel. There will be a counseling skit that has among its objectives the improvement of student verbal communication as well as the acquiring of skills needed for resolving tensions and conflicts among cultural groups at DWC. Please come prepared with questions and concerns. All students are required to attend.

Prayer for Christianity Unity.

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (Jn 17.21). The DWC community will join with the whole church in praying for Christian Unity, beginning from Tuesday, January 18 until Tuesday, January 25. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year is "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him (Matt.2:2)" During this week, we are invited to pray fervently that we all may be one even in our diversity. In your formation group Mass and Prayer, please remember to pray for this intention.

Vocation Mass

The Formation group of St. Therese of the Child Jesus will organize a vocation Mass in praying for an increase of vocation, on Wednesday, January 26, at 8:00 am in the main chapel. Please, come to pray with Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM and members of the formation group of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

Ministry Practicum

Just a friendly reminder that Ministry Practicum begins this week. Please check the ministry schedule regularly for new updates. Early dinner will be served at 5:00 pm for those students doing ministry. There are two additional ministry sites—Oak Park and Manor Care on Sundays from 9:00 am until 10:00 am, respectively. Fr. Raymond, ministry director, also needs volunteers for Manor Care. If you are interested, please get in touch with Fr. Raymond.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

New Students

All new students need to visit the Admissions Office to see both Carolyn Waechter and Patti McDermott. Carolyn will assist **all new international students** with visa information. She needs to make sure all your immigration documents are in order and make copies for our records. Carolyn will also assist **all new domestic students** with financial aid questions and paperwork. Patti will work with all new students to make sure we have original copies of your educational documents and baptismal and confirmation certificates (for SVD candidates). **ALL NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY!**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

KnowBe4

In early January, employees received a notice from Brad Florence about computer security training. DWC has contracted with a computer security company called KnowBe4 to help train employees. Through video classes, you will learn how to protect yourself and the college from computer fraud and phishing scams. We have extended the completion deadline to **February 18, 2022**. If you have already completed the courses, you do not need to do anything else. If you have not, you should receive an email invitation from KnowBe4 in the coming days.