

THE LOG

Divine Word College

February 8
2022

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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February

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Black History Month

February is Black History Month in the United States and Canada. This annual observance dates back to 1925 when Carter G. Woodson, an African American, Harvard trained historian, conceived of an event to help recover and honor the history of Black people in North America. In 1970, the original weeklong event was expanded to a month of commemorations, celebrations and presentations. More recently, celebrations of Black History Month have been held in the United Kingdom, Germany and Ireland.

More information on the various celebrations of Black History Month can be found at:

- For Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>
- For USA <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/>
- General info https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month

Sadly, the contributions of Black people to the history and culture of North American societies are often overlooked or ignored. However, people of African descent account for about 12% of the US population and about 3.5% of the Canadian population. Somewhat surprisingly, one in ten Black people living in the US are not "African Americans;" rather they are immigrants from the Caribbean, from Latin America, or directly from Africa.



It may also surprise you to hear that worldwide, more than 25% of all Catholics are of African descent, (based on the annual yearbook of the Catholic Church, *Annuario Pontificio*). Nevertheless, racism continues to disfigure the Church's life and mission. **Archbishop Wilton Gregory**



of Washington DC, was named the first African American Cardinal in February of last year. When asked about whether he has dealt with racism during his years of priestly service, he answered: "Oh, sure.. I don't know

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of any African American who hasn't tasted the bitter cup of discrimination... Now as long as I was formally dressed, I'm treated with great respect and affection. But if I take off my clerics to go out, to go shopping or run an errand, I'm in the pool of every other African American man in Washington."



St. Josephine Bakhita also suffered racism, discrimination and even slavery. The DWC community honored her today at Mass on the anniversary of her death; she died on Feb 8 1947. On Saturday, Feb 26, we will again commemorate her amazing life and celebrate her release from slavery and her life of service as a woman religious with Mass and a banquet.

Since SVDs first arrived in North America in 1895, we have opposed racism and ethnocentrism while promoting God's reign of universal brotherhood and sisterhood. We continue our commitment to the Black apostolate in all three North American SVD provinces. Likewise, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters have made service to the African American community a core part of their educational ministry, especially in the South.

In a Word is a publication for and about African American Catholics that has been published by Divine Word Missionaries at Bay St. Louis MS since 1983. Check it out! <http://www.inaword.com/>. The editor, Fr. Jim Pawlicki SVD, is a DWC alumnus.

Black SVD bishops in the US, including **Harold Perry SVD**, **Joe Francis SVD**, **J. Terry Steib SVD** and **Curtis Guillory SVD** were all instrumental in the writing of major pastoral letters to encourage African American Catholics and to condemn racism. Bishop Guillory is an alumnus of DWC; Bishop Steib and Bishop Francis served on the Board of Trustees of the College.

A good way to observe Black History Month would be to spend a few moments looking over the bishops' courageous teaching.

- *Brothers and Sisters to Us*, 1979 pastoral Letter of the US Catholic Bishops on racism. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/brothers-and-sisters-us>
- *What we Have Seen and Heard*, 1984 pastoral letter on evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States. <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/resources/upload/what-we-have-seen-and-heard.pdf>
- *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 2018 pastoral letter of the USCCB against racism https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts_0.pdf

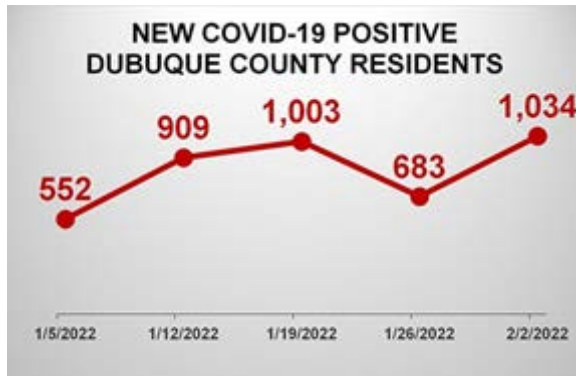
"Racism is not merely one sin among many; it is a radical evil that divides the human family and denies the new creation of a redeemed world. To struggle against it demands an equally radical transformation, in our own minds and hearts as well as in the structure of our society."

Brothers and Sisters to Us,
US Catholic Bishops, 1979

Social and Global Responsibility. The fourth core competency encouraged by Divine Word College is social and global responsibility. We want to grow in personal responsibility for championing the rights and well-being of all peoples in accordance with Catholic social teaching. This month can help us recommit ourselves to maturing our relationships with people in our own DWC community and around the world.

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 - 31	273	37	37	35	0	6
Feb. 1 - 5	34	2	3	1	0	0



Passing the peak of the omicron wave? Our hopes for “passing the peak” were disappointed by a surprising report on Feb 2 showing new cases jumping higher once again. Dubuque County public health officials suspect that the increase in cases may be a result of new procedures at the state labs that resulted in a temporary backlog. They point out that the combined cases reported on Jan 26 and Feb 2 would still be a significant reduction over the cases reported on Jan 19 for a 7-day period. Tomorrow’s Feb 9 report from the State of Iowa will help us understand if new cases really are dropping.

The total number of positive individuals in Dubuque County since the beginning of the pandemic is 24,764. That is an enormous number given that the county’s population is approximately 99,653. ***So, roughly one-quarter of Dubuque county’s population has contracted a COVID-19 infection.*** It is also estimated that 63% of Dubuque County residents are fully vaccinated. That means that a minimum of 13% of the population is still very vulnerable to COVID-19, having never contracted an infection nor having been vaccinated. We may still have a ways to go to reach the end of this sad journey.

At DWC, as of today, Feb. 8, all students, faculty, staff, are out of isolation. One SVD member is still completing his time in isolation. We continue to wear masks on-campus and we continue random testing for COVID-10.

Congratulations to the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters



The Holy Spirit Sisters held their 15th General Chapter near Rome from January 13-31. A general chapter gathers representatives from a religious congregation from all over the world to pray and plan together. The Sisters have chosen Sister Miriam (Maria Angelika) Altenhofen SSpS to be their congregational leader for a six-year term from 2022-2028. Sr. Miriam was serving on the SSpS General Council from 2014-2022. She is a psychologist who has served in Germany and in Botswana.

In her first address after her election, Sr. Miriam said:
“Dear sisters, dear brothers in the SVD, dear adoration sisters, dear lay partners and companions on the journey!

... It was not easy for me to accept this challenging task in a very challenging time. But I feel your loving and spiritual support. That gives me strength to courageously embrace this new role and grow into it.

“At the end, it is God’s mission and we are poor and hopefully humble collaborators in this great creation and evolution of a love that wants to transform the world.

“Our congregation is worldwide and very diverse in the different parts of the globe. But wherever we are, we try to serve especially those at the margins whose voices are not heard. Maybe God wants to enter and speak to us from these margins. ...please continue to support us with your prayers and let’s keep united in the Holy Spirit!”



Faculty Signature Assignment Evaluation dates:

Round 2 of Faculty Signature Assignment Evaluations is now open until next Sunday (February 13)! The dates are as follows:

- 2) Round 2: February 7 to February 13
- 3) Round 3: February 14 to February 20

Please let Yasmin Rioux know if you have any questions!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Lunar New Year

A true community always finds a way to celebrate and have fun even amid COVID restrictions. Many thanks and congratulations to all members of the VSA, the kitchen staff, and all students who have contributed their time and creative skills to organize a wonderful Lunar New Year Celebration full of joy, laughter, and happiness. It was indeed an occasion to celebrate our rich interculturality with traditional outfits, entertainment, and delicious food. Special thanks to the main celebrant, Fr. Michael Quang Nguyen, SVD, our college chaplain Fr. Sonny De Class, sacristans, musicians, cantors, acolytes, and all those who made the meaningful Eucharistic celebration possible. Wish you good health, peace, and joy in the year of the tiger. Happy Lunar New Year!

Spring Break Project

Spring Break is around the corner. It is about time to take a break from school, explore exciting places with friends and learn more about the SVD ministries. The College will provide SVD candidates an opportunity to spend their Spring Break in SVD parishes. If you are interested, please sign up on the Student Board. For any further questions, contact Fr. Raymond Akumbilim, SVD.

Volleyball Tournament

The Volleyball Tournament will resume this week. All the games are scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please check the Sport and Recreation Board for the game schedule.

Super Bowl LVI

Sports are an important part of the American culture. The most popular sport in the USA is football. NFL Super Bowl LVI is the annual playoff championship game of the National Football League (NFL). The Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals are set to play on Sunday, February 13, at 5:30 pm. As usual, the Student Senate will organize this event. The supper will begin at 5:30 pm in the Pour House. The Sunday Vespers will be canceled. Check the Student Board for any further information. Come and have fun!



Dean's Forum

Dean's Forum will replace the Liturgy Prep on Thursday, February 17, at 1:00 pm in the main chapel. Please be prepared with your ideas and recommendations for making our community a better place here at DWC. Attendance is mandatory for all students.

Time Management

Time management is crucial for all who desire to get the best results in their work or studies. Managing your time well is a habit that helps to reduce stress, anxiety, and fear of failure. It will boost your confidence and produce better quality work.

Managing your time is not about creating your daily schedule and noting everything you have to do in your calendar. It is very important to learn how to prioritize what is important, what is urgent and what is possible or impossible. The next step is planning how you will do it.

Your schedule has to be realistic. There are only twenty-four hours in a day. How many hours do you usually sleep at night? Do you need to take a nap during the day? What are your responsibilities: your studies, prayers (communal and personal), Formation group activities, community services, etc.? Which among these are the important ones for you? How can you prioritize your 'things to do'?

How about your hobbies, things that relax you? How do you study? Are you a 'morning' person or a 'night' person? Can you write your papers for Philosophy class in two hours? Or can you study for your Biology quiz one hour before class? Be mindful of the language: English. For most of us, English is our second or third language. All this needs to be considered if you want to use your time wisely. Planning plays an important part here.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

Letters of Suitability

Thank you to the 46 students who are members of religious congregations or diocesan priests who have already submitted their Letters of Suitability to Len Uhal. This is much appreciated. However, there are still 19 other students who still need to submit the letters as soon as possible. Please get your bishops or religious superiors to sign the letters and return them to Len. Thank you.

Domestic Students

Domestic Students who qualify for federal financial aid are strongly encouraged to begin planning for next year. Please visit Carolyn Waechter in the Admissions Office to get started on completing your FAFSA for the 2022-23 school year. It is most beneficial to have this completed before the end of this academic year.

On the road again!

After over a 24-hour flight delay, Fr. Emilio, Fr. Anthony and Fr. Thinh arrived safely in Rome a few days ago. As some of you may know, for the next two months they are participating in an SVD Formation/Vocation course at the SVD conference and retreat center in Nemi, Italy (about an

hour outside of Rome) called Centro Ad Gentes. [Click here](#) to learn more about the center. They are joined by about 30 other SVD formation and vocation directors from around the world to share ministry experiences and to learn more about their ministries. Fr. Adam and Len Uhal are both on campus this week and look forward to their friends returning with a wealth of information. Please keep all the vocation directors in your prayers.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

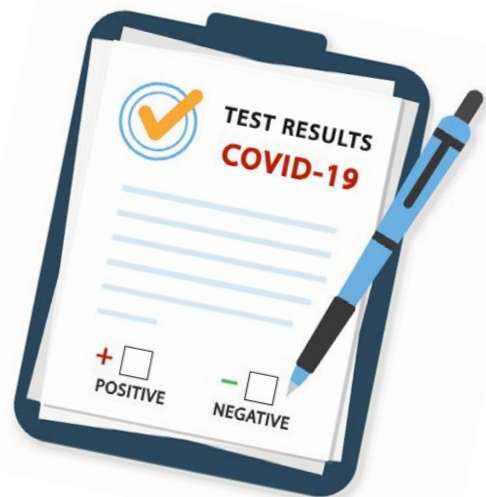
Mr. Steve Winger

I am reposting the COVID-19 testing schedule for employees. We kindly ask that you test in the week you are scheduled.

DWC employees can use a rapid test (nose swab) or PCR (spit) test here at DWC, or you can test off campus. Employees should send test results to Mr. Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations.

Employee COVID-19 Testing Schedule

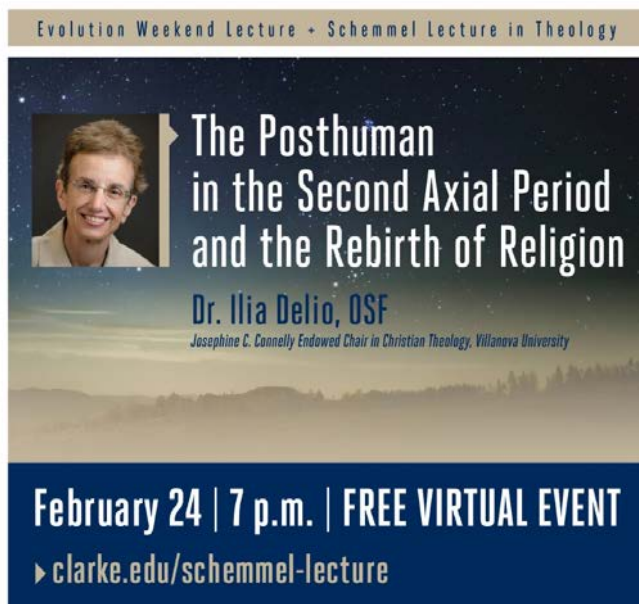
Week 1	A-Ca	Jan. 16-Jan. 22
Week 2	Ci-Co	Jan. 23-Jan. 29
Week 3	D-Flor	Jan. 30-Feb. 5
Week 4	Floy-Ga	Feb. 6-Feb.12
Week 5	Gh-Heib	Feb. 13-Feb.19
Week 6	Heit-K	Feb. 20-Feb. 26
Week 7	L-M	Feb. 27-Mar. 5
Week 8	O-Pa	Mar. 6-Mar. 12
Week 9	Pe-R	Mar. 13-Mar. 19
Week 10	S-T	Mar. 20-Mar. 26
Week 11	U-Va	Mar. 27-Apr. 2
Week 12	Ve-Wil	Apr. 3-Apr. 9
Week 13	Win-X	Apr. 10-Apr. 16
Week 14	Y-Z	Apr. 17-Apr. 23



Note: if you are unvaccinated, you must test weekly

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Sr. Ilia Delio will be speaking on religion and evolution on February 24 at 7:00 p.m.. This event is sponsored by Clarke University and will be virtual.



The lecture will focus on the shift in consciousness brought about by the impact of technology and mass communication, and the irony of resistance to accepting evolution despite this ongoing human development.



This program is supported by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this program do not necessarily reflect those of Humanities Iowa or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

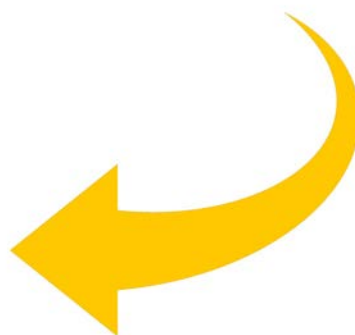
Pour House Series

Knowing the History of others

CELEBRATING
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**
FEBRUARY

Join us this Friday Feb. 11 at 6:30PM
for a free movie in the Pour House

Don't Miss This!



View the movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3vwF6ZpyCM>