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Birthday Corner

February

1 Fr. Anthony Cong Nguyen, SVD

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Spiritual Directors - On the Road

The Gospels tell us that at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee he moved from place to place, preaching, teaching and healing (Mt 4:23-25). Along the way, he reached out to the crowds, but he also began to gather some people as disciples who were destined to share more completely in his ministry.

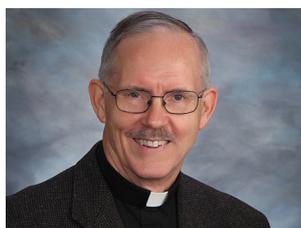
That sounds to me like the life and work of vocations ministers. They are like Jesus in moving on to the next opportunity; they continue preaching and teaching, and they do a surprising amount of pastoral counseling and spiritual direction along the way. St. Josef Freinademetz's early ministry in



Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SVD, Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD, Mr. Len Uhal, Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, Fr. Thinh Ngo, SVD

Shandong, China was also a time of moving from village to village. He met people along the way, he learned a lot about the people he was serving, and his love for them grew.

It might be that the image we may have of the work of our vocations team members needs some revision. Often, the first and only question we have for them is, how many guys have you recruited this month? That is an important concern, but the gospel writers were clearly concerned with more than how many disciples Jesus gathered. Maybe we should look upon vocations ministry with a wider lens than simply "recruiter" – they are just as much spiritual directors.



Vocations ministers spend a lot of time with young people. They raise a core issue for young adults, asking, what do you want to do

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with your life? Young adults lead busy lives, filled with educational demands, jobs, sports, social commitments, parties, and maybe video games. In the midst of frenetic activity a pressing issue emerges. Young adults begin to realize that they have their lives in their own hands; they wonder, what will give their lives meaning? A trusted “outsider” can bring more focus and a listening heart to the matter. The question and a willingness to talk things over is a gift that Jesus brought to the people he encountered on his travels, and a gift that vocations ministers continue to share with them.



Patti McDermott



Carolyn Waechter

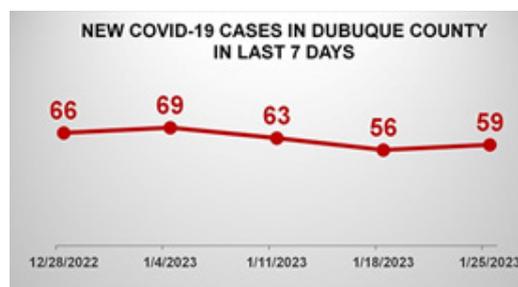
Divine Word Missionaries in the North American Provinces are very active in vocations ministry. Currently, there are four full-time SVDs and three laypersons on the team. In addition, SVD’s in the parishes and other ministries remain attentive to extend invitations and to make introductions.

Vocations work is the foundation for our continuing SVD presence in this part of the world. It is also among the best mission animation projects we have developed. The Spirit urges our “traveling spiritual directors” on their way and uses them to encourage both young and old to find their part in mission. The people they meet, whether destined to become our confreres or to find another road in life, listen for God’s call. That is a crucial responsibility for everyone in the Church.

When I see one of our vocations guys hit the road again, I can’t help but think of the people of Capernaum that wanted Jesus to stay in their town. His response: “To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God...” (Lk 4:43). I send my prayers to accompany their travels, and I give thanks to Jesus when they come home to us here in Epworth.

COVID-19 Guidance: Caring for Community Health

Tripledemic? The number of new cases of COVID-19 infections in Dubuque County has continued to stay rather low after the Christmas holidays. This is unexpected, and very welcome, news. In November, the CDC was alerting people to the possibility of a “tripledeemic” of respiratory illness from Covid-19, influenza and RSV. It seems we have mostly avoided the worse that was threatened. Cases of the flu seem to have peaked in early January, and at present are at low levels across the country.



Flu, Colds, COVID Season? Some students who come from warmer climates are surprised about having a “season” for respiratory illness. How can that be? Our winter weather is so cold it drives us indoors for nearly three months a year. That indoor living is a perfect environment to spread respiratory illness. We all breathe the same air, and respiratory viruses can hang around in the air from minutes to hours. COVID viruses remain infectious for about 20 minutes after becoming airborne. <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-long-is-the-coronavirus-infectious-when-its-in-the-air>

What Can We Do? There are several steps we can take to protect the community’s health during these winter months:

- **Air circulation.** Air circulation helps destroy viruses, and filtration systems also improve the air. That is why we have the fans and filters in the dining room. If there is a ceiling fan, it helps to keep it running, with the fan set to push the air to the ceiling.

- **Vaccinations/Boosters.** Many members of our community have been vaccinated for COVID and or flu. Most viral diseases require annual boosters because the viruses continue to evolve. Approximately 80% of our on-campus community have been vaccinated and boosted. That is a big help in keeping viruses at bay. A recent report from on the effectiveness of the COVID boosters says that people with a booster shot are half as likely to become infected as vaccinated people with no booster.
- **Fever? Stay Home.** Test. Fever is a sign your body is very busy fighting an infection. If you have a fever, the best thing you can do to protect others is to stay at home, stay away from others. A person is very infectious when he or she has a fever. Whether it be COVID or some other respiratory disease, you should isolate yourself until your fever disappears. Then for several days afterwards, you should wear a mask and avoid the dining room! In the case of a positive COVID-19 test, you should remain in isolation for a minimum of five days.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts to keep us free from sickness during these winter months!



As we are still busy with Fall 2022 Project Round 3 faculty evaluations of signature assignments this week, this edition just consists of a small and little assessment definition:

Focus Groups: “Planned discussions among groups of participants who are asked a series of carefully constructed questions about their beliefs, attitudes, and experiences” (Allen, 2004, p. 168)

Per usual, please contact me with any questions you may have!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Spiritual Direction Workshop

On Thursday, February 2, at 1:00 pm in the Main Chapel, the Spiritual life coordinator, Fr. Simon Hoang, SVD together with all spiritual directors will lead a spiritual direction workshop as a part of the liturgy education. The main purpose is for all students to get to know each of the spiritual directors and to share experiences aimed rekindling in students the importance of Spiritual Direction. Attendance is required.

COVID-19 Random Testing

As of day, no positive case is reported in our community. To keep our community healthy and safe, COVID-19 Random Testing will begin from February 6 through to April 28, 2023. Contact person please see Bro Mike one week before your group is to be tested, then the contact person will distribute to all the members in their group. Each student please send your results to Fr Long Phi and Bro Mike.

Below is the schedule

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| February 6-10 | Pre-Novitiate (FIAT) |
| February 13-17 | St. Teresa of the Child Jesus |
| February 20-24 | St. Teresa of Avila |
| February 27- March 3 | Romans |
| March 13-17 | Colossians |
| March 20-24 | St. Arnold Janssen |
| March 27-31 | St. John Vianney |
| April 10-14 | SSPS/ Lay Students |
| April 17-21 | St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart |
| April 24-28 | St. Teresa of Calcutta |

DWC Spring Volleyball Tournament

The Sports and Recreation committee will organize a Spring Volleyball Tournament, beginning on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 4:30 pm in the Gymnasium. The competing teams are:

- St. Teresa of Avila
- St. Teresa of Child Jesus
- St. John Vianney
- The Romans
- The Colossians
- The Fiat (Pre-Novitiate)
- St. Arnold Janssen

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Simbre or Fr. Raymond Akumbilim, SVD. Further details will be posted on the Student Board.

Myths that Effect Academic Success

Time is flying by this semester. Today is the last day of January! We are beginning February, which means papers and quizzes are on their way for all of us. This reality puts pressure on us since we all would love good grades. Isn't it right? According to Kevin Paul, MA, in his book *Study Smarter, Not Harder*, some myths can destroy our way to success.

- 1. I study better with music. Or I learn better in front of the television.** You need concentration to study. Multitasking, in this case, does not work. It is the same when you let your cell phone active. You will be tempted to check the messages you receive because you hear the sound. Put it away from your side and set it to silent mode. Your mind must be quiet to engage in deep learning.
- 2. Last-minute style; I work better under pressure.** This is a type of procrastination. You are trying to justify a reason not to start earlier. Especially when you are dealing with English as your second language. When you leave writing assignment or exam preparation until the last minute, you have two choices:
 1. You give up because you do not have enough time and ideas.
 2. You abandon all your other studies and focus on the task until the time is over.
- 3. Underlining and highlighting while reading the textbook is enough.** I do not need to take notes while reading. You need to understand what you read by making notes about what each paragraph says. You will understand better if you can make questions from the chapter.
- 4. I only need to listen to the Professor. I do not need to take notes in class.** It is impossible for you to remember all the essential things that your Professor has shared in class. Remember, you must reinforce the data many times before it becomes part of your permanent, recallable memory; information that will be stored in your brain.
 1. You need to record what the Professor said for your review.
 2. When you make notes, you think about the words you write. In this process, your brain starts working with the material and making the information a part of you.
 3. When you write, you engage your senses and intelligence. Without forcing, you will remember in your review later why you wrote what you wrote.



The Counseling Center is open five days a week, with appointments on weekends and holidays. Please reach out to us at auntarto@dwci.edu | Room 220 | Ext. 377 for more information.

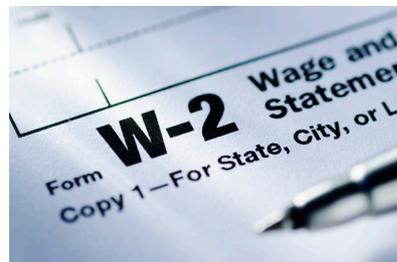
"Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved." ~ William Jennings Bryan



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Mr. Steve Winger

W-2, wage and tax statement information was mailed to employees on Friday, January 27. For more information about W-2's and withholdings, please go to <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-2> If you have any questions concerning your W-2 please contact the Vice President for Operations or the Business Office.



New Library Resources

The library has acquired free 30-day trials to two different resources: [Index Islamicus Online](#) and the Taylor and Francis [African Studies eBook Collection](#).

Index Islamicus Online provides indexing for over 600,000 records covering Muslim history, beliefs, societies, languages, literatures, and cultures. What is an index? An index is a list of publications within a discipline or topic. It provides bibliographic information such as language (written in), author(s), title, source, publisher information (Location, Publisher Name, Date Published), classification, and subject keywords. An index does not provide full-text access to the article or book. If you find an article or book that you'd like to read on *Index Islamicus* here is what you should do:

Copy the article title and paste it into

1. [EBSCOhost](#)
2. [Google Scholar](#)
3. Google or other search engine

If you still can't find a full-text copy of the article, submit an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) request. ILL forms can be found on the [library's website](#) and [OPAC](#). The form is fillable. Fill out the details requested and send it to Br. Tony Kreinus (akreinus@dwci.edu). The trial for *Index Islamicus Online* ends on February 22.

The Taylor and Francis [African Studies eBook collection](#) contains 1853 eBooks. It provides an extensive, multidisciplinary range of scholarly books on all subjects relating to Africa. Bringing together expert authors from around the world, and especially from within Africa itself, the collection encompasses literature, history, politics, anthropology, gender, philosophy, development, education, peace, security, environment, health, media studies, and diaspora studies. You can download books or read them online. The trial ends on February 28th.

There will be a survey sent out in March about these two resources. Please check them out before the trial end dates!



BRO. MIKE DECKER, SVD
HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

**GREATEST
ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE**
Being an SVD Brother

RANDOM FACT
In my life, I have traveled to
over 25 countries. The Holy
Land is one of my favorites



FAVORITE MOVIE
The Sound of Music

SURPRISING FACT
The first SVD I met in Rome
in 1977 told me about Divine
Word College; that is where
my SVD Vocation started

VACATION SPOT
Cape Hatteras,
North Carolina

HOBBIES
Golfing, bowling



Divine Word Missionaries
Heritage Tour

September 18 - 30, 2023

Hosted by
Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD
Divine Word Alumni Director

Visiting: Amsterdam * Steyl * Rhine Valley * Bavaria * Oies
Venice * Florence * Rome

\$4479 per person from New York

BOOK NOW

WWW.SVDALUMNI.ORG/HERITAGETOUR

Join the Heritage Tour in 2023!

REGISTER TODAY!

The tour will visit significant sites in the history of The Society of the Divine Word and our sister orders. You can see Steyl, Oies, Goch, and the Rhine Valley. The tour also includes stops in Amsterdam, Bavaria, Venice, Florence, and Rome.

This historical trip gives a glimpse into how the SVD began and how Fr. Arnold overcame many obstacles and challenges by God's grace to fulfill God's plan for our religious missionary congregation. This is the trip of a lifetime. [Click HERE for more information](#)

Contact Sandy Wilgenbusch with questions or to REGISTER!

Email: wilgenbu@dwci.edu
Phone: Ext. 302