

Class of 2023



THIS YEAR AT DIVINE WORD COLLEGE, THERE WERE
16 MAY GRADUATES AND EIGHT DECEMBER GRADUATES.
THE CLASS VALEDICTORIAN WAS OMAR PICON GONZALEZ.

*Congratulations
to all of our graduates!*

MAY 2023 GRADUATES



John-Edeve Augustin

Hinche, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* My plan after graduation is to continue with my studies.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My experience at

DWC has helped me grow significantly in my spiritual life. I have learned how to listen to God's voice and how God is present in every situation.



Junior Jean Baptiste

Jeremie, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to move on to the Novitiate and continue my formation program with the SVD Community.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* As a future missionary and priest, I will share the Good News where the Holy Spirit guides the congregation to send me. I will put into practice all that I have learned at DWC to benefit those most in need.



Berson Bien-Aime

Jeremie, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* I am still planning and do not have an active plan right now.
- *What is the greatest lesson you learned*

at DWC? To see people as God sees them because sometimes individuals judge others and their situations without knowing who they are or what they've actually gone through. Somehow, I have learned to understand, be compassionate, and forgive others.



Peterson Forestal

Delmas, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I plan to pursue a master's degree.
- *How has your experience at DWC*

impacted your faith? There are two things that impacted my faith. First, the formation program helped me know more about the church's teachings. Secondly, it is clear that ministry plays a significant role in the life of seminarians and priests. Ministry helped me to see how God can work through human beings.



Omar Picon Gonzalez

Memphis, Tennessee

- B.A. Philosophy & Intercultural Studies
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to continue further studies at the University of Memphis to prepare for the LSAT. My end goal is to become an attorney.
- *How has your experience at DWC*

impacted your faith? I plan to work with the marginalized, the forgotten, and the needy in the legal field. This is what we are called to do as believers of Christ.



Wilson Joseph

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will pursue another study.
- *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* I learned how

to live with people from different backgrounds. The formation program also helped me in my personal growth. I feel like I have become more mature, humble, and straightforward. Daily Mass, prayer and reflections also helped me live out my faith. I will carry all I learned at DWC to help others.



Sr. Margaret Kissani, SSps

Madang, Papua New Guinea

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* No plans because of my illness.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* If you are

struggling, take comfort in knowing you are not alone. This was my experience when I was diagnosed with a medical issue. I felt the prayers of Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD and the entire SVD community, as well as the faculty, staff and students. To you all and to God, I am very grateful.



Sr. Thom Mai, FMV

Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I will return to Vietnam to join my sisters in the opening of the Jubilee Year on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of my congregation.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* I have not only grown academically but also spiritually. Through participating in multicultural events, I had a groundbreaking experience with the ways people in different nations worship and portray God in their own customs.



Cederick Morando
Manila, Philippines

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* My main priority is to seek out God's will for my life at the present moment, always remaining open to where the Holy Spirit moves me.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* Taking all of those philosophy classes at DWC really made me question my faith a lot, which I think is a good thing since it helps to bring it to maturity.



Sr. Isabel Tiago Mula, CPS
Xai-Xai, Mozambique

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I will return back to my country.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* I plan to share my

faith with others through religious education programs in the parishes and in the small Christian communities. I will also be applying what I learned to the formation program for the young girls that are discerning religious life.



Sr. Diem Hong Ngo, IHM
Cam Ranh, Khánh Hòa, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I will continue to study at another university.
- *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* DWC has

nourished and strengthened my spiritual life in many ways. It has been a precious opportunity for me to live among various cultures and backgrounds but share the same faith and vocation.



Long Cao Nguyen
Dong Nai, Vietnam

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* I plan to continue discerning my vocation and seeking God's will for my life.
- *What is the greatest lesson you learned*

at DWC? The importance of cultivating a personal relationship with God and integrating our spiritual beliefs into every aspect of our lives. This comprehensive approach to spiritual development taught me that our relationship with God is not limited to just religious activities. Rather, it should permeate every aspect of our lives, informing our decisions and guiding our interactions with others.



Sr. Thoa Thi Nguyen, LHC
Binh Thuan, Vietnam

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, my plan is to pursue a master's degree at Boston College. Once I have earned my degree, I will return to

my country to serve my congregation and diocese.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My experience at DWC has enriched my understanding of faith, broadened my perspective on different cultures and belief systems, and fostered an inclusive and respectful approach toward people of diverse faith traditions. My experiences here at DWC have prepared me for my future study and ministry.



Sr. Thuy Thi Tran, LHC
Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I will return to my country and continue my ministry.
- *How has your experience at DWC*

impacted your faith? I think each of us is given a mission, and my mission is to bring God to people and people to God with an open heart and mind and embrace all differences in God's love.



Miguel Romo Romo
Jalostotitlán, Jalisco, Mexico

- Certificate in Pre-Theology
- *Plans after graduation?* Continue my discernment in the Society of Divine Word.
- *How do you plan to share your faith*

with others in the future? I arrived at DWC as a lay student. My experience here helped me realize that God could be calling me to serve Him as a missionary priest.



Joseph Simbre
Fresno, California

- Certificate in Pre-Theology
- *Plans after graduation?* My plans after graduation are to hopefully enter the SVD Novitiate.
- *How do you plan to share your faith*

with others in the future? My experience at DWC tremendously helped my faith as I have been inspired by the charity and hopefulness of the community.

DECEMBER 2022 GRADUATES



**Sr. Ndigue Formilack
Magdalene, SST**

Mutengene, Cameroon

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* Currently I am in one of our high schools in Kumba, helping in the bursary and teaching.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* Value people for who they are regardless of where they come from. I have learned to encounter God not just in the routine prayers but in every encounter.



Franciste Mervil

Cap-Haitien, Haiti

- B.A. Philosophy
- *Plans after graduation?* After graduation, I plan to continue my vocation with Divine Word Missionaries.

• *What is the greatest lesson you learned at DWC?* I realized that adapting to a new environment or path is not easy, but I did my best and had the best experience of my life. I learned about time management, being more responsible, and strengthening my integrity. Even though sometimes I found myself confused or feeling doubtful, the formation I received at DWC helped me have a better understanding of life itself.



Sr. An Thuy Thi Ngo, LHC

Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I will do ministry with my sisters in Vietnam.
- *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* Living in a diverse

cultural community helped me grow my physical life, spiritual life and community life.



Sr. Liem Hong Thi Nguyen, IHM

Ninh Thuan, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I would like to do ministry for people with special needs through education, career orientation or catechism.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* My faith should be shared with others through my ministry and my life. I want those who I serve and live with to experience God's love and presence through my witness, spiritual life and community life.



Sr. Nhiem Thi Nguyen, LHC

Nghe An, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I am doing my Optional Practical Training program to gain experience in ministry before going to further studies.

• *How has your experience at DWC impacted your faith?* My experience at DWC impacted my faith in many ways, such as building personal relationships with the Lord through Eucharistic celebration, hearing others' vocation stories, and recognizing the love of God in people.



Sr. Thuong Hoai Thi Phan, FMV

Danang, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I am returning to Vietnam to do ministry and prepare my final vows.

• *How do you plan to share your faith with others in the future?* The faith I want to share with others is what I have received and experienced through the DWC community: love, peace, joy, generosity, friendship, serving, and so much more. Indeed, I received many good things from the DWC community. In turn, I will continue carrying and living out these fruits to the places I go and share them with those I meet.



Sr. Phuong Thu Thi Tran, LHC

Phu Tho Province, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* I am going back to Vietnam to serve people whom I am sent to serve.
- *What is the greatest lesson you learned*

at DWC? The greatest lesson I learned at DWC is an attitude of readiness to adapt and openness to accept differences in living environments, cultures, and ways of thinking to proclaim the Gospel effectively.



Sr. Duong Y, IMM

Kontum, Vietnam

- B.A. Theology & Mission
- *Plans after graduation?* Since graduation, I've been in a master of theological studies program.
- *What is the greatest lesson you learned*

at DWC? The greatest lesson I learned at DWC is communal life. I found a real community at DWC in the way everyone welcomes others, prays, lives, and shows hospitality. Living within a community of friends and mentors that have walked with me every step of the way helped me to grow more maturely and nurtured my religious life.