

Who should I be and what should I do?

*"If we worry too much about ourselves,
we won't have time for others."
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



Fr. Thang
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Alumni Director

While summer is for relaxation and recharging our energy, it can also be an intense time for some of our candidates who continually discern their vocations. They have to decide to continue with their religious missionary vocation or to choose another vocation or option.

Each person uses different criteria or principles to discern. Some might ask the popular question, "Will I find happiness in religious life?" Or others, "Will I find myself and be able to live truly as who I am?" Still others, "Will I be able to achieve all my goals and fulfill all my desires in religious life?" For me, as a priest who has been living in missionary religious life for many years, I still discern, not so much about vocation but rather upon the important decisions I have to make. That can include the kinds of ministries I do, the locations I visit, the communities I encounter, the degrees of responsibilities I accept, and so on. I find the most helpful principle for discernment in the question once asked by Frederick Buechner, "At what point do my talents and deep gladness meet the world's deepest needs?" This question helps me to move beyond my individual universe and personal desires, in order to enter into the world that God has created for me and all my brothers and sisters. If our discernment is held captive by our personal gratification and individual fascination, we can't see the big



The Divine Word Alumni Association hosted its annual welcome picnic for the Divine Word College graduates and students who completed their studies at the end of the academic year.

picture. And it is the big picture that leads us to the vocation in which we can develop and use all our talents for the service of others, and receive that deep gladness and lasting joy. Furthermore, the fundamental principle for all discernments should be "sacrifices." All meaningful decisions require sacrifices, just as Jesus had sacrificed and emptied himself to become one of us for the salvation of the world (Phil 2:6-11).

May our discernment not imprison us in our individual universe but lead us to the life that contributes to the building of a world of love, peace, and justice for all.

To learn more about the Divine Word Alumni Association, visit www.svdalumni.org

LET'S GET TOGETHER AT TECHNY ONE LAST TIME.

Plan to attend a one-day,
ALL ALUMNI gathering on:
Saturday, September 9, 2023

*More details - including a
schedule and registration
will be coming soon.*

Whether you are a new alum, or your connection with the SVD spans several decades, Techny is a special place. Techny, with its rich legacy and architectural significance, stands as a testament to the values we hold dear. However, as the world evolves, the fate of this beloved structure remains uncertain.

Feel free to contact our Midwest Region Coordinators:

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