



In This Issue:

Counselor's Corner	4
Library News	5
Roadside Clean-up	5
Tunes and Tales	Addendum

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

The Word Became Flesh – Mary's Part

The Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord is the official "titular feast" of the Society of the Divine Word. It celebrates the conception of Jesus through Mary's cooperation. We are confronted with the astounding mystery that the Word of God, through whom all creation came into being, became flesh in Nazareth and dwelt among us.

Fr. Jorge Zetino SVD was the celebrant and homilist for the feast. He recalled that during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land he was especially impressed by the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. He showed a picture of the altar there, and pointed out the inscription on the altar, "*Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est.*" We recite almost that same text whenever we pray the Angelus; but there is one difference in the altar inscription. It says "HIC factum est," meaning, the Word was made flesh **HERE**.



Fr. Jorge built his reflection, beautifully, on that one little word, **Hic – Here**. He said:

"In (Nazareth), the God of the universe loved the world so much that God entered in our time and space—pitched a tent to be among us— and took on our very own human nature.



"How does the Word become flesh **here** at DWC? It happens **HIC-HERE** all the time when, like with Mary at Nazareth, we add our YES.

continued on next page

“The Word becomes flesh **HERE** when...

- We come together to eat in our dining room.
- We come together to pray in this chapel.
- We come together to learn in the classrooms so we can better serve God’s people in ministry.
- We come together to share and learn from one another in our formation groups.
- We come together to relax and spend time with one another playing sports or eating noodles in the Pour House.
- We come together to serve Gods people at our various ministry sites.
- We come tougher to share our gifts and talents of singing and playing instruments during our liturgies.

“The Word also becomes Flesh **HERE** in the more mundane of our daily activities when...

- We come together to clean up after big celebrations.
- We all do our community service on a regular basis, making sure that our house here at DWC is tidy and clean for us to enjoy.
- We do dishes with our formation groups after lunch.
- We come together and volunteer our time to clean part of Highway 20.
- We volunteer our time to help those struggling with school.
- We comfort those struggling with grief after losing a loved one.
- We try to bring a smile to a friend because we know she/he is having a rough time.

The way we act, the words we say, help us to build community... and set the stage for the Word to become flesh here and now. We just need to look around!”





from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

The **2024 HLC Annual Conference** is scheduled to take place from April 12 to April 16 in Chicago! This year, Fr. John Szukalski and I will be sharing our experiences with institutional assessment efforts via our presentation: **“Building a Mission-Driven, Coherent and Sustainable Assessment Protocol”**. We will address the Interim Monitoring Report, partaking in the HLC Assessment Academy, reexamining and restructuring our assessment protocol, revising the Core Curriculum, realigning the Core, and various other assessment-related items. Wish us luck and an engaged audience!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Gratitude for your help!

Many thanks and appreciation to all of you for lending a hand in the Donor Appreciation Mass and Donaghey Award last Sunday. It was a lot of work preparing for the liturgy, setting the tables, rearranging the dining room, and cleaning up after the banquet. Your collaboration and teamwork make things easier and faster. Here is a brief thank you note from the Development Team:

“Thank you so much to our students, SVD, and employees who helped make our Donor Appreciation Mass and Donaghey Award presentation a great success. With your help and hospitality, our benefactors enjoyed their visit and left with very positive feelings about why they support our mission. Our benefactors make a difference in your lives, but you also make a difference in theirs. Thank you for warmly welcoming them to our community!”

Dean’s Forum

On Thursday, April 11, 2024, there will be the last Dean’s Forum of the year at 1:00 PM in room 107. In this meeting, we will discuss issues pertaining to the end of the year, summer plans and travel arrangements. All students are required to attend. Please be there on time.

Roadside Cleanup

This Saturday, April 13, 2023, we are organizing a roadside cleanup as a way to demonstrate our care, commitment, and concern for the environment and our local community in Epworth. As Pope Francis reminds us in ‘Laudato Si (14)’, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Student Board. For any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Br. Brian McLaughlin, SVD, the coordinator of JPIC.

Ministry Practicum: Theological Reflection

As we approach the end of the year and enter the final days of our apostolic ministry practicum, all students involved in ministry are required to write a theological reflection and share your insights in each ministry group. Please send your reflection paper to your DWC supervisor. The DWC ministry supervisor will organize a session next week for sharing these theological reflections. We encourage you to use this opportunity to deeply reflect on your experiences in your respective ministries and consider how the Lord has touched your lives. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, the ministry coordinator or your DWC supervisor. Thanks for your service!

Compassion and the Benefits of Practicing Compassion



The word compassion comes from the Latin com- and pati, meaning literally “to suffer together.” But compassion moves beyond just suffering together. Compassion is recognizing another person’s suffering and acting to alleviate it.

We, humans tend to want to avoid misery and ignore the suffering of others. Being compassionate toward our difficulties and suffering is the first step in practicing compassion. We should feel understanding, mindful, and accepting of ourselves and our shortcomings instead of punishing ourselves for our mistakes. Receiving compassion from others will strengthen us, and caring for ourselves will enable us to care for others. This self-compassion will help us to offer the same compassion and kindness to others. People who practice self-compassion are more likely to stay motivated to pursue their goals than those who are highly self-critical.

However, even though our brains are hardwired to protect our well-being and that of others, many of us struggle to stay present and loving when faced with discomfort. Being compassionate is a skill set, and most of us still need to learn how to better care for ourselves and others.

Compassion builds connections. Because of the social nature of human beings, our brains play a role in this. When we do something kind for someone in need, our brains release a ‘feel-good’ hormone. This hormone causes us to feel connected and socially bonded to others. People who feel connected are more likely to appreciate, trust, and understand each other. This kind of connection, in turn, helps create communities that can work together to solve problems. When compassion is present in a community, life will be less stressful.

Compassion is a straightforward and fundamental way of relating to the world. We value caring, and we take action to express that care. Compassion is an active action of protecting, encouraging, teaching, and showing generosity toward ourselves and others. It is an expression of genuine concern for the well-being of all living things.



by
Sr. Aprilia
Untarto, SSpS

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.



opac.dwci.edu

Project Muse Database Survey – Feedback Requested!

Please take a couple minutes to fill out a survey about the library's recent **Project Muse database trial**: <https://forms.office.com/r/CaRzvPi5sC>

The month-long trial was for Project Muse's Premium Journal Collection. It included access to ALL the journals on Project Muse. It did not include access to books. Please take the survey even if you did not try Project Muse.

About Project Muse:

Project MUSE is an online database with more than 550 peer-reviewed academic journals and 20,000 electronic books, serving 200 university presses and scholarly societies worldwide. Project MUSE provides access to digital humanities and social science content including the arts, literature, history, education, political science, philosophy, religion, technology, and ethnic and gender studies. Project MUSE is an integrated search and discovery database with no content embargoes.

Sign-up! Roadside and Campus Cleanup



9 AM - 10 AM

Let us remember to take care of our Common Home.
Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Tunes and Tales



**SUNDAY
SALON
SERIES**

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 AT 2 PM

This family-friendly concert weaves storytelling with music! Jack and the Beanstalk, The Adventures of Tom Thumb, and Peter and the Wolf come alive in piano works by 20th-century composers Soulima Stravinsky, Ruth Crawford Seeger and Sergei Prokofiev, with narration by Ron Jenkins.



Evelyn Dias has performed both as soloist and chamber musician in the United States, France and the Czech Republic, as well as in her native country of India. She currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Divine Word College in Epworth, IA.

This program is free, with donations appreciated to support bringing great regional art and artists to the Center.

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