



THE LOG

Divine Word College

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Holy, Healing Wounds

The Gospel readings for the Sundays after Easter have a lot to tell us about *Missionary Discipleship*. According to Luke's Gospel, on the evening of the resurrection when Jesus met the disciples in the upper room, he showed them his wounds. He said, "Look at my hands and my feet... touch me and see!" A week later the disciples were gathered again in the upper room. John's Gospel reports that this time Thomas was there, and Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side...." Thomas believed and said: "My Lord and my God!"



Luke finishes the story with Jesus' words to the disciples: "You are witnesses of these things." I take two lessons from these Easter appearances.

All of us are witnesses. Sometimes we get the impression that missionary witness is only for certain people in the Church. Maybe it is for popes and bishops and priests and deacons and Sisters and Brothers. Unfortunately, the clericalism embedded in the Church makes our witness to the world so much less effective. The truth is, missionary discipleship is a call to every member of the Church.

A story comes to mind: There was a large corporation that was moving its headquarters across the country. The president of the corporation announced that most of the essential employees would relocate along with the headquarters. However, the secretaries, receptionists and other workers would not be moving. These "non-essential" workers were angered by such dismissive treatment; their response was to refuse to answer phone calls or emails for the important people! After a day of turmoil, the president made a public apology!



No sane pastor of a parish would make such a foolish mistake. The work of parish secretaries is absolutely essential. As a missionary, I well know that parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and children too, are essential witnesses to the good news of Easter among all the nations.

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Birthday Corner

April

21 Sr. Elizabeth Nyaga, SVI

Wounds give witness. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, he showed his wounds. What a surprising and intimate gesture! I think of a small child who gets a scrape or a cut and runs crying to his mother. The child, perhaps fearing the sting of an antiseptic, or frightened by the blood, holds tightly to the wound. The mother must coax and encourage the child to uncover the wound to see what can be done. When the child is confident and trusting, he will show the wound to his mom.

I wonder why Jesus would so easily and openly show his wounds. I suppose it is because he has confidence in his disciples, even though they abandoned him on the day of his death. He doesn't need treatment of the wounds; instead, by uncovering his wounds in such a moment, they help heal his relationship with his disciples.

It is said that Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, the devil demanded to know where his deception had failed. She told him simply, "You have no wounds."

When we are wounded we are often fearful or angry or both. Testimony that comes from self-defense or self-righteousness is generally feeble and thin. When it comes from the courage to reconcile, it overflows with inspiring power. Our own wounds can help heal others. Jesus is our example; he is the wounded healer who says – come and touch the wound, and be my witness.

Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass

The Dubourg Assembly 1573 of the Knights of Columbus will have a Memorial Mass for all the deceased members from 2023. The family and friends of those who have died are invited to attend the Memorial Mass to be held at Divine Word Seminary at Epworth Iowa on *Sunday, April 21st, 2024 at 10:00 AM*. Fr. Tom Ascheman SVD serves as chaplain for the group. Our visitors will also be joining us for brunch.



The Knights of Columbus is an organization for Catholic men that was founded in 1882 as a mutual benefit society for working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States. Charity continues to be the foremost principle of the Knights of Columbus. Their charitable activities include support for refugees, aid for victims of natural disasters, promotion of life, care for persons with disabilities, and aid to seminaries and seminarians. In 2022, the Knights donated \$185 million and 49 million volunteer-hours toward charity projects.



SVD Formation Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Candidates
Novices
Seminarians**

**will gather at DWC for prayer, activities
and fellowship to support one another
in their religious vocation**



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

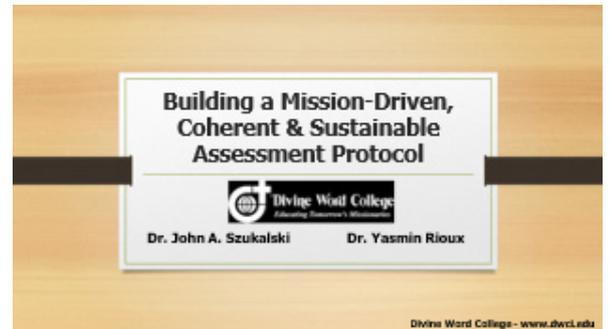
HLC Annual Conference 2024

Dr. Yasmin Rioux and Dr. John Szukalski attended the Higher Learning Commission annual conference from April 13-16, 2024, in Chicago, IL. They also presented a concurrent session on DWC's experience with assessment entitled, "Building a Mission-Driven, Coherent & Sustainable Assessment Protocol." Here's the abstract:

This presentation provides a replicable model for small undergraduate institutions confronting broken, ineffective, and irrelevant assessment practices. Institutions embarking on this challenge require close collaboration among faculty and administrators, clear and frequent communication, compromise and flexibility, and the steady positive stamina to keep moving forward amid inevitable disagreements and failures. Addresses specific moments within a pilot project, including: setting the scope, fostering shared understandings, creating a sense of urgency, retrieving the Mission, articulating Core Competencies, and aligning the Core Curriculum. Draws heavily on faculty experience, administrator perspectives, and Assessment Academy learnings to create the relevant infrastructure for assessing and improving student learning and program effectiveness. Presentation participants will explore how this model might be replicated in their own institution.

Our presentation received great feedback by faculty and administrators from other institutions confronting assessment protocol challenges. Here's an email received after we delivered our presentation:

Hi Dr. Szukalski, It was a pleasure to meet you today at HLC! I had read the summary of your presentation and checked it off last night as a "must attend", thinking we have a similar situation at my college, where we're trying to rebuild our assessment process too. And then amazingly, I had the chance to talk with you this morning. I just wanted to say thanks to both you and Dr. Rioux for your outstanding presentation about how your college developed an assessment framework that was doable and sustainable. That was the most valuable advice on how to build or rebuild an assessment plan that I've ever received. Much gratitude to you.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

Thanks and Appreciation

I want to express my thanks and appreciation for those who volunteered with the roadside cleanup last Saturday. Your time and dedication to clean up the community of Epworth shows your care and concern for this town. Know that the people in Epworth appreciate your help. Let us continue to work together to make Epworth a better place to live.



Reminders for Theological Reflection

At this time, all ministry practicum should be finished. I hope that everyone found their ministry fruitful. The second part of this program is to take this time to pray and reflect on your experience to see how God has been with you during your ministry. Theological reflection is important to each of you. I want to remind you that all students who participated in ministry are to write a theological reflection paper, and share it with your group. Ministry supervisors should set a date and time with your group to share and reflect on the ministry experiences. Please submit your theological reflection paper to your supervisor.

SVD Formation Day

This weekend, our SVD seminarians and novices from the two formation houses in Chicago, Illinois will join our SVD candidates for the SVD Formation Day. They will be here from Friday, April 19, 2024 through Sunday, April 21, 2024. It is an opportunity for our SVD candidates, novices, and seminarians to gather for a time of sharing, praying, and doing activities to support one another in their vocation journey as members of the Arnoldus Family. It is also a time for them to know more about the Society of the Divine Word as they will meet virtually with our Superior General, Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD. Please keep our candidates, novices and seminarians in your prayers this weekend, that this time of bonding will enrich them in their vocational journey as they discern their lives with the Society of the Divine Word.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION COUNCIL

Roadside Cleanup

Thank you to all students and faculty who participated in the roadside cleanup project last Saturday. Your commitment to the environment is most appreciated. [Click HERE for photos of the day courtesy of Fr. Nam Nguyen, SVD.](#)



Earth Day

On Monday, April 22, in celebration of Earth Day, the JPIC Council will sponsor a pictorial display on the beauty of the Earth. During lunch, you will see a wonderful slideshow presentation that highlights the many gifts of Creation.

The Fear of Change and Why We Are Afraid of Change

Change and fear are connected. We are afraid of change because we have no control over the outcome. Human nature dictates that we want things to unfold just as we envision them. We do not like surprises. In his book *The Dance of Fear*, Harriet Lerner, PhD, states that “There are two things that will never change: the will to change and the fear of change” (pp. 73).



**You can adjust your sails,
but not the wind !**

Change is a constant in life. We never stop growing and learning. The human life is not eternal. One day, we were born, and the next, we will return to dust. The decision to stay set rather than change can be more challenging. We can stay caught up in our professional and personal relationships, if we do not keep evolving. The paradox is that humans can evolve and change even as we reject uncertainty. Fear obstructs our vision, making it difficult to see our full potential. We, too, close the door to receive God’s grace for transformation.

Indeed, it is challenging to change. Our brain’s natural tendency is to reject uncertainty. It would rather have a negative, known outcome than an unknown one. However, our minds are adaptable and flexible. We can train our minds to adapt to the change.

Furthermore, our life stories, both real and imaginative, cause our fear of change. We narrate our lives as if someone is writing them. We have to acknowledge that we write our storylines. We are not the victims of life circumstances. This is beyond our control. However, we can control how we respond to them.

Why do we fear change?

1. We feed our brains with uncertainties.

Our brain is so powerful and likes to be in control. The brain needs assurance. The uncertainty causes our limbic system to go into a high alert. That is why we are worried with things that might not happen.

2. We know the fact that nothing in life is permanent.

Knowing that life has to change does not mean we will easily deal with change. We hold on to our status, position, job, and relationship. We refuse to move one. We keep repeating the old stories instead of embracing our minds to what is next. The study on bridging the gaps between Western psychology and Buddhism demonstrates how accepting impermanence breaks the destructive cycles of ruminating. We can relax once we acknowledge and admit that every tale in life has an end.

3. We are afraid of failure.

We are afraid of failure. No one on earth ever fails. When we hold on to the belief that we must be perfect and in control, we will make more mistakes. We need to reframe how we deal with our life’s uncertainty, impermanence, and perfectionism.



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.

Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

NEW! Library FAQ page

Did you know that the online catalog now has an [FAQ page](#)? It has answers to frequently asked questions like “*how do I log in to my library account?*”, “*how do I renew my books?*”, and “*what is interlibrary loan?*” Go to the library’s online catalog [https://opac.dwci.edu/](https://opac.dwci.edu) and click “Library FAQs” on the right-hand side of the page.

There are multiple ways to find answers to your questions. If you don’t see the category you are looking for on the main page, you can enter questions in the search box at the top of the page or you can use the chat box at the bottom right-hand side of the page. Apollo (tawk.to’s AI assistant) is able to answer most FAQs about the library. Here is a transcript of a chat I had with Apollo*:



Question? Use the chat box below.



need help with paper



Of course! I’d be happy to help you with your paper. What specific assistance do you need?



how to find articles



To find articles, you can use the library’s online resources such as EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Newspaper Source Plus, ProQuest Linguistics Collection, JSTOR journals, and JSTOR eBooks. These databases contain a wide range of articles on various topics. You can access them through the library’s website.



what is interlibrary loan?



Interlibrary loan is a service that allows DWC community members to borrow materials from other libraries. This includes books, DVDs, and articles. To request an interlibrary loan, you need to fill out an Interlibrary Loan request form for each item that is needed and send this ILL form to Br. Tony Kreinus, SVD at akreinus@dwci.edu.



how many books does the library have?



I’m sorry, but I don’t have the specific number of books available in the library. If you need detailed information about the library’s collection, I recommend reaching out to the Library Director for assistance.

Try using conversing with Apollo today! *If you notice that Apollo provides incorrect information, please let me know so I can update the help center articles (ewinter@dwci.edu).

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.

**971 GEAR STREET GALENA, IL
815-402-3111**

**GALENA CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS**
EMBRACE THE EXPERIENCE

GalenaCenterForTheArts.com

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

