



THE LOG

Divine Word College

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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

A Feast for the Body

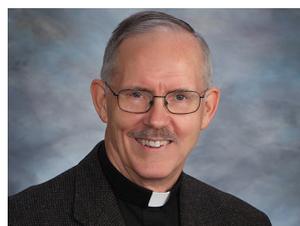
Most people think religion is about spiritual things. And of course they are partly right. But religion is also about bodies. In fact, Lent and Easter are the most important "body times" in our religion.

We start out Lent by putting ashes on our heads, and we finish up Lent by washing feet. In between there are days of fasting where our stomachs grumble just a bit. On Holy Thursday, Jesus gives us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. On Good Friday he gives us his body again, and we recall the vicious torture that Jesus suffered and we cringe with the details about blood and pain and death. On Easter, we commemorated the fact that on the third day, his body could no longer be contained by the tomb. In the evening, he appeared in the upper room to his disciples. He asked them for some food, and he had them touch his wounds. He wanted to prove he wasn't a ghost! He was present to them in his body.



For Jesus, religion was very much about bodies! He healed the people in their sufferings and he fed them when they were hungry. On Easter he rose from the dead and filled us all with the hope that death cannot have the final word over our bodies. Easter is one feast that our bodies can really get into.

Sometimes, in the midst of our bodily sufferings, we can be tempted to despair. We can come to believe that weakness and infirmity is forever, that pain and death have the final say. Such was the case of a young boy who was confined to a hospital bed:



... a school teacher who was assigned to visit children in a large city hospital received a routine phone call requesting that she visit a particular child. The teacher took the boy's name and room number, and was told by the teacher on the other

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end of the line, “We’re studying nouns and adverbs in this class now. I’d be grateful if you could help him with his homework, so he doesn’t fall behind the others.”

It wasn’t until the visiting teacher got outside the boy’s room that she realized that it was located in the hospital’s burn unit. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. The teacher felt that she couldn’t just turn around and walk out. And so she stammered awkwardly, “I’m the hospital teacher, and your teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs.” This boy was in so much pain that he barely responded. The young teacher stumbled through his English lesson, ashamed at putting him through such a senseless exercise.

The next morning a nurse on the burn unit asked her, “What did you do to that boy?” Before the teacher could finish her apologies, the nurse interrupted her: “You don’t understand. We’ve been very worried about him. But ever since you were here yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He’s fighting back; he’s responding to treatment. It’s as if he has decided to live.” Days later, the boy explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw the teacher. With joyful tears, the boy said: “They wouldn’t send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a boy who was dying, would they?”

In this case, it was nouns and verbs that restored a boy’s hope and it was hope that urged his body to fight back. We have something much greater than nouns and verbs – we have the Word of God made flesh – who suffered, and died, and **ROSE** again. He is the cause of our hope - and so we, together with the whole Church are inspired to fight back. Some say, “In the end, gravity wins!” But it didn’t win with Jesus, and it won’t win with us. Though all of us will die, our bodies will be transformed and then they too will be as young and as strong as our spirits.

And so, since we are followers of the Risen Christ, we fight against death in all its ugly forms because we know that death does not have the last word. Rejoice, be glad, sing alleluia! Because of Easter, our bodies are able to share in the triumph of new life.

Recognition & Awards Luncheon

Honoring our graduates and award winners for 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
11:50 AM



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Annual Recognition & Awards Luncheon

The annual DWC Recognition & Awards Luncheon will take place from 11:50 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024. During this event, the College recognizes various members of the student body, staff, instructional faculty, and administration for meritorious achievements. Departing members of the College community will also be bid God’s blessings as they move on to other endeavors. All members of the College community are encouraged to attend. In order to accommodate this college-wide event, one ESL class period will be held according to a modified schedule. Please carefully note the starting and ending time for the class period as listed below. Undergraduate classes will be held at their usual times.

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Modified ESL Class Schedule

ESL Classes – Normal Time

9:00 – 10:50 a.m. class

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. class

2:00 – 3:50 p.m. class

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ESL Classes – Modified Time

9:00 – 10:50 a.m.

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

No change

Ends 30 minutes early

No change

Faculty Professional Development

Ms. Elizabeth Winter—Library Director & Archivist—has been pre-approved for professional development funding to attend two conferences next month:

- From May 2-4, 2024, Ms. Winter will attend the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) held in Des Moines, Iowa. The conference theme is “Sowing the Seeds of Change,” in recognition that archival work is evolving, requiring archivists to implement new approaches to the work.
- From May 29-30, 2024, Ms. Winter will attend the Iowa Library Association (ILA) and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) spring conference held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. The conference theme is “Sustainable Futures,” exploring how Iowa academic libraries are asked to do more (build collections, expand services) with less (in a time of diminishing purchasing power, fewer staff, and shrinking spaces).



Sr. Anna Trang Mai IHM—Instructor of Theology—has been pre-approved for professional development funding to attend (virtually) sessions on Liturgical Theology through the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Liturgy held June 10 – August 2, 2024. The Center seeks to renew the Church through robust liturgical formation for men and women of faith who have dedicated their lives of Christian discipleship to building up the Church.





from Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Please check out the newly updated Assessment webpage on the Divine Word College website: <https://www.dwci.edu/academics/assessment-1>.

The page reflects current updates, such as all new Institutional Assessment Committee members, revised documents, and the brand-new "Annual Assessment Report", which will now be uploaded at the end of each Academic Year to reflect all current assessment data.

If you have any recommendations, insights, or questions, please feel free to reach out to Yasmin Rioux at yrioux@dwci.edu!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD

SVD Formation Day

Last Saturday, the SVD candidates, novices, and seminarians from the three formation houses gathered at Divine Word College for a day of sharing stories, prayer, fun and activities. Our members also had a time to meet with our Provincial and Superior General through Zoom for a few words of encouragement. I hope that it was a day filled with joy, and a day filled with conviction and deepening your vocational commitment. I want to express my gratitude to the coordinators who worked hard for the past months to organize and prepare for this day. We are looking forward to next year's SVD Formation Day.

Recognition and Award Luncheon

This Thursday, April 25, 2024, the college will have a Recognition and Award Luncheon. This luncheon is to recognize students, staff, and employees for their dedicated service for the college community, to recognize students for their academic achievements, as well as to bid farewell to those who will be leaving the college community after this formation and academic year. The luncheon will begin at 11:50 am and ends at 1:30 pm. Just a reminder that all students are required to come with semi-formal attire.

Mass for Vocation – St. Arnold Janssen

This Friday, April 26, 2024, we will have our final vocation mass for this year. St. Arnold Janssen formation group will prepare and organize this mass. In this mass, Frt. Engelbert Salmon, SVD will share his vocational journey about how God has called him, and how he has decided to enter formation with the Society of the Divine Word. We ask you to join us to support Frt. Engelbert and St. Janssen formation group, and also continue to pray for more vocations in the Catholic Church.

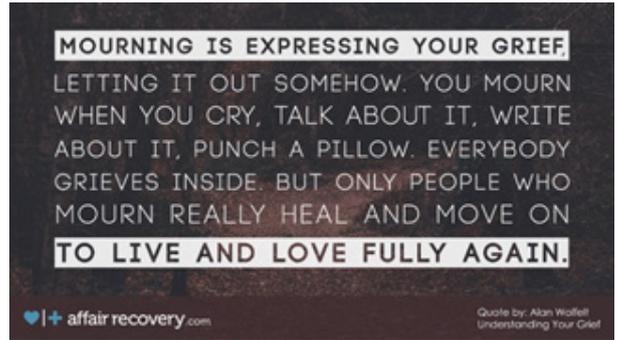
Grief and Mourning

Sr. Rita Cameroon, PBVM, gave a wonderful talk about grief and mourning to Fr. Simon Hoang's Pastoral Care class on April 18. In this article, we would like to share a little bit of Sr. Rita's talk about the difference between grief and mourning.

According to Sr. Rita, grief is an internal process. It is the feelings and thoughts we experience inside. Grief is not a choice. Grief comes naturally. We grieve not only when we lost someone we loved, it can occur over the death of a beloved pet, the loss of an important position or career, a possession such as a home, and, of course, after a divorce. Unfortunately, many of us might not be aware of such loss and ignore the reality that we are grieving.

Based on Sr. Rita's explanation, mourning is our decision to express grief openly. These expressions involve rituals and traditions related to the specific grief, particularly in cultures or societies. In another way, mourning is a structured way to seek support from others. By mourning our loss, we acknowledge the reality of the loss, adapt to the changes it brings, and hopefully, find meaning and hope amid the pain. Mourning includes funerals, memorial services, wearing specific colors of clothes, religious ceremonies, journaling, group sharing, crying, etc.

We need to understand the difference between grief and mourning. This understanding will help us to go through the grieving process more effectively. By acknowledging, honoring and expressing our feelings in a healthy way, we will find healing and peace in the midst of the loss.



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.