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## Birthday Corner:

### APRIL

17	Sr. Ahoefa Aguessou, OLVSM
20	Bro. Phung Dinh, FSC
21	Sr. Elizabeth Nyaga, SVI



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Dr. Joshua Young Appointed VPAA

After reviewing the recommendation of the Search Committee, *I appoint Dr. Joshua Young as DWC Vice-President for Academic Affairs.* Dr. Young has served admirably in the role as Interim VPAA since last May. The Search Committee, in their recommendation to me, cited Dr. Young as “bringing a strong background in academic leadership, mission-driven service, and administrative competence. His academic credentials, professional experience, and understanding of the College’s mission make him an exceptional fit for this role.”

In his application, Dr. Young wrote about his approach to teaching and leadership at DWC. I am very much encouraged by Joshua’s commitment to missionary education and the SVD vision of prophetic dialogue:



“Since arriving at Divine Word College, I have been greatly influenced by the concept of Prophetic Dialogue, the core of the Arnoldus Family mission. The basic tenets of Prophetic Dialogue are speaking the truth while being humble enough to accept other experiences of truth. Prophetic Dialogue requires practitioners to become modern-day prophets and

to fulfill a universal call to missionary discipleship. Prophets are teachers and leaders within their communities and are accountable to God for how they serve those for whom they are responsible. Though I do not claim to be a prophet, this framework underlies my teaching and leadership philosophy.

“As leaders, prophets are always teachers because they are committed to community growth and mission advancement. For the community to grow, a prophet must speak the truth and be inclusive and honest with those they serve. They must ask for the best of those they mentor and support them through success and challenge. Prophets must ask tough questions and work

through community conflict. Moreover, for the community to grow the prophet must grow. The prophet must be humble enough to consider varying, sometimes ludicrous, perspectives and be open to God’s instruction. The prophet must be a witness to what they ask of those they serve. The prophet must always be in dialogue with the sacred and the profane, listening to God and the community. The prophet is always a student. This call to prophetic dialogue is at the heart of the call to missionary discipleship, to be simultaneously a teacher and student. As a missionary disciple, everyone we encounter can become a teacher or student to us. This is the philosophy I espouse in my personal vocation as a teacher, especially in the context of missionary education and the Church.

“I am sustained in my vocational mission through my practice of Benedictine spirituality. As an Oblate of St. Benedict, I have taken vows of obedience, stability in the community, and conversion of life in my lay vocation. I commit my obedience to the common good of my community, I commit to working towards a common mission, and I commit myself to growing together. I am grounded in the Divine Word through the regular practice of *Lectio Divina* and the observation of Liturgy of the Hours. I regularly reflect upon Christ the Teacher for inspiration and instruction.

“I can only hope that by believing and practicing these things I am fulfilling my purpose. I may not be a saint, but I am a missionary disciple; I may not be a prophet, but I am called to be prophetic.”



### A Primer on Prophetic Dialogue – Missionary Service in the Third Millennium

In the year 2000, the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word, SVD’s from around the world met for the 15th time in General Chapter. Gathering together outside of Rome, we felt challenged to chart a renewed course for the SVD and for our missionary service. The theme of the Chapter was “*Listening*

to the Spirit: *Our Missionary Response Today.*” **Prophetic Dialogue** was the watchword that was coined at the chapter meetings, and then began to capture the imaginations of SVDs around the world.

In 1875, the notion of missionary work was dominated by geographical thinking. That was a time when church planting was still at the forefront of missionary imagination. In fact, from the 1500’s until the 1950’s, missionary service was mostly understood in colonial and geographic terms. However, by the dawn of the third millennium, it was clear that the former “missions” had become powerful centers of missionary outreach. If geography is no longer the focal point of missionary outreach, what can serve as a new focus? For SVDs today, missionary service does not emphasize WHERE one is working, it stresses instead, WITH WHOM and FOR WHOM one gives a life of service. Here are some *essential insights of the SVD statement on missionary outreach*:

(¶ 48) From the time of our Founder, we have always felt called to share in the mission of Jesus “to proclaim the Kingdom of God’s love” (Prologue to Constitutions). In our call to pass over to other cultures and in our charism of internationality, the particular contribution that we are called to make in witnessing to the Reign of God is to highlight its **universal inclusiveness and its openness to diversity**. Indeed our SVD identity is rooted in this call to bear witness to God’s love precisely in situations where its inclusive embrace is not recognized and where its openness to the rich diversity of peoples is not appreciated.

(¶ 52) ...our understanding of mission has shifted from an exclusively geographical orientation to one that includes missionary situations. ...We believe that the **deepest and best understanding of this call** is expressed in the term “Dialogue,” or more specifically, **“Prophetic Dialogue.”** ...in the Vatican II documents, the term “dialogue,” in all its richness, is used in a wider meaning to describe our proper attitude toward and relationship with all people. Dialogue is an attitude of “solidarity, respect, and love” (Gaudium et Spes [GS] 3) that is to permeate all of our activities. Limited as we are by our personal and cultural viewpoints, none of us has attained the whole truth contained in God and revealed fully in Christ. In dialogue, we search together for this truth.

(¶ 54) It is in dialogue that we are able to recognize “the signs of Christ’s presence and the working of the Spirit” (*Redemptoris Missio* 56) in all people; that we are called to acknowledge our own sinfulness and to engage in constant conversion; and that we witness to God’s love by sharing our own convictions boldly and honestly, especially where that love has been obscured by prejudice, violence, and hate. It is clear that we do not dialogue from a neutral position, but out of our own faith. **Together with our dialogue partners, we hope to hear the voice of the Spirit of God calling us forward, and in this way, our dialogue can be called prophetic.**



***Our call to mission is:***

(¶ 58) ...a call to reach out to **faith-seekers and to people who have no community of faith**, to engage in primary evangelization and re-evangelization... We reach out to them in prophetic dialogue because we believe, together with our Founder, that “to proclaim the Good News is the foremost and utmost act of love for neighbor.”

(¶ 60) ... a call to prophetic dialogue **with the poor and the marginalized** of our world in seeking to promote integral human development. (¶ 63)...together with the local Churches, we struggle to empower the poor and marginalized to grow toward greater well-being and full human dignity. We strive to see the world through their eyes and, empowered by them, join in their struggle against unjust social structures and the abuse of power.

(¶ 64) ... a call to prophetic dialogue **with people of different cultures** so as to learn from and share in the diversity of gifts given by the God of Life. (¶ 65) Our prophetic dialogue with people of other cultures requires a continual personal conversion, a dying to ethnocentrism and racism, and a passing over to a more catholic spirit of appreciation of the other’s cultural identity. The pain and joy of learning a new language and of entering into the culture of the people with whom we work allows us a small share in the dying and rising of Christ.

(¶ 68) ... a call to be more committed to prophetic dialogue **with the other Christian Churches, with followers of other religious traditions, and with people committed to diverse ideologies.** Together with all these dialogue partners, we hope to hear the voice of the Spirit of God calling us forward in service. Our commitment to such dialogue is especially important where Catholics are in the majority. Otherwise we might rightly be suspected of promoting dialogue merely as a “tactic” for those situations where Catholics are less numerous. (¶ 70) ...together with the local Church, we promote religious tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, freedom of conscience, and a better appreciation of shared human and spiritual values. We work together on common projects, especially those that respond to the demands for genuine peace and integral human development. Sometimes we are even graced with opportunities to share our experience of the Transcendent in a dialogue of prayer.

(¶ 108) As we turn a new page in the history of our Society..., (¶ 109) we need to continue to listen to the Spirit so as to know and do the will of the Triune God. **We are convinced that when we enter into dialogue with others, we surrender ourselves to God.** Whether for a minute, an hour, a day or a lifetime, whenever we give ourselves to others, we become a gift to them and to God. And God, who dwells in them as he dwells in us, becomes in turn a gift for us all. So, joyfully, we unite ourselves with the founding generation and all disciples of Jesus in renewing our commitment to be hope-filled witnesses to the Good News of God’s Reign.

 **Dr. Yasmin Rioux**  
**Assessment Bites**



**Happy Easter!**

I wish you all a blessed Easter.





**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS**  
**Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD**



**Easter Triduum Week and Lenten Recollection**

Just a reminder that this will be a busy week for all of us. There will be a lot of preparations and rehearsals for the Easter Triduum. Please look over the schedule on the bulletin board to see what you need to do.

Also, this Wednesday, April 16, 2025, we will have a Lenten Reconciliation service at 7:30 pm in the main chapel. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a time for us to return ourselves to our loving God. We know that the sins that we commit separates and damages our relationship with God. It is good for all of us to reconcile with God and be cleansed before entering the Holy Triduum this week. I encourage all of you to use this time for confessions, and experience the love and mercy of God.

**Theological Reflection**

We are heading toward the end of the year, and are in our final days of our apostolic ministry practicum. All students who are doing ministry practicum are to write a theological reflection paper and meet with their group to share their reflection. The ministry site supervisor will schedule a meeting with the group for the theological reflection sharing. We encourage the students to take this time to reflect on their experiences in their respective ministry, and see how the Lord has touched your lives.

**Recognition and Award Luncheon**

This Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 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.



**Student Senate Elections**

The election for the Student Senate 2025-2026 is here! A few students have signed up to run for the positions held in the Student Senate. This Tuesday, April 15, 2025, the candidates will give a speech telling the student body why they should be voted to the Student Senate next year. The speech will take place in room 107 at 1:00 pm. The following day, we will have our first ballot in the dining room during lunch. We thank all of the candidates for their willingness to serve in the student body, and we ask for all of you to vote for your candidate. We wish them good luck!



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

### Come and See Visitors

The Vocation Office is grateful to the entire DWC community in helping to welcome Come and See visitors throughout the year. Due to the special liturgical celebrations, Holy Week is always a wonderful time to invite men to visit our campus who are discerning a religious vocation. As we move into the Triduum, Fr. Toan Vu will be back on campus hosting seven visitors this week. Please welcome:



**Visitors**

Jose Domingo Rizo Barron  
 Israel Rizo Barron  
 Danik Arevalo  
 Oscar Arevalo  
 Justin Orellana  
 Matthew Hoai Thien Vu (Thomas)  
 Martino Hoai An Vu

**City/State**

Cleveland, TX  
 Cleveland, TX  
 Liberty, TX  
 Liberty, TX  
 Cleveland, TX  
 St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada  
 St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger



**RESPONSE PLAN:**  
**IN THE EVENT OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER**

-  **Run: if safe route exists**
-  **Hide: if evacuation not feasible**
-  **Fight: if in imminent danger**

**Evacuation Point:**  
**St. Patrick's Church** 

### Active Shooter Response Plan

Divine Word College has implemented a new Active Shooter Response Plan, designed to safeguard our community. This plan utilizes the “Run, Hide, Fight” model, a widely recognized strategy recommended by law enforcement. In the event of an active shooter, swift action is paramount. **Run** immediately if a safe escape route exists, leaving personal belongings behind and assisting others when possible. If evacuation is not feasible, **Hide** in a secure location, locking doors and silencing all electronic devices. As a final measure, when faced with imminent danger, **Fight** back aggressively to disrupt and incapacitate the attacker. St. Patrick’s Church has been designated as our primary evacuation point. Predetermined evacuation routes will be established and communicated through training sessions and signage. Upon arrival, personnel will conduct a thorough accounting of all individuals, and communication with authorities. For the complete plan and detailed procedures, please view the addendum. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Active Shooter Response Plan, please contact Steven Winger, Emergency Planning Committee Chair, at [swinger@dwci.edu](mailto:swinger@dwci.edu).



## Upcoming: Writing Workshop

**Writing for the Future:  
How to Write a CV and Statement of Purpose**

**When:** Thursday, April 24, 12:30-1:00 pm

**Where:** Academic Resource Center

The workshop will also address how to write a resume and cover letter.

Sponsored by the Academic Resource Center and led by Dr. Richard Garrett.

# Justice and Peace Committee



## Thank You

Thank you to all students and faculty who participated in Roadside Cleanup on April 5. Your efforts in making our environment beautiful are greatly appreciated. Here are a few photos to remember the occasion.

DWC was well represented at the Climate Action Festival at Loras College on April 3. A HUGE THANK YOU to all who participated in this important event.



# Active Shooter Response Plan for Divine Word College

**Objective:** To provide Divine Word College staff, faculty, and students with a clear course of action in the event of an active shooter situation, maximizing the safety of all individuals and facilitating a safe evacuation to St. Patrick's Church.

**Principles:** This plan is based on the "**Run, Hide, Fight**" model, as recommended by law enforcement agencies.

## I. Immediate Actions

### A. Recognition:

- Recognize the signs of an active shooter: gunfire, yelling/screaming, panicked crowds.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation feels wrong, it probably is.

### B. Course of Action:

- **Run:** If there is a safe and clear escape path, evacuate immediately.
  - Have an escape route and plan in mind.
  - Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
  - Leave your belongings behind.
  - Help others escape if possible.
  - Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
  - Keep your hands visible.
  - Follow the instructions of any police officers.
  - Do not attempt to move wounded people unless they are in immediate danger.
  - Call 911 when you are safe.
- **Hide:** If evacuation is not possible, find a secure hiding place.
  - Find a location out of the shooter's view.
  - Seek cover that may offer protection from gunfire (e.g., thick walls, concrete pillars).
  - Lock and barricade doors if possible.
  - Silence your cell phone and other devices.
  - Remain quiet and still.
- **Fight:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger.
  - Attempt to disrupt and incapacitate the shooter.
  - Act as aggressively as possible.
  - Use any available objects as weapons (e.g., chairs, fire extinguishers, books).
  - Commit to your actions.

## II. Evacuation to St. Patrick's Church

- **Designated Evacuation Point:** St. Patrick's Church has been designated as the primary evacuation point for DWC in an active shooter situation.
- **Evacuation Routes:**
  - Predetermined evacuation routes from various campus buildings to St. Patrick's Church will be established. These routes should consider:
    - Minimizing exposure to potential gunfire.
    - Utilizing available cover and concealment.
    - Avoiding areas where the shooter is known to be.
  - These routes will be disseminated in campus wide training, and posted in common areas.
- **Assembly and Accountability:**
  - Upon arrival at St. Patrick's Church, designated personnel (e.g., faculty, staff) will assist in accounting for all students, staff, and faculty.
  - A system for tracking and reporting missing persons will be implemented.
- **Communication:**
  - Designated personnel will communicate with law enforcement and college authorities from St. Patrick's Church, providing updates on the situation and the status of evacuees.
- **Church Procedures:**
  - St. Patrick's Church staff will be briefed on this plan and their role in assisting evacuees.
  - Provisions for basic needs (e.g., water, first aid) at the church will be made.

## III. Communication

- **Internal Communication:**
  - The system for rapid communication during an active shooter situation may include all or some of the following: Populi notification system, public address system, and text alerts.
  - Clear and concise messages will be used to provide updates and instructions.
- **External Communication:**
  - Designated college spokespersons (Public Relations Director and/or President of the College) will communicate with law enforcement and the media.
  - Information shared will be accurate and timely, while protecting the safety of those on campus.

## IV. Training and Drills

- **Regular Training:**
  - DWC staff, faculty, and students will receive annual training on this Active Shooter Response Plan, including the "Run, Hide, Fight" principles and evacuation procedures.
  - Training sessions will be conducted by qualified personnel, in coordination with local law enforcement/Dubuque County Emergency Management.
  - Training will address specific scenarios and potential challenges.

- **Drills:**
  - Periodic drills will be conducted to simulate an active shooter situation and allow individuals to practice their response.
  - Drills will include evacuation to St. Patrick's Church.
  - Drills will be evaluated to identify areas for improvement in the plan.

## V. Law Enforcement Coordination

- **Liaison:** DWC will establish a liaison(s) with local law enforcement agencies to facilitate communication and coordination during an active shooter situation.
- **Information Sharing:**
  - DWC has shared relevant information with law enforcement, such as campus maps, building layouts, and potential hazards.
  - Law enforcement will be provided with timely updates during an event.

## VI. Post-Incident Procedures

- **Accountability:** Procedures for accounting for all students, staff, and faculty.
- **Support Services:**
  - Counseling and support services will be made available to individuals affected by the incident.
  - Trauma-informed care will be provided.
- **Investigation:**
  - DWC will cooperate fully with law enforcement in the investigation of the incident.
- **Plan Review:**
  - The Active Shooter Response Plan will be reviewed and updated as needed following any incident or drill.

## VII. Key Considerations for DWC

- **Campus Layout:** The plan will be tailored to the specific layout of the DWC campus, including building locations, exits, and potential hazards.
- **Student Population:** The plan will consider the needs of DWC's diverse student population, including international students.
- **Resources:** DWC will ensure that adequate resources are available to implement this plan, including communication systems, training materials, and first-aid supplies.
- **Regular Updates:** This plan will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect best practices and any changes in the DWC campus or surrounding area.

**Designated Evacuation Point: St. Patrick's Church parking lot (basement door is open)**



**Aerial view of Epworth-Divine Word and St. Patrick's with distance between**

