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Birthday Corner:

OCTOBER

26

Sharon Sinton



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Party and Pray... Two Things You Cannot Do Alone

The reading from the Book of Exodus during the Mass for Mission Sunday told the story of Moses needing help to pray for victory in battle. The people, freshly escaped from Egypt, were wandering in the desert when they were attacked. Moses instructed Joshua to lead some warriors into battle, while he would pray from an overlooking hill, arms raised to implore God's help. And then:

"Moses' hands, however, grew tired, so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset." (Ex 17:12)

DWC wasn't in a battle during our weekend celebration of World Mission Sunday, but there *was* a lot of joyful noise and busy movement all around—seemingly bordering on chaos. Looking back on our missionary feast, I can't help but think of Moses and Joshua, Aaron and Hur.

LOTS of people helped make our annual "homecoming" celebration possible. Here is a short list of some of the ingredients of our party: food, decorations, music, preaching, speeches, dances, tables and chairs, invitations, welcome, fancy clothes, flowers, clean bathrooms, hallway exhibits, take-down and clean-up, thank-you's... and eventually, rest.

In the role of Joshua, we had Sr. Aprilia Untato SSpS (our food warrior), Dr. Evelyn Dias (the music master), and Fr. Tuan Hoang SVD (details, details, details...). In the role of Moses, Aaron and Hur, we enlisted Fr. Tim Lenchak SVD (former DWC President and current



Novice Master), Rev. Mr. Baruch Zinsou SVD (a DWC graduate and recently ordained deacon), and Ms. Sharon Sinton (an English language instructor at DWC and an active member of Dubuque's First Congregational Church).

The worldwide theme for Mission Sunday was: **"Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples."** I am certain that our hope was strengthened as we gathered together for prayer and celebration.

Fr. Tim gave a brief homily, and then invited Sharon to reflect on how her church is also engaged in mission in nearby Dubuque. In asking her to speak, I wanted to extend the theme just a little further, Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples—**From Many Churches.**

Sharon painted a powerful image of Moses, Aaron and Hur, saying:

"This is the image I want to keep before us today: Working alongside others to give them the hope they need to complete the work of becoming better versions of themselves, so that, perhaps they, too, can spread hope and compassion to others. This is a vision that I believe the SVDs promote and, like the SVDs, my denomination has a history of supporting others, too."

She noted that her Church community includes the first "mainstream Protestant denomination to ordain an African American pastor, Lemuel Haynes in 1785." That struck a chord with us, as the SVDs in North America, have long prioritized outreach to the African American community, including opening the first Catholic seminary for African American men in Mississippi in 1920.

I would add that Sharon has been reaching out in quiet, steady missionary service at DWC for the past 13 years. Her dedication to teaching, to support for students from around the world, and her example of abiding kindness speak volumes about what mission truly looks like.

Sometimes we get too wrapped up in ourselves when we pray. But prayer is never solitary. The Father, Son and Spirit are always with us. So too are our friends and family who have asked for our prayers, and the needs of people all over the world weigh on every intercession.

At liturgy we pray together. Even in private prayer, we carry one another. Prayer, like parties, cannot be done alone.

Nor can mission be done alone. Just like prayer and parties, missionary service is shared. Just as Moses needed Aaron and Hur, and just as Joshua needed Moses' support, we walk together with other church communities in missionary outreach. Always.

Presidential Scholars

At its last meeting, the Board of Administration considered the applicants for the Presidential Scholarship. Divine Word College first awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 1979. This scholarship is a recognition of and an honor for students who show promise of superior academic achievement.

After consultation with the Board of Administration, I am happy to announce two new Presidential Scholars for 2025-2026: Sr. Cecilia Fukah Egho SUSC and Mr. Nhat Duc Minh Nguyen.

They join the current Presidential Scholars: Mr. Bao Louis Nguyen and Bro. Quoc Bao Le, OCist.



Sr. Cecilia Fukah Egho, SUSC



Mr. Nhat Duc Minh Nguyen



Mr. Bao Louis Nguyen



Bro. Quoc Bao Le, OCist

Congratulations to these scholars and thanks for their academic achievements which help to serve all the people of God.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Faculty Hear and Share Vocation Stories During In-Service

As part of the NetVUE Professional Development Project, faculty reported a need to hear vocation stories to understand how they can mentor vocations. Faculty heard from Kun Niu, Cong Nguyen, and Fr. Sam Cunningham about their journeys to become SVD Missionaries. Their stories focused on two elements; identifying community needs and finding ways to serve them. Kun, son of a carpenter, Cong, the son of a fisherman, and Fr. Sam, the son of a farmer, all mentioned the importance of dialogue in seeking out a vocation. Faculty have reported great appreciation for the opportunity to hear vocation stories and to share their own. Cong asked faculty members what inspires them to remain teaching at DWC. The common theme was care and pride in DWC students and the work they do.

Please take opportunities to share your vocation stories with each other. Students often share with each other in formation meetings, but faculty and other staff often miss out on understanding how students might feel their individual call to missionary service. Prophetic dialogue can begin with understanding what motivates us, helping us to understand who we are and why we do what we do.



ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

Missionary Discipleship Survey

Divine Word College invites community members to complete a brief, confidential questionnaire. Your valuable insights are crucial for evaluating and enhancing the development of Missionary Discipleship on campus, ensuring we continue to uphold the college's core mission and SVD identity. Your input is crucial for our ongoing improvement and institutional effectiveness.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PGMXY6J>





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

Words of Gratitude

I want to thank every one of you for your effort and time in making the World Mission Sunday celebration possible. All of you have shown your dedication and spent much time preparing for the food, decoration, liturgy, and many others. I have heard many positive comments from our friends and visitors who joined us last weekend, and they also expressed their thanks and appreciation to you. They enjoyed the liturgy and the delicious food afterward. All of your hard work and team efforts paid off.



Retreat – St. Joseph Freinademetz Formation Group

This weekend, members of St. Joseph Freinademetz formation group will be having their annual retreat, beginning on Friday, October 24, 2025, through Sunday, October 26, 2025 at our SVD community in East Troy, WI. We kindly request your prayers for the members of the St. Joseph Freinademetz as they use

this time to strengthen their faith and encounter the presence of the Lord in their lives.

Mass for Vocation – St. Joseph Freinademetz

Next Tuesday, October 28, 2025, there will be a monthly vocation mass organized by St. Joseph Freinademetz formation group. In this mass, Nhat Nguyen will be sharing his vocational story and journey. We all know how important vocation masses are to us, as stories can draw a lot of inspiration to strengthen our vocational call. Please join us for this vocation mass and show your support to Nhat and the members of St. Joseph Freinademetz formation group.

Blood Drive

Just a reminder that next Tuesday, October 28, 2025, Divine Word College will host a blood drive in the gym from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Br. Mike Decker, SVD has posted a signup sheet on the student bulletin board, and there are still spaces left to volunteer yourself to donate blood. If you plan to donate your blood, please sign-up by Thursday, October 23, 2025.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Come and See Visitors

Mr. Emmanuel Mayani, who lives in Olympia Fields, Illinois, will be on campus for a Come and See visit next week, from Sunday, October 26 to Wednesday, October 29. He is discerning a religious vocation and will come to Divine Word College to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries and our seminary formation program. Thank you in advance for helping him feel welcomed in our community.



Knights of Columbus Scholarships available for SVD Candidates

From time to time, different Knights of Columbus Councils offer \$500 scholarships to SVD candidates

studying at Divine Word College. These scholarships are available to both domestic and international SVD candidates. If you want to be considered this academic year for one of these scholarships when they become available, please contact Len Uhal, Carolyn Waechter or Patti McDermott in the Admissions Office for a copy of the application. All SVD candidates who complete applications now at the beginning of this academic year will be considered for KC scholarships when they become available later in the year.

WE RECOMMEND ALL SVD CANDIDATES COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION! Please do so by Friday, October 24.



Thank you.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

HSA Contribution for 2026

Divine Word College is pleased to announce that we will be making a one-time, contribution to employee Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) in 2026. This initiative is part of our continued commitment to supporting the health and well-being of our employees. The contribution levels are as follows:

- \$500 for Employee Only coverage
- \$650 for Employee + Spouse
- \$650 for Employee + Children
- \$900 for Family coverage

These funds will be deposited into each eligible employee's HSA giving immediate access to help cover early-year medical expenses.

If you have any questions about HSAs or how this contribution works, please contact James Rang at AssuredPartners at 563-564-1692. As a reminder, employee health insurance election forms are due to the Business Office by **Friday, October 31**.

Plaid Day is Coming!

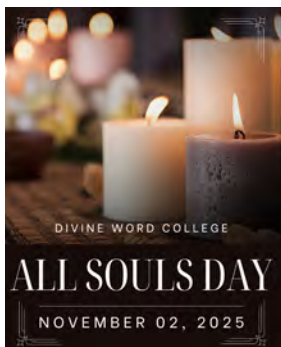
Friday, November 7 is officially **Plaid Day** at Divine Word College! It's time to dig out your best plaid shirt and wear it proudly. Whether it's bold, subtle, vintage, or brand new—let's fill the halls with color and pattern to celebrate a little fun and community spirit.



external affairs

All Souls Day – Your Presence Makes a Difference

All Souls Day is a meaningful time at Divine Word College, when our entire community gathers in prayer and remembrance. On **Sunday, November 2, at 10:00 AM**, we will celebrate a special Mass honoring those who have passed away in the past year. Friends and benefactors are invited to join us as we lift up their loved ones in prayer.



Following the Mass, our guests are invited to join the community for brunch. It will offer a chance to connect, share memories, and provide comfort to those who are grieving. We encourage all students and members of the SVD community to attend—

your presence and conversation will reflect the care, solidarity, and unity that define our mission.

Together, let us honor the memory of the departed and offer compassion to those who mourn, living out the spirit of community that is at the heart of Divine Word College.

In addition, you are invited to submit a photo of a loved one who has passed away in the past year. These images will be included in a special slideshow during the **All Souls Day Mass on November 2**, honoring and remembering those who have gone before us.

Please email your photo, along with the name of your loved one as you would like it displayed, to **develop@dwci.edu** by **Thursday, October 30**.

Let us come together in prayer and remembrance, keeping the memory of our dear ones alive in our hearts.

Mission Sunday Photos

Photos from Mission Sunday are now available! The links and QR code below will take you to the photos and video.



Photos:


<https://photos.app.goo.gl/SZjFTPq3HMSrVSb18>



Video:

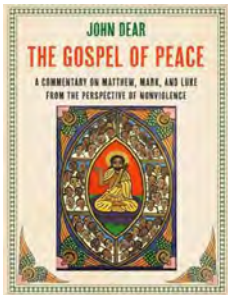
https://youtu.be/zuNIy7RGf_4?si=-BspG5VLoOfc4IuZ



 **Matthew Jacoby Library**

opac.dwci.edu

Library Updates: Celebrating Mission, Heritage, and Learning



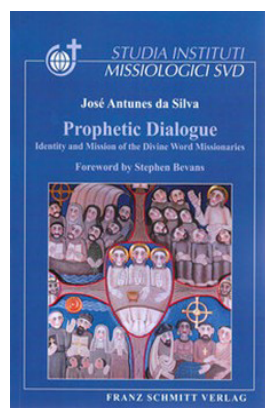
John Dear Book Display

This month, the library is featuring a special display of works by John Dear, a noted peace activist and author whose writings inspire reflection on justice and nonviolence. Stop by to explore his thought-provoking books and deepen

your understanding of peacemaking in today's world. John Dear will be presenting at DWC on October 30th.

Indigenous Peoples' Day Book Display

In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the library has curated a collection of titles that highlight Indigenous history, culture, and voices. These resources invite us to learn, reflect, and engage with the rich traditions and contemporary issues of Indigenous communities.



Expanding Our SVD Collection

We are excited to announce that over **100 volumes of *Studia Instituti Missiologici SVD*** are being added to our collection. This initiative supports our goal of becoming a comprehensive repository for the history and theology of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). These

monographs, written by SVD members, will join our existing SVD section, preserving and sharing the intellectual heritage of the Arnoldus family.

For additional online resources, visit the **Viva Deus online library** at https://vivatdeus.org/online_library, where you'll find books, essays, and blog posts related to SVD spirituality and mission.

SVD Publications and Resources

The college community stays connected through publications such as *The Log*, *The DWC World*, *Alumni Update*, and *Missionary Minute*, produced by our External Affairs Department, Vocations Office, and Alumni Association.

At the recent Faculty Institute, questions arose about the process of joining the SVD order. For answers, explore the **SVD Vocations FAQ page** at <https://www.svdvocations.org/about-divine-word/frequently-asked-questions>

In a Word, a monthly publication for and about African American Catholics, is a e-newsletter published by the SVD Southern Province. There are many more publications from other provinces. **Visit the SVD Curia website** (<https://svdcuria.org/>) for a global perspective on the Arnoldus Family history and current activities. The newly updated site offers extensive information about the congregation's work worldwide.

 <p>PANAM</p> <p><i>Encompassing 24 countries in North and South America, the PANAM zone's provinces possess a long history with roots going back to the time of St. Arnold Janssen and the founding of the Society.</i></p>	 <p>EUROPE</p> <p><i>The EUROPE zone is made up of 25 countries including Holland, the birthplace of the Society of the Divine Word.</i></p>	 <p>AFRAM</p> <p><i>The 18 countries of the AFRAM zone continue to experience growth in membership and ministry as the political climate moves to a more favorable view of missionary work.</i></p>	 <p>ASPAC</p> <p><i>The need for Divine Word Missionaries is great in the ASPAC zone spanning 15 countries from China to New Zealand, and home to nearly 60 percent of the world's total population.</i></p>
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Did you know?

You can find print copies of many of SVD books, newsletters, and magazines in the main library's SVD section or in the Periodicals Room.



DIVINE WORD COLLEGE
BLOOD DRIVE

OCTOBER 28, 2025
11 AM - 2 PM IN GYM

Sign up at student board by October 23rd.