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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Is Prophetic Dialogue More Than Talking?

The phrase, "*prophetic dialogue*" is the basic understanding that Divine Word Missionaries have for missionary service today. However, the Arnoldus Family also includes the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS), who articulated a similar vision at their General Chapter in 1996. They spoke of mission as fostering "*life-giving relationships*"—relationships that nurture vitality, growth, trust, mutual support and meaning.

The mission statement for the SSpS in the United States/Caribbean expresses this beautifully:

We "invite people to a deeper communion with the Triune God... In dialogue with people of diverse cultures and traditions, we minister together... promoting human dignity, life giving relationships, and care for all of creation."

Similarly, the SSpS of the Irish-English Region emphasize that:

"Trinitarian Spirituality, with a special emphasis on the Holy Spirit, (is) the source of life giving relationships."

I especially like that the SSpS phrase takes some of the focus off *talking*. We are reminded that while the word *dialogue* does often emphasize speaking, within the Church, it signals a much fuller relationship.

In 1984, the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians outlined four progressive levels for dialogue in their document, *Reflections and Orientations on Dialogue and Mission*:



1. Dialogue of Life: "Before all else, dialogue is a manner of acting, an attitude and a spirit which guides one's actions. It implies concern, respect, and hospitality toward the other. It leaves room for the other person's identity, his (or her) modes of expression, and values. Dialogue is thus the norm and necessary manner of every form of Christian mission... Every follower of Christ is called to live dialogue in his (or her) daily life." (§29-30)

2. Dialogue of Deeds: "A further level of dialogue is that of deeds and collaboration with others for humanitarian, social, economic, or political goals directed toward the liberation, and advancement of humanity." (§31)

3. Dialogue of Experts: "At the level of specialists, partners come to mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's spiritual values and cultural categories, promoting communion and fellowship. In this way, Christians can also work together for the evangelical transformation of cultures." (§34)

4. Dialogue of Religious Experience: "At a deeper level, persons rooted in their own religious traditions can share their experiences of prayer, contemplation, faith, and duty as well as their ways of searching for the Absolute. This mutual sharing enriches both sides and helps promote and preserve the highest values and spiritual ideas of humanity." (§35)

I often think of these four levels in simpler, everyday terms. Dialogue begins with *reaching out to your neighbor*; it grows through *working together*; matures when we *share ideas*; and deepens when we *pray for one another*. True dialogue, then, is not merely words—it is a way of life.



David Sinnwell, my student mentor in 1972.

At DWC, all these levels of dialogue are lived out daily. I am especially moved each semester when new students arrive, many with limited English skills. That is when student-mentors have a chance to shine. Of course, one could simply hand a new

student a handbook and a campus map, but how much better it is to have a personal guide— someone who helps you feel at home. I still remember **David Sinnwell**, a student who welcomed me when I arrived in August 1972. I don't recall what he said, but I have never forgotten the kindness of his welcome.

Today, we continue to foster *life-giving relationships through prophetic dialogue* at DWC. **Ms. Sandy Wilgenbusch** recently shared her appreciation for how our students recently embodied this spirit on All Souls Day:



"The External Affairs staff have been so impressed with the way students have been reaching out to guests at recent events. In particular, at the All Souls event on Sunday, students made an effort to sit with our guests and engage in conversation—that is WONDERFUL! Our guests love having a chance to speak with students and learn about their vocational journey. Please pass along our thanks and admiration for their conscious effort to invite and welcome guests at Divine Word College."

Indeed, *Prophetic Dialogue* includes much more than talking.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

CEA Updates

After earning the initial five-year accreditation (2022–2027) from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA)—a distinction achieved by 35% of applicants—the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) is re-engaging in its comprehensive self-study process in pursuit of the 10-year re-accreditation (2027–2037), which has a 72% approval rate. Dr. Mark Garton, CEA Accreditation Coordinator, and Dr. Seo Hyun Park, IELI Director, attended the CEA virtual workshop held October 16–21, 2025.

According to the workshop, as of August 2025, 322 sites are accredited by CEA, categorized as either private (“institutions”), college-governed (“programs”), or international (“general”). This year, 30 sites have applied for accreditation or re-accreditation. IELI’s next step is to submit its self-study timeline in December 2025, which will guide the full self-study process due in November 2026.

IELI Faculty Professional Development – Meeting with Pearson ELT Rep

On October 20, IELI faculty met with Sheila Deininger, the local representative of Pearson English Language Teaching.

This meeting was part of the action plan recommended by the ESL textbook ad-hoc committee for this fall semester.

The discussion focused on affordable textbook purchasing options, textbook series that align well across language skills, and Pearson’s digital components, including its newly released language learning app.

Insights from this meeting will inform the next IELI textbook review cycle, scheduled for Fall 2026.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

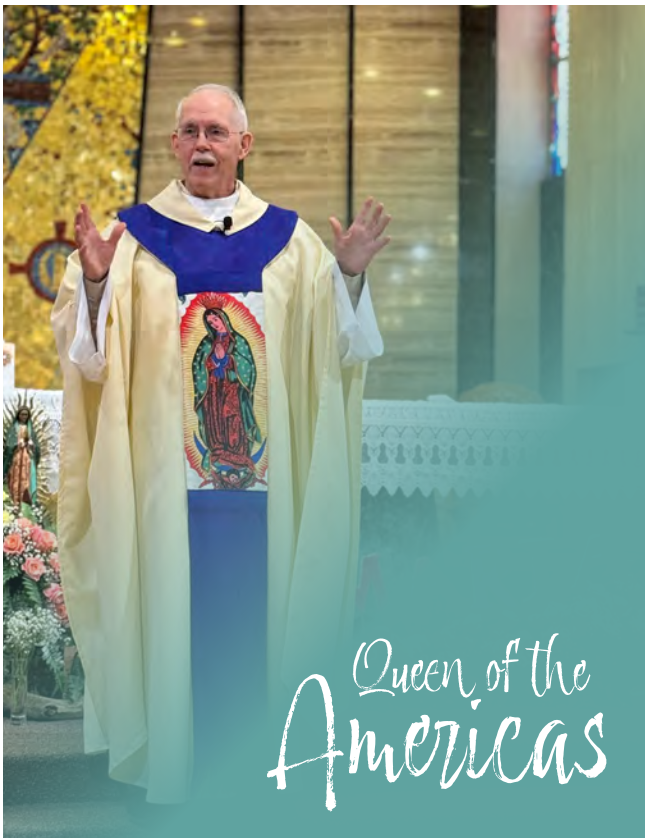
Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Queen of the Americas Celebration

This **Saturday, November 15, 2025** we will celebrate the Queen of the Americas prepared by AAHA. This is one of the three cultural events that students at Divine Word College celebrate every year. Mass will begin at 3:00 pm celebrated by Fr. Tom Aschman, SVD, followed by a banquet. Please come dressed in semi-formal or religious attire.



Also, remember that there will be liturgy preparation on **Thursday, November 13, 2025** in the main chapel at 1:00 pm. All students are required to attend liturgy preparation. Attendance will be taken.



THANKSGIVING

coming soon!



Thanksgiving Break

We are just a few weeks away from Thanksgiving break. You may use the holiday to travel, to visit, and celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. If you are planning to travel, please let me know that you will be away from the college. For those staying at the college, you are required to do 3 hours of community service each day (Thursday and Friday).

I will post a sign out sheet this week so that I can have a count of who will be staying back and who is going. It is also helpful to have a count for those who will join the community for lunch and dinner. Please let me know by the end of this week. Thanks!

 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Campus Reads Continues

The next Campus Reads discussion is on December 5th at noon in the Academic Resource Center. Grab your lunch and join us for a conversation about Chapter 4 of *Called Beyond Ourselves: Vocation and the Common Good*.

Don't have time to read the whole chapter?

Here's a short summary and a question to think about:



Summary

In Chapter 4, Monica M. Smith defines diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) and argues that these values are mission critical in colleges and universities. The author provides examples of strategic inclusion of underrepresented students. Smith believes that intentional incorporation of DEIJ principles in a college's mission statements, policies, courses, and services help students "build capacity for contributing to the common good and our collective flourishing" (page 177).

Faculty and Staff Question

Faculty and Staff: What is one way that you can help DWC students feel more supported?

Student Question

Students: What is one thing faculty and staff could do to make you feel more supported?

DTL2 Workshop Recap

Did you miss the DTL 2 Workshop last week?

Here's a quick recap. DTL 2 is a curated digital library offering access to ebooks, journals, articles, and databases in many different fields. It's especially useful for finding information about theology, philosophy, and intercultural studies.



How to Search

- Use the **main search bar** or **advanced search** at the top of the homepage.
- For broader or more specific searches, explore the **A–Z list of databases**.
- Use **subject guides** to find general resources on a topic.

To learn more, visit the DTL2 help page:

<https://dtl2.libguides.com/howtouse>

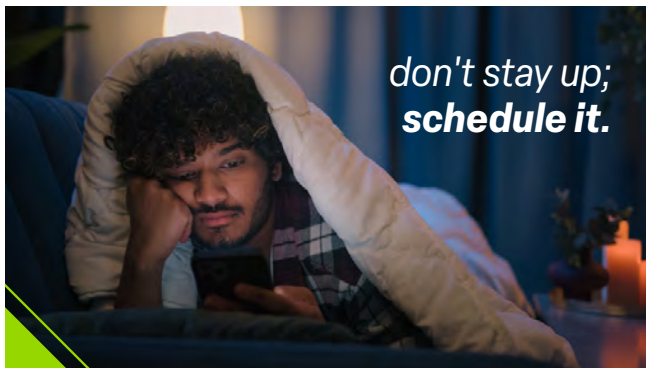


TECH TIP TUESDAYS

MICROSOFT 365 SERIES
BY LIZ WINTER

Schedule Send Your Emails

Ever finish an email late at night and hesitate to hit “Send”? Outlook lets you schedule delivery for a later time.



- The form link will appear in your email, and responses are collected automatically in Forms.

Why use it?

- Great for event sign-ups, quick polls, or gathering input **without back-and-forth emails**.



Pro Tip: Both features work on desktop and web versions of Outlook. Try them out for smoother communication!

How to do it:

- Compose your email as usual.
- Click the **arrow next to Send** and choose **Schedule Send**.
- Pick the date and time you want it delivered.
- Your email will stay in the Outbox until it's sent automatically.

Why use it?

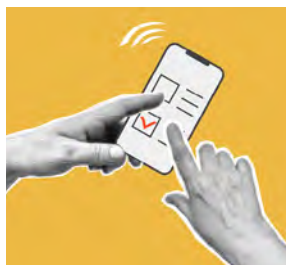
- Avoid sending messages outside business hours.
- Plan ahead for announcements or reminders.

Add Forms to Your Emails

Need feedback, RSVPs, or quick surveys? Use **Microsoft Forms** right inside Outlook.

How to do it:

- In a new email, click **Insert > Poll (or Forms)**.
- Create your questions and options.



KEEP AN EYE OPEN
FOR MORE **TECH TIPS**



COMING SOON!