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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

A Fortnight of Missionary Heroes

For two weeks in January, framed by the feasts of two SVD saints, I celebrate five of my personal heroes.

On **January 15** we celebrate **St. Arnold Janssen SVD**, the founder of three missionary congregations: the Society of the Divine Word, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, and the Holy Spirit Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. The nearly 10,000 priests, brothers and sisters of our missionary organizations are truly my extended family. St. Arnold (1837-1909) followed the urgings of the Holy Spirit with his whole life, pouring himself into our family's mission. Early stories I heard about him painted a picture of a rather tough and strict young priest. But as I learned more, especially through reminiscences of people who knew him and through his extensive correspondence, I came to see him as a generous, wise and kind grandfather.

In one letter to an SVD leader in Argentina, he expressed his appreciation for the progress in the new buildings and communities being established there. But St. Arnold also wrote in a very fatherly way that though he was glad of the progress, he was not happy about the fact that the missionary was losing sleep over many worries. St. Arnold encouraged him to stop worrying, and to sleep, trusting that God would provide what was needed!



St. Arnold Janssen

The birthday of **Dr. Martin Luther King** is also on January 15. In the United States, we honor him with a holiday on the **third Monday of January**. Born in 1929, he was a member of my parents' generation. In my youth he was constantly on television and in the news. His work for civil rights for African Americans and for all those on the margins of society was an enormous inspiration to me. I was ten years old, riveted to the TV, when I heard him give his amazing "I Have A Dream" address in

Birthday Corner:

JANUARY

24	Nhat Minh Pham
24	Sr. Xiaoyan Yang
25	Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD

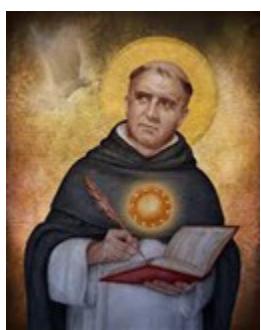


Martin Luther King Jr.

Washington D.C. Though very young, his words cut straight to my heart; I know the Holy Spirit was moving in me. He spoke with a prophet's authority. Much of my life has been an effort to share in Dr. King's dream, because it is also God's dream for all of us.

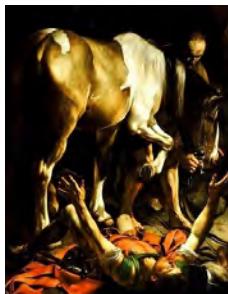
January 25 is the feast day of **St. Paul the Apostle**, the day the Church remembers his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. A famous painting by Caravaggio shows Paul being knocked off his horse, an image not found in the Scriptures. However, I like the idea that God really can knock us off our high-horses to get us headed in the right direction. I was born in St. Paul Minnesota, which probably accounts for my devoted support of the Minnesota Vikings and the Twins, though I am also a committed fan of Iowa's Hawkeyes and Cyclones!

Divine Word College, which has St. Paul as our patron saint, is now my home. I first visited DWC in grade school, and attended as a college student. As a young priest I taught theology here, and now years later, I serve as president and gardener (one of those jobs is more fun than the other). Through years of studying Paul's letters, I've grown in admiration for his missionary courage even in the face of disappointment. As he wrote in the letter to the Romans: "...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rm 5:5).



St. Thomas Aquinas, OP

St. Thomas Aquinas OP was born in 1224 near the town of Aquino in Italy. His feast day is **January 28**. Friar Thomas was much in demand as a counselor in church affairs, and he is said to have had a fondness for pasta! I appreciate that he was a man with his feet on the ground, his heart in the

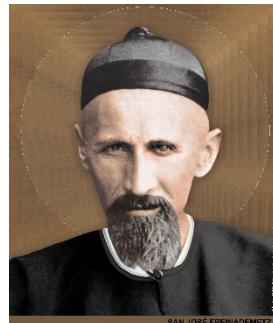


St. Paul the Apostle

heavens, and a mind capable of tracing the journey from one realm to the other. He helped the Church of his time to open itself to the newly rediscovered thinking of Aristotle, showing that faith and reason are not opposed, but rather, work together. His ministry encompassed deep spirituality, scholarship, preaching, and writing. In the final year of his life, he experienced an overwhelming mystical vision of God and ceased writing, reportedly saying, *"It seems to me like straw."* One of the greatest intellects in history tells of the incomparable glory that awaits us. I claim St. Thomas Aquinas as my patron saint, hoping that I too will one day see God face to face.

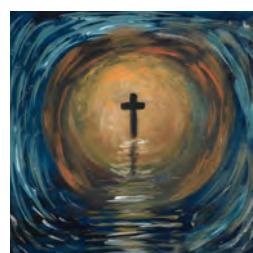
St. Joseph Freinademetz

SVD was born in 1852 in a small village in the Dolomite Alps, then part of the Austrian Empire and now a part of Italy. Though he died on January 28, he is celebrated on January 29 since Thomas Aquinas already "occupied" the earlier day.



St. Joseph Freinademetz

Our Society cherishes many warm anecdotes about Joseph's life. As one of the first two missionaries sent out by the Society, he was exhilarated to arrive in China. But as the struggles with language and Chinese customs overwhelmed him, he became rather sour. Yet he persisted. He lived among poor Chinese peasants and eventually came to identify with them so deeply that he said he wanted to be Chinese in heaven. His motto inspires me and all the members of the extended family of St. Arnold, *"The language that all people understand is that of love."*



These five heroes help paint a picture of God's call in my life. That painting has the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, from **January 18 to 25** at the very heart of the canvas. The theme for this year is taken from the letter to the Ephesians:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." Unity is the theme that lies at the core of missionary spirituality. It was a deep passion for St. Arnold.

The letter to the Ephesians, likely written by some of Paul's disciples fills me with energy and joy. The blessing in the third chapter echoes Paul's hope for all of us:

"I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you... to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph 3:14-19).

Like my five January heroes, may we all open our lives to families of every nation, race and tongue.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Accreditation Next Steps: An Important Time for Pause and Reflection... and Action

As many people have heard, the College has been accredited for another 10 years! Accreditation requires diligence and persistence to meet the ethical and moral expectations of the public, our students, and our benefactors as an institution of higher education. At the end of an accreditation cycle, we take time to celebrate and laud the good work completed. However, that end in the accreditation cycle also comes with time to pause, reflect, and set out on a new cycle.



DWC has been given the opportunity to choose our Pathway, either Standard or Open. The College is discerning which choice is best for us, but this is the first

time the College has been offered the opportunity to pursue the Open Pathway. The Higher Learning Commission states, "The Open Pathway supports the pursuit of innovative or strategic improvement projects, known as Quality Initiatives." Quality Initiatives are specifically proposed by colleges and universities on the Open Pathway to address a particularly important need for their institution.

So, the question for our community over the next few weeks is what are two or three things that we, the College community, can work on to help our students achieve their goals and to support the mission of the College? Next week, the Faculty Senate will discuss next steps. I encourage you to talk with faculty members about potential projects and to encourage their discernment as they participate in the shared governance in making this important decision.



Promotion Applications Due February 1

Faculty are reminded that applications for promotion in academic rank are due to the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Cathi Cleary, by February 1, 2026. Academic rank typically reflects the tenure and experience of teachers, and promotions are used to recognize significant growth in the three areas of faculty labor: teaching, professional development, and service. Information about the requirements for rank advancement at DWC and about the application materials can be found in the [DWC Policy Handbook-9.02 and 9.03](#).



ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-HackbARTH

Rounds 1-4 : Faculty Evaluations of Fall 2025 Collection (Assessed Spring 2026)

A few simple reminders of some important assessment details as we begin Round 1 of 4 next Monday!

Instructor	Assignment/Class	Faculty Evaluator				Assessed PLOs
Mr. Mike Mason	THM 223 New Testament Final Paper	Round 1 B. Bako Liba	Round 2 B. Boro Nama	Round 3 S. Nguyen	Round 4 B. Wintress	CORE # 5
Dr. Jason Reed	PHI 445 Metaphysics Final Paper	Round 1 M. Mason	Round 2 J. Cherny	Round 3 R. Garrett	Round 4 J. Young	CF-PTH # 3

1. Dates for Assessment Rounds:

Round 1: January 26 to January 30
 Round 2: February 2 to February 6
 Round 3: February 9 to February 13
 Round 4: February 16 to February 20

2. Evaluation Periods:

Open from Monday 8:00 A.M. to the following Monday 8:00 A.M.

3. The login link for OAP is as follows:

<https://www.watermarkinsights.com/client-resources/signon/>

You might have to click “log in” twice.

4. Watermark Support Contacts:

support@watermarkinsights.com

Customer Service Hotline: **1-800-311-5656**

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns Ext. 274.

Good luck to you all, and thank you so much for your continued efforts!



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Spring Break Project

Though we just began the spring semester at Divine Word College, it is never too early to begin planning for our Spring Break. Divine Word College Formation Program is sponsoring the Spring Break Project to the SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors to volunteer at one of our SVD communities and parishes in the Chicago Province.

It is a good opportunity for you to learn and experience the missions and ministries of the SVD priests and brothers working in the province. The SVD missions vary from learning about environmental sustainability to helping out the poor and the marginalized. Other missions consist of parish ministries or working with the Catholic Charities.

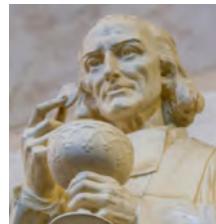
There will also be time for leisure and relaxation as well. The Spring Break Project comes at no cost as the formation program will pay for you.



I have put up a sign-up sheet with the Spring Break Project sites on the student bulletin board, and the last day to sign up will be on Friday, January 30, 2026. If you want to participate in the project, please sign up as soon as you can.

Mass for Vocation

Next Tuesday, January 27, 2026, there will be a monthly vocation mass organized by the community of St. John Vianney, the student priests at Divine Word College. Vocation masses are important to us as their stories can draw a lot of inspiration to strengthen our vocational call. Please join us for the vocation mass and show your support to the members of St. John Vianney.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Maintenance Reminder – Windows Left Open

Maintenance has recently found windows left open throughout the building. With the very cold temperatures we've been experiencing, open windows place significant and unnecessary stress on our heating system.

Please do not leave windows open. If your room feels too warm or too cold, please contact the Maintenance Department (Randy Accola) or the Vice President



for Operations (Steven Winger) so adjustments can be made. Thank you for helping us care for our facility and conserve energy.

Policy Highlight of the Week – Maintenance Request Forms

As part of our ongoing effort to keep our campus safe, functional, and well maintained, this week's Policy

Highlight focuses on Maintenance Request Forms. Whenever you notice something in the building that needs repair or attention—whether it's a plumbing issue, lighting problem, or general facilities concern—please complete a Maintenance Request Form.

Where to find the form:

- Paper copies are available in the copier room across from the Business Office.
- A fillable PDF version is also available on the DWC website under Faculty and Staff forms:
- https://www.dwci.edu/application/files/8115/4136/0287/MAINTENANCE_REQUEST_FORM_11_18.pdf

Submitting a request helps the Maintenance Department respond quickly and keeps our facility running efficiently. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone.



Human Trafficking Awareness Month - JPIC Message

January is human trafficking awareness month. An estimated 50 million people have been impacted by human trafficking—everywhere from crisis locations across the globe to our own local communities and neighborhoods, where it is often hidden away. While migrants are acutely threatened, child online sexual exploitation is also rampant.

Human trafficking comes in various forms—and progress has been slow in reducing this grave threat to human dignity.

To learn more about human trafficking and to take action toward ending it, please visit [2026 toolkit](#).
(Source: Franciscan Action Network).



On View in the Gallery

ON VIEW: News from the Weyland Art Gallery

This week, a gentle reminder is in order to view **ANTITHESIS** and enter the *Title Contest*.

By selecting your favorite photograph, imagining a name for the piece and then dropping your completed

entry form in the box, you become eligible for a framed print if the artist, Greg Cooper, chooses your title as the winner.

Also, please help us promote the exhibit by finding the social media promotion on DWC Facebook or Instagram and sharing with your friends.

We appreciate your help and support of the arts!

ANTITHESIS

A Photographic Exhibition by Greg A. Cooper

Divine Word College's Weyland Gallery

January 14 - February 14

M-F / 8:00 am - 4:30pm or by appointment

102 Jacoby Drive SW Epworth, Iowa

563-876-3353



Library Announcements

Kanopy Subscription Ending in March 2026

Due to consistently low usage and rising subscription costs, the Library's Kanopy streaming video subscription will end in March 2026. We recognize that streaming video is an important part of teaching and learning, so we want to highlight several strong alternatives that remain available:



Academic Video Online (AVON) via DTL2

- Includes thousands of academic films, documentaries, performances, interviews, and training videos across disciplines.

Local Public Libraries

- Many nearby public libraries offer free streaming options such as Kanopy or Hoopla with a library card.

Direct Purchases

- If you need a specific film for instructional use, we can often acquire a DVD or streaming license for classroom use.



Individual Subscriptions

- Some films are available for low cost individual rental or subscription on services like Amazon, Apple, or Vimeo.

If you anticipate needing specific media for your courses, please contact the Library—we're happy to work with you to find the best alternative.

Update on Project Muse: Journals vs. eBooks

As of 2026, the Library no longer has subscription access to Project Muse journals. However, we continue to provide access to Project Muse eBooks. The good news is that most of the journals previously accessed through Muse are now available through our new research platform, DTL2. If you haven't explored it yet, we highly encourage you to do so.

About DTL2

(<https://dtl2.libguides.com/home>)

DTL2 is a massive digital research library with exceptional strength in religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields, making it especially valuable for the DWC community. It includes: 1.4+ million eBooks, 61,000+ journals, 104 million indexed articles, 119+ databases, and 30+ subject guides.



DTL2 is designed for academic research and supports undergraduate and graduate level work, especially in disciplines central to our mission. If you need help navigating DTL2 or integrating it into your courses, please reach out—we're glad to assist.

More about DTL2 Databases

Full ProQuest religion & philosophy databases
Specialized Theological Databases

- Biblical studies and exegesis databases
- Archaeology & Ancient Near Eastern studies
- Classical studies resources (including Loeb Classical Library)
- Intercultural & global mission studies
- Philosophy and ethics collections

Video Streaming Databases: Video databases with **11,000+ hours** of counseling, pastoral care, and ministry training content.

Digital Music and Score Databases: Offering access to **over 100,000 musical scores** along with additional collections that support liturgy, worship, and music ministry.



Multilingual & International Databases: Collections in **Chinese, Korean, German, French, and Spanish**, supporting global mission and intercultural research.

ProQuest Central Magazine Collections: which provide **thousands of full text magazines** across more than 160 subject areas, ranging from the arts and humanities to science, business, religion, and global affairs.

Dubuque County Reads

Countywide Reading Program Kicks Off for 2026
The Dubuque County Reads (DCR) 2026 program is officially underway!

DCR promotes literacy, civic engagement, and community conversation through a shared reading experience across Dubuque County. This Year's Book Selections are *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson and *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade. Free copies of *The Seed Keeper* are now available in the library. If you have children, attend a youth story time event a local public library to receive a free copy of *Berry Song*.



DCR Event Schedule (January–April 2026)

Nine libraries and multiple community partners will host events including:

- Book discussions
- A community speaker panel
- A hands on sustainability expo at the National Mississippi River Museum
- An in person author presentation featuring Diane Wilson

All events are free and open to the public. Learn more: <https://www.dbqreads.org/dubuque-county-reads>

DWC Book Discussion

The DWC book discussion will be held on March 5, 2026 at 1 PM in the library. All are welcome! If you can't attend this discussion, dozens of other dates and locations are available throughout the county. Find the full schedule at: <https://www.dbqreads.org/event>



TECH TIP TUESDAYS

1 on 1 Microsoft 365 Support

Just a reminder that I am offering individual, hands on help with Microsoft 365 tools including:

- OneDrive
- Teams
- Outlook
- Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- File management and organization
- And more!

Sessions are tailored to your needs—whether you want to learn a new skill or troubleshoot an issue. To schedule a time, use my Calendly booking link: <https://calendly.com/matthewjacobylibrary/microsoft-365-tutorial-session>