

## In This Issue:

Formation Survey	2
Assessment Loop	3
Student News	4
Around the College	5
On View	6
Lunar New Year Photos	7
Library News	8
Research Tips	9
Echoes of Hope	addendum



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

## Listen First, Speak Courageously

**Ephphatha.** Last Friday, Fr. Jim Bergin SVD gave a homily that really stayed with me. He spoke about the gospel story of a man from the Decapolis, an area east of the Sea of Galilee. You may recall the story: the man was deaf, likely from early in life. He also had a speech impediment, probably a consequence of not being able to hear. Jesus groaned and prayed “*Ephphatha*,” which means, “Be opened.” The man was healed and, not surprisingly, once he could hear clearly, he could also speak clearly.

**Invitation to Deeper Sharing.** Fr. Jim observed: “It seems to me that this gospel reading is calling us as followers of Jesus to hear and speak as well as we can.” He noted that casual conversations about the weather, sports, or weekend plans are a normal and necessary part of daily life. But Jesus may be calling us to something more.



Fr. Jim Bergin

This story of healing may be an invitation “to share with our family and friends what is happening in our lives at a much deeper level. We know how important it is for us to be able to talk with a person or group of people whom we trust, for example to talk about the joys we’re experiencing as we are living our faith.”

He added that Jesus’ healing of ears and tongue can also serve as an invitation “to talk about a relationship with a friend when there has been a misunderstanding.” As I listened to Jim’s challenge to go deeper, I found myself nodding in grateful agreement.



**Listen and Then Speak.** Looking inward another insight took shape: the essence of missionary discipleship - engaging with others in prophetic dialogue - is contained in this moment of healing. We must listen well to the people we serve, and only then can we speak with clarity and grace.

## Birthday Corner:

### FEBRUARY

Hung Ly Mai	19
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As a younger man, I was always quick with speaking and not patient enough when listening. Too frequently, I still fall into that trap. I regret it later, but I am comforted and corrected by a proverb that makes me smile: *God has given us two ears and one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we talk.* A child-friendly rhyme also helps me remember this truth:

*Two ears, one mouth – that's the way we're made.  
Hear more than we jabber – listen before we say!*

**Jesus Can Heal Our Hearing and Our Speaking.** Jim concluded his homily: “We know that Jesus is right there with us every moment of our lives. He’ll help us to listen as people dear to us are sharing something very important to them. He’ll also help us to talk with others about what is important in our lives. May we do our best to listen lovingly and to speak honestly to everyone who enters our lives today.”

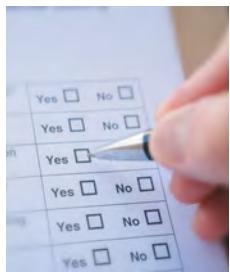


## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**Dr. Joshua Young**

### **Missionary Formation and Higher Education Survey**

As part of the College’s efforts to understand vocation and missionary service, research is currently being conducted on missionary formation and higher education. The survey asks how successful Catholic colleges and universities are at forming missionaries and what improvements can be made. **The survey is for EVERYONE THAT CONSIDERS THEMSELVES MISSIONARIES!**



Please encourage your fellow missionaries to take the survey by sharing the link with them after you have completed the survey. Please help us reach over 1,000 missionaries! Here is the link- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2D86N2W>

### **Faculty Award Review to Begin**

Chair of the Faculty Promotions and Awards Committee, Dr. Cathleen Cleary, has begun gathering the names of faculty members eligible for the Rev. Charles Malin, SVD Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is named after Fr. Charles Malin, SVD



one of the longest serving Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, and recognizes a faculty member that has demonstrated significant dedication to students and their own personal pedagogical development. Faculty members that are eligible are those that:

1. Have not received the award in the last 3 years (since Spring 2023);
2. Have completed the following requirements for teaching at DWC:
  - Full-time undergraduate faculty – completed 3 consecutive semesters of teaching;
  - Part-time undergraduate faculty – completed 5 consecutive semesters of teaching;
  - Full-time IELI faculty – completed 3 consecutive semesters (two 8-week sessions);
  - Part-time IELI faculty - completed 5 consecutive semesters (two 8-week sessions).

Faculty wishing to be taken out of consideration for this award should contact Dr. Cleary. Once a list of eligible faculty has been approved by the Chair, the Student Senate will nominate three faculty for further consideration. The Rev. Charles Malin, SVD Excellence in Teaching Award is presented at the annual awards luncheon.

### Oral Presentation Award

Submissions for the St. Arnold Janssen Oral Presentation Award are now being accepted.



# ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-HackbARTH

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

A few simple reminders of some important assessment details as we begin **Round 4** of 4 this week!

ROUND 4 OF EVALUATIONS			
Instructor	Assignment/ Class	Faculty Evaluator	Assessed PLOs
Mr. Mike Mason	THM 223 New Testament Final Paper	Round 4: B. Wintress	CORE #5
Dr. Jason Reed	PHI 445 Metaphysics Final Paper	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.

#### 3. Watermark Support Contacts:

[support@watermarkinsights.com](mailto: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**

### The Beginning of the Lenten Season

Lent is a time for preparation, and a time for us to go deeper and strengthen our faith in God. It begins this Wednesday, February 18, 2026 as our heads will be marked with ashes recalling the scriptural passage from Genesis 3:19:

*"... remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*



Lent is a time for us to repent and believe in the gospel, and a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We use this time to reflect on our sins and failings, and to seek redemption from our sins when Easter comes.

May we use this time for personal prayers and reflection, and may we be reborn to new life when Easter comes.



Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD, the College Chaplain, wants to remind us of some of the activities that will be going on during Lent.

- Our Lenten collection will support the St. Elizabeth Pastorate Ministry in Epworth, especially to assist their community meal program for people in need.
- There will be a Lenten recollection on Saturday, March 21, 2026 for the students and SVD community.
- During Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 7:30 PM, led by different formation groups.

May we use this time to slow down, and encounter the Lord.

### Tranquility Weekend

After all of the celebrations that we had since the beginning of the semester, and the beginning of Lent, it is time for some rest and relaxation. This weekend is tranquility weekend.

All of us are encouraged to use this time for some rest, catch up on your studies and assignments, and enjoy some peace and quiet. All formation groups and student associations should not plan any activities this coming weekend.



### Vocation Mass

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, the Community of St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart will organize the monthly vocation mass. In the mass, Sr. Nhan Dao, LHC will reflect and share her vocation story on how she felt God's call to her to join the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Khiet Tam.



We always draw inspiration and a deepening of our vocational call from hearing stories from one another, and I hope that Sr. Nhan's story will inspire us as well.

We join together as a community next Tuesday to pray for her, the members of the Community of St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart, and for an increase of vocations.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

**Steve Winger**

### Please Don't Prop Open Exterior Doors

As we start enjoying warmer days and a little fresher air around campus, this is a friendly reminder **not to prop open any exterior doors**. While it can be tempting to let a breeze in, keeping these doors closed and locked is an important part of maintaining safety and security for our entire community.

Divine Word College's safety policies emphasize that exterior entrances must remain secured at all times to protect students, employees, and the SVD community.



Propping doors open—especially during busy class hours or in the evenings—creates opportunities for unauthorized entry and compromises the locked door environment the College relies on. If you notice a door that isn't closing or latching properly, please report it to Maintenance or the Dean of Students so it can be addressed quickly.

Thank you for helping keep our campus safe as we welcome the nicer weather! Let's enjoy the sunshine while still keeping security a top priority.



### An Ash Wednesday Prayer for Social Justice

Creator God, as we receive these ashes, we confess the sins of complacency, greed, and injustice that have hardened our hearts.

We repent for the racism, sexism, and indifference that have divided our communities and harmed our neighbors.

As we begin this Lenten journey, turn our fasting into a hunger for justice, and our almsgiving into a commitment to peace.

Make us instruments of Your reconciliation, strengthening our hands to serve the poor, the lonely, and those trapped by inequity.

May these ashes remind us of our shared humanity and our call to act for the common good, bringing hope to all.

Amen.

### The Camino Santiago De Compostela: A Pilgrim's Journey

Join us for this presentation as Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD shares about his 40-day journey from Roncesvalles to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, he encountered hardships, as well as moments of great joy and learning. *The presentation will be on Thursday, February 19th, at 1:00 P.M. in the DWC dining room.*

### Spring 2026 ARC Workshop Schedule

The ARC Workshop is up and running for the spring! Check out the dates and topics below and join us.

**Wednesday, February 18th at 4:00 P.M., ARC**  
AI Academic Research Tools: Using AI for Research

**Wednesday, March 18th at 4:00 P.M., ARC**  
Documentation and Citation: Integrating Sources

**Wednesday, April 15th at 4:00 P.M., ARC**  
Research Projects: Checklist to Review and Revise Work

# On View in the Gallery

## Title Contest Winner Announced

The big news from the Weyland Art Gallery this week is that Greg Cooper selected **Bao Nguyen** as the Title Contest winner on Sunday!

It may have been Bao's clever use of the term antithesis in the reasoning he gave for choosing *Ether* as the title for his favorite print in the exhibit.

"The term ether can mean many things. It's often associated with the sky or open air. In chemistry, it can also mean a colorless, flammable substance.

This photograph displays the opposite of this: it focuses on serene water and a colorful horizon. The photograph, a calm, colorful, still gradient is an antithesis of the chaotic substance and an open sky," explained Bao.



## Next Exhibit: Via Creativa

Also, we're excited to announce "Via Creativa", our next exhibit which will be installed in the gallery this week! The joint exhibit features the paintings and drawings of two amazing Iowa artists and longtime friends, Rev. Dr. Catherine Quehl-Engel and Lori Erickson. As well as being an accomplished landscape painter and photographer, Catherine is an Episcopal priest and Chaplain Emerita at Cornell College, as well as a sound healer, yoga teacher, inter-spiritual retreat leader and more. Lori is an Episcopal deacon and writer specializing in spiritual journeys whose most recent project took her deeper into the intersection of art and spirituality. Lori is the author of *Every Step Is Home*, *The Soul of the Family Tree*, *Near the Exit*, and *Holy Rover*; and her articles and essays have appeared in publications including the *Los Angeles Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Travel + Leisure*, and *USA Today*.



Landscape painting by Catherine Quehl-Engel



The view from our campsite in Kodachrome State Park.

Watercolor sketch by Lori Erickson

# external affairs

## Lunar New Year Photos Available Now

We had another successful Lunar New Year here at Divine Word College, and now the photos are available to view and share! Click the link below to access the photos. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/WEBuy9SNpTSDX3Sq8>





## Campus Reads Discussion: Chapter 2

*Friday, February 20th  
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
Academic Resource Center*

Br. Brian McLaughlin, SVD, will lead the Campus Reads discussion on Chapter 2: Beyond Deep Gladness in *Called Beyond Ourselves* this Friday at noon in the Academic Resource Center. Everyone on campus is invited to join.

## ARC Student Workshop 1: AI Academic Research Tools

*Wednesday, February 25th  
4:00 P.M. - 4:50 P.M.  
Academic Resource Center*

By the end of this workshop, students will be able to:

- **Explain the role of AI tools** in the academic research process, including their strengths, limitations, and appropriate use cases.
- **Incorporate AI tools into the research workflow** to support literature discovery.



## Student Research Guide: Your Tools for Academic Success

*Start Your Research Here!*

### Library Catalog (OPAC)

Use [opac.dwci.edu](http://opac.dwci.edu) to search books, ebooks, films, and all library subscription resources. All electronic resources are accessible through the OPAC.



Note: Students may check out books for **16 weeks total**: an initial **4 week loan period** with **up to 3 renewals**.

To renew your items, **log into your library account** through the OPAC.

The catalog helps you find:

- Print books
- eBooks (via Project MUSE, DTL2, and JSTOR)
- Streaming video
- Local collections and special materials

### Project MUSE

Access **80,000+ books** in the humanities, religion, culture, philosophy, and global studies. Especially useful for theology and intercultural studies.

### JSTOR

Explore **2,600 academic journals** and **120,000+ ebooks** across humanities and social sciences—perfect for writing, theology, philosophy, literature, ethics, and mission focused topics.



## Digital Theological Library 2 (DTL2)

A comprehensive digital collection supporting:

- Catholic theology & Scripture
- Church history
- Ethics & philosophy
- Intercultural ministry, mission studies, and world Christianity



### Libby (OverDrive)

Borrow ebooks and audiobooks anytime on your phone or tablet. Great for supplemental reading or improving English fluency.

## Films & Media

Academic Video Online (AVON) is a vast academic video collection including:



- Theology & religious studies
- World cultures & anthropology
- History & philosophy
- Classroom documentaries and interviews

## Smart Search Tools for Better Papers

- **Google Scholar** – Broad academic search covering many disciplines; links to full text when available.
- **Semantic Scholar** – AI supported discovery with high quality filters.
- **OpenAlex** – Open, transparent scholarly index useful for interdisciplinary topics.

### *Pro tip:*

If you find an article in Google Scholar, copy the title into [opac.dwci.edu](http://opac.dwci.edu) — the library may already have access through JSTOR, MUSE, or DTL2.

## Need Research Help?



**Elizabeth Winter**  
Library Director & Archivist  
[ewinter@dwci.edu](mailto:ewinter@dwci.edu)



**Brother Tony Kreinus, SVD**  
Assistant Librarian  
[akreinus@dwci.edu](mailto:akreinus@dwci.edu)

*Stop by the library or email us — we're here to help you succeed.*



# Digital Public Witness Class Presents

## Echos of Hope: One Word, One Mission Podcast



Scan the QR Code  
to visit DWC Public  
Witness Media

Tune in for weekly scripture reflections.

First Episode Releases  
Wednesday, February 18th