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## Birthday Corner:

### FEBRUARY

Sr. Hue Thi Tran, LHC 25

### MARCH

Fr. Benyamin Boro Nama, SVD 1  
 Dr. Seo Hyun Park 1  
 Fr. Sonny DeClass, SVD 2  
 Bro. Brian McLauchlin, SVD 3



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Honoring Black History Month

The SVD and the SSps have long played a part in Black History. Since 1905, the Society has been deeply involved in missionary service among and with African Americans. For the Southern Province (USS), the African American Apostolate was their first mission and continues to the present day. For the Chicago Province and the Western Province, educational and parish ministries in Black neighborhoods have been very significant parts of their missionary outreach.

The Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSps) have also contributed enormously to the life and well-being of African Americans. For more than seventy years, often in very difficult circumstances, they operated schools in the southern US for the benefit of Black people. The SSps continue that work today in school ministry in the Caribbean.



Fr. Thang Hoang SVD, the Director for Alumni Affairs, included the following items in his recent newsletter.



### Message from Fr. Thang

As we move through the month of February, we reflect on the love of God and neighbor while celebrating **Black History Month**. At the same time, we begin the sacred season of Lent—a season that calls us back to the very heart of love.

**Love of God, Love of Neighbor.** Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. These two loves are inseparable. Our love for God becomes real and visible in the way we honor, respect, and stand beside one another—especially those whose history and lived experiences may differ from our own.

As members of the Divine Word family, we share in a missionary charism rooted in the universality of the Gospel. The Word became flesh for all peoples and cultures. Black History Month gives us an opportunity not only to remember the historical struggles and achievements of Black communities, but also to celebrate the profound faith, resilience, and spiritual richness they bring to the Church. Their witness reminds us that hope can flourish even in adversity, and that faith can be a powerful force for dignity and justice.

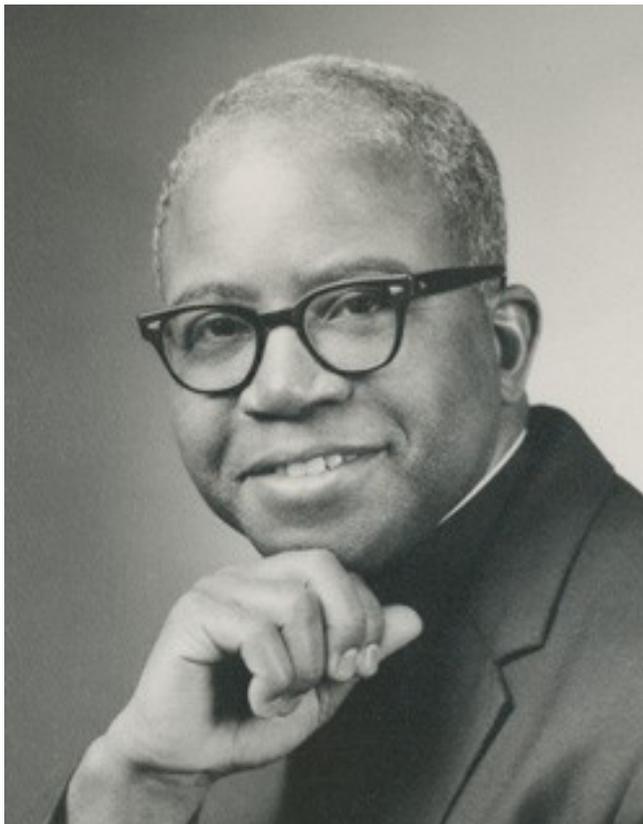
**True Conversion.** Lent now invites us to examine our hearts more deeply. It is a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—but above all, it is a season of conversion. True conversion stretches our hearts outward. It asks us to let go of indifference, to confront prejudice, and to grow in compassion. It challenges us to love not only in words, but in concrete action.

This holy season offers us a grace-filled opportunity: to allow our love for God to transform the way we love our neighbor. May we enter Lent with open hearts, ready to listen more attentively, to build bridges where there are divisions, and to become authentic witnesses of Christ’s universal love.



## Fr. Ray Guidry SVD – A Life of Courage and Compassion

Fr. Raymond Guidry SVD, a Louisiana native, graduated from St. Augustine Seminary, the first Catholic seminary for African American men. He served as a missionary in Ghana; and soothed countless souls as a wartime chaplain in Vietnam. Throughout his life, he conveyed hard truths and God's love through poetry. We are grateful to Army Chaplain Harry Claudius Ross who produced this video about the ministries and God-given talents of Father Raymond Guidry SVD. [We invite you to click here and learn more about this remarkable man.](#)



### Black Man

#### Raymond By Rev. Guidry SVD

*Say, Mister  
Who are you?  
Who me?  
A heap of things, son  
A heap of things.  
I'm Tantalus  
Sisyphus  
Smoldering Vesuvius.  
I'm Ulysses  
Seeking Ithaca  
Country to roam  
Open, free, a home  
But everywhere the roads are blocked  
Doors yield not to a black man's knock.  
Then Mister  
Why do you sing?  
Son  
When my lips shape a song  
It soothes the hurt  
It eases wrong.*



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

### Faculty In-Service to Focus on Understanding Formation

As the faculty continue to explore supporting student vocational discernment, the Spring 2026 Faculty In-Service will feature an explanation of the vocation curriculum and assessment by Fr. Tuan Hoang, Vice President for Formation and Student Life. This will help faculty members understand how academic and formation programs work together to help develop students' vocation skills.

Faculty are encouraged to bring questions to help develop a better understanding of what students do outside of the classroom. Here is the tentative schedule:

- **9:00 A.M. - Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Dr. Young**
- **9:15 A.M. - Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD, Vice President for Formation and Student Life**
  1. Explanation of Formation programs at DWC
- **10:00 A.M. - Released to Department Chairs to Discuss:**
  1. What opportunities exist between academic and formation programs?
  2. What challenges exist between academic and formation programs/
  3. What can be addressed when considering the opportunities and challenges that exist?



Additionally, breakfast items will be provided by Dubuque Millwork Bakery through the funding from our NetVUE Faculty Professional Development Grant.

### Professional Development Reports Are Due

Divine Word College encourages and supports ongoing professional development for instructional faculty. Indeed, ongoing professional development is necessary for faculty to maintain subject knowledge and to utilize the most effective pedagogical methods within their discipline. Through the VPAA's office, the College provides many opportunities and funding for faculty professional development, including the Faculty Institute, Faculty In-Services, and web-based training.

To accurately document faculty engagement in ongoing professional development activities, the College Registrar compiles and publishes an Annual Report on Faculty Professional Development for submission to the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees.



All faculty, excluding adjuncts, must report on their professional engagement during the 2025 calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2025). Please email your report with the information below to Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, no later than 5pm on February 27, 2026. Reports should include information on:

- Professional Memberships
- Publications (Monographs/Articles)
- Conference Presentations
- Conference Attendance
- Performances or Exhibitions
- Other (personal study, research, webinars, etc.)

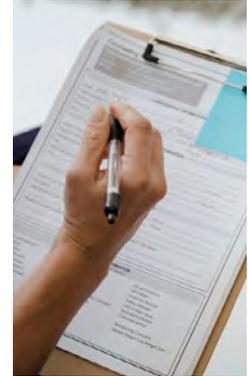
If you completed any training with certification, please also send copies of those certificates to be included in your faculty file (ie, Teaching with AI or any other specialized training).

### Only 50 Responses to Missionary Formation and Higher Education Survey

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** 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>



# ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

## Message to Faculty Evaluators

Dear Faculty Evaluators,

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your dedication to the student evaluation process. Your commitment to reviewing this feedback is a vital part of our mission here at Divine Word College, ensuring we maintain the highest standards of Institutional Effectiveness.

I know the academic calendar is demanding, and your attention to these reports provides the insights we need to continuously improve the student experience.

- Current Cycle: All evaluations for the current term are now processed.
- You are officially "off the hook" for evaluation reviews for the remainder of the spring and summer.
- Fall Resume: The next round of student evaluations will not require your review until the Fall semester.

Thank you for your partnership in making this year a success. I hope you find some well-deserved time to recharge before our next cycle begins!





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

**Spring Break**

Spring Break is coming up, and I hope that all of you are looking forward to a week’s break. You may leave for your Spring Break on Saturday, March 7, 2026 and return on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Many of our SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors will be visiting our SVD parishes and communities for their Spring Break Projects. Just a reminder for those who are planning to stay on campus for Spring Break: you are required to do three hours of community service for each day you stay at the college to cover the cost for your room and board.

I will post a sign out sheet on the student bulletin board this week. I ask you to please sign out by the end of this week so that I can get a count of who is staying back for meals and community service.



**SVD Brotherhood Talk**

This Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Fr. Nick Hien Nguyen, SVD, the director of the SVD Brother Program for the Chicago Province, and Br. Jim Zabransky, SVD will be here to give a talk to the SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors about the program. All of the SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors are required to be in the joint formation meeting at 7:30 P.M. in room 107 to know more about the program and hear the stories of our SVD Brothers. A social will follow the meeting.

**Contemplative Prayer**

Sr. Carol Welp, SSsP and the community of St. Teresa of Avila extend their invitation to students who want to join them for contemplative prayer this Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

The prayer will be held in the Mother of Asia Chapel from 5:15 P.M. to 5:45 P.M. All students are welcome!



**Bible Sharing with the Arnoldus Community**

The Arnoldus Community will host bible sharing and a social for our SVD Candidates this Friday, February 27, 2026. Bible sharing is important for our community as we break open the scriptures and share what God is speaking to us. Each semester, the community extends an invitation to the candidates to join for bible sharing and social because it gives the community an opportunity to know them better.

All SVD Candidates are required to be present at the bible sharing and social this Friday. I will post the bible sharing groups on the student bulletin board this week.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

[opac.dwci.edu](https://opac.dwci.edu)

## Interlibrary Loan

Need a book or article the Matthew Jacoby Library doesn't own? Our Interlibrary Loan service connects you to libraries nationwide through OCLC, allowing you to request materials quickly and at little to no cost.

To submit a request, visit <https://opac.dwci.edu> and select On-Campus or Off-Campus Interlibrary Loan Forms from the Library Service Forms menu. Use these forms for both book and article requests. Article and book chapter requests are typically filled within 1-4 days. Book requests are typically filled within 1 to 2 weeks. ILL is available to all students, faculty, and staff.

## Search the Library Catalog First

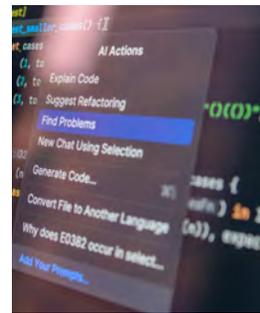
Before submitting an Interlibrary Loan request, be sure to search the Library catalog at <https://opac.dwci.edu>. Use the OPAC to check whether we already have the book you need.

When using the Library catalog to find a specific book, try these quick tips to get the best results:

- **Search by title only**, Start with just the book title in the search box—no author names, publishers, or extra details.
- **Check your spelling**: The catalog won't correct misspellings, so accurate spelling makes a big difference.
- **For long titles, try only the first three to five words**. If a title is long or has a subtitle, begin by searching just the first few words.

## Spring 2026 Student Academic Workshops (ARC)

The ARC is pleased to offer a series of spring workshops designed to strengthen your research and academic writing skills.



The session on Using Academic AI Tools, originally to be led by Elizabeth Winter, has been canceled for this semester. Instead, a video tutorial on this topic will be available on the library's OPAC (<https://opac.dwci.edu>) soon.

All students are invited to attend the following in-person workshops led by Professor Dr. Richard Garrett:

**1**

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

Learn practical strategies for incorporating evidence into your writing, avoiding plagiarism, and selecting the right citation style for your project.

**2**

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

Bring your drafts or project ideas and walk through a structured review process to strengthen clarity, organization, and academic rigor.

*The Library Catalog  
may have what you need.*

## Dubuque County Reads: Indigenous Voices: Land, Water, & Justice

Join the conversation this weekend! On Saturday, February 28th at 2:00 P.M., Dubuque County Reads invites you to an inspiring community event featuring regional Indigenous leaders and advocates working at the intersection of environmental justice and cultural survival.

Whether or not you've read *The Seed Keeper*, this gathering offers a powerful opportunity to deepen your understanding of contemporary Indigenous perspectives.



The featured speakers include:

- **Tinker Schuman** — Ojibwe Nation of Lac du Flambeau, poet, and IAIA alum whose free verse work speaks to heritage, connection, and our shared paths on Mother Earth.
- **Rubina Martini** — Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska tribal citizen, Bear Clan, and community leader involved in cultural preservation, education, and local governance.
- **Jessica Engelking** — Descendant of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, philosopher,

environmental advocate, and author in the *Minnesota Native American Lives* series.

- **Moderated by Eric Anglada** — Writer, co-founder of the Saint Isidore Catholic Worker Farm, and Ecological Programming Coordinator at Sinsinawa Mound.

Come listen, learn, and participate as we explore Indigenous knowledge, land stewardship, and the ongoing work for justice. Learn more: <https://www.dbqreads.org/dcr-resource-guide>



**Jessica Engelking**  
Panelist



**Rubina Martini**  
Panelist

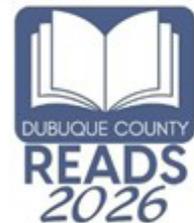


**Tinker Schuman**  
Panelist



**Eric Anglada**  
Moderator

# Indigenous Voices: Land, Water & Justice



SATURDAY, FEB. 28<sup>TH</sup> 2:00 PM



DUBUQUE MUSEUM OF ART  
1000 JACKSON ST. DUBUQUE IA

WWW.DBQREADS.ORG

# On View in the Gallery

## VIA CREATIVA

*Art as a  
Spiritual Practice*

Catherine Quehl-Engel  
and Lori Erickson  
February 27 - April 17

©Catherine Quehl-Engel



©Lori Erickson

### New Exhibit Coming Soon

Big news from the gallery this week....we have a new exhibit!

*Via Creativa* – the artwork of Lori Erickson and Catherine Quehl-Engel – will be with us through April 17.

We're already hearing raving reviews of the energy in the space now, as well as comments on the beauty and feeling of delight upon viewing.

Please stop by for inspiration and save the date for the *Via Creativa* reception on Friday, March 20 from 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.