

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD



GLORY!

In football, a desperate, game-winning touchdown pass is sometimes called a “Hail Mary.” Yet the glory usually goes to the quarterback who threw the ball and the receiver who caught it.

Recently, I heard a story about a defensive lineman — someone who rarely gets glory. Let’s call him Big Joe. In one game, he sacked the opposing quarterback three times, sealing the victory as time ran out. There was no victory dance, just a triumphant fist in the air.

After the game, interviewers rushed to speak with Joe. It was his moment to bask in football glory. But Joe hurriedly declined; his four-year-old son was at the game, and Joe needed to take him to the bathroom! It turned out that Joe’s **real glory** was not found in the spotlight, but in caring for his son.

At Divine Word College, there are also moments of glory: a goal on the soccer field, an intramural win, or students completing the Annual 5K Run/Walk. There are moments of academic glory as well — recognition as a Presidential Scholar, making the Dean’s List, and the celebration of graduation with academic honors.

The College itself has recently experienced a moment of distinction, receiving a full 10-year reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. We are grateful for the recognition, and remain dedicated to developing new initiatives that promote student success.

Still, a greater glory at DWC is found in quieter, everyday acts: reaching across differences of culture or language, welcoming those far from home, and offering forgiveness in moments of impatience or blame.

However, **the greatest glory for DWC** is found in lives dedicated to missionary service with faith seekers, the poor and marginalized, people of other cultures and followers of other religious traditions. Jesus instructs his followers: “Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt 20: 26, 28).

Big Joe understood the glory of serving his little boy. Jesus teaches us the very same lesson.

Fr. Tom

From East Timor to Epworth

In January, Divine Word College welcomed two students from East Timor — Frt. Luis Alvaro, SVD, and Frt. Joanico Sarmiento, SVD — who arrived in Epworth to study in the ESL program. Their presence continues DWC’s tradition of forming future missionaries from around the world and reflects the global mission of the Society of the Divine Word.

Both began their formation journey in East Timor in 2018, joining 11 other young men discerning a missionary vocation. After several years of study, they completed a novitiate year in the Philippines, an experience that brought together novices and formators from different cultures while requiring English in daily life. Of the original 13 who entered formation, only three remain today. Frt. Luis and Frt. Joanico were chosen to continue their studies in the United States and are grateful to take this next step together.

Adjusting to life and study in the U.S. has brought both challenges and opportunities. Frt. Luis began learning English through YouTube grammar lessons and finds listening easier than speaking. Frt. Joanico said the first few days at DWC were difficult as he adapted to the college’s use of technology, including online assignments and academic platforms. Still, both men are committed to immersing themselves in U.S. culture.

After completing the ESL program, they will continue their formation in Chicago, carrying gratitude, resilience, and a shared missionary spirit.



Frt. Joanico Sarmiento, SVD (left) and Frt. Luis Alvaro, SVD (right)



For more information about
Divine Word College:

563-876-3353 | info@dwci.edu
www.dwci.edu

