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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Bearing Our Share of Hardship for the Gospel

This past weekend, we were met with the tragic news of war breaking out yet again in the Middle East. We continue to follow the painful developments on all sides in that conflict.

On Sunday, the reading from the Second Letter to Timothy (1:8b-10) reminded us of our expected participation in God’s plan for the world. At Sunday Vespers, Bro. Brian McLaughlin SVD, an Instructor in Anthropology and Conflict Transformation, offered reflections that challenge us to recognize that following Christ sometimes means bearing hardship—but doing so for the sake of the gospel brings hope and purpose, even amid suffering.



Bro. Brian's Reflection

An opening passage from the Second Letter to Timothy proposes a challenge for all of us: *“Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”*

Then a little bit later, the letter speaks of, *“Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

On one hand, this passage from the letter to Timothy sounds really good and we can take great comfort from it. **Yeah!** death has been destroyed. We can take comfort in the idea that our loved ones will rest peacefully in God’s gentle care.

On the other hand, this passage also poses a **great challenge**. Each of us is called to share in the hardship that the gospel asks of us – not just some of us – all of us. The gospel asks us NOT to focus on attaining a comfortable life with everything we think we need: money, nice clothes, a big home, and more than our fair share of the earth’s resources.

INSTEAD, the gospel asks us to focus not only on ourselves, but to also think about the other. Does my neighbor have enough to eat? Are the human rights of our neighbors being fully respected? Rather than being satisfied with the current status of our worldly affairs, the gospel challenges us to think and act for peace. Even though our national politics may say *good countries* need to win and get all the world's resources, while *bad countries* deserve to lose and suffer. The hardship for the gospel tells us that we must challenge such thinking.



The gospel challenges us to think and enact beyond the status quo. Yes, death may be destroyed, but what are we doing to prevent the untimely deaths of children or peace-loving citizens who are victims of war and violence? The hardship of the gospel tells us we must stand up for peace and justice! In these times of great challenges, I pray we all may do our fair share for the hardship for the gospel.

Prayer for Peace

Dennis Ngiabi, a young South Sudanese layman, posted the following prayer for peace on his social media accounts. Let us join him and people all over the world in offering ardent prayers for peace.



*Father in heaven, we come to You as Your sons and daughters.
Our hearts are heavy as we see war rising again in the Middle East.
We lift up to you the nations of Israel, Iran, and the United States,
and all countries that will be directly affected by this conflict.*

*Lives are at risk. Families are afraid.
Innocent people will always suffer first.
Lord, have mercy. Stop the escalation.*

*Restrain the hands that are ready to strike.
Calm leaders who are driven by fear, anger, or pride.
Give them wisdom beyond politics.
Give them the courage to choose dialogue over destruction.*

*We pray for soldiers sent into danger.
For mothers who cannot sleep.
For children who hear explosions instead of laughter.
Protect them, Lord. Shield them.*

*We also pray for peace in every troubled nation.
In places forgotten by the news. In communities divided by hatred.
Even in our own homes and hearts, Forgive us when we are indifferent. Forgive us when our words wound.
Make us instruments of Your peace in our families, our households, our mission areas.
Let revival begin with us.*

*Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace.
Only You can soften hardened hearts.
Only You can turn enemies into friends.
Only you can put an end to every conflict and every division in distant lands,
in our neighborhoods, in our families, and in our very hearts.*

*We ask this through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace,
to gently guide and lead us closer to your Son,
who alone can heal wounds, restore unity,
and grant lasting peace and true reconciliation. Amen.*



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Love God and Love People

We're getting ready for Spring Break, which means Easter is fast approaching. I was thinking just this morning, this Easter will be 25 years since I entered the Church. I also learned this week that my first parish priest, the person who helped me enter the Church, recently passed away. Fr. Aquinas M. Nichols was a fascinating person that taught me many important lessons. One of the most important lessons he taught in the parish was to love God and people. Whenever we would have a parish function, like a fish fry or a concert, Fr. Aquinas would often hear someone say, "Oh, I love that food," or something similar, basically

saying they loved objects. Fr. Aquinas would be quick to jump in... "Love God, love people, but you don't LOVE things." The way people used the word love mattered to him, and he made sure we all knew what love meant. I loved Fr. Aquinas; I can still hear his voice in my head singing the prayers for Mass.

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Fr. Aquinas and all who have passed away, and please take his lesson; love God and love people. Enjoy Spring Break!



ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

Dear Students

As we strive for Institutional Effectiveness and the best possible student experience here at Divine Word College, your feedback is our most valuable resource.

We are conducting a brief survey for the Academic Resource Center (ARC) to better understand how our services are meeting your needs. Whether you visit the ARC daily or haven't had a chance to stop by yet, we want to hear from you. Although the Survey Monkey will only take 2 minutes to complete, your responses will directly impact and shape the future tutoring, resources, and support programs that we offer!

Dr. Garrett will be sending an email to all students with the Survey Monkey link this week. Please stay tuned for that email! Your participation is truly appreciated and highly valued. Thank you for helping us make the ARC a stronger environment for everyone's academic success.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time begins this Sunday, March 8, 2026. Please turn your clocks and/or watches one hour forward at 2:00 am. We will lose one hour of sleep, but we will enjoy the extra sunshine in the evening.



Summer Travels

We are midway through the Spring Semester, and soon, we will begin our summer vacation. If you need to purchase a ticket for your summer travels, please do so immediately. Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD, the student travel coordinator, is available to assist you in purchasing a ticket for your travels.

Please read over the DWC Travel Policy and the Travel Guidelines to familiarize yourself of what the college is asking from you. I will email you this week with more details about the dates of departures from the college for your vacation. Fr. Akizou and I will not assist you if you do not follow the policy and guidelines.



Summer Placement Program

The application for the Summer Placement Program will be sent out this week. This program is meant to give students an opportunity to work at Divine Word College, or other ministry sites and parishes to learn about the mission and ministry of the Arnoldus Family in the United States.

If you are interested, please turn in the application to my mailbox (#208) by Friday, March 20, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted. In the application, please select two sites/services that you want to work for.

Please take note that not all who apply for the Summer Placement Program will be accepted. Each applicant will be evaluated to determine whether or not he or she is accepted.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Budget Process & Mission Driven Projects

As we shape the FY27 budget, it's important for the community to know that every major project under consideration in the budget directly supports the mission of Divine Word College: preparing men and women for missionary service within a formation centered, intercultural, and service oriented environment.

These proposed projects help ensure our campus remains safe, accessible, and welcoming — a reflection of the dignity, hospitality, and responsible stewardship that are central to our values.

They are not simply facilities upgrades; they strengthen the environment where students pray, study, build community, and discern their vocations.

The following are the major projects currently under consideration. While these items stand out due to their scale, they represent just one part of the overall budget. We highlight them here because of their importance to campus safety, accessibility, and the student experience.

Major Projects Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2027:

- Renovation of general use restrooms
- Sidewalk repairs
- Bridge repairs
- Student bathroom upgrades

Our budget and major project planning are developed through a structured, multi-layered review process. Departments submit requests in November and December, and the Business Office Director compiles them into a preliminary draft.

This draft is reviewed by the Financial Affairs Committee in February and then by the Board of Administration shortly after that.

These oversight bodies help ensure that the budget and major projects are rigorously vetted, fiscally responsible, and firmly grounded in the College's mission and strategic priorities.



Around Divine Word College

No LOG on March 10th

Due to Spring Break, there will be no LOG on March 10th. The LOG will return the following week on March 17th.

JPIC Lenten Reflection Guide

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns offers a JPIC Lenten Reflection Guide. Some of you might be interested in reflecting on JPIC issues as part of your Lenten journey.

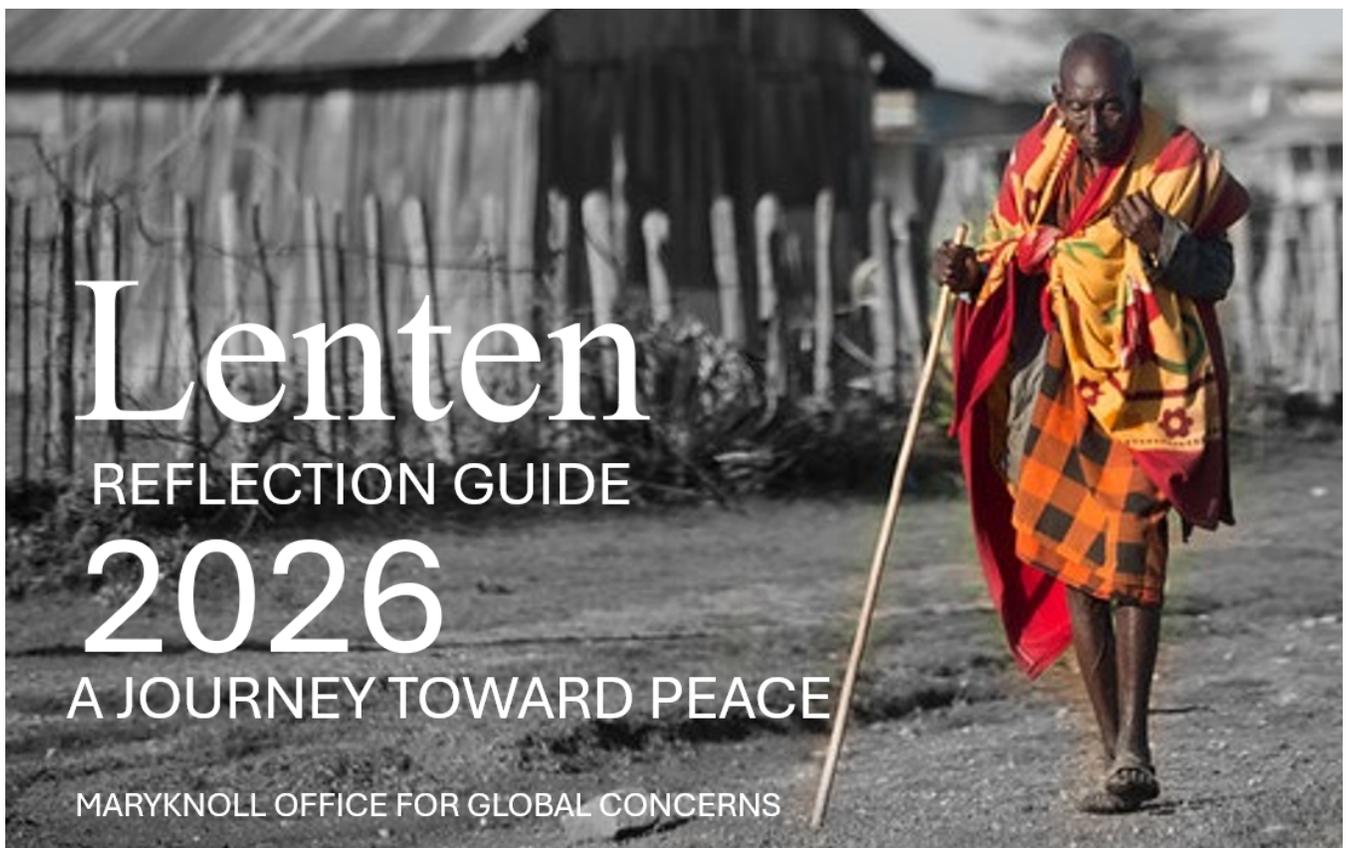
To access a copy of this guide, please go to:

<https://maryknollogc.org/resources/lenten-guide-2026-a-journey-toward-peace/?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=17e6cb2c-2ade-4522-8f3a-7a1306d77aad>.

Divine Word College Blood Drive

On Tuesday, March 24th from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Divine Word College will host a blood drive in the gym. There will be a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board for those who are interested.

All those giving blood will receive a \$20.00 gift card! If you have any questions, please see Bro. Mike Decker, SVD.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Book Discussion This Thursday

Students, faculty, SVDs, and staff are encouraged to join the Dubuque County Reads book discussion this Thursday at 1 PM in the library.

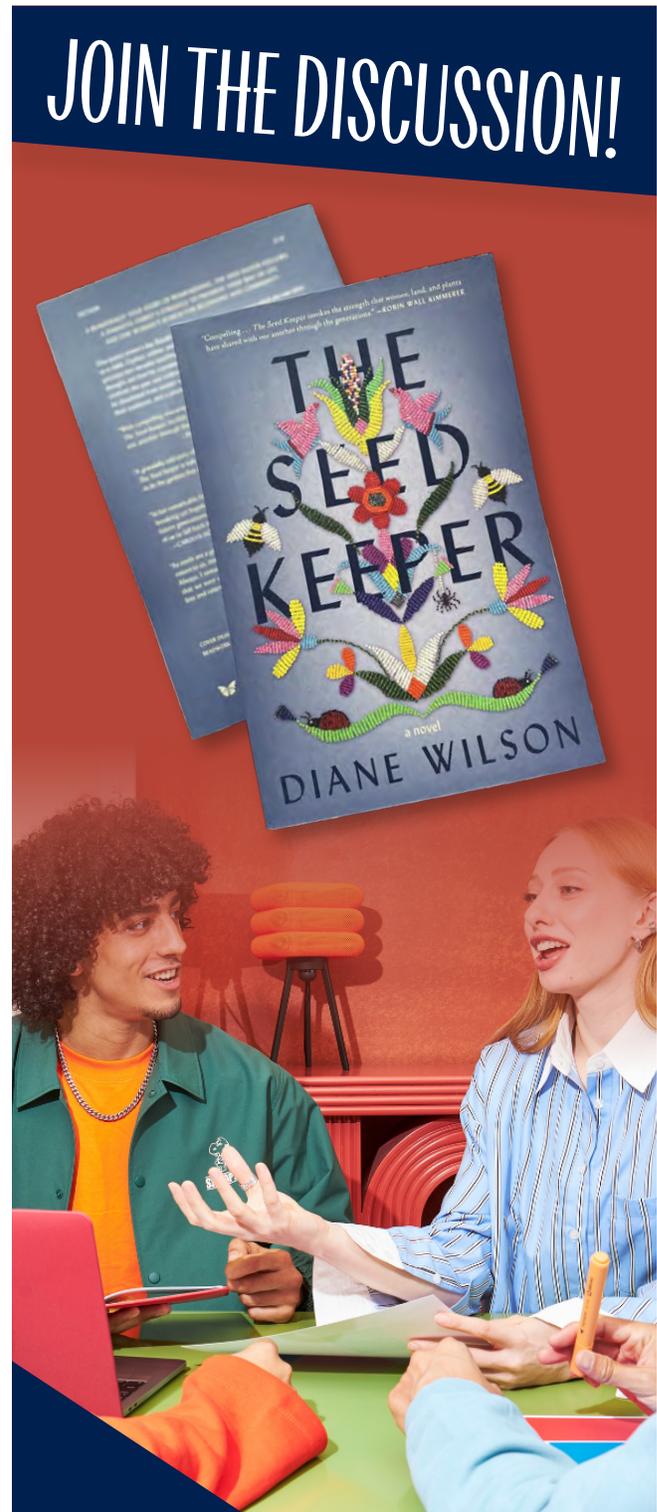
- We will be discussing *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.
- **You do not need** to have finished the book to join the discussion.
- New to book discussions? [The Seed Keeper Discussion Guide](#) offers a helpful preview.
- If you can't make Thursday's DWC discussion, you're welcome to join one of the many discussions happening at other libraries and partner organizations throughout March and April: <https://www.dbqreads.org/event>
- While we are out of print copies of the book, you can borrow the eBook or audiobook version on Libby: <https://mobius.overdrive.com/>

In addition to the book discussions, there are many other Dubuque County Reads events happening throughout March that you can join:

- Roots and Rivers Expo: **March 4** at Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium
- "Women of the White Buffalo" Film Screening: **March 12** at Carnegie Stout Library Auditorium
- La Fuerza del Papel Amate: **March 14** at Dubuque Museum of Art
- Diane Wilson Author Talk: **March 24** at Steeple Square

Learn more about Dubuque County Reads: www.dbqreads.org

Hope to see many of you on Thursday!



On View in the Gallery

VIA CREATIVA

Art as a Spiritual Practice



Break from the Frenzy

Need a break from the midterm frenzy? Seek shelter in the Weyland Art Gallery where *Via Creativa* will fill you with beauty, whimsy and inspiration. It's the perfect place to pause over the next few weeks and an on-campus "field trip" for those staying at DWC over Spring Break.

If you feel eager to make your own art after the experience, you'll find coloring books and drawing materials in the art classroom, as well as a basket of candy. Please consider the space a "brain health room" open to everyone, not only those enrolled in art classes this semester. It's important to make space to breathe, rest and refuel during these stressful times. If you have questions, please connect with Erin LaBelle.