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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

After Easter

Fr. Antoine Iyemangebe SVD came to DWC last Summer. He came to the USA from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work in the Southern Province of the SVD. He was ordained a priest two years ago, and now is working hard to find his way here in the United States – and learning to live his life in ENGLISH. Along with many other students here at Divine Word, he studies, works, eats and prays in a new language. He asked if he could write a reflection for the LOG. That is courage!

Like all of us, Antoine is thinking about Easter these days. I very gladly present his reflections. At his request, I’ve added a little polish, but the thoughts are all his!



After Easter Sunday Comes the Real Easter

By Fr. Antoine Iyemangebe SVD

Over the past few days, we have enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Easter Sunday and Easter Week. This year I find myself especially interested in what comes after Easter Sunday.

As I ponder the meaning of Easter, I realize that our lives are marked by many events, both common and uncommon. Momentous events such as birth and death are nevertheless “common,” in the sense that we accept them as normal parts of every human life. There is, however, one very uncommon event that remains almost beyond our experience: resurrection.

We might think that after Easter everything simply goes back to normal, that nothing has really changed. Yet I believe that this singular event truly changes everything. So, please allow me to share some of my Easter reflections.

To explore the continuing impact of Easter, it helps to reflect on the meaning of the feast, its importance, and the way the Church celebrates it each year.

First, the word we use for the 50 days after Easter is paschal time. The word *paschal* comes from the Hebrew word *Pesah*, meaning “passage” or “Passover.” When we look at the history of the Jewish people, we recall that the feast of Passover celebrates the passage out of Egypt and the passing over from slavery to freedom.



Obviously, Easter is a great feast for Christians. While there may also be more secular customs—such as Easter eggs or the Easter bunny—what gives Easter its fundamental meaning is the resurrection of Christ. Jesus Christ is the one who conquered death. In that sense, celebrating Easter is truly a celebration of life. Those who believed that everything had ended with Jesus’ death were astonished to encounter him alive.

Easter celebrates a most profound event: Jesus destroyed death. Through his death and resurrection, God shows that nothing is stronger than him—even death. And there is something more. Those who believe in Christ also share in his resurrection.

Second, Easter is the most important feast for all Christians. Through the resurrection, Christ remains with us always. Because of him we receive a new identity as children of God. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, who would we be? Thanks to this feast we celebrate not only the resurrection of Christ, but also our belonging to the family of God.

New life comes to us directly through him. That is one reason why, in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” Through our belief that Jesus is truly risen, we are able to live as God’s children through baptism. Through baptism our faith comes

alive, and that faith is rooted in accepting the truth that Jesus is still alive in our world.

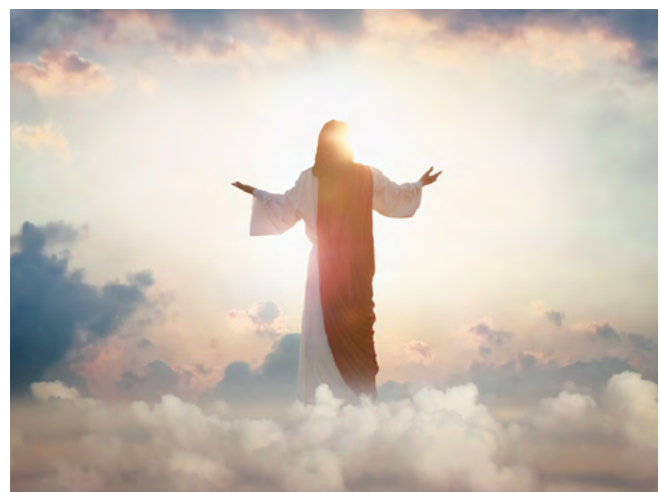
Without faith in the resurrection, we would indeed be in a desperate situation. But through faith we have become children of God. The true gift of Easter is our joyful and deeply exciting belonging to the family of God.

Third, Easter makes us Christians—and once a Christian, always a Christian. In the Church we celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter octave. While it is good to remember the resurrection in Easter time, in truth we celebrate Easter every day whenever we celebrate Mass.

In that sense, Easter becomes a perpetual celebration. I find myself coming to the conclusion that after the resurrection there is only the resurrection; no more dying, suffering, or fear. After Easter comes more Easter, because Jesus has already risen, and that changes everything.

To sum up, I rejoice that Easter—the resurrection of Christ—is the most important feast for all Christians. I stand in wonder when I realize that we pass over with Christ our brother, and that God makes us his children. Before Jesus, no one had defeated death, but he did. Those who come to believe in him and in his resurrection draw especially close to God, and that is something we should celebrate every day of our lives.

Let us not wait until next year to celebrate Easter again. Instead, let us learn to celebrate Easter every day, with energy, faith, and courage. We are God’s children forever, because after Easter Sunday comes Easter forever.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

DWC to Host the Iowa Communication Association Conference

Divine Word College will host the Iowa Communication Association (ICA) Conference September 25-26, 2026. The ICA is the professional organization of communication scholars and professionals throughout the state of Iowa. During the conference, participants will present research and engage in pedagogical workshops. This is a unique opportunity for DWC, and we look forward to hosting them this Fall.



Provincial Forum on the Future of Missionary Education

Faculty are officially notified that their presence is required on Friday, May 1, 2026 from 3pm-4pm for the final activity related to our NetVUE Professional Development Grant. During this time, we will host a panel with the three U.S.-based SVD provincials to discuss the needs of missionaries in the field and to discuss the future of missionary education at DWC. From my understanding, this will be the first time in awhile all three will be on campus together.

This provincials' forum will be held in room 107, and members of the Board of Trustees have been invited to participate. Faculty should come prepared to enter

into prophetic dialogue with these SVD leaders as we continue to steward our various program curricula. Dr. Joshua Young, VPAA, will facilitate questions and discussion. Faculty members may submit potential questions or topics of concern to the VPAA by April 24, 2026. Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation.

Last Chance: Missionary Formation and Higher Education Survey

We've had low participation, and we hope you can help us in our efforts to complete our NetVUE project. 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

The History of Assessment

The evolution of academic assessment has shifted from individual oral exams, to a data-driven global machine. Historically, medieval universities relied on distinctive oral testing, which remained in place until 1845, when Boston schools introduced written exams to increase effectiveness. This shift sparked the standardized testing movement of the early 20th century, which introduced intelligence testing and arithmetic tests that essentially measured memory, attention, and identified children with special needs (IQ).

Did you know that in 1929, the University of Iowa started the first statewide testing program for high schools students? Iowa tests were then adopted by multiple states nearly six years later. By the 1930s, exams like the ACT and the SAT became standard tools for college entrance, and are still used around the world today. Computerized scoring in the 1950s moved us away from manual grading, leading to the digital assessments like the “scantron” (shown on right) in the 1980s and 1990s.

Although much has changed over the last 181 years, student assessment is not just about individual grades; the data we collect is used to monitor student progress, but also measure institutional effectiveness ensuring that schools meet quality standards.



SUBJECTIVE SCORE INSTRUCTOR USE ONLY				
100	90	80	70	60
50	40	30	20	10
9	8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1	0

(T)	(F)	KEY			
%	2	3	5		
1	A	B	C	D	
2	F	G	H	J	K
3	A	B	C	D	E
4	F	G	H	J	K
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6	F	G	H	J	K
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47	A	B	C	D	E
48	F	G	H	J	K
49	A	B	C	D	E
50	F	G	H	J	K

FEED THIS DIRECTION

PART 1
1 to 50

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

USE NO PENCIL ONLY

- FILL BOX COMPLETELY
- CORRECT: A, B, C, D, E
- ERASE COMPLETELY TO CHANGE
- INCORRECT: X

TO USE SUBJECTIVE SCORE FEATURE:

- Use real pencil subjective pens
- Only one mark per line on key
- 163 points maximum

EXAMPLE OF STUDENT SCORE:

100	99	98	97	96
95	94	93	92	91
90	89	88	87	86
85	84	83	82	81

NAME	SUBJECT
DATE	TEST NO.
PERIOD	TEST RECORD
PART 1	
PART 2	
TOTAL	

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

Thank You!

A sincere word of thanks to everyone who participated in last Saturday’s roadside cleanup. Special appreciation goes to Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD, and Fr. Stephen Kha Nguyen, SVD for organizing this meaningful activity. Your efforts have made a noticeable difference in cleaning the roadside in Epworth, IA, as well as the areas surrounding Divine Word College. Together, we continue to contribute to a cleaner environment that warmly welcomes guests and all who pass through our community.



Special Dean’s Forum

Please mark your calendars for a Special Dean’s Forum on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal will present information on the Student Success Quality Initiative (SSQI) from the Higher Learning Commission. This forum is an important opportunity for all students to actively participate in shaping the development of the SSQI proposal.



As usual, the Dean’s Forum will take place in Room 107 at 1:00 P.M. Attendance is required for all students.

Summer Travels

This is a friendly reminder that if you need to purchase a ticket for your summer travels, please do so as soon as possible. Once you have purchased your ticket, send your flight information to Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD, DWC’s travel coordinator. The deadline for submitting this information is Friday, May 1, 2026. This will allow adequate time to organize transportation schedules to the airport.

Please be sure to review the DWC Travel Policy and Travel Guidelines carefully to understand your responsibilities. Note that failure to follow these policies and guidelines may result in limited assistance from Fr. Akizou and myself.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Divine Word College Enrollment

As we enter the “home stretch” of the academic year, it is worth looking back at the number of students who studied at DWC this past year. While we had 111 students in August, 112 in October, 110 in January and 114 in March, Divine Word College educated a total of 133 students this year! As you know, students come and go throughout the academic year—many finishing both the ESL and undergraduate programs at different times and new students enrolling each term or semester. The 133 students ties last year’s number and is the largest number of students since 2020 when the pandemic hit the world (DWC enrolled 144 students that year).

This year 23 SVD Candidates studied at Divine Word College—19 (83%) of the them were living in the USA or Canada when they entered Divine Word College. Yes, most of our SVD Candidates live in the USA, Canada or the Caribbean prior to entering SVD formation in the USA. The other four SVD Candidates were referred to Divine Word College by the SVD Vietnamese Province due to an agreement we have with them (and we expect two more next year).

In addition to the SVD Candidates, we had several other Arnoldus Family members study at the College



this year. There were 8 Divine Word Missionaries in temporary vows, 4 in perpetual vows, and 4 Holy Spirit Sisters/Candidates enrolled at Divine Word College. That is a total of 39 Arnoldus Family members that were enrolled during the 2025-26 academic year.

Both the Vocation Office and the Admissions Office are grateful to our students who choose to attend Divine Word College as they discern religious vocations and/or further prepare for missionary ministry around the world. Furthermore, we are grateful for the Divine Word Missionaries, the Holy Spirit Sisters and all of the faculty and staff who dedicate their gifts and talents to Divine Word College being a high-quality educational institution and spiritual formation program that fulfills its mission of preparing students for missionary service to God’s people.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Business Office Staffing Update

Many of you are already aware that we have several changes coming in the Business Office over the next few weeks. Mary Pat Kerper and Ann Maiers will be retiring in May, and Jeffrey Puccio has accepted a new position in Dubuque; his last day with us is this Friday, April 17.

Please feel free to stop by the Business Office and wish each of them the very best as they move on to retirement and new opportunities. Their work has mattered—quietly, steadily, and in ways that keep the whole institution moving forward.

You will also see some new faces soon. Starting April 20, Joan Westhoff will join us. Joan comes to us from Dyersville and previously worked at Regional Medical Center in Manchester. She will be stepping into Ann's role.

At the same time, the Hiring Committee is finishing interviews this week for the Business Office Director/Controller position. We hope to have someone hired within the next couple of weeks, and we will make an announcement as soon as we know who that person will be.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this transition. If you have time-sensitive Business Office needs, please plan ahead when possible, and don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Happy Retirement

Vector Solutions Training

As of today, we're at roughly a 20% completion rate for assigned coursework. Most modules take about 15–20 minutes, but they make a real difference in keeping our campus safe, compliant, and running smoothly. If you haven't had a chance, please plan a short block of time to complete your training before the May 31 deadline.

If you run into any issues logging in, can't locate your assignments, or something doesn't look right in the system, please reach out to IT so we can get you moving quickly.

IT Department: Tip of the Week

Remember to shut down your computer before you leave on Friday.

A restart once per week clears out the "mystery glitches" (slowdowns, odd pop-ups, programs that won't behave) and helps security updates finish installing. A full shutdown on Friday does two things at once: it gives your machine a clean start on Monday and avoids unnecessary energy use over the weekend. If you rely on specific weekend processes (rare), you can still restart—otherwise, shutting down is the best default.



external affairs

Week 4 Quest

*Which Core Competency shows LAY missionaries?
What country do they serve?*

Send answers to **BOTH** questions to Sandy Wilgenbusch at wilgenbu@dwci.edu by noon on Monday, April 20.



Core Competency



Week 2 & 3 Winners!

WEEK 2:

Faculty/Staff



Len Uhal

Student



Sr. Ahoefa Aguessou, OLVSM

WEEK 3:

Faculty/Staff



Larry Udry

Student



Sr. Nighty Akello, LSMIG

Around Divine Word College

Divine Word College and the Climate Action Festival

April 8, 2026

Divine Word College's Br. Brian McLauchlin, SVD and Dr. Cathi Cleary are members of the Climate Action Group of the Dubuque Colleges Sustainability Coalition, who were involved in organizing and executing the third annual Climate Action Festival.



The festival was held at the University of Dubuque on April 8, 2026, and included informative and

interactive exhibits from many local sustainability-minded organizations such as the City of Dubuque Sustainability/ GreenIowa AmeriCorps, Dubuque Land & Water Legacy, Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Sustainable Dubuque, UD Wolter Woods & Prairies and Earth Advocates/



CREATE organizations, Loras Peace & Justice, the Iowa Waste Exchange, as well as a Clothing Swap, an Upcycle Station and Repair Café, Live Music, and Collaborative Art from Clarke University and DWC, make-your-own wildflower seed balls, the Bike Co-op with a bicycle converting pedal-power to energy needed to run a blender to make your own smoothie!



The festival also provided lively music and was designed with a goal of zero-waste: a taco bar fed attendees and all food serving materials were either recyclable or compostable.

DWC was well represented at the Festival with Dr. Cleary greeting attendees, Bro. Brian manning the Loras Peace & Justice Laudato Si' exhibit, Erin LaBelle and Dr. Ann Lundberg providing a collaborative art experience where participants created their own 'Heart Maps' to represent feelings about our Earth with optional eco-writing, and Fr. Alex Roedlach, SVD making many connections to establish eco-friendly sustainability related ministry programs for Fall 2026.

The Festival was very well attended, and participants commented that they learned a lot about conservation issues!!



On View in the Gallery

Big Changes

Big change is coming to the Weyland Art Gallery this week as we bring *Via Creativa* to a close on Friday.

If you've not yet experienced this magnificent collaborative exhibit, or you want to spend more time in the peaceful, playful energy, make sure to stop by soon. The artists – Catherine and Lori – will pick up their artwork and merchandise on Monday morning, so if you've been thinking about purchasing cards or books, now's the time!

The first half of next week will be focused on installing our next exhibit called *That Tree* which is a collection of 40 photographs by Platteville visual storyteller Mark Hirsch.

The project and book by the same name are described as an "iPhone Photo Journal Documenting a Year in the Life of a Lonely Bur Oak".

We're fortunate to have this beautiful, tree focused exhibit just in time for our Arbor Day celebration, so please join us Friday, April 24 from 4-7 pm for the opening reception.

As usual we will have amazing food, drink and conversation, with Mark on site to answer your questions and provide inspiration.

Please watch the first floor hallway exhibit space come to life this week with "Words in Flame." The photographs and text based exhibit focuses on Ukrainian libraries, bookstores, and publishing houses. Some images highlight the results of bombing and fire damage, while others show collections being restored. These photographs document both the destruction and restoration of these cultural institutions while reminding us all of the importance of peace.

We appreciate your support of the arts!



 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Five Library Things to Know Before Finals Week

The end of the semester can be demanding. The library supports students and faculty by providing access to resources, research assistance, and appropriate study spaces. The following points highlight how the library can be used most effectively during this period.



You Don't Have to Find Everything Yourself

Encountering a paywall or an unavailable item does not mean the resource is out of reach. The library can obtain articles and books through interlibrary loan (ILL), subscription databases such as the Digital Theological Library, or direct purchase when appropriate.

The Library Can Help Even at the Last Minute

Questions about sources, scope, or citation often arise late in the research process. Librarians are available to assist with evaluating sources, refining topics, and resolving access issues, even close to assignment deadlines.

Study Spaces for Different Needs

The library offers multiple study areas, including bean bag seating on the mezzanine, individual study carrels and group tables in the main library, and additional table seating in the periodicals room.

These spaces support both quiet, individual work and collaborative study.

Citation Concerns Can Be Addressed

Citation styles such as APA, Chicago, and MLA are complex, and automated citation tools are often inaccurate. The library can help review citations, identify missing elements, and reduce the risk of unintentional plagiarism.

Addressing citation issues prior to submission is significantly more efficient than correcting them afterward.

Library Services Are Part of Academic Support

Using library services during finals is an effective use of shared academic resources. Research assistance, access support, and space are all intended to contribute to successful completion of coursework and projects.

