

A HEART

STILL CONNECTED TO THE MISSION

When Duy Pham arrived at Divine Word College in 1978, he hoped to strengthen his English skills while discerning a possible vocation to religious life. Although he spent only one year at the college, the experience would leave a lasting imprint on his faith and shape the course of his life in ways he could not yet imagine.

Through prayer and discernment, Duy gradually became open to another vocation — marriage and family life. After returning to California, he married in 1992, and he and his wife were blessed with five children. Looking back today, Duy sees his time at Divine Word College as a meaningful part of his journey as a Catholic husband, father and mission-minded layperson.

Life took an unexpected turn four years ago when Duy was diagnosed with blood cancer during a routine visit with his physician. Since then, his Catholic faith and the steadfast support of his family have sustained him through the challenges of illness. Rather than diminishing his spirit, the experience has deepened his gratitude and appreciation for everyday blessings. One of the greatest joys for Duy and his family came recently with the May 2026 college graduation of their youngest daughter.

Throughout the years, Duy has remained a faithful supporter of the missionary work of Divine Word Priests and Brothers. His home in Westminster, California, has long been a welcoming place for visiting Divine Word Missionaries from around the world. Together, Duy and his family have participated in the Mission Mass League and supported numerous fundraising efforts sponsored by Divine Word College.



For Duy, supporting the mission is simply part of who he is.

“It’s not much what I have done,” he said. “It is our responsibility as alumni. In fact, every time I can do something for others, I feel a sense of peace and happiness.”

That quiet spirit of service has guided Duy throughout his life. In his role as a lay missionary partner, he believes that each person simply offers what they can and trusts God to do the rest.

When the conversation turned to the decline in vocations, Duy responded with both faith and optimism. Speaking with Development Director Fr. Linh Pham, SVD, he emphasized that God continues to work through many different vocations and forms of missionary service.

“Ever since I left the College in 1978, I have often found myself pondering this matter,” he said. “Then it dawned on me that even though I did not continue my formation there, that place continues to hold a special place not only in my heart, but in my life journey, as well. It was there that I became clear about my calling to marriage life. It’s God’s plan. Today I am not a member of the Society

“...Every time I can do something for others, I feel a sense of peace and happiness.”



of the Divine Word as a priest or a religious brother, but I am still committed to the Church’s mission as a lay partner. It is the missionary spirit that is alive in me.”

Duy’s story is a reminder that God’s call can unfold in many different ways. While his path ultimately led him away from seminary formation, the missionary spirit nurtured at Divine Word College never left him. Instead, it continues to find expression through his faith, his family and his lifelong commitment to supporting the Church’s mission.

A SIMPLE WAY TO SHARE IN THE

MISSION

For generations, supporters of Divine Word Missionaries have enrolled family members and friends in the **Mission Mass League**. Each day, seven Holy Masses are offered for those enrolled. Members also share in the prayers and good works of Divine Word Missionaries serving around the world.

Enrollment Options

- Five-Year Membership: **\$10**
- Individual Perpetual Membership (one person, living or deceased): **\$30**
- Family Perpetual Membership (parents, children and in-laws): **\$40**

Each enrollment includes a commemorative certificate, making it a thoughtful gift for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, and other special occasions.

To learn more or enroll, scan the QR code or contact the Development Office at 563-876-3353, ext. 243.



SCAN ME