

## In This Issue:

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Board of Trustees                           | 3  |
| Christlikeness                              | 4  |
| Student Exit Surveys                        | 5  |
| Student News                                | 6  |
| Upcoming Events                             | 7  |
| Securing Campus                             | 8  |
| On View                                     | 9  |
| Roadside Cleanup                            | 10 |
| Library News                                | 11 |
| Mission Sunday addendum<br>Schedule         |    |
| Mission Sunday addendum<br>Work Assignments |    |
| President's BOT addendum<br>Report          |    |
| Thomas Megan addendum<br>Story              |    |

## Birthday Corner:

### OCTOBER

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Ron Condon                  | 6  |
| Sr. Sarah Aberba, SVI       | 6  |
| Khoa Pham                   | 8  |
| Sr. Tham Dinh, IHM          | 10 |
| Fr. Betenora Bako Liba, SVD | 11 |



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

## Mission is HOME WORK!

October is a month for the Church to give special attention to WORLD MISSION. On October 18, the College will hold our annual celebration of Mission Sunday. Like previous years, it will be a grand affair –a kind of DWC homecoming. Sr. Aprilia Untarto SSpS, an Associate Dean of Students, offered the following practical observations during the Vesper Service last Sunday. She was commenting on a portion of the Letter to the Philippians that we heard at Mass earlier in the day.



Sr. Aprilia

St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, speaks directly to our daily lives here at the College. He challenges us to step into the Church's global mission, and reminds us that this preparation does not begin somewhere far away – it begins right here in Epworth, in our classrooms, dining room, hallways, and daily interactions with one another. As Fr. Sonny said in his homily last Thursday, mission starts in our hearts.

**Have No Anxiety At All.** While juggling readings in philosophy, psychology, and theology; writing papers and studying for quizzes; spending hours in language labs; practicing for CAmLA; preparing for Mission Sunday and soon for the Guadalupe/Thanksgiving celebration; and attending formation meetings, workshops, and more, anxiety and exhaustion can easily take hold.





Paul's words are not an invitation to pretend that these pressures do not exist. Rather, he reminds us to bring them to God "with prayer and petition, with thanksgiving." Missionary formation begins with learning how to place our daily concerns in God's hands.

**A Bridge for Brothers and Sisters.** For many of us, learning and mastering English is one of our greatest daily challenges. It takes courage to step out of our comfort zone, overcome the fear of making mistakes, and resist the temptation to retreat into exclusive groups where only our native language is spoken.

Yet the ongoing effort to speak English is not merely an academic requirement; it is an act of hospitality and communion. English serves as our shared bridge, enabling us to include everyone at the table and build a true brotherhood and sisterhood across cultures.

Learning to communicate with one another is therefore part of our missionary preparation. Before we can proclaim the Gospel across cultures, we must first learn to live, listen, speak, and understand across cultures here at home.

**Whatever Is True, Honorable, Lovely.** When language barriers, frustration, or academic stress wear us down, St. Paul invites us to surrender our worries through prayer and thanksgiving, allowing God's peace to calm our minds and grant us patience. St. Paul's call to fix our thoughts on "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely" urges us to practice deep cultural humility and respect.

**Whatever Is Gracious.** Here on campus, where the global Church lives under one roof, our missionary training depends on how we treat those who are different from us. Respecting others' cultures means actively listening, honoring diverse customs and perspectives, and rejecting any posture of superiority or judgment. Rather than viewing a classmate through the lens of language limitations, accents, or unfamiliar traditions, we are called to see the truth, goodness, and beauty that God has placed within their culture and story.

**Doing What We Have Learned.** St. Paul concludes with a clear charge: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received..." Our faith, what we learn in class, and the challenge we hear in the formation program cannot remain in the chapel, in our notebooks, or with our spiritual directors and formators; they must move into daily action.

This means intentionally speaking our shared language, English, in classrooms, the dining room, the dormitories, the hallways, and at Megan Hall. We intentionally choose to sit with people from other cultures and to include them in sports and recreation, rather than remaining only with those from our own culture, so no one feels left out. We listen with patience and kindness when someone struggles to find the right English words, rather than laughing at them. We take time and make the effort to learn from cultures different from our own.

These may seem like small things. But missionary life is built on such small things: a conversation, an invitation, a seat at the table, a patient listener, a willingness to learn, a refusal to exclude.

**God's Peace Will Be with Us.** When we walk together through the everyday challenges of our lives with mutual respect and humble hearts, the God of peace not only dwells among us here in Epworth, but also goes before us into every classroom, every community, and every place where our future mission will lead us. Mission begins at home. Mission is HOME WORK!

**Philippians 4:6–9**

*Brothers and sisters:*

*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true,*

*whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.*



## Board of Trustees Meeting, Oct 2-3, 2026

On Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, members of the Divine Word College (DWC) Board of Trustees gathered at the College for committee meetings and the Board's general session. Some committee meetings were held earlier in the week by ZOOM to accommodate trustees who were unable to attend the general session.

The six regular Trustee committees are: **Academic Affairs, Admissions and Vocations, Development and External Affairs, Formation and Student Life, Planning and Operations, and Finances.** Each of the standing committees met with members of the staff and faculty to discuss reports prepared for their respective areas of responsibility. The reports were prepared by Dr. Joshua Young, Mr. Len Uhal, Ms. Sandy Wilgenbusch, Fr. Tuan Hoang SVD, Mr. Steve Winger and Dr. Kenneth Retzl.

The **President's Report to the Trustees**, presented at the meeting, provides a basic overview of the matters discussed during the Board meetings.

Doubtless, the highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the **Fr. John Donaghey Award to Mr. Doug Stillings**, who has served as a Trustee and is a long-time friend and supporter of Divine Word College. The Donaghey Award was established in 1999 to recognize and thank special friends whose service has helped strengthen Divine Word College.



*Doug Stillings*



*Board of Trustees Meeting, October 2-3.*



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

### The Learning Cycle: Christlikeness

The five steps in the Learning Cycle should lead students and teachers towards being more Christlike. Jesus sought out apostles, those eager to learn a new way of life. Understanding the Learning Cycle is a way of becoming better missionary disciples. Let me demonstrate using Scripture.

I want to focus on Deuteronomy 32:1-3. This is the opening of the Song of Moses:

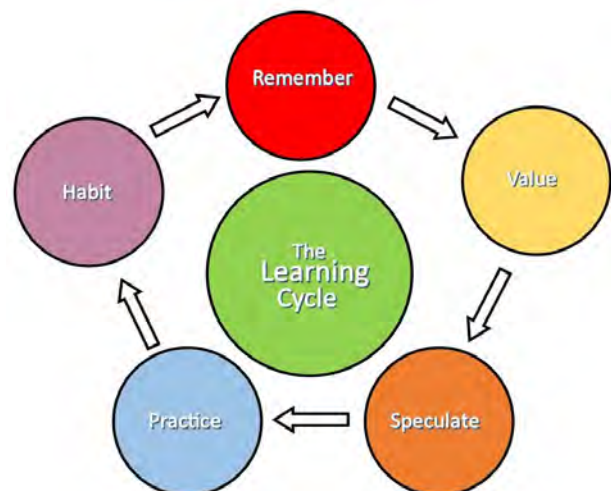
*“Give ear, O heavens, while I speak; let the earth hearken to the words of my mouth. May my instruction soak in like the rain, and my discourse permeate like the dew, like a downpour upon the grass, like a shower upon the crops. For I will sing the Lord’s renown. Oh, proclaim the greatness of our God.”*



I often think about and pray this short Scripture passage before I teach. I discovered it one day when doing some Lectio Divina. I was struck by how it echoed what was in my heart at the time. So, I decided I wanted to learn about this passage. The first step for me was trying to remember that it was Deuteronomy 32. As I’ve told some students, we are not great about memorizing Scripture, but this was something I wanted to do. This led me to the second step of the Learning Cycle because I valued what I thought this passage could teach me. I learned that these were the last words Moses spoke to the Hebrews before they entered into the Promise Land without him.

I speculate about the passage a lot, now that I can generally remember it. It helps me think about what do I want to communicate when I teach? Are my words giving nourishment? Do they sustain our relationships within community? How can I put those words into practice? I guess by practicing, which Muriel and Duane Elmer say makes a habit. Now, when I enter the classroom, walk into a meeting, host a training, I am thinking about how can the words exchanged in this moment proclaim the greatness of our God. And a new cycle begins...

Faculty were provided a copy of *The Learning Cycle* at the 2026-2027 Faculty Institute and will be discussing it at the Fall Faculty In-Service.





## REGISTRAR & DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

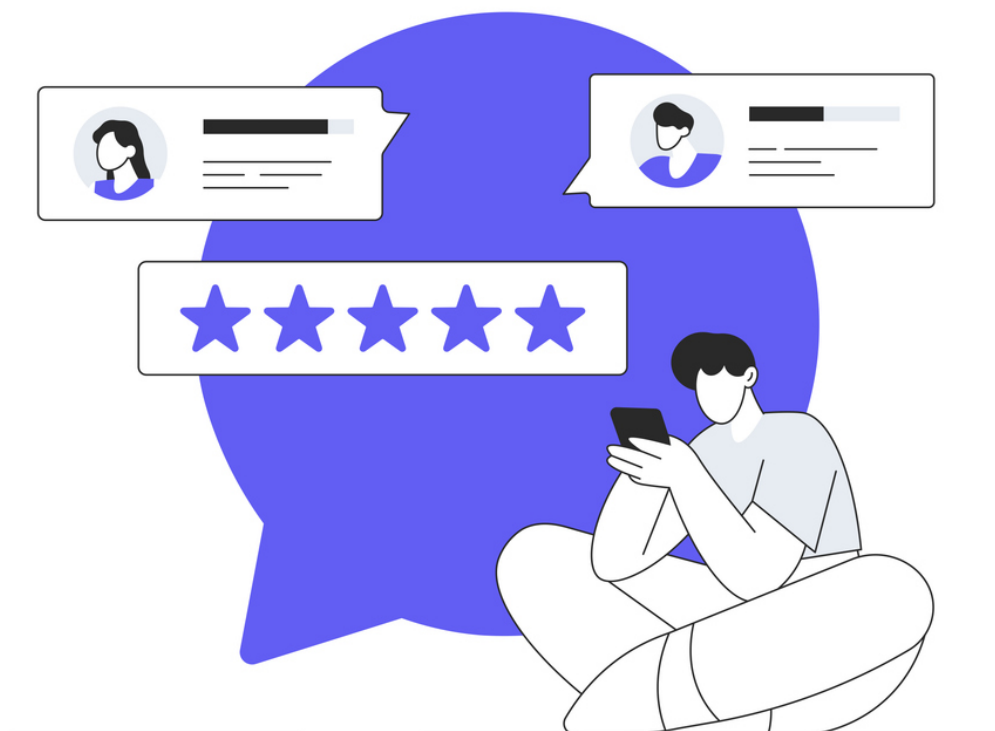
### New Student Exit Surveys Launching This Fall!

Starting October 8, 2026, the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) will begin using a newly revised Student Exit Survey. This short survey will be given to all students who are completing their time in the ESL program, as well as students who are moving into the Divine Word College undergraduate program for O-Term. The updated questions focus on reading, writing, listening, speaking, academic advising, facilities, and housing to help us better understand your experiences and continue improving our programs.

If you are leaving DWC or transitioning to undergraduate program this October, please take a few minutes to share your honest thoughts when you take the survey with Mr. Len Uhal.



Looking ahead, our undergraduate degree programs will also launch an updated exit survey at the end of December for students finishing their studies this fall. Your feedback is important to us and helps make Divine Word College a better place for everyone!





## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

### Welcome New Students – ESL Term B

Next week, we will welcome five new students to Divine Word College as they begin ESL Term B on October 14, 2026. Our new students come from China, Bolivia, Vietnam, and El Salvador. Please join us in welcoming Frt. Jiabo Su, SVD; My Dinh Tran Hoang; Fr. Ngoc Van Le; Jose Carlos Justiniano Parapaino; and Juan Carlos Lazo Soriano as they begin their academic studies and formation at Divine Word College.

To help ease their transition, each student has been assigned a mentor who will assist them as they settle into college life. I ask our mentors to extend a warm welcome, accompany them upon their arrival, and help them feel at home in our community.



### World Mission Sunday Schedule and Assignments

We are now only two weeks away from celebrating World Mission Sunday. Preparations for the liturgy, Taste of DWC, cultural dances, and musical performances are well underway. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for your teamwork, dedication, and collaboration in making this celebration possible.

Included with this week's LOG addendum are the formation group assignments and the schedule for the World Mission Sunday weekend. Please review your assignments carefully so that you are aware of your responsibilities, and follow the schedule closely to help ensure that all events run smoothly. It will be a busy weekend, but the fruits of your hard work and commitment will make it a memorable celebration for our community.

### Presentation on VIVAT International by Fr. Roy Thomas, SVD - October 14, 2026

On October 14, 2026, Fr. Roy Thomas, SVD, who will serve as the presider and homilist for our World Mission Sunday celebration, will arrive at Divine Word College and offer a presentation on **VIVAT International** for the SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors. We would also like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in learning more about this important ministry.

VIVAT International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded by the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS). It promotes human rights, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation through advocacy at both local and international levels, working closely with the United Nations.

Fr. Roy's presentation will be held in Room 107 at 7:30 p.m. Following the presentation, an informal social gathering will be held in the Pour House, providing an opportunity for participants to meet Fr. Roy personally and continue the conversation in a relaxed setting.



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

|                         |                                               |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 10/7/2026.....          | ESL Term A Ends                               |
| 10/8/2026.....          | 9:30.....Board of Administration Meeting      |
| 10/8/2026.....          | ESL Term A Testing                            |
| 10/8/2026.....          | 12:45 PM.....FSLC Meeting                     |
| 10/8/2026.....          | 5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters |
| 10/9/2026.....          | Mid-Term                                      |
| 10/9/2026.....          | Returning ESL Students Registration           |
| 10/9 - 10/11/2026.....  | Retreat Weekend                               |
| 10/12/2026.....         | Term O Classes Begin                          |
| 10/12/2026.....         | ESL Term B Orientation                        |
| 10/12/2026.....         | 7:30 PM.....Holy Hour                         |
| 10/13/2026.....         | 12:45 PM.....Department Meetings DTP and DIS  |
| 10/14/2026.....         | ESL Term B Classes Begin                      |
| 10/14/2026.....         | 7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting           |
| 10/15/2026.....         | 1:00 PM.....Liturgy Prep                      |
| 10/15/2026.....         | 5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters |
| 10/16/2026.....         | NO CLASSES - UG and ESL                       |
| 10/16/2026.....         | Withdrawl deadline - UG                       |
| 10/16 - 10/17/2026..... | Mission Sunday Preparation                    |
| 10/18/2026.....         | Mission Sunday                                |
|                         | 1:00 PM.....Liturgy                           |
|                         | 3:00 PM.....Taste of DWC                      |
| 10/19/2026.....         | NO CLASSES - UG and ESL                       |
|                         | Faculty In-Service                            |
| 10/20/2026.....         | 12:45 PM.....Chairs Council                   |



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

**Steve Winger**

### Building a More Secure and Connected Campus

Technology is most effective when it helps us work smarter while keeping our information safe. This fall, the IT Department is introducing new tools and processes that support both of those goals, making it easier for employees to collaborate while strengthening cybersecurity across campus.



One of the newest additions is KnowBe4 Defend, a tool designed to help users recognize suspicious emails and potential phishing attempts. When a questionable message arrives, Defend provides additional information and security indicators that can help users decide whether an email is legitimate before clicking links, opening attachments, or responding. As cyber threats continue to become more sophisticated, this added layer of protection helps all of us play a role in safeguarding DWC's information and systems.

The IT Department is also supporting the continued transition to Microsoft Teams for document storage and collaboration. The Business Office has begun moving key documents to Teams, creating a secure, centralized location where files can be shared, updated, and accessed more efficiently. The ESL department has already completed the transition successfully, and additional departments will follow as the project continues. Together, these improvements are helping create a more secure, connected, and collaborative digital environment for the entire DWC community.

# external affairs

### The Story Behind Megan Hall

You know Megan Hall, but how much do you know about its namesake? Monsignor Thomas Megan, SVD, served as a missionary in China, helped communities facing famine and war, and became involved in U.S. wartime intelligence efforts.

On the 75th anniversary of his death, the Chicago Province Archives explores his remarkable and complicated life in "Thomas Megan: Missionary, Monsignor and Spy?" Read the full story attached to this issue of The LOG.



# On View in the Gallery

## Great news from The Weyland Art Gallery....

Imagine Peace, our beautiful and inspirational current exhibit has been extended until October 20!!!

We've replenished the Project Create Peace t-shirt selection too, which gives more options for colors and sizes. For those who haven't been able to find your size – and anyone interested – Xene has offered to set up her printing station for a demo during lunch on Wednesday, October 21. (This is her birthday!) Please bring a t-shirt you'd like to have the new peace symbol printed on and a \$5-\$10 donation. Keep in mind these will not be ice dyed, so no tie dye effect.

Next up in the gallery is photographer David LaBelle (yes, this is Erin's husband). David has been a photojournalist and visual poet for over 50 years!!! He's been a teacher, director of photojournalism programs at a variety of universities and a director of photography at newspapers. David has won far

too many awards to list, and he will be inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame in November for photojournalism. He is known for his great compassion, and his ability to listen deeply with a camera. David currently works for the The Telegraph Herald/Dyersville Commercial.

**Other art news:** The Art Ministry team is doing a fantastic job engaging with the Dubuque Goodwill community through creative experiences every Monday evening. Last week, we met with the full group at the Goodwill offices, and this week, we visited our third Goodwill house where we made fall garlands on the back deck with a small group of women. It's wonderful getting to know new and amazing people, and each time we learn how to show up and serve creatively better. Every single time, all humans involved leave happier and more connected. We're putting a call out for art supplies of any kind that you may have gathering dust at home. We will accept anything you feel inspired to share with us. Thank you!





# Around Divine Word College

## Roadside Cleanup Participants: Thank You!

On behalf of the JPIC Committee, I would like to thank all of you who participated in Roadside Cleanup last Saturday.

Our local environment is cleaner and safer because of your commitment.

- *Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD*



 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

## AI at DWC

Faculty, staff, and students: take the [AI and Technology Survey!](#) If you haven't already, please complete the AI and Technology Use Survey. The survey takes about 10 minutes, and responses are anonymous.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Winter, Library Director and Archivist, at [ewinter@dwci.edu](mailto:ewinter@dwci.edu).

## AI Basics

### What is a Prompt?

A prompt is the question or instruction you give an AI tool. It's similar to a search, but you can write it the way you'd ask a friend or a colleague. You can use full sentences and add as much detail as you want. The more context you provide, the more useful the answer.

### AI You May Already be Using

Many tools you use every day already rely on AI, often without being labeled that way. These "traditional" AI-enhanced tools recognize patterns and make predictions. Some examples include:

- Spell check and grammar suggestions in Word and Outlook
- Search engines, maps, and navigation apps
- Suggested replies and text predictions in your messaging apps
- Spam filters that sort junk email
- Recommendations on streaming services and shopping sites

### Traditional AI vs. Generative AI

Newer tools like Copilot, ChatGPT, and Gemini are called generative AI because they create new text, images, or other content in response to a prompt. Knowing the difference between traditional AI and generative AI can make conversations about the pros and cons of AI more productive.

Concerns about generative AI, such as accuracy and originality, are important to discuss, but they don't always apply in the same way to the AI already built into everyday tools. Other concerns, like data privacy, apply to both.

## AI Tools to Investigate

Each week during the month of October, I'll introduce AI tools. The goal is to show the many different ways AI is being used.

### Academic AI: Consensus

**What it is:** a search engine that finds peer-reviewed research and summarizes what studies say about a question. Click here for the [Consensus.app](#).

**Try it:** ask a research question you already know something about, such as "Does exercise improve sleep?" Evaluate the summary and sources.

**Good to know:** Consensus links to real papers, but its summaries can oversimplify or misconstrue findings. Use it as a starting point, and read and analyze the sources it cites.

**Access:** free tier includes a limited number of searches; paid plans available.



## Productivity AI: Meeting Transcription in Word

**What it is:** Word for the web can record and transcribe audio.

**Try it:** record yourself reading a paragraph aloud and see how accurate it is. [Follow these directions from Microsoft.](#)

**Good to know:** always tell participants a meeting is being recorded and transcribed. Always review before sharing.

**Access:** included with your DWC Microsoft 365 account.

## General AI: Microsoft Copilot

**What it is:** Copilot is an AI assistant for asking questions about tools, summarizing, searching, and brainstorming.

**Try it:** find the right tool: "What's the best Microsoft 365 tool for creating a sign-up sheet for an event?" Learn the tool: "How do I create a sign-up form in Microsoft Forms?"

**Good to know:** sign in with your DWC account. Always double-check responses for accuracy and relevance. See the prompt tips below to reduce errors and overconfidence.

**Access:** included with your DWC Microsoft 365 account.

## Prompt Tips: Get More Reliable Answers from AI

Add phrases like these to your prompts to reduce overconfidence and errors.

### Ask the AI to acknowledge uncertainty.

- "If you are unsure about something, say so. Do not present guesses as facts."
- "Flag any information you cannot verify."

### Provide and limit the sources.

- "Use only the sources provided below."
- "Base your answer only on the attached document(s)."

### Request reliable sources and citations.

- "Use authoritative sources and cite them in your response."
- "Include links or references for factual claims."

### Ask the AI to check its work.

- "Review your answer for errors, unsupported claims, or inconsistencies before responding."
- "Identify any assumptions you made."

### Provide accurate context and data.

The quality of the output depends on the quality of the information you provide. Double-check dates, names, numbers, and other details before submitting your prompt.



# MISSION SUNDAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE 2026



## FRIDAY, October 16, 2026 – Work Day (No Classes)

|              |                                                                                                   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:30 AM      | Breakfast                                                                                         |
| 8:00 AM      | Eucharist ( <i>main chapel</i> )                                                                  |
| 9:30 AM      | Set up in the gym & work assignments ( <i>see bulletin board for assignments</i> )                |
| NOON         | Lunch                                                                                             |
| 1:00 –3:30PM | Music/Liturgy rehearsal ( <i>see a separate sheet</i> )                                           |
| 2:00 PM      | Decorations in the gym                                                                            |
| 3:00 PM      | Room inspections ( <i>Main Building, Megan Hall &amp; Arkfeld House</i> )                         |
| 5:30 PM      | Supper– <b>Vietnamese Phở</b> sponsored by <b>Phở Tâm Restaurant</b>                              |
| 6:30 PM      | FOOD PREPARATIONS ( <i>until midnight</i> )<br><br>( <i>Main kitchen &amp; Martha's kitchen</i> ) |

## SATURDAY, October 17, 2026 – Preparation Day

|               |                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM       | Eucharist ( <i>main chapel</i> )                                     |
| 8:30 AM       | Breakfast                                                            |
| 9:30 AM       | Decorations ( <i>main chapel</i> )                                   |
| NOON          | Lunch                                                                |
| 3:00 - 5:30PM | Music/liturgy/entertainment practice ( <i>see a separate sheet</i> ) |
| 5:30 PM       | Supper                                                               |
| 7:30 PM       | FOOD PREPARATIONS as needed ( <i>until midnight</i> )                |

**SUNDAY, October 18, 2026 – World Mission Sunday**

|                      |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6:30 AM</b>       | <b>Breakfast</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>10:00AM</b>       | <b>BRUNCH</b>                                                                                         |
| <b>11:00—12:30PM</b> | <b>Music/Liturgy rehearsal</b> <i>(See a separate sheet)</i>                                          |
| <b>1:00 PM</b>       | <b>EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION</b> <i>(Formal, Religious or Traditional Attire)</i>                       |
| <b>3:00 PM</b>       | <b>TASTE OF DWC – GYMNASIUM</b><br><b>(Cleanup after the celebration)</b><br><b>No Sunday Vespers</b> |

**MONDAY, October 19, 2026 - Free Day**

|                |                                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>6:30 AM</b> | <b>Breakfast</b>                           |
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | <b>Eucharist</b> <i>(No Language Mass)</i> |
| <b>NOON</b>    | <b>Lunch</b>                               |
| <b>5:30 PM</b> | <b>Supper</b>                              |

## 2026 MISSION SUNDAY – WORK ASSIGNMENTS

- **Contact persons**, please organize, plan, and execute your group’s work assignments.
- **Those students involved in the liturgical music preparation or any other preparations during the following these times will be exempt; however, if you are available, then you are more than welcome to help out. Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

| TIME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FORMATION GROUPS                                                                                                      | WORK ASSIGNMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Begin at 9:00AM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>St. Arnold Janssen, Br. Wendelin Meyer, Synodality &amp; St. Joseph Freinademetz</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Put down the tarps (please make sure to sweep the tarps before setting up the tables and chairs).</li> <li>✓ Set up tables and chairs (map provided)</li> <li>✓ Place four large garbage containers at the corners of the gym.</li> <li>✓ Set up picnic tables outside the gym (30 chairs).</li> <li>✓ Arrange plasticware, napkins, plates, cups, etc.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>St. John Vianney</b>                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pick up the branches and trash around the campus.</li> <li>✓ Rake the leaves in the courtyard.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>St. Francis of Assisi &amp; St. John Paul II</b>                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Deep cleaning the dining room, room 143 and hallways from the main chapel door to the front desk.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>St. Teresa of Avila</b>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pick up the branches and trash around the Megan Hall Building—up to the bridge</li> <li>✓ Clean inside the building (especially the kitchens)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart, Br. Hanh Nguyen, &amp; Br. Hien Nguyen</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Decorations in the gym: <b>St. Teresa of the Child Jesus</b> will do <u>wall decorations</u> &amp; <b>St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart</b> will do <u>stage decoration</u></li> <li>✓ The theme is “<i>One in Christ, United in Mission</i>”</li> </ul>                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Hung Mai &amp; Br. Phong Tran</b>                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set up the sound system in the gym</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>DORMITORY INSPECTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Deans (Fr. Tuan Hoang and Fr. Betenora Bako Liba) will inspect dormitories in the <b>main building, Megan Hall &amp; Arkfeld’s House at 3:00 P.M.</b> Please make sure your dormitory area and rooms are clean.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|  |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Decoration team (Main Chapel)</b><br><i>(Sr. Hiep Nguyen, Sr. Nguyet Nguyen, &amp; Sr. Trinh Nguyen, SJP)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Decorations in the main chapel</li> <li>✓ The theme is “<i>One in Christ, United in Mission</i>”</li> <li>✓ The team chooses when it works for everyone.</li> </ul> |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                     |                                                                                          |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Sr. Precious Mutepfa &amp; Sr. Francine Mave</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Thorough cleaning of the main chapel</li> </ul> |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

|  |                                                |                                                                                                         |
|--|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Fr. Sonny De Class and St. John Paul II</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set up flags and chairs behind the altar at 1:00 pm</li> </ul> |
|--|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

|                            |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Before Mass<br>12:15-12:45 | <b>Br. Wendelin Meyer</b>                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Hospitality:</b> Welcome guests at the main entrance</li> <li>✓ <b>Parking:</b> Be outside to direct guests to park their cars</li> </ul>                                                                                        |
| During MASS                | <b>KITCHEN STAFF</b>                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Transport the food from the kitchen to the gym during Mass</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                               |
|                            | <b>Food Crew—Fr. Tuan Hoang<br/>Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, &amp; St. Teresa Margaret</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Organize and place dishes in their designated locations.</li> <li>✓ Oversee the banquet, supplying plates and plastic ware, and emptying garbage cans as needed.</li> <li>✓ Rotate people to serve at the food stations.</li> </ul> |
| Immediately<br>after Mass  | <b>St. Teresa of the Child Jesus</b>                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep the door close until the food is ready in the gym.</li> <li>✓ Invite guests to the gym when the food is ready.</li> </ul>                                                                                                      |
| During the<br>banquet      | <b>All students</b> are asked to take turn to serve in the gym during the banquet.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Help serve food in the gym.</li> <li>✓ Help each other to serve at the food stations so that everyone can enjoy the food.</li> </ul>                                                                                                |

|                   |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| After the banquet | <b>Br. Wendelin Meyer, St. Arnold Janssen, Gaudete, &amp; St. Joseph Freinademetz</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Clean up the gym (dry and wet mop the tarps before putting them away)</li> <li>✓ Take down all the decorations, stage &amp; sound system</li> <li>✓ Put everything away (tables and chairs)</li> </ul> |
|                   | <b>St. Francis of Assisi, St. John Paul II, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, St. Teresa of Avila</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Take leftover food back to the kitchen</li> <li>✓ Wash dishes, pots, pans, and etc.</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |
|                   | <b>Decoration Team (main chapel)</b>                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Clean up the main chapel</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |

After the cultural dinner, please stay back to help clean up the gym, kitchen, and chapel.  
 Your collaboration and assistance are very much appreciated.  
 Thank you....!!!

## **DWC BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **President's Report – Fall 2026**

#### **Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD**

#### **1. New Trustees.**

- **Fr. Guilherme Andrino SVD**, is the newly elected vice-provincial of the SVD Chicago Province. As such he is an ex-officio member of the DWC Board of Directors and of the Board of Trustees. Fr. Guilherme has been appointed to the Development and External Affairs Committee.
- **Fr. Peter Zhai SVD**, is the newly elected provincial of the SVD Western Province. He was elected to the DWC Board of Directors in a special Zoom meeting of the Directors on August 24, 2026. He was elected to succeed Fr. Thang Hoang SVD as a Director. Fr. Peter has been appointed to the Planning and Operations Committee.

**2. Strategic Planning.** The current **(2024-2027)** strategic plan, approved at the May 2024 Trustees' meeting, is reviewed regularly by the Board of Administration and in department meetings. The current revisions to the "scorecard" were finalized on Sept 14, 2026. The reports from the VPs and Directors already highlight progress in relation to specific action steps. Excellent progress is being made on all of the objectives as we move into the final year of the Plan.

The next strategic plan **(2027-2030)** is in early stages of discernment. The goal is to have a new Plan ready for approval at the trustees meeting in May 2027, to begin the new triennium. The Trustees will be consulted for their input for the new plan, including the conversations in committees at this present October 2026 meeting of the Board.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) announced in January that it has granted full 10-year accreditation without monitoring for DWC. As we begin this new cycle, we have chosen to follow an OPEN pathway, which gives us the opportunity to develop a **Student Success Quality Initiative (SSQI)**. The initiative will surely be wrapped into the new strategic plan. The first steps were to establish a committee with representatives from Academics, Formation and Student Life, and Administration.

Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, Chair

Dr. Cathleen Cleary

Br. Brian McLaughlin SVD

Mr. Larry Udry

Fr. Betanora Bako Liba SVD

Sr. Cecilia Thoa Nguyen LHC

They have begun identifying possible needs of students that can be addressed across all programs. The initiative is the work of the full DWC community.

**3. Compliance List.** The four page compliance list was most recently reviewed at the September 17, 2026 meeting of the Board of Administration. The listing of various compliance requirements, for federal, state, and local agencies, and with various private entities, is an ongoing concern, and is important for maintaining HLC accreditation.

**4. Personnel Transitions.** Several major personnel transitions have been made since the last Board of Trustee Meeting.

- Dr. Kenneth Retzl is the new DWC Business Office Controller.
- Ms. Joan Westhoff and Ms. Kristin Goedken are now working as Business Office Assistants.
- Ms. Sara Goedken is the new Health Services Coordinator.

- Dr. Michael Carlin is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology.
- Fr. Adam MacDonald SVD is once again serving as a full-time Vocations Director.
- Fr. Baruch Zinsou SVD, newly ordained alumnus of DWC, is also a full-time Vocations Director.

Search committees have already been organized (or will be soon) to find a permanent replacement in Theology (Dr. Carlin plans to apply); in ESL for a planned retirement; and for a possible retirement of a maintenance worker.

**5. Looking Back.** The annual audit has been completed and shows a rather successful year. The new business office personnel will be looking to clarify and manage some procedures.

The College continues to track some longer-term trends to help determine the overall vitality of the College. The following observations seem to be well-supported in the available data:

- The increase in **cash expenses** FY19 to FY26 (5.77%) is significantly lower than the overall increase in the cost of living (30.38%) over the same period.
- The total **number of workers** at DWC has remained very stable over the past four years (avg 70 Full Time Equivalents).
- The **overall labor costs** FY23 to FY26 are increasing slowly but steadily (12.8%), and faster than the rate of inflation (9.23%) over the same period. The principal cause is the decrease in the number of SVD workers (4 less) and the corresponding increase (4 more) of non-SVD.
- **Average labor costs per non-SVD** worker are increasing slowly (4.21%), and at a lower rate than inflation (9.23%) over the same period.
- The **Development Department** shows excellent results. The adjusted net income to the College from benefactors in FY26 was 56.1% higher than in FY19, which is significantly higher than the rate of inflation over the same period (30.2%).

**6. Looking Ahead.** There continues to be a large number of well-qualified prospective students who would like to come and study at Divine Word College. However, two factors make it difficult for them to enroll.

The **immigration policies** of the current federal administration continue to make the process of securing a student visa frustrating, time-consuming, and for a majority of applicants, unsuccessful. Additional regulations for the students that do succeed can make it difficult for them to complete their course of studies. The federal courts have begun to counterbalance some of the strongly anti-immigrant stances of the current administration and we are working proactively to assure students and staff that we are responding to their concerns.

I am very grateful for SVD confreres around the world who are committed to missionary education. Among SVDs in North America, Divine Word College is the most fully developed SVD ministry of mission animation/education. Over the years we have gathered the resources, students, and experience to effectively prepare young people for missionary outreach. **It remains a challenge, however, to find sufficient and motivated SVDs to engage in this ministry.** Jesus certainly was heavily committed to reaching out to the crowds through his preaching and healing. But he was also committed to forming a group of disciples to share in his mission. The SVD community at Epworth is fully committed to educating new missionaries. We encourage SVDs to come and join us in our mission.

### Thomas Megan: Missionary, Monsignor and Spy?



Monsignor Thomas Megan,  
Prefect Apostolic

**Thomas Megan** is considered by many as one of the most influential and important American Divine Word Missionaries of the first half of the 20th century. On the 75th anniversary of his death, we remember his incredible and tragically short life.

After his ordination at Techny in 1926, Megan was appointed to the Divine Word mission in Henan, China (then Honan), joining fellow Americans like **Fathers Clifford King, Peter Heier** and **Theodore Baumann**. He proved quite successful in cultivating close relationships with his parishioners as well as local officials. He founded a catechist school while enduring illnesses and avoiding adversarial Communist forces.

In 1936, he was named Apostolic Prefect of Xinxiang (then Sinsiang) in northern Henan. In this role, he was the administrator of the area (analogous to the bishop of a diocese). This marked the first time an American Divine Word Missionary was selected for such a position within the Catholic hierarchy.

The now-Msgr. Megan's tenure as apostolic prefect proved especially challenging. Just a year into the position, the Japanese Army invaded China. Megan had to manage life under hostile occupation.

In 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, all Americans became enemies of Japan. Scores of missionaries from Allied countries were rounded up and placed in prison camps. Megan and his secretary **Father Joseph Henkels** escaped, living in the hills until crossing the Yellow River north to the Nationalist-held, "Free" China. There, Megan continued his work while serving as head of the Honan Relief Commission to help alleviate hunger caused by famines and flooding throughout the area.



Megan with catechists at Henon, 1947

scale of his military involvement is unclear, he held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

What is clear from records is that neither the Society of the Divine Word nor the Roman curia knew of Megan's wartime activities. After the war ended and Megan returned to Henan, however, the Church considered his overt pro-Nationalist stance during the war problematic enough to rescind his position, which was to have been elevated to bishop.

In 1948, Megan returned to the U.S. to recuperate, only to be told after his arrival that he was not permitted to return to China. With Chinese Communist forces again gaining strength in China, he was too much of a liability. Devastated, Megan relocated to the Southern Province, where he took on parish work in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He soon suffered a series of strokes that eventually led to his passing on October 4, 1951.

Thomas Megan remains one of the most dynamic missionaries the United States has ever produced. We celebrate his life and work 75 years after his death.

**Andrew Rea and Elizabeth Nichols**  
Chicago Province Archives