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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Mission Is Making a “Holy Noise”!

Since 2001, Divine Word College has presented the **Matthew 25 Award** to recognize individuals and organizations engaged in direct ministries with the “least among us.” In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25 we hear Jesus’ voice saying: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me.”



Over the past 25 years, recipients of the award have included men and women who minister among immigrants and refugees, homeless people, AIDS victims, inner-city youth, prisoners, and others who live at the “margins” of our society and Church. These recipients are rooted in our local community and embody a missionary concern for those in need, putting the Gospel into practice through concrete acts of service.

The Matthew 25 Award benefits many people:

- **It benefits the students of Divine Word College.** They too aspire to give their lives in service to others, especially those in need.
- **It benefits the faculty and staff of DWC.** The award helps rekindle our enthusiasm and renew our dedication to the mission of Divine Word College.
- **It benefits our friends and supporters.** Through the award, they come to understand more clearly the College's commitment to missionary service. It also helps them recognize the many opportunities in their own lives to reach out to others.
- **It benefits the recipients themselves.** Through the award, they receive affirmation and encouragement in their ministry.

When we reach out to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned, we build a network of care that connects us to one another. In doing so, we step closer to the new heavens and the new earth dawning upon the world.

I'd like to share a brief story.

A woman had a strange dream. An angel took her to a church to worship. The organist played, the organ's keys went up and down, but no music came from the organ. The choir sang, the singers' mouths opened and closed, but no song came from their lips. The preacher preached long and with dramatic gestures, but again, no sound. The congregation prayed, their lips moved, but no sound could be heard.

The woman turned to the angel and said, "Why don't I hear anything?" The angel replied, "Because there's nothing to hear."

The point of the story is that music, singing, preaching and praying mean little if they are not accompanied by works of mercy, kindness and generosity. The angel said, there was nothing to hear because the rituals were not translated into love in action.

Noisy Nuns! Well, on the occasion of Mission Sunday, it is a great pleasure to introduce some very noisy nuns from our own community: Sr. Aprilia, Sr. Carol, Sr. Retno, and Sr. Albersia!



These women are members of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters who live and work here in Epworth. Their congregation has been active in missionary service in the United States and North America for 125 years. For the last 20 years there have been Holy Spirit Sisters enrolled at DWC. But for many years previous to that, SSs Sisters contributed as instructors and trustees at the College.



Along with my fellow Divine Word Missionaries, I am proud and very happy to celebrate OUR Sisters. We have the same founder, we share a long history, and we have a common heart for reaching out to others in missionary service.

Through the Matthew 25 Award, we especially honor them and thank them for the **Holy Noise** they make through many acts of kindness and service in our local community:

- feeding the hungry at the Epworth Community Meal;
- accompanying some homeless folk in our town;
- encouraging the sick, (including even some homesick students at Divine Word College);
- welcoming migrants; and
- performing countless acts of kindness that we honor today, even if we leave them unmentioned.

Aprilia, Carol, Retno, and Albersia, thank you for reminding us that missionary service is not simply about what we say. It is also about what we do.

Your lives make the Gospel audible. You are making a good and HOLY NOISE!

Preparing a New Strategic Plan 2027-2030

On Monday afternoon, a short four question – five-minute survey was sent by email to DWC Students, Staff, Faculty and SVD Community. The questions are:

- What is working well for you at the college?
- What areas/facilities on campus need the most improvement, and why?
- What services on campus need the most improvement, and why?
- If you could introduce one new idea, program, or initiative to campus, what would it be?

With your responses, you help us to initiate and organize the months-long process of developing a new strategic plan for the coming three years.

The timeline for developing the new plan is:

1. **SETTING GOALS – OCTOBER to DECEMBER:** Community Input. The Board of Administration (BOA) formulates GOALS.
2. **OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STEPS – JANUARY & FEBRUARY:** VPs and President consult with constituents to create 1 to 5 objectives and appropriate action steps. BOA formulates 1st Draft of Strategic Plan. Consultation with Board of Trustees for feedback.
3. **2nd DRAFT – MARCH:** BOA formulates a 2nd Draft based on input from Board of Trustees. Presents 2nd draft for review with entire DWC community for comment and suggestions.
4. **3rd DRAFT – APRIL:** Based on comments received, BOA formulates a 3rd draft.
5. **FINAL DRAFT – MAY:** Submitted for review and approval by the Board of Trustees.



Presidential Scholars

At its last meeting, the Board of Administration considered the applicants for the Presidential Scholarship. Divine Word College first awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 1979. This scholarship is a recognition of and an honor for students who show promise of superior academic achievement.

After consultation with the Board of Administration, I am happy to announce two new Presidential Scholars for 2025-2026: **Sr. Ha Thi Nguyen, ICM** and **Mr. Emmanuel Mayani**. They join the current Presidential Scholars: **Mr. Bao Louis Nguyen, Sr. Cecilia Fukah Egho, SUSCM, and Mr. Nhat Duc Minh Nguyen**. Congratulations to these scholars and thanks for their academic achievements which help to serve all the people of God.

2025-2026 Presidential Scholars



**Sr. Ha Thi
Nguyen,
ICM**



**Mr.
Emmanuel
Mayani**

Current Presidential Scholars



**Mr. Bao
Louis
Nguyen**



**Sr. Cecilia
Fukah Egho,
SUSCM**



**Mr. Nhat
Duc Minh
Nguyen**



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

A Parable for DWC in Troubling Times

I was recently reflecting on the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-28. It seemed like God had drawn me to it as the College negotiates how AI use is impacting our community. In the parable, servants are given a share of the master's wealth in order to show they can be responsible with it and help it grow. It's not because the master simply wants more money; he's testing the servants to take the task seriously and show what they can do with the blessings they're given. The same is at work for students at DWC. Students have been given an opportunity to show their talents but some choose to be as the servant that is rebuked. But what is the response by the master to them? He says, "You wicked, lazy servant."

Why does the servant decide not to do what the master asked? Scripture tells us the rebuked servant knows the master's judgment can be hard and that they were so scared that they simply hid the coin, burying it and hiding it. Students will often tell me that they commit acts of academic dishonesty when they're afraid they won't get an 'A' in a class. Teachers and formators at DWC can be like the hardened master, but for good reason. Missionaries will face difficult situations, and those they serve will look to them for answers in some of the most difficult, dangerous, and vulnerable of times.

Being in school, either for language acquisition or other academic skills is a time for students to learn those new skills, but when students are only concerned about the grade, they lack meaningful depth in order to accompany others on a path to faith. Learning, especially something new, is hard! It takes work! And, we certainly have no lack of work here, but when students decide to take a short cut, they become like the wicked, lazy servant; instead of being honest about their own learning, they hide the blessing given to them and return it without having used it because they did not have faith in the master's faith in them.

As the College continues to develop a strategic plan for tackling concerns about effective and appropriate uses of AI, I hope students and faculty will reflect upon the Parable of the Talents. Faculty have the opportunity to show how AI can be used to multiply our talents, if students do not use it to simply hide their real talents behind the pressure to get a certain grade. If earning a certain grade or if disciplining students that use AI is your only concern, you have received your reward. However, I have hope in our College community that we will use Prophetic Dialogue to wayfind our path through the anxiety and confusion of the fast changing technology and its impact on higher education. When we do this, He will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant. Come join in the joy of your master."

Faculty Workshop on AI Helps Give Direction to SSQI and Strategic Plan

As reported previously in the LOG, the Board of Administration approved the recommendation from the Student Success Quality Initiative (SSQI) committee proposal to pursue AI as the focus of our student success project. At the Fall Faculty In-Service held Monday, October 19, 2026, undergraduate faculty reviewed how AI is programmed, how to effectively prompt it, and encouraged to imagine how they could use AI to supplement their instructional skills. Dr. Young, Vice President for Academic Affairs even showed off some interesting artwork in the form of an AI generated avatar that was included in the PowerPoint. During this time, Faculty were asked what should be one goal for the SSQI. Results indicate three important areas of focus. First, students and

teachers need to develop AI literacy; second, that policies should be created to reinforce ethical use of AI; and third, that the college should bring in experts to host workshops for students and faculty. The SSQI committee will continue to refine goals and strategies for the SSQI, with more information to share as it becomes available.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Words of Gratitude

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your time, effort, and dedication in making our World Mission Sunday celebration a success. All of you worked hard and devoted many hours to preparing the food, decorations, liturgy, entertainment, and many other details that made the celebration so special.

I have received many positive comments from our benefactors, friends and visitors who joined us last weekend. They expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation for your hard work and generosity. They especially enjoyed the multicultural liturgy, the delicious food, and the entertainment that followed.

Your dedication, collaboration, and teamwork truly paid off. Thank you for making this celebration such a wonderful and memorable occasion for everyone!



Check out the Mission Sunday Photos here:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZjDFCNCtemGazBFf6>

Retreat – Br. Wendelin Meyer Formation Group

This weekend, members of the Br. Wendelin Meyer Formation Group will have their annual retreat from Friday, October 23, through Sunday, October 25, 2026, at the Shalom Center in Dubuque. The retreat will be guided by Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS.

We kindly ask you to keep the members of the Br. Wendelin Meyer Formation Group in your prayers as they take this time away from their daily routines to deepen their faith, strengthen their relationship with God, and become more attentive to the presence of the Lord in their lives.

May this retreat be a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and grace for each of them.

Blood Drive

This is a friendly reminder that Divine Word College will host a blood drive next Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the gym.

Ms. Sara Goedkin has posted a sign-up sheet on the student bulletin board, and a few slots are still available. If you are interested in donating blood, please sign up as soon as possible.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

10/21/2026.....	ESL Term B Add/Drop Ends
10/21/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
10/22/2026.....	9:30 AM.....Board of Administration
10/22/2026.....	12:45PM.....FSLC Meeting
10/22/2026.....	12:45 PM.....IELI Meeting
10/22/2026.....	5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
10/23/2026.....	8:00 AM - 2:00 PM..Beckman Catholic Retreat at DWC
10/23-25/2026.....	Retreat Weekend
10/25/2026.....	10:00 AM.....30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/25/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Vespers
10/26/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Holy Hour
10/27/2026.....	8:00 AM.....Ordinary Weekday - LC Mass
10/27/2026.....	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM..Blood Drive
10/27/2026.....	12:45 PM.....Faculty Senate
10/27/2026.....	5:30 PM.....Formation Staff Meeting
10/28/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
10/29/2026.....	12:45 PM.....IAC Meeting
10/29/2026.....	5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
10/30 - 11/01/2026.....	Retreat Weekend
10/30/2026.....	8:00 AM.....Mass for Vocations
10/31/2026.....	Halloween
11/1 - 11/7/2026.....	National Vocation Awareness Week
11/1/2026.....	10:00 AM.....All Saints Day
11/1/2026.....	5:00 PM.....Dinner with the President
11/1/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Vespers
11/2/2026.....	8:00 AM.....All Souls Day - Mass and benefactor
11/2/2026.....	7:30 PM.....Holy Hour reception
11/3/2026.....	Election Day
11/3/2026	12:45 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Reminder: Please Close Exterior Doors

We kindly ask everyone to ensure that all exterior doors remain closed at all times. This small action is important for two key reasons:

1. **Campus Security** – Keeping doors closed helps maintain a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors.
2. **Pest Prevention** – Every October, when farmers harvest their fields, the mice who lived there all summer will be looking for a warm place for the winter. So, **KEEP THE DOORS CLOSED**. Do not prop them open, even for a short period of time. Open doors provide easy access for rodents, which can lead to health and sanitation concerns.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us maintain a safe and clean campus.



All Souls Day - Your Presence Makes a Difference

All Souls Day is a meaningful time at Divine Word College, when our entire community gathers in prayer and remembrance. On Monday, November 2, at 8:00 AM, we will celebrate a special Mass honoring those who have passed away in the past year. Friends and benefactors are invited to join us as we lift up their loved ones in prayer.

Following the Mass, our guests are invited to join the community for a reception. It will offer a chance to connect, share memories, and provide comfort to those who are grieving. We encourage all students and members of the SVD community to attend—your presence and conversation will reflect the care, solidarity, and unity that define our mission.

Together, let us honor the memory of the departed and offer compassion to those who mourn, living out the spirit of community that is at the heart of Divine Word College.

In addition, you are invited to submit a photo of a loved one who has passed away in the past year. These images will be included in a special slideshow during the All Souls Day Mass on November 2, honoring and remembering those who have gone before us.

Please email your photo, along with the name of your loved one as you would like it displayed, to mmeissen@dwci.edu by Thursday, October 29.

Let us come together in prayer and remembrance, keeping the memory of our dear ones alive in our hearts.

external affairs

Beckman Catholic High School Retreat

Divine Word College will welcome 49 sophomores from Beckman Catholic High School for a retreat on Friday, October 23. The group will use the Mother of Asia Chapel, gym and Main Chapel, and have lunch in the dining room.



Retreat Schedule

Time	Activity or Location
8:30 AM	Arrival
8:35 AM	Mother of Asia Chapel
10:20 AM	Activity in the gym
11:00 AM	Mother of Asia Chapel
11:40 AM	Adoration in the Main Chapel
12:15 PM	Lunch in the dining room
1:00 PM	Mother of Asia Chapel
2:00 PM	Departure

On View in the Gallery

Last Day for Imagine Peace

Today is the last day to view *IMAGINE PEACE*, so make sure to stop by the gallery this afternoon, evening or early tomorrow.

Please leave a message for Xene Abraham in the guest book too! She'll be on campus Wednesday breaking down the exhibit and printing t-shirts to celebrate her 56th birthday.

If you're interested, please bring a t-shirt with space on it for Xene's new peace symbol and \$5 donation. All proceeds from exhibit sales go to Project Create Peace. <https://www.projectcreatepeace.com/>



It was AMAZING to see all the creativity that went into World Mission Sunday, both before and during the event. Bravo everyone!

 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

AI Basics - You Have to Know Something to Use AI Well

How do you know whether an AI-generated answer is accurate? To evaluate AI responses effectively, you need enough background knowledge to recognize simplifications, overgeneralizations, errors, omissions, or misleading claims. You can build background knowledge by reading. After spending a few hours reading about a topic, your ability to analyze a source improves significantly.

AI-generated responses should be critically evaluated just like any other information source. The SIFT method provides a useful framework for assessing the accuracy, credibility, and reliability of AI-generated answers.

The SIFT evaluation method is a great way to evaluate AI answers. Learn more: <https://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/c.php?g=1241077&p=9082322>

