Divine Word College

THE LOG

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community | Vol. 46 No. 11 - November 3, 2026

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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Mission is a Calling

November 1-7, 2026 is National Vocation Awareness Week. Established in 1976 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, it is also a good opportunity to reflect more broadly on the calling that each of us have from the time of our baptism. I've asked Mr. Len Uhal, the Vice President for Admissions and the SVD National Vocations Director to share some thoughts for this week.



A Message from Len Uhal

Vocation. The word "vocation" comes from the Latin word *vocare*. As a verb, it means "to call" and as a noun, it means "a calling or summons or invitation." In the context of our Christian faith, we believe that God calls each of us…to something.

God Still Calls. Less than two weeks ago, we had a group of high school students here for a daylong retreat. During a panel discussion I was asked what advice would I give the students about *vocation.* I suggested that they trust that God still calls people today—each and every one of us. As God called the Prophets of the Old Testament, as Jesus called the Apostles and followers of his day, as the Holy Spirit guided the lives of the martyrs and saints of the early Church, God still calls people today. We are called to use our gifts and talents to make this world a better place. I suggested to the students that their goal was to figure out *how* God is calling them to make a difference in the world, not *if* God is calling them.

Four Callings. A few times I heard our former Archbishop of Dubuque, Michael Jackels, talk about vocation. He often said we have "at least" four callings from God. He said that God calls all of us to heaven—that God wants us to be with him in Heaven (nice thought as I write this on All Souls Day). Second and third, by the virtue of our baptism, we are all called to holiness and a life of service. I've often talked about this as living a good life and helping other people.

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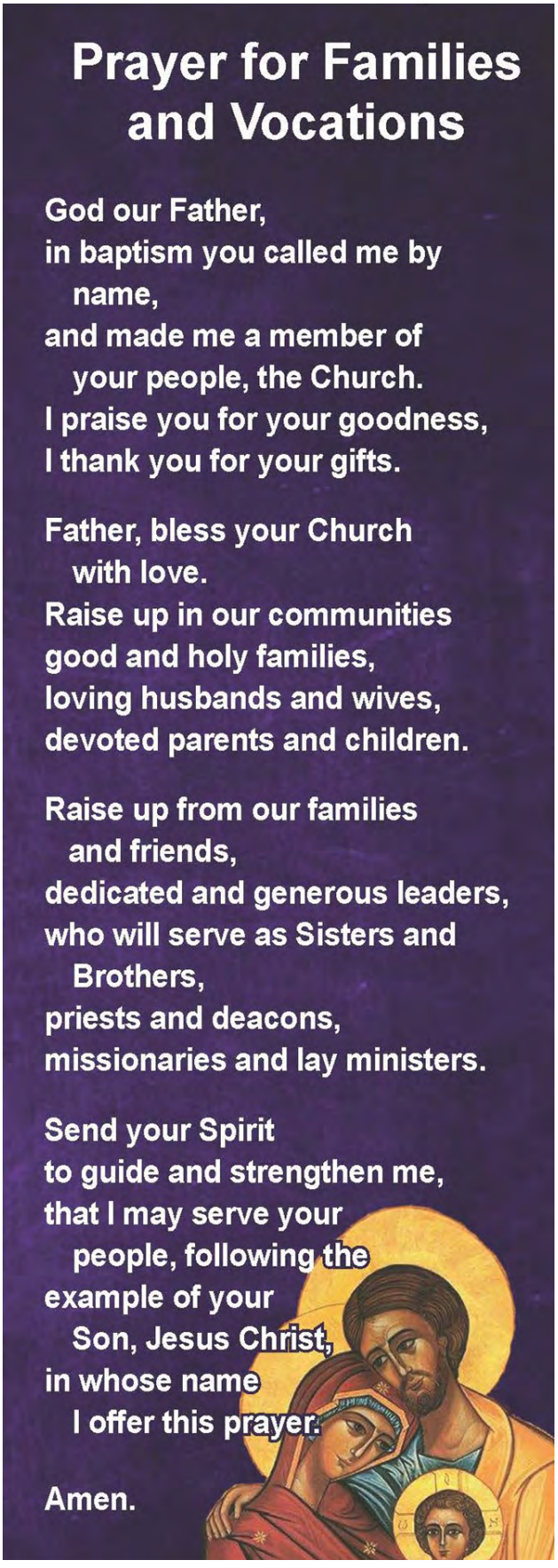
Missionary Discipleship is one of the Core Competencies here at Divine Word College. As followers of Christ, we strive to live our faith by spreading the Gospel message by putting it into practice in our lives. In the spirit of St. Matthew's Gospel, we want to make a difference in the world by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead. We are all called to be missionaries—not only as brothers, sisters and priests; but also, as missionary mothers and fathers and missionary grandmothers and grandfathers, as Fr. Tom Ascheman has often said.

State in Life. Finally, Archbishop Jackels said we are called to a State in Life—single life, married life, priesthood or religious life. In our seminary context at Divine Word College, we tend to concentrate often on priesthood and religious life. However, as I told the high schoolers a few days ago, being a spouse and a parent is also an invitation from God to use our gifts and talents to bring life into the world and pass on our values to the next generation. What an awesome responsibility.

So, throughout this week, let us celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. Let us be grateful for those God calls to be servant-leaders in our Church. Let us pray for more to respond to God's call to that invitation. Let us also be grateful for the myriad of other ways God calls all of us to be missionary disciples to love and serve those whom God has placed in our lives.

- *Mr. Len Uhal*

This vocations week, in particular, we remember Jesus' instruction: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Mt 9:37-38). The accompanying prayer for Families and Vocations will surely help build up a strong and generous response to God's call to missionary service.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

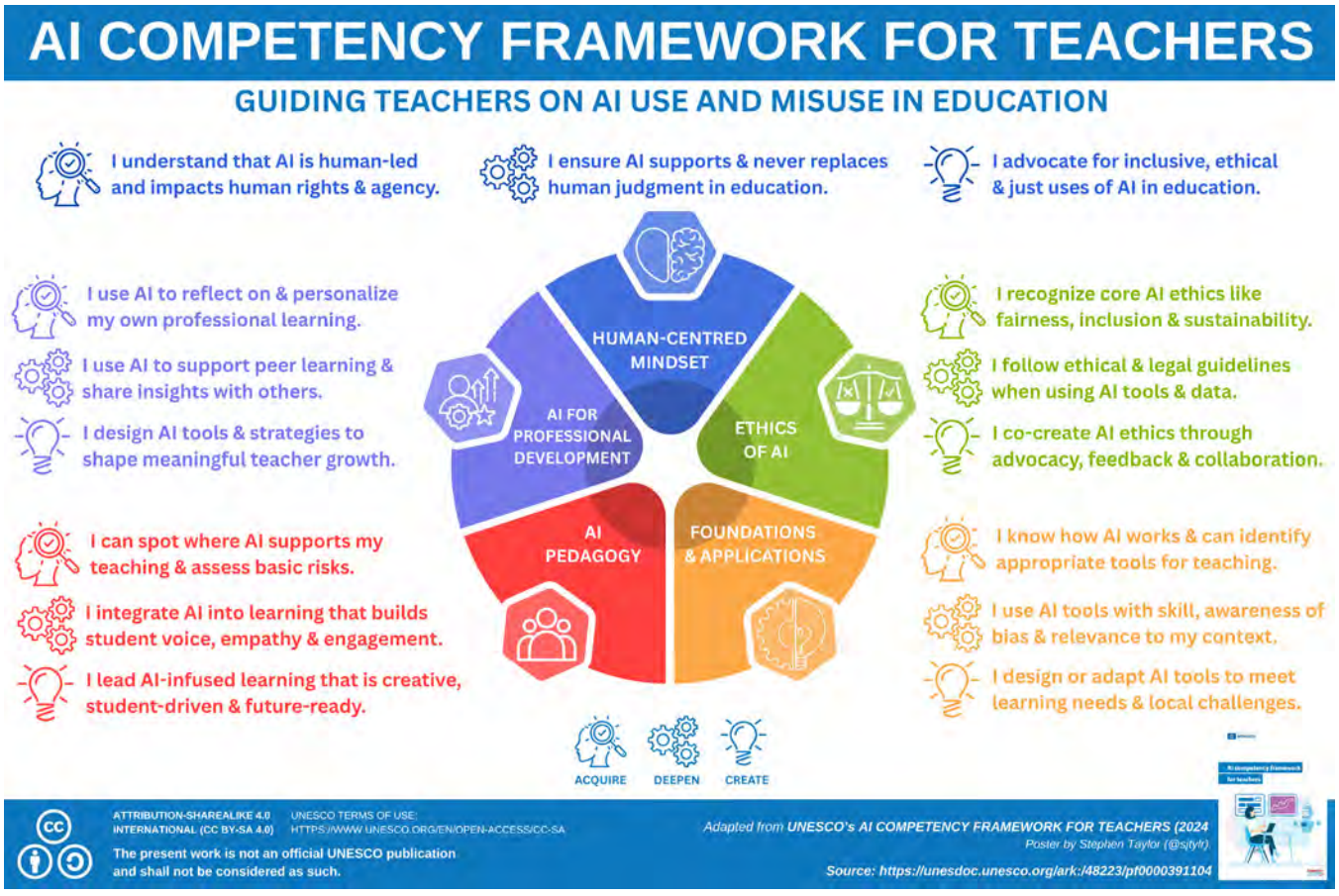
Faculty Explore AI Competency Frameworks as SSQI Takes Shape

At the last Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate formally endorsed moving forward with AI competency being the focus of the Higher Learning Commission Student Success Quality Initiative. As part of moving forward, I shared the UNESCO competency frameworks that have already been developed. UNESCO is a United Nations organization that advocates for global education. Given our international community, this framework fits well. Faculty will continue to explore frameworks and participate in workshops to build their AI skills.

In Honor of Vocations Awareness- Faculty Statement on Vocation

To celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week, please see the Faculty Statement on Vocation in the addendum. The statement was created through our work on a NetVUE Professional Development Grant and summarizes the unique approach to missionary education we take. Pray for vocations.







UPCOMING EVENTS:

11/4 - 11/6/2026.....UG Registration for Spring Semester
11/4/2026.....7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
11/5/2026.....9:30 AM.....Board of Administration Meeting
11/5/2026.....12:45 PM.....IELI Meeting
11/5/2026.....1:00 PM.....Dean's Forum
11/5/2026.....5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
11/6/2026.....8:00 AM.....Arnoldus Family Memorial Mass - LC
11/6/2026.....10:00 AM.....Catholic Homeschool Group Visit
11/6/2026.....UG Term O Mid-Term
11/8/2026.....10:00 AM.....32nd Sunday in Ord. Time
11/8/2026.....7:30 PM.....Vespers
11/9/2026.....7:30 PM.....Holy Hour
11/10/2026.....12:45 PM.....Departmental Meetings DTP & DIS
11/11/2026.....ESL Term B Mid-Term
11/11/2026.....7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
11/12/2026.....12:45 PM.....IAC Meeting
11/12/2026.....1:00 PM.....Liturgy Prep
11/12/2026.....5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
11/13/2026.....UG Term O Withdrawl/Deadline
11/15/2026.....10:00 AM.....33rd Sunday in Ord. Time
11/15/2026.....7:30 PM.....Vespers
11/16 - 11/20/2026.....Theological Reflection Week
11/16/2026.....8:00 AM.....Holy Spirit Mass - Large Community
11/16/2026.....7:30 PM.....Holy Hour
11/17/2026.....12:45 PM.....Chairs Council



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Dean's Forum

This **Thursday, November 5, 2026,** we will hold our final Dean's Forum of the semester before Christmas break. The Dean's Forum provides an opportunity for deans, formators, and students to discuss concerns, share feedback, and address matters related to formation and student life.

The forum will take place in Room 107 at 1:00 PM. As always, attendance is required for all students. Please arrive on time.



Student Conference for Junior Religious and Diocesan Seminarians - *Prayer*

On **Wednesday, November 11, 2026,** Fr. Lou Del Fra, CSC, will present a conference via Zoom for junior religious and diocesan seminarians. The topic of the conference will be *Prayer*.

Prayer is at the heart of religious and priestly formation. It deepens one's relationship with God, fosters discernment, and strengthens the commitment to live one's vocation faithfully. Through prayer, seminarians and religious receive the grace, wisdom, and spiritual strength needed to serve others and grow in holiness.

Attendance is required for all junior religious and for diocesan seminarians. The conference is also open to anyone interested in ongoing formation and spiritual growth.

The conference will begin at 5:00 PM in Room 107. We encourage all participants to arrive a few minutes early to ensure that we will begin the conference on time.



external affairs

Volunteers Needed for Homeschool Group Visit

Divine Word College will welcome a group of Catholic homeschooled children and their parents on **Friday, November 6, beginning at 10:00 AM.** We expect 50–75 children, ranging in age from infants to 13, plus parents.

The visit is one of the group's monthly outings. Taking place during National Vocation Awareness Week, it offers a special opportunity to introduce young people and their families to DWC, our missionary spirit and God's call to serve.

Volunteers are needed to speak with the group and share information about the college, its mission and vocations. If you can help, please contact Sandy Wilgenbusch or Len Uhal as soon as possible.



Around Divine Word College

United Against War, United for the Environment

November 6 is the "International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (WAC)." Many WACs have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources (UNEP). Besides killing our brothers and sisters, WACs destroy the environment through pollution, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Conflicts are at their highest level since WWII (UCDP): 65 state-based conflicts, including 8 interstate conflicts. When one considers nuclear and biological weapons, says Pope Francis in Laudato Si', war's environmental harm is magnified.

Our prayers for an end to WACs are needed more than ever; our care for the environment even more.

- Emmanuel Mayani
Student Representative for the JPIC Committee

Tai Chi Coming to DWC

Tai Chi helps clear the mind and heal the body, according to long-time teachers Nancy and Jerry Trowbridge. The Rickardsville couple invites the DWC community and friends to a free on-campus session next **Wednesday, November 11 at 4:00 PM in the gym.**

Wear comfy clothing because we will be learning gentle movements and breathing techniques. (Fun fact...The Trowbridge's daughter lives a few miles from campus!)

For more info about Tai Chi:
https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/cih/Tai_Chi_and_Qigong.asp

On View in the Gallery

New Exhibit: *Light of the World*

We have a new exhibit in The Weyland Art Gallery! Stop by to get a preview of ***Light of the World,*** a collection of black and white photographs created by David LaBelle.

The exhibit highlights the power of documentary photography, compassion and connection. We will celebrate David and his work at the exhibit reception on **Friday, November 13** from 4:00-7:00 PM. Please join us! (Even if you have Bible Sharing, we hope to see you from 4:00-5:00 PM).



David LaBelle



Other Art News

A big shout out to Mark and Helen Lowrey who visited Art 125 this week. Both artists, Mark and Helen offered encouragement, inspiration and even a demo. They'll be back next week to lead a charcoal drawing workshop, which is Helen's favorite medium. Mark generously donated his first painting made in 1991, which began a practice of inspired art to get closer to God and create gifts for his loved ones. Epworth is lucky to have these two!

They will be on campus weekly as conversation partners, so make sure to introduce yourselves to our new neighbors.







Art Ministry

We offered another successful advocacy art experience at a Goodwill House in Dubuque Monday evening for three residents. The group collaborated to create two gratitude garlands for the home. Once again, everyone left happier and more connected than when we arrived. Our DWC students are doing a great job supporting others in creative expression!



Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Dubuque County Reads Fundraiser

Divine Word College is one of ten local institutions participating in Dubuque County Reads (DCR), an annual countywide community reading program that distributes free books, hosts book discussions, and offers hands-on educational programs and events such as speaker panels, film screenings, and expos. DCR's "not just a book club" approach allows community members to engage with the book's themes through many different pathways. By combining reading, discussion, and experiential learning, DCR promotes literacy, fosters civic engagement, and encourages respectful dialogue on timely social issues.

DCR's community impact has grown significantly. Last year, DCR distributed 650 free books, welcomed 167 participants to book discussions, brought together 732 attendees across seven community events, and reached nearly 900 children through story times and educational activities. In addition, more than 1,000 people visited the new DCR website (http://www.dbqreads.org) during its first three months online.

The 2027 Dubuque County Reads theme is Arts and Culture. The adult book selection is *All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me* by Patrick Bringley, and the youth companion title is *Cat Nap* by Brian Lies. The 2027 program will culminate with a book talk by Patrick Bringley on April 6, 2027 at Steeple Square.

This year, we are holding an apparel fundraiser to support DCR programming. Funds raised will help cover book purchases and program expenses. The online merch site is available now until December 1st.

Order online at: rebrand.ly/DCRMerch
Order deadline: December 1, 2026
Learn more about DCR: http://www.dbqreads.org
Questions? Contact Liz Winter at ewinter@dwci.edu



Divine Word College
Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries

Faculty Statement on Vocation

Vocation is a call to align one's personal interests and abilities with the common good of one's community. This definition aligns with the College's mission to educate missionaries to serve all of God's people and the foundational call to missionary discipleship we believe all are called to.

Further, this definition reflects the Trinitarian spirituality of the Society of the Divine Word, our founding order. God, one in three persons, is the definition of individual purpose being united in mutuality and interdependence of community. God creates humanity in His image, with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit serving a purpose for the good of each and all as one and three. The great call of vocation is one of finding each person's individual purpose within this relational dynamic between individual and social identity, seeing Christ's divinity and humanity in each person and in each interaction of the community; each person afforded their God given dignity.

To find one's purpose, we believe prophetic dialogue to be foundational for vocational discernment. In an ever-changing world, needs of the community and the abilities of individuals constantly shift across spaces, places, and time. Therefore, constant engagement in dialogue to guide shifting ability/need relationships is essential. Dialogue is the practical method of negotiating these relationships, involving interdependent interaction. Prophetic dialogue, a theology of mission developed by the Society of the Divine Word, recognizes for dialogue to be prophetic, it must be focused on discovering the Trinitarian God made manifest within the community and its individuals. This enables discerning the will of God, an individual's vocation, for the common good of all His people.

To develop skills for prophetic dialogue and for discovering one's vocational call, we believe missionaries must develop the missionary skills articulated as the College's Institutional Learning Outcomes. These learning outcomes are shared across all academic (IELI and Undergraduate) and religious (Lay, SVD Candidate, Religious in Temporary Vows, etc) formation programs and informs the entire pedagogical approach of the College to aid in the development of skills to identify and engage in one's vocation.

Approved by the Faculty Senate April 2026