SSpS SISTERS:

125 Years of Mission in the US, 20 Years at DWC

A shared history with the SVD helped open a new chapter at DWC

This year, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS) celebrate 125 years of missionary service in the United States.

Founded by St. Arnold Janssen in 1889, the SSpS share their roots with the Society of the Divine Word and the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. Together, these communities form the Arnoldus Family, united by a common missionary spirit.

That shared mission has also shaped the story of Divine Word College. In 2006, SSpS Sisters were selected as the College's first women religious students, building on the longstanding relationship between the SSpS and the Society of the Divine Word. Their presence helped blaze a new path at DWC, paving the way for sisters from many other congregations to become part of the College community.

"SSpS Sisters bring a distinct feminine perspective to missionary formation through their living example, especially with the SVD brothers, building a community across cultures, genders, ages, and languages," said Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, Associate Dean of Students.

For Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS, that kind of shared formation is rooted in the relationships students build with one another. A spiritual director and formator at DWC, she has seen sisters who studied at the College carry their experiences of intercultural community into ministries around the world.

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS)

Founded: 1889, Steyl, Netherlands, by St. Arnold Janssen

Founding Sisters: Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk and Blessed Josepha Hendrina Stenmanns

Today: 2,744 Sisters serving in 49 countries

Mission: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the SSpS proclaim the Gospel and work with people of diverse cultures and traditions to promote human dignity, life-giving relationships, justice, peace and care for creation.

Today, **45 SSpS sisters have studied at Divine Word College**, part of the **230 women religious from 57 congregations** who have been part of the DWC community. SSpS Sisters have contributed to campus life as students, classmates, mentors, leaders and members of the wider DWC community.

As the SSpS look toward the future, Sr. Carol remains hopeful about the congregation's continued response to the needs of a changing world.

"It's such a privilege to work with the next generation of the Church and to see their dedication, their spontaneity and their readiness to go forward," she said.



The first four SSpS Sisters to study at DWC clockwise from bottom left: Sr. Gladys Smith, Sr. Maria Eugenia Ojeda, Sr. Ana Julita Belu Bau, and Sr. Alexis (Christina) S. Tjahjani.



SSpS Sisters who currently live in community in the congregation's house near campus, from left: Sr. Aprilia Untarto, Sr. Carol Welp, Sr. Hope Albersia, Sr. Retno Yebrink

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