A Mission Made Possible Together



Fr. Linh Pham, SVD
Development Office

Life is more than a series of moments that come and go. The experiences we share remain with us, shaping who we are and reminding us of the people and communities that have been part of our journey.

The same is true of our shared mission at Divine Word College. Through the work of preparing future missionaries, we are invited to take part in God's mission in the world. That mission is made possible not only by those who study, teach and serve at DWC, but also by the many friends and benefactors who support the College with their prayers, financial gifts and time.

You are part of that mission.

Because of your support, students from around the world have the opportunity to receive an education and formation that prepares them for service to the Church and to people in communities around the world. Your generosity also helps Divine Word College meet the financial challenges of carrying out this mission and gives others the opportunity to become co-missionaries through their own support and involvement.

As we look back with gratitude, we are especially thankful for those who have given generously of their time and talents. One example is Mr. Doug Stillings, who has continued to serve Divine Word College following his retirement from the banking industry through his work with the DWC Board of Trustees in the areas of Development and External Affairs.

As we look toward the future, may we continue to walk together as contributors, co-workers and sharers in God's mission. **Thank you for being part of the Divine Word College community and for helping the mission continue.**

Doug Stillings Honored with Donaghey Award



From left, PR Director/ Coordinator for External Affairs Sandy Wilgenbusch, Doug Stillings and College President Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD.

In October, Doug Stillings received Divine Word College's Donaghey Award in recognition of his decades of loyal service and dedication to the College.

Doug came to know DWC through his work at Dubuque Bank and Trust, where he spent about 30 years and retired as a Senior Vice President. As the College's banker, he helped with systems and fraud prevention before becoming more involved in the DWC community.

His involvement outside his role as banker began with the College's former Spring Brunch fundraiser in the late 1990s. From there, Doug became a familiar presence at DWC. He served on the Board of Trustees from 2012 to 2025 and currently serves on the Development and External Affairs Committee.

The Donaghey Award, established in 1999, honors individuals and groups who demonstrate a lasting commitment to the mission of Divine Word College. It is named for Rev. John Donaghey, SVD, who served the College as an instructor, dean of students, vice president of academic affairs, president and longtime Board of Trustees member.

"What I have appreciated most about Doug is that his support has always gone beyond simply fulfilling a responsibility," said DWC Development Director Fr. Linh Pham, SVD. "He brings wisdom, encouragement, and a willingness to help."

For Doug, much of that dedication comes from the students themselves.

"I am fascinated by the dedication, devotion and work that the students put in, because that is what our Lord needs," he said. "The students are the reason I do everything out there."

Doug said the experiences of DWC students, and the challenges many overcome to pursue their vocations, have given him a deeper appreciation for his own blessings. Most recently, he helped initiate the Trustee Scholarship Fund, providing a way for current and past trustees to support future DWC students.