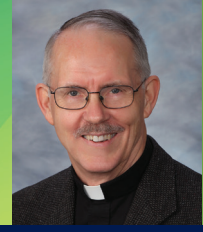
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD



Facing the Future – Together

A rabbi once asked his students, "When is it dawn?"

One student replied, "Rabbi, night is over and day arrives when you can see a house in the distance and determine whether it is your house or your neighbors."

Another student said, "Night is over and day has arrived when you can see a flower in the garden and distinguish its color."

"No, no, no," the rabbi replied. "You are seeing only separations and distinctions. No. Night is over and day arrives when you can look into the face of the person beside you and see that he is your brother, that she is your sister. Night is over when you can see that you belong to one another, that you are one. Night has ended and day has arrived when you can see God in the face of the other."

There is a long tradition in the religious congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen SVD, of seeing one another as family. The Arnoldus Family – including Divine Word Missionaries, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, and lay associates – seeks to live as "brothers and sisters to one another."



At Divine Word College, the students, faculty and staff come from more than 20 countries, yet we are united by one mission. I am constantly "recharged" by their generosity, joy and openness. Even the obstacles we encounter seem lighter when we know that we are facing the future together. DWC celebrates this diversity in unity through the expression, **"One heart, many faces."**

You too, are part of this family as, together, we turn hope-filled faces toward the dawning of God's Kingdom. On that day, all people will recognize that we are brothers and sisters, that we belong together, and that all humanity is truly one heart, many faces.

Fr. Tom

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More Than a Booth

Each August, about 80,000 people make their way to Carthage, Missouri, for a four-day celebration honoring the Virgin Mary called Marian Days. Now in its 47th year, this annual festival and pilgrimage draws Vietnamese American Catholics from across the country and beyond.

In addition to events such as Masses, Eucharistic adoration, musical performances and workshops on a variety of topics, Catholic religious orders and congregations set up booths to connect with attendees and share information about their communities. Divine Word Missionary Vocation Directors are regular participants, often bringing DWC students along to meet young people interested in learning more about the SVDs and Divine Word College.

And they don't just talk! DWC students sing, dance and play music, making the Divine Word Missionaries booth one of the most interactive and popular at the festival. Over the years, these encounters have helped introduce young people to the SVDs, and for some, that first encounter can be the beginning of a vocation journey.



DWC students joined Divine Word Missionary Vocation Directors and fellow SVDs at this year's Marian Days in Carthage, Missouri.