Divine Word College

# THE LOG

*A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community* | Vol. 46 No. 12 - November 10, 2026

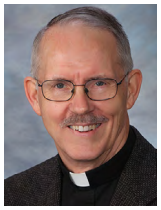
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**NOVEMBER**

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## THE PRESIDENT

**Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD**

### Mission is God's Work: Creation

The Bible tells an epic story of God's unfailing and unlimited love. The story unfolds from age to age as a great dialogue between God and humanity. Though the biblical story recounts the words and actions of patriarchs, judges, prophets, priests and kings, it is always God who plays the leading role.

The Scriptures reveal four principal movements in the unfolding of God's mission: Creation, Incarnation, Redemption, and New Creation. Today, as the seasons are changing, I want to reflect on the first movement: Creation.

**In the beginning:** God's mission begins with Creation. John's Gospel opens with a solemn prologue: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him nothing came to be" (Jn 1:1-3).



This generous and unmerited creative action reveals God as a lover who takes the first step. God gives us our being, our breath, our past and future, not only to communicate his glory, but also to invite us to share in divine truth, goodness and beauty. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms, "In the creation of the world and of (humanity), God gave the first and universal witness to his love and his wisdom, the first proclamation of the plan of his loving goodness, which finds its goal in the new creation in Christ" (¶315).



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**St. Arnold's Insight:** St. Arnold Janssen was keenly aware of the love of God revealed in the whole of creation. Fr. Anthony Hilger SVD, while still a young priest, served from 1905 to 1907 as a private secretary for Janssen during the last years of St. Arnold's life. In 1937, Fr. Anthony gave a talk to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Arnold Janssen's birth.

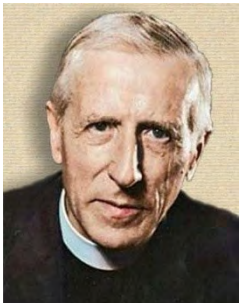


Hilger recognized in St. Arnold some of the same characteristics we associate with St. Francis of Assisi. This testimony seems all the more remarkable because members of the Arnoldus Family have not always given much attention to this aspect of the Founder's spiritual heritage.

> "In all things he encountered the God of his heart in his wisdom, might and beauty. Inimitable was the warmth of his speech whenever he saw traces of God in the common things of creation and exclaimed in awe at their presence. One felt that his whole heart was there; nothing was too insignificant for everything led him to God.
>
> "Fr. Arnold was a friend of nature and friend of the machine, a friend of flowers and fields, of meadows and woods and in recreation time he liked to sit down in a meadow and wooded area. He was a friend of... the rushing rivers and the surging sea, a friend of the towering mountains, a friend of the stars which sped through the universe. He was also a friend of the trains which roared around our earth. How he was attracted by the precise course of the stars, which fitted in with his love for mathematics. He also admired the train schedules because of their exact arrangement, printed without any errors...
>
> "One day as we sat entranced by the view of the imposing mountains around St. Rupert's in the Alps of Salzburg, he remarked, 'We poor human beings have to punish ourselves into exhaustion to climb only one of these giants. God's hand, however, playfully casts innumerable stars and planets into the universe and without any loss of almighty power positions them in their orbits. But he sets more value on a single, human soul than he does on all the lifeless creation; he created all for us.'
>
> "Fr. Arnold showed his wonder at the foaming Salzach River and the churning rapids of the Fritzbach, on whose banks one could not understand a single word due to the noise of the roaring and gurgling of the water. He observed, 'How clear and penetrating is this expression of divine power and might, of which the powers of nature are just a pale shadow. How innumerably many features of the uncreated divine being are revealed in the many-sided riches of creation.'
>
> "But one would have to hear the Servant of God himself (Fr. Arnold) saying such words in order to understand properly how they came out of his holy soul full of God's presence. I regard it as an unsurpassable grace that I was a witness to this. In everything Arnold saw the radiance of God's face shining forth.... With a thousand roots, his love for God drew nourishment from everything... Only such a grounding in love made Arnold able to recognize the overwhelming love of Christ; step by step he ascended in love to come ever closer to the highest love of all."

**Wait For It!** There are days when we feel overwhelmed by the challenges that lie before us. Natural calamities, ancestral hatreds, hunger, violence, and death seem to encompass us about. Environmental destruction maddens us and can make us feel increasingly alienated from our place in God's plan.

A book by Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ that we are reading on campus this semester is entitled *Tattoos on the Heart.* Its subtitle is "The Power of Boundless Compassion." In his reflections on working in gang intervention in Los Angeles, Fr. Greg repeatedly points to the importance of patient trust in God's on-going mission. He mentions a quote from Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ: "trust in the slow work of God." The fuller quotation helps make the point even more graphically. In 1915, in the midst of the ravages of



World War I, Teilhard was serving as a stretcher-bearer on the French front. He wrote to his cousin, Marguerite Teilard-Chambon: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like

to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new." Fr. Greg adds a conclusion for us today: "Ours is a God who waits. Who are we not to? It takes what it takes for the great turnaround. Wait for it."

St. Arnold and Fr. Greg both teach us to recognize God's presence in everything that has been created, and to trust God's patient work even where the world seems broken.

A favorite preaching line for me is: We are already alive forever. So, what shall we do today?

What in the beauty of creation takes your breath away? Where do you encounter the fingerprints of God? That experience can inspire you to continue sharing in God's mission in the world.



# VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Dr. Joshua Young**

## Staying Informed, Being Proactive

The Association of Governing Boards recent released a policy alert statement, concerning new rules coming from the Department of Education. As VPAA, I've been staying up-to-date on guidance from the Department of Education and our various institutional associations to see how DWC is impacted by recent changes.

Here is a bulleted response to AGB's policy statement concerning the anticipated changes:

- Governance- this new regulation is meant to limit the ability of private accreditation agencies to dictate policy for public institutions, giving more autonomy to state legislatures and boards of regents. As a private institution, this has little impact on DWC.
- Student Outcomes- HLC noted the growth and adoption of effective practices for institutional assessment at DWC during our last accreditation review. Despite this, we recognize improvements that could be made in response. These include:
    1. Adding questions to the student exit survey about immediate plans after graduation.
    2. An annual alumni association survey targeted to specific classes, like those beyond five years after graduation.
- We also understand that we do not meet the reporting requirements as outlined in the Financial Value Transparency Reporting Requirements (p. 13) because no program at DWC has 30 students or more in any one program on Federal Financial Aid.
- Academic Freedom- The College Policy Handbook (7.04) clearly articulates an academic Freedom policy consistent with articulated effective practices.
- Transfer Practices- The College has a clear policy of evaluating transfer credits that is articulated in the College Catalog (p. 29). This policy is consistent with effective practices adopted at other institutions and is in the spirit of the new rules.
- Institutional Risk- The College anticipates no serious existential threat to the operating of the College but recognizes a need to be prepared. The Board of Administration is working to create an Institutional Risk Assessment and Plan in the unlikely event the school must close for some emergency reason. We anticipate having something in tentative place by the July 1, 2027 enforcement date.
- Accreditation Readiness- The College's Accreditation Liaison Officer and Vice President for Academic Affairs continue to monitor and report on any guidance being given by HLC. The VPAA will personally attend the HLC conference this April to get more specific information and will share any pertinent knowledge gained with the Board of Trustees at their May meeting.



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

**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
**11/18/2026.....ESL Term B Withdrawal Deadline**
11/18/2026.....7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
11/19/2026.....9:30 AM.....Board of Administration
11/19/2026.....12:45 PM.....FSLC Meeting
11/19/2026.....12:45 PM.....IELI Meeting
11/19/2026.....12:45 PM.....Tree Campus Meeting
11/19/2026.....5:00 PM.....Formation Group Meeting - Sisters
11/20/2026.....10:30 AM.....External Affairs
**11/21/2026.....2:00 PM.....Queen of the Americas Celebration**
**11/22/2026.....10:00 AM.....Our Lord Jesus Christ, King**
11/22/2026.....7:30 PM.....Vespers
11/23/2026.....7:30 PM.....Holy Hour
11/24/2026.....8:00 AM.....Mass for Vocations
11/24/2026.....12:45 PM.....Faculty Senate



# VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

**Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD**

## Thanksgiving Break

We are just a few weeks away from Thanksgiving Break. You are welcome to use the holiday period to travel and celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends. If you are planning to travel, please let me know that you will be away from the college during the break.

For those who will be staying on campus, you will be required to contribute **three hours of community service each day on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday) and Friday.**

Later this week, I will post a sign-out sheet so that I can determine who will be remaining on campus and who will be traveling. This information will also help us plan for community meals during the break. Please indicate your plans by the **end of this week.**

Thank you for your cooperation.



## Christmas Travel

Christmas Break will be here soon, and it is important to begin making your travel plans now. During the Christmas Break, **Divine Word College** will be closed, and students will not be permitted to remain on campus.

The final day to depart from the college is **December 15, 2026.** All students, both new and returning, are expected to return to campus on **January 5 or January 6, 2027.** Any exceptions or special requests must receive approval from the **Dean of Students.**

**Divine Word College** will provide transportation to the airport for students departing between **December 12 and December 15, 2026.** If you plan to purchase your own airline ticket, please consult with **Fr. Betenora Bako Liba, SVD, DWC Travel Coordinator,** before finalizing your travel arrangements to ensure that your departure date and time can be accommodated by the college transportation schedule.

Please send your complete flight itinerary to Fr. Betenora no later than **November 25, 2026.**

If you have any questions regarding your travel plans, please feel free to speak with either Fr. Betenora or me.





# VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

**Len Uhal**

## Thank You!

Last week was a busy week as we celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week. Actually, we started early with a group of high school students here from Beckman Catholic High School in Dyersville on October 23 which featured a vocation panel discussion. We celebrated our monthly Mass for Vocations on October 30. The official start of the week was on November 1 when Fr. Baruch Zinsou, SVD, shared a few words about the weeklong celebration at the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass at DWC. Our vocation display was also available at the front entrance on Monday, November 2 when we hosted many friends and benefactors for our annual All Souls Day Mass.

Two events were held on November 5. Fr. Adam MacDonald, SVD, visited Columbus Catholic High School in Waterloo, Iowa, to talk with students about missionary life; and our Vocation Team was also part of an online virtual Meet & Greet/Open House sponsored by the Dubuque Area Vocation Association. That program featured six different religious communities sharing information about their charisms—four women's communities and two men's communities. On November 6, we welcomed over 50 children and their parents to DWC from the area Catholic Homeschool Cooperative. Several people helped make this event go well for our guests.

Finally, the Saint Serra Club of Dubuque, an international organization of lay people who promote and affirm vocations to religious life and the priesthood, hosted its annual Membership Banquet in Dubuque on November 8 and four representatives from the College attended that event.

Thank you to all who helped with these events and for all who prayed for an increase of vocations to religious life during the past week. The members of the Vocation Team appreciate all of the support, both prayers and volunteerism, for our ministry. It takes a village…




## New Students in January

Several people have asked about the number of new students that may come to Divine Word College in January 2027 for the start of the new semester. At present, 39 new students have been accepted. That includes some students who tried to get here in August and October, but were unable to get visas to enter the USA. In addition, the Admissions Committee will consider a few more applicants later this month—maybe about 3-7. Thus, nearly 45 new students could arrive.

However, because of the increased difficulty international students have in obtaining Student Visas, I am confident that not all of the students will arrive. At present, five plan to be here, with two getting their visas approved just today! I would be very happy if 15-20 new students arrive in January. Please pray that many of them are approved for their visas and they arrive safely to our campus in January.



## Coffee with Len

As we begin the process of drafting a new Strategic Plan, I invite the entire community—Students, SVDs, Faculty, Staff and Administrators—to meet with me and have an informal discussion about Vocations and Admissions to Divine Word College. I will have very little to say by way of a "presentation." I am more interested in hearing your ideas of what we can do to continue to find more students to come to Divine Word College. I am happy to answer questions, but I hope to walk away with some creative ideas for our new Strategic Plan. Please join me for "Coffee with Len" on the following dates and the following times:

- Monday, November 30 at 2:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 1 at 9:30 AM
- Tuesday, December 1 at 3:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 2 at 9:30 AM

All meetings will be held in Room 143. Please bring your own coffee or drink from the dining room and I'll provide donuts or cookies. You are welcome to come to one of the sessions or all four! If you cannot stay for the whole hour, please come for part of it. Bring your ideas and your questions and let's chat about the possibilities. I look forward to seeing everyone at one of the sessions!



If you're unable to attend, PLEASE, always feel welcome to stop by my office, catch me in the hallway or at lunch and share your ideas—I'm all ears (as my mom would say!).



# VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

**Steve Winger**

## Maintenance Update: New High-Efficiency Boiler Installation Underway

The Maintenance Department is making great progress on an important campus infrastructure improvement with the installation of a new high-efficiency boiler. A special thank-you goes to Randy and John, who have been hard at work removing the old equipment, positioning the new boiler, connecting gas and water lines, installing venting, wiring controls, and preparing the system for startup and testing. Installing a commercial boiler is a significant undertaking that requires technical expertise, careful planning, and attention to safety at every step. Once installation is complete, the team will conduct startup and testing procedures to ensure the system is operating safely, efficiently, and reliably. If all goes according to plan, the new boiler should be up and running later today or tomorrow. The timing could not be better as temperatures begin to drop and our campus prepares for the winter season. The new high-efficiency boiler will help improve energy performance, reduce operating costs, and provide dependable heat for our campus community.

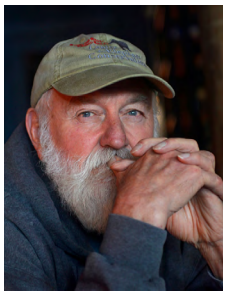


Many of the systems that keep Divine Word College running are easy to take for granted, especially when everything is working as it should. Behind the scenes, however, Randy and John are continually maintaining, repairing, and improving our facilities so that students, faculty, staff, and guests can learn, work, and live comfortably on campus. We are grateful for their dedication, expertise, and willingness to take on projects that keep our campus operating smoothly. Please join us in thanking Randy and John for their hard work and faithful stewardship of our facilities. Their efforts make a difference every day, even when that work happens behind the walls and out of sight.

# On View in the Gallery

## Art News

Join us this **Friday from 4:00-7:00 PM** to celebrate *Light of the World*, our new on-campus exhibit in The Weyland Art Gallery.



*David LaBelle*

Documentary photographer David LaBelle will be here to share stories and answer questions, so please take advantage of this opportunity to learn from a master visual storyteller. Thank you to everyone who's stopped by the gallery to be inspired already. The heart-opening collection of black and white images reaches across the divide to call us into reflection and deeper connection.

Remember, exhibit receptions are a great way to practice conversation skills, learn about art and meet new friends. Faculty members, have you considered extra credit for students who attend?

Please reach out to Erin if you'd like to brainstorm ways to weave this exhibit into classes. Hope to see you all Friday!




MEDITATION IN MOTION

TROWBRIDGE
FAMILY TAI CHI

## TAI CHI

Join us this **Wednesday, November 11 for Tai Chi** in the gym with Nancy and Jerry Trowbridge! This is a FREE opportunity to try something new right here on campus, and if we like learning from these two long-time teachers, they're willing to offer a class every week.



Nancy and Jerry have offered Tai Chi at The Shalom Center and Sisters of the Presentation, and they have a weekly class at The Health Spa in Peosta. Tai chi is a low-impact, slow-motion mind-body exercise combining gentle physical movement, deep breathing, and focused meditation.

If you're interested in learning more about its many benefits, check out this information on the ancient practice from the Mayo Clinic: https://sharedfiles.mayoclinic.org/bedside/ope/GNT-20232980.html. Please wear comfortable clothing and sock or shoes (or both).

Matthew Jacoby Library

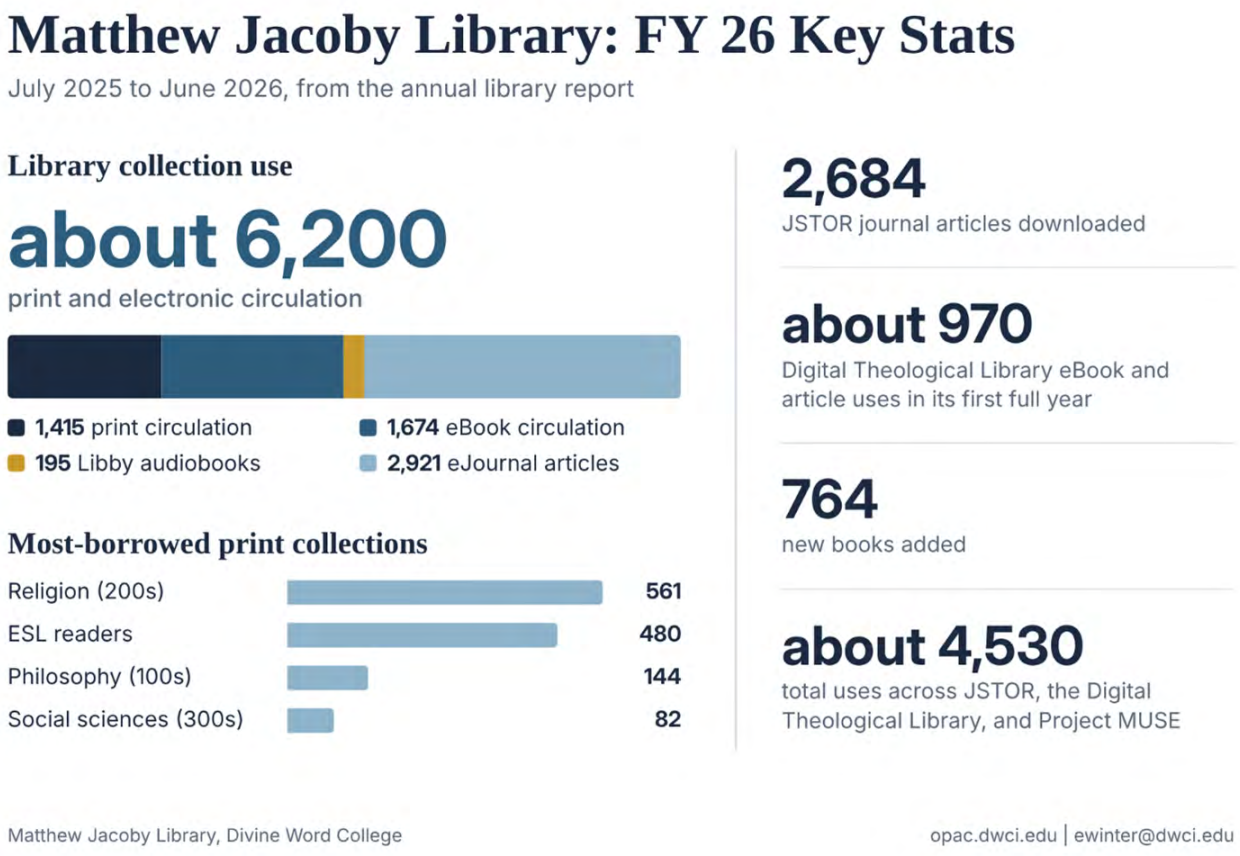
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## FY 26 Annual Library Report

The Matthew Jacoby Library's Annual Report for fiscal year 2026 (July 2025 to June 2026) is complete. While print book checkouts declined for the sixth straight year, combined print and eBook use grew by about 5% over FY 25. eBooks now account for more than half of all book use (about 53%, up from 44% in FY 25. Students, faculty, and staff recorded 1,415 print checkouts and renewals, 1,674 eBook uses, 195 Libby audiobook checkouts, and about 2,921 eJournal article downloads. Combined, JSTOR, the Digital Theological Library (in its first full year), and Project MUSE accounted for about 4,530 uses. Religion and ESL readers were the most-borrowed print collections.

The latter is largely attributable to IELI's new self-guided reading class. Behind the scenes, 764 new books were added and 3,922 worn, outdated, or unused items were withdrawn. For the first time in several years, mold and water damage were not the top reasons for weeding, a sign that the library's extensive identification and removal process has been effective.

The full FY 26 report and the three previous years' reports are on the library's website at https://opac.dwci.edu/cgi-bin/koha/opac-library.pl. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Questions or comments about the FY 26 Annual Library Report? Stop by or email ewinter@dwci.edu.



# Around Divine Word College

## For the Success of COP31

The UN Climate Conference (COP31) began yesterday, November 9, in Antalya, Turkey. It brings together representatives from government, business, civil society, and the Catholic Church. Held annually since 1995, these meetings aim to slow and eventually stop climate change.

Dubbed the "Implementation COP," COP31 will focus on delivering climate solutions and a clean energy transition that powers growth, jobs, food security, and health for all.

Let us pray for all participants over these two weeks of negotiations. May God grant them unity and wisdom to reach just agreements for the wellbeing of our common home and all peoples.

***- Emmanuel Mayani***
***Student Representative on the JPIC Committee***





## Upcoming ARC Workshop

This Wednesday, November 11, from 12:30-1:00 PM, there will be another ARC Workshop. The topic for this workshop will be Documentation and Citation: Integrating Sources. Hope to see you there!

# CPR Training Opportunity

The Epworth Fire Department will be providing a CPR training session for the Divine Word College community on Friday, November 13, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This training is an excellent opportunity to learn or refresh essential lifesaving skills, including CPR techniques and emergency response procedures.

**Date: Friday, November 13, 2026**

**Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: Epworth Fire Department**

All members of the SVD, Student and Staff community are welcome.

Sign up sheets are available on the SVD and student bulletin boards.






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