Divine Word College

THE LOG

A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community | Vol. 46 No. 13 - November 17, 2026

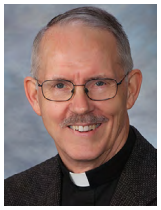
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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Mission is God's Work: Incarnation

Missionaries are active people. That can lead us to think that mission is fundamentally OUR work. There is a better and more balanced way to think about mission. Mission is always GOD's work. The Latin expression is *Missio Dei.*

The goal of God's mission is the fulfillment of God's loving plan for all creation: the fullness of God's Kingdom. There are four movements in God's mission: Creation, Incarnation, Redemption and New Creation. In the following paragraphs, I want to consider the second movement, the Incarnation, and what it means for missionary service.

Incarnation. The boundless measure of God's love for us is evident in Creation but it is revealed even more profoundly in the Incarnation. The Word through whom all things were made was born into poverty and weakness. He became like us in all things but sin. When Nicodemus, a Pharisee, made a nighttime visit to Jesus, they talked about the Kingdom. It was terribly difficult for Nicodemus to get the point of Jesus' teaching; he couldn't imagine that God would have such a strange plan for humanity. But Jesus insisted:

> *"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16).*



Love Becomes Flesh. Love can be expressed in many different ways. It can be expressed through gestures of care and support to loved ones who are still largely unaware of the depths of that love. Such is the love of parents who struggle day by day to provide food, clothing and shelter for their children. Love can become conscious and find expression in words. Young lovers struggle

102 Jacoby Dr SW, Epworth, IA 52045 | (563) 876-3353 | info@dwci.edu

to find the right words for the new depth of feeling they experience. Lovers who are far from one another long for the next letter, message, or telephone call. But love can be expressed most fully through personal presence – being there for one another. If I have a choice between a letter from a person that I love and an afternoon spent with that person, the choice is easy. I want to be present to my loved ones, and I want them to be with me.

> *God's love for us makes the same choice. As John's prologue puts it: "...the Word became flesh and lived among us" (Jn 1:14).*

St. Arnold Loved Christmas. St. Arnold Janssen never stopped marveling at the incredible goodness of God who dwells among us. Fr. Hubert Krins SVD, a seminarian at Steyl from 1901-1907, recalled that:

> "Christmas had a special meaning for the Superior General. He gave the preparatory recollection himself and became quite emotional. That was not usually the case in his regular Sunday sermons. He emphasized especially how 'the great and holy God had become a poor child.' One heard that said often enough but when he said it, it pierced our hearts more profoundly because it came from his heart so full of faith."

Fr. Alois Grosse Kappenberg SVD, who became the fifth superior general, recalled the Christmas celebration of 1907. Fr. Alois was a seminarian then and was present for the last Christmas liturgy that the Founder was still able to lead:

> "Before midnight the community awoke to the sound of deeply moving Christmas music. In silence, all wended their way to the church. Then, chanting Christmas melodies, they moved in procession to the auditorium to fetch the Christ Child and carry it back to the crib in the church. The Infant lay upon a bed of straw, almost on the earth itself, surrounded by a halo of flickering candles and colored lights. Festive lanterns bedecked the auditorium and the main corridors of the house.
>
> "In the auditorium all knelt before the image of the Word of God made flesh. With deep emotion and warmth, Father Arnold then recited the prayer he himself had composed. It began with the joyous proclamation of the Christmas mystery: 'The goodness and kindness of God our Saviour has appeared.'
>
> "...Then, very like the gray-haired Simeon in the temple, he took the Infant in his arms in a gesture of childlike devotion, blessed the community with it and tenderly placed it on the litter beautifully covered with satin cloth. The smallest students... lifted the litter to their shoulders. Amid the chanting of Christmas hymns and songs the procession returned to the church where Father Arnold placed the Infant in the crib that had been erected with much care and devotion."



Many SVD communities still recall the Founder's deep devotion to the mystery of the Incarnation by keeping a Christmas novena. On Christmas Eve, it is often the youngest member of the community who is given the honor of bringing the Christ Child in procession and placing him in the crib.

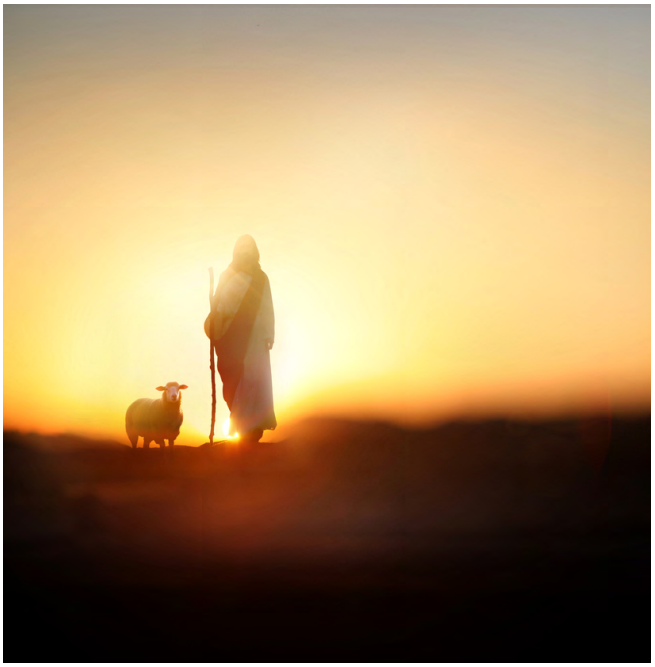
Annunciation. There is another important connection between the Incarnation and our SVD missionary identity. Did you know that the official titular feast day of the Society of the Divine Word is March 25, the Annunciation of the Lord? Mary's "yes" opened her life to the power of the Spirit, and the Word was made flesh in her womb. The Incarnation was God's initiative, but Mary was invited to participate in God's plan. Our lives as missionaries unfold within that same divine plan: God's passionate desire to be present among us and among all peoples. Like Mary, we open ourselves to God's work through us.

The Prologue to the SVD Constitutions invites us to allow God to work in us for the benefit of the whole world.

> "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. The Word became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth to reveal the Father's name and to proclaim the kingdom of his love. He made this love, which is limitless, visible in a sinful world by his unconditional devotion to all, especially those in need... We see our special dedication to the Divine Word and his mission expressed in our name. His life is our life, his mission our mission."

God Made Flesh. There is a funny story about a little boy who was afraid of thunderstorms. One night a bad storm woke him up; afraid, he jumped out of his own bed and ran to his parents' bed. The father said, "Son, you know that God is everywhere, so you are safe in your own bed, too." The boy's answer hinted he might grow up to be a missionary. He said: "I know God is everywhere, but sometimes I like to have God with skin on him!"

The Incarnation teaches us that mission is not simply about what we do for others. Instead, it reminds us that God is already present and at work among people. As missionaries, we participate in making God's love visible through our presence to those most in need. That is the heart of ***Missio Dei.***



New Committee Appointments

Several new appointments have been made recently. I am immensely grateful to all who share in the governance of the College through their committee work.

Student Success Quality Initiative (SSQI) – new members

- Mr. Steve Winger
- Ms. Liz Winter

TITLE IX Team – new members

- Ms. Sara Goedken – Coordinator
- Mr. Mike Mason – Investigator (Beginning in January)

Board of Administration

- Dr. Monica Meissen – Interim Exec. Secretary

Faculty Promotions and Awards – new members

- Dr. Richard Garrett – DIS
- Ms. Sharon Sinton – at-large



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

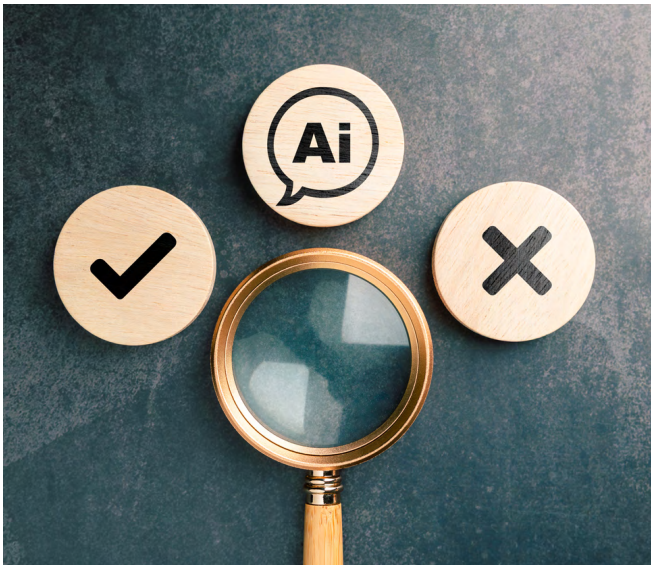
College Adopts Pangram AI Detection Software

The College recently entered into a contract with Pangram to provide AI detection software. This software can help ensure that students and faculty can negotiate appropriate use of AI for educational purposes at DWC. Faculty were sent invitations to sign up for the software and were given guidance on how to approach students when Pangram suspects inappropriate levels of AI use.

When inappropriate use of AI is suspected, instructors are to use the Pangram report to have a conversation with students about if and how AI was used. A Pangram report is never definitive evidence that AI was used inappropriately. Here are ways students can protect themselves from AI accusations.

1. **Make sure you clearly understand what the policy on AI use for any assignment is.**
    - Can I use AI to fix grammar?
    - Can I use AI to get feedback on ideas?
    - Can I use evidence or examples that AI provides me?
2. **Document your progress on assignments.**
    - Can you provide handwritten notes on the assignment?
    - Can you provide digital documentation of consistent progress (like a save log)?
    - If AI was permitted, can you provide the chat log of prompts between yourself and AI to show how AI was used?
3. **Know your argument/claim in an assignment.**
    - If asked, would you be able to tell the instructor what you said in a paper?
    - Is the language used consistent with your communication style or does it sound different?
    - Do you understand all of the vocabulary you used in the paper?

Let me be clear; the adoption of Pangram for AI detection is <u>not</u> meant to be a means of entrapping students in academic dishonesty cases. Pangram serves as an additional means for conversation and building our collective AI literacy, as students and teachers, as we work towards an AI literacy project for our Student Success Quality Initiative for the Higher Learning Commission. Use of Pangram for AI detection will be reviewed, again, during the next academic year.



Faculty Evaluations Due Soon

The Annual Faculty Self-Evaluation and Planning process is well underway. During this time, faculty members evaluate their work on goals set during the previous academic year. These goals are centered on teaching, scholarship, and service. Written as narrative reflections, faculty submit these reflections to their respective chairs and work with the faculty to find ways to support and encourage their growth. Faculty also submit a plan with a set of goals for the next year during this process as well.

Faculty with questions about the Annual Faculty Self-Evaluation and Planning Process should reach out to their respective chairs well in advance of the upcoming **Dec. 2 deadline.**



UPCOMING EVENTS:

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.....1:00 PM.....Liturgy Prep
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
11/25/2026.....7:30 PM.....Formation Group Meeting
11/26/2026.....Thanksgiving Day - No Classes
11/26/2026.....11:00 AM.....Mass
11/26/2026.....12:00 PM.....Thanksgiving Lunch
11/27/2026.....Offices Closed/No Classes
11/29/2026.....10:00 AM.....First Sunday of Advent
11/29/2026.....7:30 PM.....Vespers
11/30/2026.....Theological Submission Due
11/30/2026.....7:30 PM.....Advent Reconciliation Service
12/1/2026.....12:45 PM.....Liturgy Committee Meeting



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Queen of the Americas Celebration

This **Saturday, November 21, 2026,** we will celebrate the Queen of the Americas, an annual cultural event organized by AAHA. This is one of the three major cultural celebrations hosted by students at Divine Word College each year.

The celebration will begin with Mass at 2:00 p.m., presided over by Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, followed by a banquet in the dining room. All students are required to attend and participate in this special celebration. Please remember that semi-formal or religious attire is required.

Also, please remember that liturgy preparation will take place on Thursday, November 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Chapel to prepare for this celebration. Attendance at liturgy preparation is mandatory for all students, and attendance will be taken.



Theological Reflection Papers

By this point in the semester, most of you have completed your ministry practicum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your willingness, dedication, and efforts in serving the people in your respective ministries. I hope that these experiences have been meaningful and fruitful for your personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth.

From **November 16–22, 2026,** all students who participated in ministry are expected to gather with their respective ministry groups for theological reflection sharing. Your faculty supervisor will coordinate the date and time for your group's gathering.

I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity seriously and reflect thoughtfully on your ministry experiences, particularly what you have learned, how you encountered God through your ministry, and how these experiences have contributed to your formation. Please submit your theological reflection paper to your faculty supervisor at the conclusion of your group sharing. If you are unable to complete your paper by the time of the gathering, please make sure to submit it no later than Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Mass for Vocations

On Tuesday, November 24, 2026, Br. Wendelin Meyer formation group will organize the monthly Mass for Vocations.

During this Mass, Khoa Dang Pham will share his vocation story, reflecting on his journey of discernment and what initially attracted him to join the Society of the Divine Word.

I encourage everyone to participate in this Mass and show your support for Khoa and all the SVD candidates in Br. Wendelin Meyer's formation group. May this gathering be an opportunity for all of us to deepen our appreciation of God's call and continue praying for vocations to the Society of the Divine Word.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Health and Dental Election Form Reminder

Employees are reminded to submit their completed Health and Dental Election Form to the Business Office no later than **Friday, November 20.** Please return your form even if you are declining coverage. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a form.

If you have questions, please contact Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations, or the Business Office.



Around Divine Word College

For World Leaders to Show Courage

The UN Climate Conference, COP31, is in its final week. Turkey, the host, has been rallying countries to sign the "35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge," which aims to increase electricity's share of global energy use from just over 20% today to 35% by 2035 (UNFCCC).

To stop climate change, electrification powered by clean energy sources must increase beyond 2035. Will countries commit to powering buildings, industries, and transportation with fewer fossil fuels and more clean electricity?

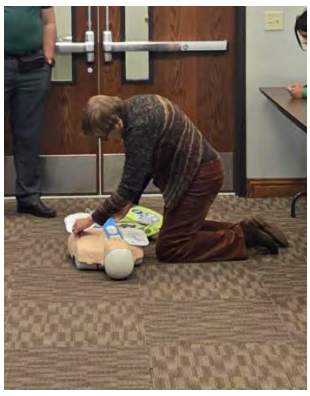
Let us pray that world leaders move beyond appearing to care for the planet and show the courage needed for real change (Laudate Deum, 56).

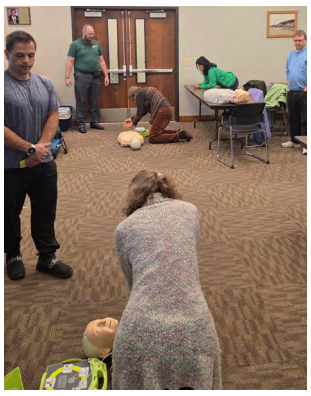
Emmanuel Mayani
Student Representative on the JPIC Committee

CPR Training Completion

Congratulations to everyone who completed CPR training on November 13 at the Epworth Fire Department!

A special thank you to Kyle Knutson and Deacon Nick Elliott for providing the training, leading the fire department tour, and for their dedicated service to our community. Their time, expertise, and commitment are greatly appreciated.





On View in the Gallery

Art News

Thank you to everyone who came out Friday to celebrate ***Light of the World***, our new exhibit in The Weyland Art Gallery.

We had a great turnout from the outside community and a lot of new faces on campus. David LaBelle's heart-opening images prompted rich conversations throughout the evening, with many sharing memories and shedding tears. A huge shout-out to Janna Hammer, DWC's extraordinary food artist who continues to delight us with her creations. Please make sure to stop by the gallery for a break at this busy time.

It's the perfect place to pause for reflection, contemplation or even just to breathe.









MEDITATION IN MOTION

TROWBRIDGE
FAMILY TAI CHI

TAI CHI

Join us this **Wednesday, November 18 at 4:00 PM for Tai Chi in The Crypt** with Nancy and Jerry Trowbridge again. This will be our final free trial session, so, if you're curious, please join us to try something new right here on campus. (Last week we had a large group - thank you everyone!)

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, mind-body exercise combining slow, gentle physical movement, deep breathing, and focused meditation.



To learn 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 socks or shoes (or both).

Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

End of the Semester Reminders for Students

The end of the semester is closing in fast. Here are three library resources to help you finish the semester strong.

Research Databases for Papers and Projects

Working on a paper or project that requires academic sources? Start with the library's subscribed databases:

- **Digital Theological Library (DTL):** eBooks and journal articles in theology, religious studies, philosophy, and the wider humanities. Search DTL
- **JSTOR:** scholarly journals, books, and primary sources across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Search JSTOR

Research Appointments

Need help writing a research paper or finishing a project? Schedule a research appointment.

During an appointment, I can help you:

- Narrow a topic or turn it into a clear research question
- Find sources in DTL, JSTOR, and the library catalog
- Judge whether a source is scholarly, reliable, and relevant to your argument
- Request articles or book chapters through interlibrary loan
- Format citations and bibliographies in APA or Chicago style

Email Liz Winter at ewinter@dwci.edu to set up an appointment.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Requests Through DTL

Can't find the full text of an article or chapter you need? ILL requests can now be placed directly through DTL, and most articles arrive by email within 24 hours. You will need a Google (Gmail) account to sign in.

1. Go to DTL.
2. Copy the article or book title and paste it into the search bar.
3. Change the search to **Beyond my library,** then click the magnifying glass to search.
4. Click the title of the article or book you want to open its full record.
5. Scroll down to **Requests.** Under **Get it from other locations,** click **GET IT.** If you are not signed in yet, click Sign in first.
6. Choose **PATRON LOGIN WITH GOOGLE** and select your Google account. The first time you sign in, this creates your DTL account.
7. Fill out the request form and click **Send Request.** Enter Divine Word College as your institution. Book chapter requests need more information: chapter title, chapter author, chapter number, and page range.
8. Check your Gmail for the article. Most requests are delivered within 24 hours. You can also check the status of your requests in your DTL (Ex Libris) account.

QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

SCHEDULE

TIME	EVENT	NOTES
8:00 AM	**Mass**	*For the town people only*
8:30 AM	**Breakfast**	
12:00 PM	**Lunch**	
2:00 PM	**Queen of the Americas Mass**	*Formal or traditional dress is required*
Following Mass	**Banquet & Entertainment**	
	Clean-up	

A SPECIAL NOTE

Formal or traditional dress is required for the 2:00 PM Queen of the Americas Mass.