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Birthday Corner

January

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THE PRESIDENT

Christian Unity and Mission

"The division among Christians is a serious reality which impedes the very work of Christ... While we still work to obtain full unity from the Lord, we wish to see prayer intensified."

These words of Pope Saint Paul VI (canonized in October 2018) are a challenge to all Christians. He wrote about missionary outreach and ecumenical unity in his 1975 letter *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World #77). The World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church respond to this call for intensified prayer in an annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, January 18 to 25.

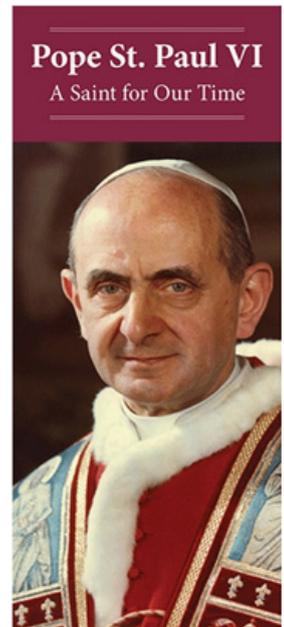
In his letter, Paul VI shared his vision of a Church witnessing to full unity among all the baptized:

"The power of evangelization will find itself considerably diminished if those who proclaim the Gospel are divided among themselves in all sorts of ways.

"....As evangelizers, we must offer... not the image of people divided and separated by unedifying quarrels, but the image of people who are mature in faith and capable of finding a meeting-point beyond the real tensions, thanks to a shared, sincere and disinterested search for truth. Yes, the destiny of evangelization is certainly bound up with the witness of unity given by the Church.

Divine Word College, as a school for missionaries, takes very seriously our responsibility to promote Christian unity. Some of the ways we do this include:

- Working together with **faculty and staff** who belong to different Christian communities.
- Welcoming students of the Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque to help with our **English Language Program**. Some Emmaus students are learning to be



English language instructors, and they need practical experience. Many Divine Word Students greatly benefit from their help as English tutors. The friendships they build, and the experiences they share together, help to knit a greater unity among Christians.

- Many DWC students, staff and faculty participate in **local ministry projects**. Some of the projects are sponsored by other church communities. I am especially happy about our collaboration with the United Methodist Church of Epworth. (I have personal cause to rejoice because my great-grandparents were members of that Church until the 1950s.)

And, we pray for deeper Christian unity. The 2018 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is inspired by a text from the book of Deuteronomy, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..." (Dt. 16:18-20). The theme was prepared by members of different churches in Indonesia. (<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/2019>)

On Sunday January 20, we held a special vesper service with our shared commitment to justice in mind. Mrs. Sharon Sinton, an instructor in DWC's Intensive English Language Institute and a committed member of the United Church of Christ (UCC), was invited to speak to the gathering. She reflected on the reading from Deuteronomy, "you must not distort justice; you shall not show partiality... justice and justice alone you shall pursue."



She mentioned some complicated motives that we might have to recognize:

"... we can all agree that the injustices of violence, poverty, and lack of access to food, shelter, health care and education are all important issues we need to address, and many Christians, the SVDs included, are working hard to create a more equitable society. But how do you react justly to a person or people who you believe may have earned ...condemnation? How do we separate justice from self-righteousness?"

To avoid "distorting justice", Sharon suggested some practices that might remind SVDs of what we call "prophetic dialogue".

"Justice can become compromised when only one side, usually the loudest or most dominant side, is heard. The UCC church allows people to air ideas and to challenge each other... Combating injustices requires challenging those... who are perpetrating the injustices. Challenging others requires us to examine our own beliefs and biases to determine that we are truly acting out of the care and compassion that Christ taught us rather than from our own egos."

While we pray for unity among Christians, we can be glad that Jesus prayed for all of us at the Last Supper: Father, "may they all be one, as you are in me and I am in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me" (Jn 17:20). What Jesus prayed for will surely come to pass.

Sleepless nights not included in Work from Home policy...

Several people have asked about the DWC policy regarding work from remote locations. In general, the policy concerns “exceptional occasions,” and not the normal work commitments of our faculty and staff. Some specific questions:

- **Will email and Populi continue to be available for use offsite?** YES.
- **Can I work on a menu, or a syllabus, or a to-do list at home?** YES, provided you are at the college for the normal activities described in your job description or, for faculty, in your contract.
- **Can I have sleepless nights worrying about college business?** (Smile.) IT DEPENDS. If you are an SVD, you should have your sleepless nights at the College. For others, you can worry at home, but there is no need for additional paperwork!

If you have some doubts, please ask one of the Vice Presidents.

Board of Administration Summary

The Board of Administration met on Friday, January 18th, and discussed/approved the following topics:

1. Approved surveying the employees to see if there is interest in obtaining vision care through a low-cost plan with Christian Brothers; the premium to be paid by the employee.
2. Reviewed employee benefits.
3. Reviewed and approved estimates to upgrade the lighting in the College building and outside with LED lighting. LED lighting could result in up to \$18,000 per year on electricity costs.
4. Reviewed the HLC Interim Report Analysis published in last week’s LOG.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic Dean’s Lists for ESL Fall Term B & Undergraduate Fall Semester 2018

The Academic Dean’s List publicly recognizes full-time students who earn a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher in a given term/semester. Any student who has received a grade of Incomplete (I), Failure (F), or who is on academic probation is automatically disqualified. The Academic Dean’s List is published at the beginning of each term/semester for distinguished scholarship during the previous term/semester.

Divine Word College commends the following students, listed in alphabetical order, for their outstanding academic achievement during ESL Fall Term B 2018 and Undergraduate Fall Semester 2018. Congratulations!

Fr. John A. Szukalski, SVD, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Intensive English Language Institute (IELI)

Mr. John Augustin
 Mr. Berson Bien-Aime
 Frt. Thinh Cao, SVD
 Mr. Thong Huu Dinh
 Fr. Duc Do
 Bro. Dario Figueroa, SVD
 Mr. Peterson Forestal
 Mr. Wilson Joseph
 Mr. Hung Le
 Sr. Tinh Le, LHC
 Sr. Thom Mai, FMV
 Mr. Franciste Mervil
 Sr. Diem Ngo, IHM
 Mr. Hien Nguyen
 Mr. Lam Nguyen
 Sr. Liem Nguyen, IHM
 Sr. Nhiem Nguyen, LHC
 Fr. Ninh Nguyen
 Sr. Thanh Nguyen, LHC
 Sr. Thoa Nguyen, LHC
 Sr. Thuy Tram Nguyen, MSC
 Fr. Trung Nguyen, CRM
 Frt. Vinh Nguyen, ICM
 Sr. Kim Thuan Phan, LHC
 Sr. Thuong Phan, FMV
 Frt. Raimundo Ribeiro, SVD
 Sr. Phuong Tran, LHC
 Sr. Thuy Thi Tran, LHC
 Fr. Duong Tran, CSC
 Fr. Tri Thien Tran, SVD
 Mr. Tung Vu
 Fr. Antonius Waget, SVD
 Sr. Rose Woulaou, PSP
 Sr. Byal Y, IMM

Undergraduate

Mr. Ryan Agbim
 Mr. Marc Declama
 Mr. Hoang Do
 Mr. Wisno Elie
 Mr. Joubert Felix
 Sr. Cecilia Foleng, SST
 Mr. Wisvel Joseph
 Sr. Florence Muturi, LSOSF
 Sr. Trang Thi Thuy Nguyen, CDM
 Sr. Bich Hong Nguyen, LHC
 Mr. Huy Hoai Nguyen
 Mr. Ha Van Nguyen
 Sr. Van Ngoc Nguyen, OP
 Sr. Thu Thanh Nguyen, LHC
 Mr. Truong An Nguyen
 Mr. Tuan Van Nguyen
 Sr. Xuyen Nguyen, OP
 Sr. Dieu Nguyen, LHC
 Sr. Hien Nguyen, LHC
 Sr. Hong Pham, LHC Sr. Huyen
 Tran Phan, OCist
 Sr. Kim Cuc Tran, LHC
 Sr. Tram Tran, IHM
 Mr. Thong Tran
 Sr. Tuyen Tran, FMI
 Fr. Wilfridus Valiance
 Fr. Damasus Yong, SVD
 Mr. Baruch Zinzo

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Presidential Forum – Tuesday, 22 January 2019 @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
- Faculty Senate – Tuesday, 29 January 2019 @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
- Academic & Formation Advisory Council – Tuesday, 5 February 2019 @ 12:45 -1:45 p.m.

Applications for Promotion in Rank

The policies and procedures governing applications for promotion in rank are published in the Faculty Handbook #247 for undergraduate faculty and #277 for IELI faculty. The required Letter of Application and Service Report Portfolio of interested faculty are due to the Rank & Tenure Committee Chair no later than Friday, 1 February 2019. All eligible faculty are encouraged to apply!

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

- Many thanks to the formation group of Ephesians for the wonderful cultural dinner. Your hard work and delicious meal were greatly appreciated.
- **Student Conference** scheduled for Saturday, January 26, will be cancelled.
- Sunday, January 27th, both formation groups of SVD Jrs and Romans will prepare a **cultural dinner**, served at 5:30 P.M in the dining room. Come and enjoy!
- The feast of **St. Joseph Freinadametz, SVD**, the first SVD missionary sent to China, will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 29th, beginning with a solemn Eucharist at 8:00 A.M, evening prayer at 6:00 P.M and followed by social/dinner at 6:20 P.M in the dining room. All are required to attend.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Paper Towels

A recent study by the Mayo Clinic found hand drying with paper towels to be “superior” to air dryers when it comes to the transmission of bacteria. As we move into the cold and flu season, it is important that we use best practices to decrease the spread of germs and viruses. Along with handwashing, drying your hands with paper towels may reduce the spread of bacteria. I have asked Housekeeping to add paper towels to all of our restrooms. The air dryers will remain in the bathrooms as well.

You can see the full report from the Mayo Clinic at: [https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(12\)00393-X/abstract](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(12)00393-X/abstract)

Vision Care

The Board of Administration voted on January 18, to offer full-time employees a supplemental vision plan through Christian Brothers Services. This is a reimbursement program where the employee pays the bill and is then reimbursed from the insurance provider, Christian Brothers. At this time, Divine Word College will not contribute to the premium/cost. To be clear, if you decide to enroll, you must pay 100% of the premium. There is no open enrollment period like health insurance so you can join at any time.

To get things rolling, I would like to get a census of those interested in the vision insurance. I am asking that anyone interested in the Christian Brothers insurance let me know by February 1. Once we complete the census, I will send out further instructions with the enrollment forms. The information will be sent to you regarding the coverage and costs.

If you have questions, please let me know.

SafeColleges

All employees and students will receive an email this week for the next SafeCollege courses. Please watch your email.