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Birthday Corner

April

22 Daniel Williams

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Beyond planning...there is trust

The Board of Trustees will soon gather once again. Each time the trustees meet, the DWC Strategic Plan becomes a focus of conversation.

The major purpose of the Board of Trustees is to help DWC keep looking to the horizons. Trustee meetings are *not intended* for detailed review of structures and processes at the college. They *are meant* to help the administrators and the entire DWC community to step back and take a longer view of things.

Some significant results have flowed from such wider scans: the 2009 revision of the college mission statement that opened DWC to women religious and lay students; the development of the 2013 and the 2018 strategic plans; and the 2017 presidential search and transition.

At the October 2018 meeting, the president's report to the trustees addressed several longer-term concerns, especially, SVD enrollment, SVD subsidy, and SVD personnel for the College. The same report had been shared at an earlier moment and venue, in the March 2018 SVD Provincial Assembly. The SVD members were satisfied with the conclusions and they reaffirmed their support for DWC.

In 2016, visitors from the Higher Learning Commission made a comment about strategic planning that particularly caught my eye:

*"...any updates to the strategic plan must incorporate **even broader scans of the horizon for potential threats** to their ability to attract, retain and graduate students with both a solid undergraduate education and formation experience." (p. 44)*

I have two comments about taking a broader scan *focused on potential threats*.

First, too much focus on planning for distant threats can drive us crazy. To quote a proverb based on the writings of Scottish author Robert Burns: "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." We can easily name half a dozen potential threats. What will we do in the face of: closing the country to foreign students, runaway climate change, the outbreak of war, a deadly pandemic; or, maybe a bit more realistically, the collapse of vocations recruitment,



a sustained financial crisis? Too much planning for such scenarios, or worrying about them, will likely not be effort well spent.

I like better the advice of Abraham Lincoln: "The best way to predict your future is to create it." Since 1912, St. Mary's seminary and then Divine Word College has been creating a future by preparing young men and women for missionary service that unites peoples and calls them to a more humane and holy future.

Second, there may also be unseen graces on the horizon. In 1373, a holy woman and mystic, Julian of Norwich, reported a vision she experienced while deathly ill. Jesus appeared and responded to her profound worries about sin, evil and death. Julian quoted Jesus as saying: "It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." In reflecting on the vision and on the oracle, she observed, "These words were said most tenderly, showing no manner of blame to me nor to any who shall be saved."

The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus encourage us to undertake a much longer scan. When we do, Julian of Norwich's reassuring vision echoes within us; "all manner of things shall be well." Jesus' death was not the end. There is resurrection, there is the gift of the Spirit, and there is our hope for a new heaven and new earth. It is on the horizon, just beyond our reach.

Thinking about our history here in Epworth, I cannot explain why the College continues to flourish. The Holy Spirit must have a hand in it! Other small colleges and other seminaries have closed for lack of students and resources. We have enough here, and I believe we have the courage and creativity necessary for the future.

For a last word, consider some advice from a letter written by St. Arnold Janssen in 1890 to Fr. Henry Becher, the mission superior in Argentina:

"I am happy that you have begun with courage to build. But it doesn't make me happy that you have sleepless nights. If I had so little trust in God, I would have never been able to start the Society and would have become a prisoner of my own desires. I would not have come very far in building up the Society without real trust in God."



In this Holy Week and in the coming Easter Season we remember that *beyond planning there is also trust in God.*



The Last Supper with Twelve Tribes - by Hyatt Moore www.hyattmoore.com/thelastsupper

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Fr. John Szukalski, SVD

Dates to Remember

- NO CLASSES – Holy Thursday, April 18, 2019 & Good Friday, April 19, 2019
- Populi Training Session: “Lessons” – Tuesday, April 23, 2019
All new and current faculty are welcome to attend a 30-minute Training Session on how to set up and effectively use the “Lessons” feature in Populi. The “Lessons” feature is a great way to encourage student learning through engagement with course content, assignments, discussions, links, and files with supplemental materials.
12:45 – 1:15 p.m. in room 101
Facilitated by Mr. Paul Stamm, Director of Educational Technology
- Chairs Council – 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in room 204
- ESL Field Trip – Monday, April 29, 2019
National Mississippi River Museum, Dubuque IA
Students will learn about the geography and history of this area. The museum visit will allow students to connect a unit about historical places to the local area and interact in the community.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Mr. Len Uhal

Come and See Visitors

The Vocation Office welcomes four men to Divine Word College to visit the campus. These are discerning a call to religious life and want to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. Thank you in advance for helping us welcome them to our community. Our guests are:

Ngoc Huy Pham	Wadesboro, NC
Quoc Dat Le	Morven, NC
Long Nguyen	New Orleans, LA
Zachary Gainer	Clinton, IA

Scholarship Opportunity

From time to time, different companies and organizations offer college students scholarships. They often advertise the scholarships by sending emails about the scholarships to various administration offices at different colleges and universities.

Insignia SEO is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for next school year. If you are interested in applying, visit: <https://insigniaseo.com/college-scholarship> to see if you meet the eligibility requirements.

The Word Among Us

The next issue of The Word Among Us will be placed in your mailboxes this week. I hope you enjoy using this booklet of the daily readings and reflections in your spiritual journey. I just confirmed last week that we will once again receive a free subscription next school year for all students. We are blessed to have this resource available to us.

Where are they now?

During Holy Week, Frs. Emilio and Anthony will be on retreat at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, CA, Fr. Francis is assisting at St. Joseph Parish in Wheeling, IL; and Bro. Duylinh and Fr. Adam will be here on campus hosting Come and See visitors. Len will also be on campus this week, but Carolyn and Patti will leave on Tuesday and be gone for the rest of the week as they attend a workshop on financial aid in Chicago.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

Food Service Worker

We are happy to announce the hiring of Ronna Brown. Ronna was hired to fill the Food Service Worker in the kitchen. Ronna's first day of work will be on April 22, 2019. She comes to us from MercyOne Hospital where she has been working as a Dietary Assistant. When you see Ronna, please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome her to Divine Word College.



April 18-21	Holy Week Triduum
May 2	DWC Recognition and Award Luncheon
May 3-4	Board of Trustees Meeting
May 4	Local Alumni Event
May 10	Classes End
May 13-16	Final Exam Week
May 17	Commencement
May 31	ESL Placement Testing/Registration for Summer ESL Classes
June 3	ESL Summer Classes begin