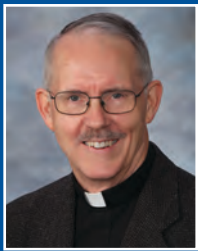


A Word from the President:



Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD

Something missionary happens every time we form a friendship. The many small steps of invitation, welcome and showing up are the foundation upon which the Kingdom of God is built.

Developing missionary friendships is one of the primary goals of mission. These are the rather unusual friendships between people whose home groups are often at serious odds with one another. Think of Jesus' unusual friends. He befriended Samaritans and centurions. He befriended the wealthy and the poor. He counted both Jews and Gentiles in his company. And he constantly reached out to those whose faith was weak or self-righteous.

At DWC, Missionary Discipleship is one of our core competencies. In part, it's about befriending people who are on the margins of Church and society. For instance, reaching out in friendship to Muslim neighbors is mission. Cultivating deeper relationships with people who are unchurched, even members of our own families, is mission. Reaching out across barriers of culture, race, class, language and way of life are all practical moments of missionary discipleship. These moments happen at Divine Word College every day. As we approach the holidays, it might be good to ask ourselves, who could be our friends on the margins?

Fr. Tom

Philosophically speaking

DWC Senior reflects on experience at prestigious program



Tomerot Lambert

Tomerot Lambert is introspective and naturally curious. He doesn't spout off canned responses to everyday questions like, "How are you?" and he never misses an opportunity to engage in a careful and strategic dissection of ideas.

Some might call him a philosopher. In fact, some did.

In July, the DWC senior was one of just 15 people from across the country chosen to attend the 2019 Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy in New Jersey.

The seven-day program introduced areas of specialization within the discipline of philosophy. Participants explored what it means to be a professional philosopher.

Tomerot was the only Catholic participant and the only seminarian. He opened up his notes from the experience and shared four of his biggest takeaway lessons:

Who are you when no one else is looking?

Tomerot's encounters with the other program participants in the secular environment made him reexamine how seriously he takes his faith and prompted him to start praying more about it.

"It's really hard to hold yourself accountable, especially when you're with people who are not striving for the same ideals," Tomerot said. "You kind of fall into the masses. It really tested my authentic interest and my seriousness of the faith."

Philosophy invites the most daring questions into her house.

"You have to be willing in a seminary to ask yourself questions that are challenging," Tomerot said. "Why do I want to be a priest? Can I be a missionary without being a priest? Philosophy has helped me open up to questions but also to refine my questions. The answers usually are contained in the question."

There's always someone who knows more than you.

While in New Jersey, Tomerot said he thought a lot about comparisons and self-knowledge.

"You need to accept yourself as you are with both your weaknesses and your strengths and to see that there is more to you than what you yourself see," he said.

The true consequence of seeking knowledge should lead one to serve and to love.

Deep discussions about philosophical concepts intrigued Tomerot throughout the week-long event but he said he started to realize that for most participants, there was no plan to put those abstract ideas into action.

"There was no concrete way to get involved in justice," he said. "If you know these things and are aware, it should bring you to act."