



# THE LOG

## Divine Word College

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### THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

#### *Eloquent Witness*

As missionaries, we often search for words to share our faith with others. Jesus was a great and eloquent preacher; St. Paul was an impressive writer though he admitted he was a rather poor speaker.



One of the most eloquent witnesses to God's work is Mary, though she left no writings and the Gospels record her speaking only four times. At the Annunciation she said, "How can this be... Let it be with me according to your word;" when visiting Elizabeth, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord...;" at finding Jesus in the Temple, "*Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you;*" and at the Wedding Feast, "They have no wine... Do whatever he tells you."

Though her recorded words are few, the Church has long celebrated her quiet witness to the coming of the Kingdom of God. We honor her with such titles as Holy Mary, Mother of God, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Immaculate Conception, and many more.

At DWC, we have reorganized several chapels over the summer months, and that has given us an opportunity to honor Mary, the first of the disciples. The crypt chapel has been refurbished and named *Mother of Asia*. The adornments already present there, and some still being prepared, celebrate peoples



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from Asia and commemorate Marian apparitions in Asia, including La Vang (1798), Vietnam and Donglü, China (1900). A new chapel near the crypt is named *Reina de las Americas* (Queen of the Americas). A large tapestry of Our Lady of Guadalupe will soon be placed there, along with smaller images of the many devotions to Mary in the American countries from Canada to Argentina. Finally, the former Guadalupe chapel on the second floor has been renamed *La Mère du Verbe* (Mother of the Word). The chapel honors people of African descent, whether in Africa or in the Americas. In the 1980's, Mary appeared at a college in Kibeho, Rwanda and identified herself as Mother of the Word. She warned of the coming genocide in 1994 and asked for prayer and repentance.

The chapels honor Mary, but they also represent the ethno-cultural background of many of our students. They also recall the principal missionary commitments in North America of Divine Word Missionaries and Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. Since first arriving in the Americas 125 years ago, SVDs and the SSpS have been committed to immigrant and ethnic minority communities. Our work among Asian, Hispanic and Afro-Caribbean peoples continues to attract to DWC the people that we serve.

Our chapels have been furnished, in part, by generous gifts from the Sisters of Charity of the BVM and the Sisters of St. Francis in Dubuque. We are most grateful. Their long and kindly presence in Dubuque, along with the Presentation and Visitation Sisters, has been a most eloquent witness to the coming of the Kingdom. With a minimum of words, they call us to ponder and serve the dawning of the Kingdom of God.

## Board of Administration

The Board of Administration met on August 21 and discussed the following issues.

- Spent an exceptional amount of time making decisions around COVID-19 guidance.
- Approved the SafeColleges modules for the Academic Year 2020-2021 for faculty, staff, and students.
- Discussed preparations for the October Board of Trustees meeting via Zoom.
- Initially reviewed enrollment data, Exit Interviews, and Committee work.

The recent COVID-19 Guidance (#21) is appended.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

### Faculty Professional Development

Rev. Dr. Ken Anich, SVD, Professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted professional development funding to attend the Evolution of Psychotherapy 2020 Virtual Experience from 9-13 December 2020.



## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS**

*Fr. Long Phi Nguyen, SVD*

### **Family Feast**

Saturday, September 5th is our annual SVD Family Feast Day which marks the 145th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word Missionary (SVD). On this particular occasion, **Fr. Kenneth Anich, SVD, Fr. Emilio Reyes, SVD, and Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD** will celebrate their 50th, 40th and 25th anniversary of religious vows respectively. Morning Prayer begins at 9:00 AM in the back-court yard and the Eucharistic celebration is at 4:00 PM in the same place. Please check the Student Board for all the activities.

### **Presentation of Formation Group Charter**

Sunday, September 8th, each formation group will present its formation charter to the community at Vespers. Contact persons of each formation group, please come prepared.

### **Labor Day**

Monday, September 7th is Labor Day and as usual there will be no language mass, holy hour or classes. We will have our usual 5-K walk and run. All students and SVD members are highly encouraged to participate in this exercise to keep us physically fit and also to build a healthy community. We shall gather around the SVD Parking lot at 8:45 AM and begin exactly at 9:00 AM. Virtual prayer service for Peace and Justice also takes place at 10:00 AM in the main chapel. All students and SVD members are welcome to attend. The cook out follows at 12:00 noon in the courtyard. Have Fun!

### **Fall Soccer Tournament**

DWC Fall soccer tournament will begin Thursday, 3rd September and end on Friday, the 18th of September. We have six (6) teams that will compete for the trophy. Galatians Formation are the defending champions and hope to retain the cup. There is already excitement about the tournament but let's not forget the overall goal is to build a healthy intercultural community that knows how to compete in a healthy way. Come to support and cheer for your favorite team.

### **Dean's Forum**

Wednesday, September 9, instead of having formation meetings, there will be a Dean's Forum held at 7:30 PM, in the main chapel. All students are obligatory to attend. Please come with your ideas and suggestions.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

*Mr. Len Uhal*

### Mass for Vocations

Thank you, Fidelity, the pre-novitiate formation group, for planning the first Mass for Vocations of the new school year; and to An Truong Nguyen for sharing his vocation story. The vocation office team appreciates your continued prayers for our ministry during this time of pandemic as we continue to help individuals discern their vocations and possible call to religious life.



### Divine Word College Presidential Scholarship

Divine Word College first awarded the Presidential Scholarship in 1979. This scholarship is a recognition of and an honor for students who show promise of superior academic achievement. The scholarship includes an annual award of up to \$3,000 renewable each year the recipient continues to meet the established guidelines. The award may result in a further discount of tuition. A maximum of two students may receive this scholarship in a single year.

#### Criteria for Selection:


Students in the Undergraduate Program at Divine Word College are eligible to apply for the Presidential Scholarship provided they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants entering from high school must have a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above.
- College transfer applicants must have a cumulative college GPA of 3.50 or above.
- Applicants who have completed secondary school or college/university studies abroad must have an acceptable equivalent cumulative GPA.
- Students in the undergraduate program may apply at any time during their studies at Divine Word College provided they have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

If you believe you qualify for the DWC Presidential Scholarship, please complete the application form by September 11, 2020, which you can obtain from Ms. Carolyn Waechter, the Financial Aid Coordinator. Carolyn can also answer any of your questions.







**Divine Word College**  
**COVID-19 Guidance (#21)**  
**August 27, 2020**

*Divine Word College, in coordination with state and local public health experts, is closely monitoring reports and recommendations from national and regional health departments regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Updates will be provided through email, the LOG and on the bulletin boards.*

#### STAY-ON-CAMPUS POLICY EXTENDED

***The Stay-On-Campus policy is extended ten more days until September 8.***

Originally, it was planned to limit movement off-campus until Friday, August 28. In consultation with members of our COVID response team and with Dubuque County health officials, I have decided to extend the policy because of the following developments:

- COVID-19 testing showed eight cases of infection in our community on August 13. The persons affected immediately entered a ten-day self-isolation. We need to extend our semi-quarantine of the campus to assure our neighbors that the campus is now COVID-19 free.
- West Dubuque high school reopened for face-to-face classes on Monday. Some are afraid of a new outbreak of COVID-19 infections in Epworth and surrounding areas.
- Epworth hosted a street dance during its Town and Country days on August 8. There is concern that the gathering of a young crowd with no facemasks or social distancing could still result in an increase of COVID cases.
- The universities and colleges in Dubuque and Peosta have reopened, as have others around the State of Iowa. The resulting number of new cases of COVID-19 infection is at record-levels in Iowa and in Dubuque County. Much of this increase is in counties with large numbers of college and university students.

#### SCREENING FOR OFF-CAMPUS PERSONS

Daily COVID-19 screening will be expected for all staff, faculty and students who live off-campus. This policy began in mid-summer for staff members, and now it seems appropriate to extend it to all those who live off-campus.

When you arrive each day, please go to the area near the time clock and answer the screening questions on the log-sheet. The final wording of the questions is still to be determined, but the rough ideas are:

1. Have you been in close, off-campus contact (15 minutes or more) with someone who has a confirmed and active case of COVID-19? (**Y or N**)
2. Do you have any *significant new* COVID-19 symptoms? (**Y or N**)  
(**Dry cough, Shortness of breath, Sore throat, Headache, Loss of smell-taste, Fever**)
3. Is your temperature in the normal range?

This simple screening practice is recommended by the Visiting Nurse Association of Dubuque County, who have been helpful consultants since the beginning of the new academic year.

Fr. Tom Ascherman SVD  
President