

Bagbys Learn

From Helping DWC Students

There are many ways to be involved with the mission of Divine Word College and to help our students. For Diana and Don Bagby from Dubuque, Iowa, their first exposure to Divine Word College was through friends.



“The opportunity to become part of Divine Word College’s mission was introduced to us by Paula and Terry Friedman, friends of ours from the Church of the Resurrection community. We felt called to get involved and wanted

to sponsor the students. It was a great way for us to give back and to help further the students’ educational, spiritual and social experiences,” said Diana.

The Bagbys became part of the Divine Word College FAN Club (Friends Across Nations) and were matched

with two students, Matthew and Santino. They were part of the Lost Boys, a group of refugees fleeing the civil war in Sudan. One of their first outings was taking them to dinner at a local restaurant. The students were excited about the experience, one of them asking the waitress if she had made the straw placemats at the table as they reminded him of home.

That experience made the Bagbys reflect on what so many people take for granted in the U.S. and was a heartwarming moment. They attended various events together at Divine Word College including picnics, game nights and most vividly the celebration of the Lunar New Year.

Not only was the FAN Club experience a learning moment for Diana and Don, their son also enjoyed the opportunity. “Our son learned about their culture while we introduced Matthew and Santino to ours,” Diana said. “We are so thankful to have been part of the FAN Club, we continue to pray for and support the Divine Word community.”

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Priesthood Ordination



Photo credit: Frt. Tin Vu, SVD

On May 25, four men were ordained Divine Word Missionary Priests at the Church of the Holy Family in Chicago. Front Row (left-to-right): Fr. John Nkum, SVD, Fr. Roger Kyaw Thu, SVD, Fr. Zachary Smith, SVD, Fr. Boromeo Shwe Pyi Soe, SVD. Back Row (left-to-right): Provincial Fr. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD, Most Rev. J. Terry Steib SVD, bishop emeritus of Memphis, Theologate Rector Adam MacDonald, SVD. Please keep these newly ordained priests in your prayers as they begin their first missionary assignments.