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## Birthday Corner:

### OCTOBER

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6	Ron Condon



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Taming the Wolf – Social and Global Responsibility

The United Nations International Day of Peace is observed on September 21st. For the past fifteen years, Dubuque has celebrated with a three week festival of events focused on building peace personally and globally. This year, **Br. Brian McLaughlin SVD** again served as the chair of the coordinating committee, and DWC alumnus **Mr. Art Roche** continued his long-term support for the event. The theme for this year was *Environmental Justice: Ways to Navigate This Changing World*.

On Sunday evening, September 29th, Divine Word College hosted Ecumenical Peace Vespers both in-person and online. Ice cream and cookies helped put a smile on the end of the evening (though online participants had to find their own treats).



**Sr. Michelle Balek, OSF** addressed the assembly during vespers. Currently she is serving as the Franciscan Charism Ministry Coordinator. Previously she worked with Pax Christi USA. A summary of her remarks is presented here.

“As they announce peace with their lips, let them be careful to have it even more within their own hearts.” (Rule, #30)

This instruction is found in the *Rule & Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis*. And for good reason. Peace is not superficial. I can stop calling another person names so there is no more outward violence – and still harbor within my heart resentment, anger and perhaps even hate. It goes underground to fester – and will erupt



SOMEWHERE. Speaking peace is one aspect. Feeling and truly living peace is another. It is not passive – it is hard work!

When I was on staff at Pax Christi USA, the Catholic Peace Movement, my supervisor had a tendency when asking someone to do something important or urgent to add “or I’ll break your kneecaps.” There usually was some chuckling because it was an unusual saying. But it began to bother me and I wondered if we all really were aware of what was being said. One time when she used that phrase, I blurted out gently, “Nonviolently, of course.” It was the Spirit working through me because I don’t know where else those words came from. And there was SILENCE. I thought I was in trouble now. Then everyone burst out laughing. They caught it – the irony of proclaiming to work for peace, yet using violent language. After that, the staff began catching one another using a violent term and would add “nonviolently, of course!”

I am reminded of the Hebrew word SHALOM – which is about more than no fighting – it is about being in right relationship with all, it is justice. The deeper meaning is to make something good, to restore, give a sense of fullness and completeness in mind, body, spirit. It is a sense of wholeness.

There is a story of Francis of Assisi “taming” the wolf of Gubbio, a small Italian town.

The wolf was terrorizing the people of Gubbio. Not only did the wolf kill and eat livestock but it began to attack humans. All attempts to kill the wolf failed and the people would shut the town down in fear whenever the wolf would appear. St. Francis heard of this and decided to go and meet the wolf. The townsfolk warned Francis not to go – it was too dangerous! Francis went, nonetheless. The wolf rushed toward Francis as soon as he saw the saint approaching. St. Francis made the sign of the cross, calling him Brother Wolf. The wolf listened.

Francis asked the wolf in the name of God to stop his terrorizing of the town. He went on to condemn these attacks on animals and the townspeople who are all made in the image of God. Francis told the wolf that if he ended his attacks he would see to it that the inhabitants of Gubbio would provide him with the food he needed. The story goes that the wolf placed his paw in Francis’ hand in agreement. Francis then walked the docile wolf back into the main square of Gubbio to the astonishment of the villagers and there reiterated the promise. Again the wolf placed his paw in the saint’s hand in agreement. The saint had tamed the wolf. (adapted from <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/st-francis-and-the-wolf-of-gubbio/>)

Of course, this is a “nice” story that we can easily dismiss because how could that be true? If we do that, we are missing the radical call it contains. I don’t think of Francis as “taming” the wolf as much as bringing the townspeople and the wolf back into right relationship. Inviting them to build a just relationship where all get their needs met: the wolf gets fed; the people can live in security and safety. Both lived in peace. It reminds me of the words of Pope Paul VI: *If you want peace, work for justice.*

Perhaps in this story, the wolf is a symbol for all creation, and the invitation is to live in right relationship – a just relationship – with all of creation.

As Francis was nearing death, he composed the *Canticle of the Creatures*, in which he praises God through creation... He saw all as kin, as family, because the same God created everything, human and non-human alike. So the next lines highlight the “Brother” and “Sister” creatures that God has made, the first being Brother Sun... He continues with Sister Moon and Stars, Brothers Wind and Air, Brother Fire, and finally Sister Earth, our Mother.



We take care of and tend what and who we know and love. And acts of LOVE lead to peace. And so, as we contemplate our relationships with God, ourselves, one another and all creation – may we keep in mind the paraphrased words from St. Francis of Assisi:

“As we announce peace with our lips, let us be careful to have it even more within our own hearts.”



### Day Of Peace

Divine Word College was well represented at Loras College in Dubuque on September 19th. The group attended the presentation, “Environment Justice: Ways to Navigate This Changing World.”



### Social and Global Responsibility

To be missionaries, our capacity to love must grow to make room for everyone from everywhere. Learning to express love more openly was a challenge for St. Arnold. Fr. Jakob Reuter SVD wrote a short character portrayal of Fr. Arnold that was published in 1994 titled *Proclaiming the Word in the Power of the Spirit*.

“In his personal notes of 1906, which occasionally were called his spiritual testament, Arnold Janssen wrote, ‘I frequently resolved and was anxious to be a good and wise father and loving mother to all my subjects, but God alone knows how badly I have kept these resolutions.’

“From his home training and by nature he lacked the virtue of winning amiability, but he also knew that because of the task entrusted to him by almighty God as founder and builder of Steyl he was the spiritual Father of a great number of confreres and sisters. He therefore had to make efforts to acquire fatherly love, to obtain a winning amiability arising from that love. That he did as well as he could. These exertions to manifest understanding, love, and winning amiability are perhaps the most beautiful examples of his endeavors to acquire virtue.

“Fr. Anton Hilger SVD (an early biographer of Fr. Arnold) underscores something that seems to arouse surprise, namely, that the character of the founder was marked by severity. He said so literally in a conference he gave in 1925, ‘Should I speak of Fr.



Arnold’s love? That his intimate and great love of God also acquired a great love for his neighbor goes without saying since the one cannot exist without the other. But that the acquisition of this love for his neighbor needed a very great fight with himself, is known only to and suspected only by those who lived in close contact with him. How he battled against his original severity and inconsiderateness! His tender loveliness and considerateness, which he manifested even toward those who had hurt him, were not natural gifts but virtues acquired by hard labor. Precisely therefore is his love for neighbor an heroic virtue” (p. 70).



### Sonata: Celebrating DWC and the Society of the Divine Word

Dr. Evelyn Dias delivered a captivating performance during her piano concert “Sonata,” celebrating both the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word and the 60th anniversary of Divine Word College. Guests were mesmerized by Dr. Dias’ masterful technical skills and emotional depth in her interpretation of the Sonata. The evening not only highlighted the timeless beauty of classical music but also honored the rich legacy of the SVD Society and its significant impact over the last 150 years. Dr. Dias’ performance left a lasting impression, offering a memorable and inspiring tribute to the SVD’s mission and history.

# CONGRATULATIONS!



**THIRD PLACE WINNERS!**

Our DWC Aladdin team won 3rd place at

**DUBUQUE’S  
MAC &  
CHEESE  
FEST!**



### Mac & Cheese Helps Heal Sick Children!

Congratulations to the Divine Word College Kitchen Staff for winning third place in most creative category at the Mac & Cheese Fest, held on Thursday, September 26th, at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque. Competing for the first time, the team wowed attendees with their Mac & Cheese Florentine, standing out among nearly 25 other varieties. The event raised over \$20,000 for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital NICU. A special shout out to Alex, Janna, and the entire kitchen staff for their creativity and hard work!



## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**Dr. Joshua Young**

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### **Assessment Academy Completion**

Some will know that after the last visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), DWC was encouraged to develop better assessment practices. This meant efforts had to be made to better understand what educational assessment is beyond grades in the classroom. For this reason, DWC enrolled in the HLC Assessment Academy, a mentorship program offered to HLC members. On October 16th, 2024 DWC will participate in their last in-person HLC Assessment Academy training where we will present what we've learned during our four-year participation in the academy and detail the efforts we've made to make assessment sustainable. As part of our completion, DWC will present a research poster about our assessment results. The poster will be on display this week for the campus community. Please take time to see what we've learned about assessment and why it plays an important role in your education at DWC.



### **ARC Workshop Announcement**

Dr. Richard Garrett and the Academic Resource Center will host a workshop on Grammarly, a writing assistant software that Divine Word College provides for instructors and for undergraduate students to help them with their writing. Grammarly provides suggestions and feedback related to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and clarity. It can be used to help with citations and to help students avoid unintentional plagiarism. Undergraduate students are highly encouraged to attend the workshop taking place in Room 003 (Computer Lab) on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Students unable to attend but wanting information should talk with Dr. Garrett.

### **HLC Assurance Argument Update**

This week, we will welcome members of the Board of Trustees to campus which gives Academic Affairs an opportunity to update the trustees on our progress towards accreditation and to receive meaningful feedback. On September 27th, I provided a summary of progress made so far in completing our Assurance Argument and updated the Academic Affairs Committee of the board on our timeline to complete the Assurance Argument. On October 5th, Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, the Chair of the HLC Assurance Argument Steering Committee and the DWC HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer, will present a comprehensive update to the entire Board of Trustees on our accreditation progress, including how the HLC Accreditation Criteria have changed and the impact of those changes on DWC. We look forward to feedback from members of the Board of Trustees and recognize their contributions to our shared governance at DWC.



## Assessment Bites

by Dr. Yasmin Rioux

A few definitions for the week!

**What are “Focus Groups”:** “Planned discussions among groups of participants who are asked a series of carefully constructed questions about their beliefs, attitudes, and experiences” (Allen, 2004, p. 168)

**What is a “Survey”:** “A questionnaire that collects information about beliefs, experiences, or attitudes” (Allen, 2004, p. 172)

There are several types of useful surveys for varying needs and contexts. If you are interested in learning more, please browse the following site for quick and brief definitions of “18 Different Types of Survey Methods + Pros & Cons”: <https://www.surveylegend.com/types-of-surveys/types-of-survey-methods/>



### [18 Different Types of Survey Methods + Pros & Cons](https://www.surveylegend.com/types-of-surveys/types-of-survey-methods/)

There are 10 primary types of survey methods popular today. From in-person interviews to conducting online surveys, here’s a look at each.

[www.surveylegend.com](https://www.surveylegend.com)





**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS**  
Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

**Conference for Students in Temporary Vows – *Spiritual Crisis***

This Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024, students in temporary vows are required to attend the student conference for their ongoing formation. Fr. Nick Hien Nguyen, SVD, the formator at the Divine Word Theologate in Chicago, IL and the Director of the Brother’s Program for the Society of the Divine Word, will be making a presentation on the topic - Spiritual Crisis. The conference will be in 107 at 5:15 p.m. and it will be through Zoom.

These monthly conferences are to support students’ vocation discernment. Even though these conferences are required for students in temporary vows, they are also open to all students who want to further their education and vocation discernment. All are welcome!

**Roadside Cleanup**

To help out the town of Epworth, Divine Word College will have a roadside cleanup this Saturday, October 5th, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. It is important for all of us to show our support and concern to help our community, and to show those who are passing by how clean Epworth is. I encourage all students to participate in the roadside cleanup to express our generosity.



**Board of Trustees**

Members of the Board of Trustees will be at Divine Word College to have a meeting from Friday, October 4th, 2024 through Saturday, October 5th, 2024. The Board of Trustees are the governing body of Divine Word College, making important decisions for the college and its future. Please help our members feel welcome if you see them around. Also, on Saturday, October 5th, 2024, all of us will gather together in the main chapel to celebrate mass with the Board of Trustees. All students are required to attend this mass.



**Mission Sunday – Ingredients**

The sign-up list for the Taste of DWC is all filled. Thanks to those who have signed up to prepare a meal and show off your cooking skills for Mission Sunday. The second step to this event is to email the ingredients to Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS. She asks that those who have signed up to cook for the event to email her the ingredients needed by this Sunday, October 6th, 2024. The earlier you email Sr. Aprilia, the more time she can sort out and organize what to buy. Please email her the ingredients as soon as you can.



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS**  
**Len Uhal**

**Come and See Visit**

On Tuesday, October 8th, Vocation Director Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SVD, will be on campus with a young man discerning a call to religious life. Duong Tri Nguyen from West Jordan, Utah, will be on campus next week to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. We welcome him to our campus and hope that his experience in our community will help him as he decides whether or not to pursue a religious vocation.



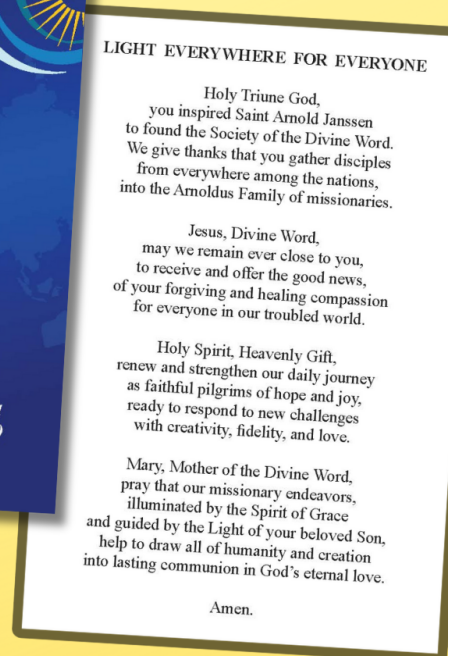
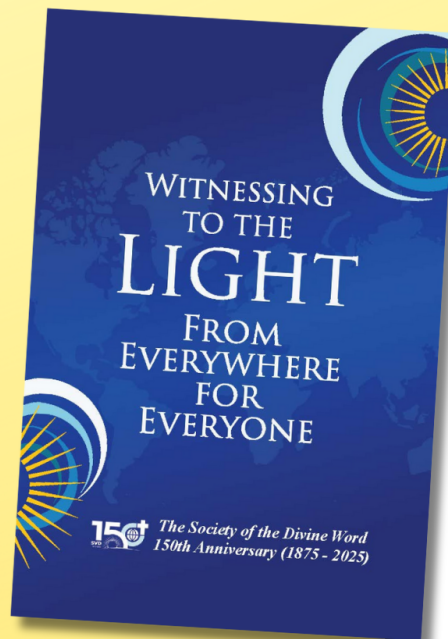
**prayer cards available**

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD, WE INVITE YOU TO INCLUDE THIS SPECIAL PRAYER IN YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONS.


PLEASE SHARE THE PRAYER WITH OTHERS—PRINTED CARDS ARE AVAILABLE. *CONTACT PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR COPIES.*

ADDITIONALLY, YOU CAN WATCH A VIDEO ON YOUTUBE WHERE FR. TOM ASCHEMAN EXPLAINS THE DEEP SYMBOLISM BEHIND THE PRAYER AND IT'S SPECIAL MEANING FOR THE SOCIETY.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW





 Matthew Jacoby Library

[opac.dwci.edu](http://opac.dwci.edu)

## This Friday: Book Discussion 1

Join the Campus Read this Friday at noon in the Pour House! Before we start discussing the book, three DWC students will share a little bit about Haitian culture and history. Remember: we are discussing Part 1 of the book (53 pages). If you don't have time to read all of Part 1, read the following chapters: "The Phone Call" (pages 3-9) and "Exile" (pages 15-22).

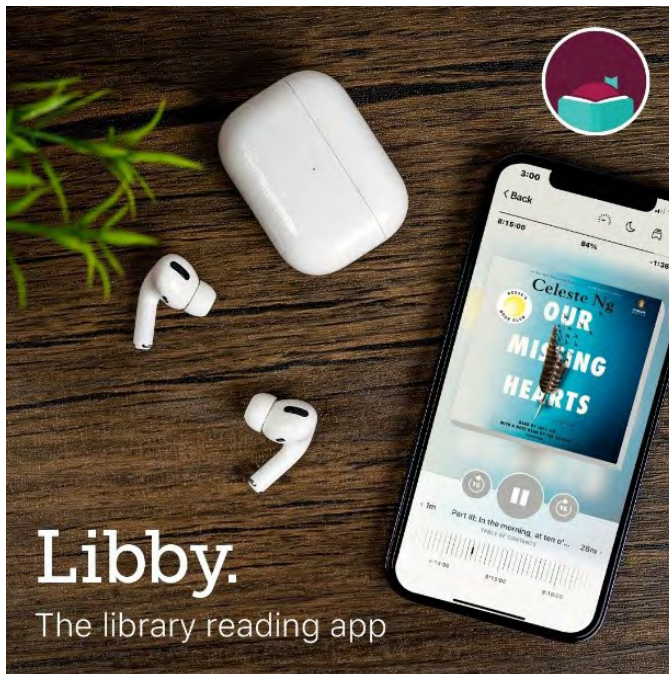
## Oct 7th: Library Research Session

Do you have an upcoming research paper or project? Learn more about how to find and access scholarly books and journals in the library. This will be a hands-on session using the lab computers. You are welcome to bring your personal laptop.

**What:** Find scholarly sources in the library

**Where:** Computer Lab

**When:** 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Monday, October 7th



## Listen to books anywhere!

Would you like to read more? Audio-books are a great way to read books when you are short on time and have [many benefits](#). You can listen to a book while walking, driving, working out, or performing simple tasks. The library's subscription to [Libby](#) allows DWC students and employees to listen to over 10,000 audio-books. All you need to do is [download the Libby app](#) on your device of choice and login using your [library card number and pin](#). Need assistance? Stop by the library or email [ewinter@dwci.edu](mailto:ewinter@dwci.edu).

# respect life



## Justice and Peace

On Saturday, October 5th, the JPIC Council will sponsor Roadside and Campus Cleanup from 9:00-10:00 a.m. If you are able, please join us on behalf of our beautiful, Common Home. A sign-up list will be posted later this week.

October is Respect Life Month. During this time, we called on to respect life at every stage because we firmly believe in the sanctity of all human life. Death Penalty Abolition also needs to be included in our prayers and advocacy during this month. For your daily meditation, I offer you a prayer by Sr. Helen Prejean, who has been a spiritual advisor for many on Death Row:

God of Compassion, You let your rain fall on the just and the unjust. Expand and deepen our hearts so that we may love as You love, even those among us who have caused the greatest pain by taking life. For there is in our land a great cry for vengeance as we fill up death row and kill the killers in the name of justice, in the name of peace. Jesus, our brother, you suffered execution at the hands of the state but you did not let hatred overcome you. Help us to reach out to victims of violence so that our enduring love may help them heal. Holy Spirit of God, You strengthen us in the struggle for justice. Help us to work tirelessly for the abolition of state-sanctioned death and to renew our society in its very heart so that violence will be no more.