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Birthday Corner:

OCTOBER

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 10 | Fr. Georges Midiangu |
| 10 | Sr. Tham Dinh, IHM |
| 11 | Fr. Oscar Rosales Hernandez |
| 12 | Thang Trinh |



THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Homecoming – Mission Sunday

Every fall, high schools and colleges in the United States host a celebration that brings former students, benefactors and friends back to campus. Generally, the “homecoming” celebration is built around a school football team that, having played games at other schools, is “coming home” to celebrate with a game on their own field and in the presence of their own fans.

This past weekend, our local high school in Epworth displayed abundant homecoming spirit. There was a pep rally and a parade on Friday afternoon; the marching band led the way, and lots of students and a few alumni paraded down Main Street. In the evening, the football game was a victory for our Bobcats. Saturday was for a formal dinner and homecoming dance. The theme for the evening was Cinderella’s Ball. Quite a number of high school students, dressed in their dance-finery, come to the DWC campus to have their pictures taken on our bridge.

DWC also celebrates a Homecoming! We have Mission Sunday!



Though we don’t have a football team, but we do an exceptional job on the liturgy. Generally the Mass opens with a parade of flags from all over the world, representing the homes of our students, faculty and staff. The international music is splendid. And eye-catching clothing from many nations is the expected attire for the feast. We also have a chance to taste-the-world by sampling the many dishes prepared by students, faculty and staff for the banquet.

This year, Fr. Gus Wall SVD, the provincial superior of the Southern Province, will be



the celebrant and homilist. He has wide missionary experience; including a first assignment in Kenya, and more recently, work in the African American apostolate. His presence will also be a “homecoming”: since he previously served at Divine Word College as Vice President for Admissions and Recruitment, and then as Vice President for Formation and as the Dean of Students. Currently, Fr. Gus is a member of the DWC Board of Trustees.

Jesus also celebrated a “homecoming” of sorts. From the Gospel of Luke we learn about the time Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two on a mission to announce the Kingdom of God. They returned, rejoicing that their efforts met with great success. Jesus rejoiced along with them and turned to his Father in prayer saying:

“I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will” (Lk 10:21).

Many former students from the novitiate and Theologate are expected here for our Mission Homecoming on October 20, along with many other friends and alumni. We look forward to hearing their stories about participating in God’s mission, and we will share some of our stories. *It is Jesus, the Divine Word, who will host our celebration. It will be a delight to rejoice with him.*



DWC Alumnus to be Made a Cardinal

On October 6, Pope Francis announced the names of 21 new Cardinals, including two Divine Word Missionaries. They are Archbishop **Ladislav Nemet SVD**, the archbishop of Belgrade, Serbia, and Archbishop **Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi SVD**, the archbishop of Tokyo, Japan. The formal ceremonies will be held on December 8, 2024.

Archbishop Kikuchi was a student at DWC in the English Language Program in 1983. Then, we knew him by his nickname, Yama! All of us share a bit of his reflected glory, especially his strong commitment to the poor and marginalized. For many years he has been very active in Caritas Internationalis, the humanitarian organization of the

Catholic Church. (In the United States the organization is known as Catholic Charities). Archbishop Kikuchi is currently President of the world-wide organization.

On his blog, Kikuchi wrote about his surprise at being named a Cardinal. He noted the honor of two SVD's being given this responsibility and honor during the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our Arnoldus family.

“Another member of the Society of the Divine Word has also been appointed a cardinal. He is Archbishop Nemet of Belgrade, Serbia. He is a brother member whom I have known for a long time.

“Next year, the Society of the Divine Word will celebrate its 150th anniversary. In its 150-year history, there has only been one cardinal, Cardinal Thomas Tien, who was the Archbishop of Beijing and passed away in 1967. I believe that the appointment of a second and third cardinal this time is an honor for the Society of the Divine Word.

“At the same time, this appointment is not just a personal honor for me, but a great honor for the Church in Japan, and especially for the Tokyo Archdiocese, and also for Caritas Internationalis, of which I am currently serving as President.”

“I have received many congratulatory messages and emails from all of you. I would like to express my sincere gratitude. I would like to reiterate that I believe I have been entrusted with a role that is beyond my capabilities. I feel humbled by my own inadequacies. I sincerely ask that you all continue to support me with your prayers.”

Archbishop Kikuchi's Blog: <https://tinyurl.com/82tkev2c>



As Archbishop Kikuchi mentions, the only other SVD Cardinal was Thomas Cardinal Tien, who served as Archbishop of Beijing from 1946 until 1967 and as Apostolic Administrator for Taipei from 1959-1966. He was the first Cardinal of China. Previously he was the chair of Fu Jen Catholic University in Beijing. His service



to China and the Church is recognized in one of the stained glass windows in our chapel. His “red hat” represents the service of Divine Word Missionaries in China since 1879, beginning with the arrival of St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD and Bp. Johann Baptist von Anzer SVD.

As a boy, Cardinal Tien knew Fr. Joseph Freinademetz. At the process for the beatification of Fr. Joseph he noted: “The local Christians saw Fr Joseph as a saint... he was always cheerful, modest, humble. He spoke fluent Chinese. Everyone who met him was deeply impressed by his presence. A local catechist, who rarely had something positive to say about foreign missionaries, said of Fr Joseph: “Fu Shen Fu is different from the others he is a saint.”

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met at the College on October 4 and 5. The main meeting was held on Saturday from 8:30am until 2:30pm, after many committee meetings held during the previous days. The reports from the various administrators and committees were discussed and approved.

The principal actions taken were:



- Review the process of **accreditation** by the Higher Learning Commission. The discussion focused on a presentation from Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO).
- Review and approve the outcome of the recent “clean” **audit report**.
- Review and approve some further amendments to the **Bylaws of Divine Word College**. The amendments will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for final approval.
- Review the **Strategic Plan Scorecard** for 2024-2027. The scorecard helps track progress toward achieving the five goals outlined in the strategic plan.
- Election of two **new trustees** to the Board.
- Ms. Elizabeth McGrath is the Vice President for Business and Finance at Clarke College in Dubuque. She will serve on the DWC Trustees’ Planning and Operations Committee.
- Mr. Phuong Le is an engineer who works for the US Air Force, and has served as a trainer and administrator for the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement since 1998. He will serve on the DWC Trustees’ Formation and Student Life Committee.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Dr. Joshua Young

Midterm Mayhem

It’s hard to believe we are at MID term, and everyone has been so busy... where has the time gone? Now is the time to review student progress. Are you starting to feel overwhelmed? Are you using your resources? Are you taking time to take care of yourself? Marking the progress on your journey can help you see, not only how much farther you have to go, but where you’ve been. I remember asking my grandparents whenever we’d go on long trips... “how much longer.” After my grandfather gave me “that look,” he’d say, “as long as it needs to take.” I often use that line on my students. How long should it take you to learn the lessons you need to be a missionary? How long to really learn English, or Interculturality, or Philosophy? As long as it needs to take, but now is the time to see where you’ve been and make plans to successfully complete the journey.



Assessment Bites

by Dr. Yasmin Rioux

HLC Assessment Academy Committee members Dr. Cathi Cleary, Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, and Dr. Joshua Young will be presenting the following poster at the HLC Assessment Academy Results Forum in St. Charles, IL between October 16th and 17th, 2024. Thank you to Jenna Gibson who aided in the creation of this poster!

Creating A Culture Of Effectiveness

Institutional Background

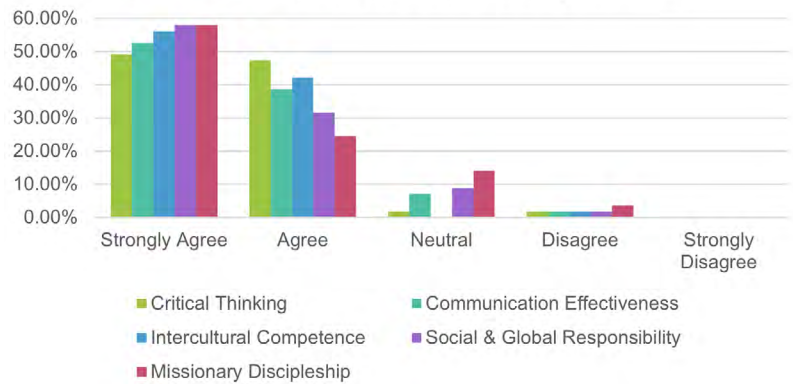
Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service through spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning, and mission preparation in a culturally diverse environment.

When required to submit an Interim Monitoring Report to address Criterion 4 B on institutional assessment practices, DWC lacked a culture of assessment. Faculty, staff, and administrators made significant strides to develop one, achieving notable results.

To ensure accountability and collaboration, DWC shares the assessment process and results with all relevant constituents, including religious congregations, alumni, and benefactors.



Student Perspectives: Core Competencies



Student Perspectives

We fostered a culture of assessment focused on institutional effectiveness, incorporating student perspectives on core competencies. Upon their departure from the college, we asked students how well their DWC experience helped them develop these competencies.

Changing Culture

Faculty collaborated to establish a shared understanding of student learning outcomes and created rubrics to assess them. After testing these rubrics in a pilot study, they reviewed them for reliability and validity, sharing results with the DWC community.

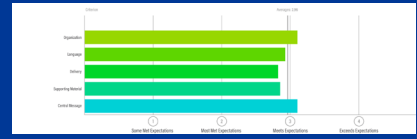
Using feedback, faculty refined the rubrics and signature assignments, closing the assessment feedback loop. This ongoing process helps faculty and administrators continuously improve data collection and demonstrate progress toward DWC's institutional mission.



Critical Thinking- Assessed Spring 2023



Communication Effectiveness (Writing) Assessed Spring 2022



Communication Effectiveness (Oral) Assessed Spring 2022



Intercultural Competence- Assessed Fall 2022



Social & Global Responsibility- Assessed Spring 2022



Missionary Discipleship- Assessed Spring 2022

Assessment Results

DWC has enhanced institutional effectiveness by adopting a new assessment plan from the HLC Assessment Academy, which is now integrated into its culture and guides decision-making.



Up-to-Date DWC Assessment Results and Reports are available to review at this QR Code



VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Mission Sunday Reminders

For the Taste of DWC, 45 cultural dishes will be prepared for the community and guests. Thanks to all of you who have emailed Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSps the ingredients needed for the dishes you will prepare for the Taste of DWC. Sr. Aprilia, Fr. Akizou, and I will go to Chicago and Moline this weekend to get the ingredients that you requested.

As we head into full gear for the preparation for Word Mission Sunday, attached in the LOG you will find the schedule and work assignments for the Word Mission Sunday weekend. To make things easy and the celebration possible, I ask for your collaboration and full participation during the preparation days. I also ask the contact person of each group to remind the formation groups about their responsibilities.



DWC Soccer Tournament

For the past few weeks, our sports coordinators have been organizing the annual DWC soccer tournament for the community to enjoy. We are down to our last three games for the men's soccer tournament to determine who will be the champion for this year.

Also, the women's soccer game will follow after the men's tournament. The sports coordinators posted a sign-up sheet for those who want to participate in the women's soccer game. Please come to the soccer field to enjoy and cheer for your favorite team.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

Come and See Visit

We have several Come and See visitors planning to visit Divine Word College in the next few weeks. Later today, Duong Tri Nguyen from West Jordan, UT, will arrive on campus and stay through Saturday. Next Monday, October 14th, Duc Minh Nhat Nguyen from Garden Grove, CA, will arrive and be with us until Mission Sunday. We welcome our visitors as part of their discernment as they consider applying to SVD formation at Divine Word College. Please pray for them as they try to better understand how God is calling them to serve the Church.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

Book Display in the Library

Stop by the library and check out the [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) book display. It will be up for one more week. A new display featuring books about Haitian history and culture will be unveiled on Monday, October 14th. The books will be helpful to anyone who is interested in learning more about the context of *The Enigma of the Return*, which is the current Campus Read title.



Campus Read Recap

The first campus read event was last Friday. Sr. Yolette, Fr. Clervil, and Fr. Djeny guided the discussion and shared some invaluable insights about Haitian history and culture.

It's not too late to join! The next Campus Read discussion is on Friday, November 1st. We break into small groups and discuss Part II of the book.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

Libraries are committed to resource sharing. ILL is a prime example of this commitment. Libraries around the world join ILL networks in order to share books, articles, research materials, and more with other libraries. The Matthew Jacoby Library is part of two ILL networks: OCLC and SILO. OCLC is the largest resource sharing network in the world. Over 10,000 libraries around the globe participate. That means it is possible to get books in over 30 different languages right here in Epworth. Search [OCLC's WorldCat](#) (World Catalog) to see what's out there!



The library is also part of State of Iowa Libraries Online (SILO), which is a joint program of the State Library and the Iowa State University Library. Over 500 libraries in Iowa participate in SILO, including many of our neighboring libraries such as the James Kennedy Public Library in Dyersville and the Dubuque County Library District in Epworth (and 4 other areas).

Can't find a book or article in our library? Fill out an [ILL form](#). It may take up to two weeks to receive a physical copy of a book (it may be coming from 1000s of miles away!). Article requests are typically filled in 2-4 days. The Interlibrary Loan service is for everyone on campus.

Iowa Library Association Annual Conference

I will be attending the [Iowa Library Association's Annual Conference](#) this Thursday and Friday. This year's conference, entitled "Anchoring Communities Through Connection and Empowerment," is being held in Des Moines, IA. In addition to attending continuing education sessions, listening to keynote addresses, and networking, I will be chairing one session and participating in leadership meetings.

If you need immediate on-site assistance on 10/10 or 10/11, please contact Br. Tony Kreinus (akreinus@dwci.edu) or Sr. Elizabeth (enyaga@dwci.edu), the library's student assistant. She will be in the library on Thursday and Friday morning.



High School retreat at DWC

Divine Word College is pleased to welcome 60 Beckman High School students for an all-day retreat on Tuesday, October 6. Led by Mr. Jerry McGrane and Fr. Tyler Raymond, the retreat will take place primarily in the Mother of Asia Chapel, with additional activities in the main chapel, the gym, and the dining room, where the students will join the community for lunch. This retreat is an opportunity for the students to reflect on and recognize their vocations in life, and we are honored to be a part of their spiritual journey.

Peace And Justice

A huge thank you to all those who participated in last week's Roadside Cleanup. Your efforts at keeping our environment beautiful is highly appreciated.

If you would like to get the monthly newsletter of the Catholic Climate Covenant, you can do so by clicking on this link: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/join-us/>.

This organization offers excellent resources on how you can care for God's creation.

2024 MISSION SUNDAY – WORK ASSIGNMENTS

- **Contact persons**, please organize, plan, and execute your group’s work assignments.
- **Those students involved in the liturgical music preparation or any other preparations during the following these times will be exempt; however, if you are available, then you are more than welcome to help out. Teamwork is at the heart of great achievement.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

| TIME | FORMATION GROUPS | WORK ASSIGNMENTS |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Begin at 9:00AM | St. Arnold Janssen, Serviam & St. Joseph Freinademetz | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Put down the tarps (please make sure to sweep the tarps before setting up the tables and chairs). ✓ Set up tables and chairs (map provided) ✓ Place four large garbage containers at the corners of the gym. ✓ Set up picnic tables outside the gym (30 chairs). ✓ Arrange plasticware, napkins, plates, cups, etc. |
| | St. Francis of Assisi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pick up the branches and trash around the campus. ✓ Rake the leaves in the courtyard. |
| | St. John Vianney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deep cleaning the dining room, room 143 and hallways from the main chapel door to the front desk. |
| | Sr. Kim Vo & Sr. Cecilia Egho | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deep cleaning the Martha Kitchen |
| | St. Teresa of the Child Jesus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pick up the branches and trash around the Megan Hall Building—up to the bridge ✓ Clean inside the building (especially the kitchens) |
| | VSA & St. Teresa of Avila | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Decorations in the gym (including the stage). ✓ The theme is “<i>Witnessing to the Light from Everywhere for Everyone</i>” |
| | Cong Nguyen, Thi Nguyen, & Br. Phong Tran | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Set up the sound system in the gym |
| DORMOTORY INSPECTIONS | | |

- ✓ The Deans (Fr. Tuan Hoang and Fr. Benyamin Boro Nama) will inspect dormitories in the **main building, Megan Hall & Arkfeld's house at 3:00 P.M.** Please make sure your dormitory area and rooms are clean.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

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|--|---|---|
| | <p>Decoration team (Main Chapel) <i>(Sr. Hiep Nguyen, Sr. Duyen Nguyen, Sr. Tung Tran, Sr. Loan Nguyen, FMSR)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Decorations in the main chapel ✓ The theme is “<i>Witnessing to the Light from Everywhere for Everyone</i>” ✓ The team chooses when it works for everyone. ✓ Deep clean the chapel (dry and wet mop, vacuum) |
|--|---|---|

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

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|----------------------------|---|--|
| Before Mass 12:15-12:45 | St. Joseph Freinademetz | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hospitality: Welcome guests at the main entrance ✓ Parking: Be outside to direct guests to park their cars |
| During MASS | KITCHEN STAFF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Transport the food from the kitchen to the gym during Mass |
| | <p>Food Crew—Fr. Tuan Hoang St. Teresa Margaret <i>(Sr. Tram Nguyen, Bao Nguyen, Sr. Nhu Phan, Sr. Lien Dang, & Fr. Sonny De Class)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organize and place dishes in their designated locations. ✓ Oversee the banquet, supplying plates and plastic ware, and emptying garbage cans as needed. ✓ Rotate people to serve at the food stations. |
| Immediately after Mass | St. Teresa of Calcutta | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep the door close until the food is ready in the gym. ✓ Invite guests to the gym when the food is ready. |
| During the banquet | <p>All students are asked to take turn to serve in the gym during the banquet.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Help serve food in the gym. ✓ Help each other to serve at the food stations so that everyone can enjoy the food. |
| After the banquet | <p>St. John Vianney, St. Arnold Janssen, Serviam, & St. Joseph Freinademetz</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clean up the gym (dry and wet mop the tarps before putting them away) ✓ Take down all the decorations, stage & sound system ✓ Put everything away (tables and chairs) |
| | <p>St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, St. Teresa of Avila</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Take leftover food back to the kitchen ✓ Wash dishes, pots, pans, and etc. |

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Decoration Team (main chapel) | ✓ Clean up the main chapel |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|

After the cultural dinner, please stay back to help clean up the gym, kitchen, and chapel.
Your collaboration and assistance are very much appreciated.

Thank you....!!!

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

Dean of Students

MISSION SUNDAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE 2024



FRIDAY, October 18, 2024 – Work Day (No Classes)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 6:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 8:00 AM | Eucharist (<i>main chapel</i>) |
| 9:30 AM | Set up in the gym & work assignments (<i>see bulletin board for assignments</i>) |
| NOON | Lunch |
| 1:00 –3:30PM | Music/Liturgy rehearsal (<i>see a separate sheet</i>) |
| 2:00 PM | Decorations in the gym |
| 3:00 PM | Room inspections (<i>Main Building, Megan Hall & Arkfeld House</i>) |
| 5:30 PM | Supper– Vietnamese Phở sponsored by Phở Tâm Restaurant |
| 6:30 PM | FOOD PREPARATIONS (<i>until midnight</i>) <i>(main kitchen & Martha’s kitchen)</i> |

SATURDAY, October 19, 2024 – Preparation Day

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 AM | Eucharist (<i>main chapel</i>) |
| 8:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:30 AM | Decorations (<i>main chapel</i>) |
| NOON | Lunch |
| 3:00 - 5:30PM | Music/liturgy/entertainment practice (<i>see a separate sheet</i>) |
| 5:30 PM | Supper |
| 7:30 PM | FOOD PREPARATIONS as needed (<i>until midnight</i>) |

SUNDAY, October 20, 2024 – World Mission Sunday

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 6:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 10:00AM | BRUNCH |
| 11:00—12:30PM | Music/Liturgy rehearsal (<i>See a separate sheet</i>) |
| 1:00 PM <i>required)</i> | <i>EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION (Formal or traditional dress is</i> |
| 3:00 PM | TASTE OF DWC – GYMNASIUM |

No Sunday Vespers

MONDAY, October 21, 2024 - Free Day

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 6:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 8:00 AM | Eucharist (<i>No Language Mass</i>) |
| NOON | Lunch |
| 5:30 PM | Supper |