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Birthday Corner:

OCTOBER

30	Tan Duy Nguyen
31	Fr. James Bergin, SVD

NOVEMBER

2	Sr. Hiep Nguyen
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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Be Subordinate - Intercultural Competence

“Brothers and sisters, be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21).

The way of family life described in Ephesians, and a similar text from Paul’s letter to the Colossians (3:18-4:1), always sounds strange and rather foreign. “Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, – husbands, love your wives. Children, obey your parents, – fathers do not provoke your children to anger. Slaves, be obedient – masters, stop bullying.” To really understand and profit from a text like this we need to pay close attention to the cultural context, of the writer and of the reader. Every reading of scripture is an intercultural encounter.

In 1978, when I was a seminarian, I lived and worked with Otomi indigenous people in a rural desert in Mexico. The pastor, Fr. Franz “Francisco” Hagemeyer SVD, was a very good teacher for me. Once I was leading a song at a catechism class... Amar Es Entregarse (to love is to submit yourself). That evening, Fr. Franz explained that in most parts of Mexico the word Amar means Love. However, in our rural parish, Amar was understood mostly as having sexual relations. Respetar (respect) was the more acceptable way of speaking about a kindly connection to friends, children, and parents.

I think missionaries need to be experts at “intercultural metaphysics.” That is what I would call the complex effort to understand and then find the right words for different cultural and historical contexts. St. Paul, and the author of Ephesians, used first century Greco-Roman categories and vocabulary to say something about Jesus’ relationship to families and to the early Christian communities. How am I to think about being subordinate to brothers and sisters in my own highly individualist culture of the United States in the 21st century?





Though it may seem a strange comparison, an American football team is a good example of appropriate subordination. There are players who can run like cheetahs, and linemen who are as strong as bulls. Some quarterbacks can throw a football for forty or fifty yards and land it exactly at the right spot. (We call it a “Hail Mary” pass.) Some receivers can catch the ball as if they had glue on their hands! However, amazing skills only matter when placed at the service of the team. The very different players need one another. One player, no matter how talented, cannot win the game.

I turn to Jesus’ example in Matthew’s Gospel. When the disciples argued about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, he responded that a humble child is the greatest (Mt 18:4). In American families it is often the case that the needs of infants rule the household. In caring for their children, mothers and fathers constantly subordinate themselves to the needs of the little ones. Even when the children are grown, mothers and fathers continue their lifetime commitments of care.

When the disciples argued about sitting at the right and left hand of Jesus in the kingdom, Jesus challenged them: “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave...” (Mt 20:26-27). Then at the last supper, Jesus did the work of the servant, the slave, when he washed his disciples’ feet.

Jesus teaches us to pray to the Father, your kingdom come, your will be done. He accepted suffering and death as a path to liberation. It was his love for his Father and his love for us that makes us all one body. If Jesus makes himself subordinate to us, how can we cling to inordinate pride and a thirst for privilege?

Divine Word College is a place for missionary colleagues. We live, pray, work and celebrate together. Disagreements, frustrations, overwork and even power struggles can take their toll. But then we turn again to one another, in mutual subordination. When I spoke about these matters with a married member of our staff, I asked how he would describe his being subordinate in his own family. He spoke about: commitment, teamwork, touching base, communicate, sacrifice, acceptance, submit, and more than anything else, love. It was a masterclass in intercultural metaphysics!

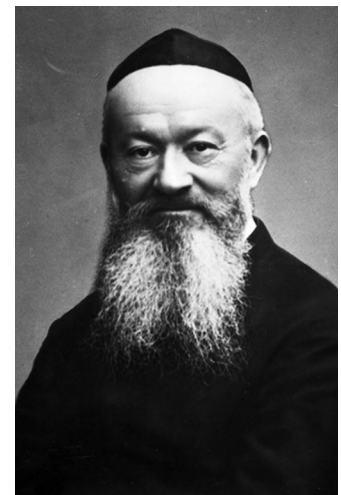
In this week before national elections, I am pondering the importance of subordination. There is a moment during Mass when we are invited to share a greeting of peace. I look over the community gathered there, and I feel love, and I gladly submit.



Fr. Nicholas Blum SVD was the second superior general of the Society of the Divine Word. He tells of his experience of entering the humble Mission Seminary at Steyl 10 months after the inauguration.

“I entered Steyl on July 1, 1876, a Saturday. Sister Urbana, (a Sister of Providence) who opened the door for me, ushered me into the Rector’s anteroom. It was not an anteroom really; the room had simply been divided in two by clothes cabinets. An opening between them led into the Rector’s working room in which, obviously, there was hardly space enough to move about. Sister Urbana said: “Father Rector is in the chapel; he will come soon.”...

I frankly admit I was rather disconcerted when this haggard little man suddenly stood before me and greeted me. His cassock was somewhat dirty and worn; his biretta was green with age and torn on one side. He was also in need of a shave. Although he was very friendly, I was nevertheless dreadfully disappointed. I was offered a light lunch. Since it wasn’t my custom to say grace before taking lunch I began to eat at once. No doubt my unchristian behavior was not the best recommendation - at least so I thought at the time.



Later the rector took me on a guided tour of the House. In this way I got to meet my fellow students We went next to the printery Meanwhile it had become time for supper. We went to the refectory The meal consisted of tea and slices of bread on which one could put some cheese if one cared to. The skimpiness of the meal I accepted as a matter of course. I had come to Steyl expecting to be served nothing but bread and water, so my expectations were more than satisfied.”



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Dr. Joshua Young

Our Purpose

As I prepare to attend the Council of Independent Colleges’ Workshop for Chief Academic Officers, I wanted to reflect on what an authentic Catholic college is. There are many documents that address the topic, but one is foundational within the Church- Ex Corde Ecclesiae. It is important to me, as interim VPAA, to remember our purpose as a Catholic institution but to be open to the lessons that our friends from other institutions at this workshop may teach me. In Ex Corde Ecclesiae, St. John Paul II says:

“Through the encounter which it establishes between the unfathomable richness of the salvific message of the Gospel and the variety and immensity of the fields of knowledge in which that richness is incarnated by it, a Catholic University enables the Church to institute an incomparably fertile dialogue with people of every culture. Man’s life is given dignity by culture, and, while he finds his fullness in Christ, there can be no doubt that the Gospel which reaches and renews him in every dimension is also fruitful for the culture in which he lives.”

DWC is a place in which the Gospel and culture thrive and work together, where a culture of salvation organically grows with each of us as we engage in the fertile dialogue across disciplines and academic methods. I encourage all faculty and students to reflect upon this and to read *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Also, please pray for me as I travel to and participate in the workshop. My hope is that the dialogue that develops and takes place at the workshop will spread the Gospel and enrich our academic culture.



Assessment Bites

by Dr. Yasmin Rioux

HLC ASSURANCE ARGUMENT TIMELINE



The HLC Assurance Argument criterion writing group’s first section drafts were due on Friday, October 25, 2024, and will be reviewed by the HLC Assurance Argument Steering Committee, which is comprised of Dr. Mathew, Dr. Yasmin, and Dr. Joshua.

The general HLC Assurance Argument Timeline and other important dates for this accreditation process are as follows:

- First Document Draft: October 25, 2024
- Second Document Draft: December 6, 2024
- Final Document Draft: March 21, 2025
- Board of Administration Approval: April 25, 2025
- Board of Trustees Approval: May 3, 2025
- Final Document Revisions: August 15, 2025
- Comprehensive Visit: September 29-30, 2025

The updated criteria can be found at:

<https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/criteria/2025-criteria/>.



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



All Souls Day

As I mentioned last week, this Saturday, November 2, 2024, the Church will celebrate All Souls Day to remember our relatives, friends, and loved ones who are deceased. This Saturday, our friends and benefactors will be joining us for mass to pray for their loved ones and also for benefactors who passed away. There will only be one mass at 8:00 am and a reception will follow. I ask all students to join the community and the benefactors at the reception after mass. Please come dressed in semi-formal or religious attire.

Since there will be visitors and benefactors coming to celebrate All Souls Days, the development office has posted a signup sheet asking for your help with the mass and receptions afterward. If you are willing help, I ask you to sign up as soon as you can.

Also, Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD placed an urn and papers in front of the altar to write down the names of your deceased family members and loved ones. If you want to remember and pray for them, please write the names down and place it in the urn. We will remember to pray for them throughout the month of November.



Annual Retreat – St. Francis of Assisi Formation Group

This weekend, from November 1, 2024 to November 3, 2024, the formation group of St. Francis of Assisi will be making their retreat at East Troy, WI. A retreat is a time for students to put everything aside and encounter the love of God through prayers and meditation. Please pray for the members of St. Francis of Assisi this weekend.

Halloween

This Thursday, October 31, 2024, we will celebrate Halloween. Some of the Halloween traditions consist of carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating, and wearing funny and scary costumes, and many others. This Thursday, the Student Senate will host a pumpkin-carving contest during lunch. The Student Senate will give to the formation groups and to the staff and employee each a pumpkin. Each group will need to be creative carving the pumpkin. During lunchtime, all the pumpkins will be displayed and the judges will determine who will win the contest. Prizes will be given to the winners. May the best pumpkin win!

Daylight Saving

This Sunday, November 3, 2024, daylight savings time will end. Please turn your clocks back one hour and enjoy an extra hour of sleep.

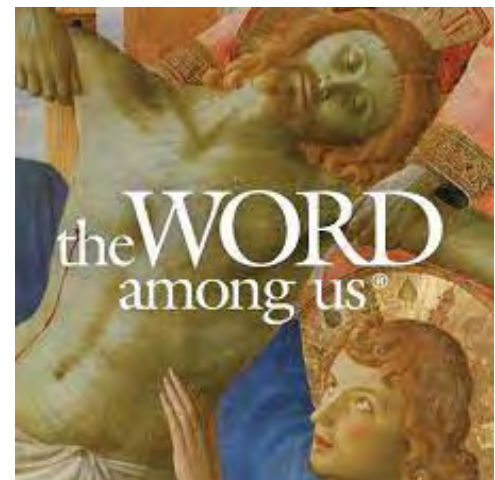


VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS

Len Uhal

The Word Among US

Attention Students! The latest issue of The Word Among Us for November 2024 is now available. The vocation office staff put a copy in your mailbox Tuesday morning. There are a few extra copies in the vocation office. We put Spanish copies of the booklet in the Our Lady of the Americas Chapel on the ground level. As always, please pray for the benefactors that make this resource available to us.





VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Divine Word College Halloween Costume Party!

Get ready for a spooktacular time at our DWC Halloween Costume Party! Put on your best costume and join us for fun and snacks. All are encouraged to participate.

Details:

Date: Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Time: 3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Location: Dining Room

Event Highlights:

Spooky Snacks & Drinks: Enjoy themed treats and beverages

A prize will be given for the best costume

We look forward to seeing everyone in their costumes. Let's make this Halloween a memorable one! For more information please contact Steven Winger, Vice President for Operations.




 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu



Libby eBooks and audiobooks

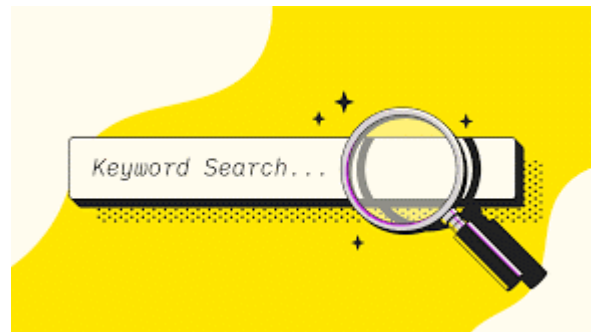
New eBooks and audiobooks are regularly being added to Libby. There are currently over 25,000 titles. The Libby app is easy-to-use and allows offline reading. Get started with Libby today.

Are you having a hard time finding a book to listen to? Use the filters to help narrow your search. You can search by subject, date added, and text difficulty (ATOS, Lexile, and grade level). Popular fiction subjects include fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, and science fiction.

Research in the Library with EBSCO

JSTOR, Project Muse, and EBSCO are the library's primary research database vendors. EBSCO includes 19 databases, including Academic Search Complete, MasterFILE Premier, and Newspaper Source Plus.

- Academic Search Complete has 8,500 multi-disciplinary, full-text periodicals, including more than 7,300 peer-reviewed journals. The database features PDF content going back as far as 1887, with the majority of full text titles in native (searchable) PDF format.
- MasterFILE Premier provides full text for nearly 1,700 periodicals with full-text information dating as far back as 1975. It also contains full text for nearly 500 reference books and over 164,400 primary source documents, as well as an Image Collection of over 592,000 photos, maps & flags.
- Newspaper Source Plus includes more than 860 full-text newspapers, providing more than 35 million full-text articles. In addition, the database features more than 857,000 television and radio news transcripts. Another EBSCO news database, Newswires, provides near real-time access to top world-wide news from Associated Press, United Press International, CNN Wire, and Business Wire on a continuous basis.



Tips for Using Library Databases

- Identify main concepts: Use Wikipedia or another easily accessible reference source to gather basic who, what, where, when, how information prior to searching the research databases.
- Search all three databases every time. JSTOR, Project Muse, and EBSCO are all multidisciplinary.
- Use keywords, not full sentences. Remove articles, verbs, and adjectives from searches.
- Use limiters: Use limiters to narrow down your search. Limiters can include publication date range, subject, journal title, and publication type.



- Refine your search. After you learn more about your topic, try searching again.
- Use quotation marks: Use quotation marks around a phrase to search for that exact phrase.
- Ask for help. If you are having trouble finding articles or books, ask a librarian for help.

Campus Read Discussion This Friday

Join us in the Pour House at noon to discuss Part II of the Enigma of the Return. Also, don't forget to stop by the library to check out the Haiti book display.



All Souls Day – Your participation matters!

All Souls Day holds special significance at Divine Word College, as it is a time for the entire community to come together in prayer and remembrance. On Saturday, November 2nd, the college will host a special Mass at 8 A.M., inviting friends and benefactors who have lost a loved one in the past year to join us in honoring their memory. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the dining room, providing an opportunity to connect and offer comfort to those grieving.

We strongly encourage all students and members of the SVD community to attend the Mass and sit and talk with our benefactors at the reception. Your presence will show our solidarity and support, reflecting the spirit of unity that defines our mission. Let's come together in prayer and fellowship to remember those who have passed and offer our care to those who are mourning.



Peace and Justice

October 24th – 30th - Disarmament Week marks an annual observance initiated by the United Nations to promote awareness of disarmament initiatives globally. This week highlights the critical importance of reducing and abolishing weapons, particularly in light of ongoing conflicts and the threat of nuclear warfare. As nations come together to discuss strategies for achieving peace and security, Disarmament Week serves as a platform for fostering dialogue and collaboration among governments, NGOs, and civil society (UN, 2024).