

Remember the Planters

“Ăn quả nhớ kẻ trồng cây.”

This well-treasured Vietnamese proverb means, “When you eat the fruit, remember those who planted the tree.”

Looking back on the last 31 years as a member of the Divine Word Missionaries, I’ve come to realize that I have “eaten” the fruits of many trees planted by others in my life. Among them are my family, friends, teachers, formators, confreres, and benefactors. Without their emotional encouragement, spiritual guidance, and financial support, I would not be the person I am today. This is why I have established a habit of waking up each morning to count my blessings and pray for all those who have journeyed with me in my life.

Since my ordination in 2004, my only assignment has been Divine Word College. I have served in various capacities, including rector, director of the alumni association, formator, teacher, assistant dean, medical personnel, and even soccer and basketball coach. This year, when Mr. Mark Singsank retired in July, the Divine Word College administration asked me to fill his position. Although I initially felt reluctant due to my limited training in development work, I decided to accept the request. It is because I am deeply indebted to our congregation and especially to Divine Word College. I am excited to embark on this new responsibility of reaching out and establishing a network of friends and supporters for Divine Word College.



I humbly ask for your continued support, and I promise to give my all in serving as a bridge to connect you with all our missionaries, especially those in formation at Divine Word College. Through the intercession of our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, may God bless our labor and grant us an abundance of harvest in the garden of God.

Faith and Family: A Legacy of Giving

When Quy Le arrived in the U.S. in 1998, he couldn’t speak English, but his parents’ steadfast guidance and strong faith helped him overcome the challenges of adapting to a new life. His family regularly attended monthly Masses at St. Matthew Parish in Cedar Rapids, where Vietnamese Divine Word Missionaries served their community. Quy recalls these moments as pivotal in his journey, feeling the warmth of belonging and the strength of his faith through his family’s participation.

Quy’s parents, both educators in Vietnam, instilled in him the importance of education and faith. Although he admits he wasn’t the top student, their unwavering support and encouragement taught him the value of perseverance.

After graduating from Mount Mercy University, Quy moved to Wisconsin but never lost the deep connection his parents fostered with the Divine Word Missionaries. Their example of faith, dedication, and community involvement shaped Quy’s commitment to supporting missionary work.

In 2018, Quy and his wife, Mary, began their journey as benefactors of Divine Word College, inspired by

the influence of his parents. After talking with Development Director Fr. Linh Pham, SVD, they decided to contribute.

“God is good! Although we were not in a great financial position to start making a sizable donation, it was the right time and the right call,” Quy said. “We strongly believe that our opportunity to contribute is part of God’s plan, so we will continue to work hard in our lives to successfully complete the plan He has for us.”

Quy and Mary now take advantage of their companies’ Matching Gift Programs, doubling their contributions each year.

“I hope that with great educational programs and initiatives, Divine Word College will be able to help our current and future missionaries gain the knowledge needed to better share and explain the Word of God,” he said.



Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD

