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## Birthday Corner:

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## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Guadalupe and Thanksgiving, Paths to Unity

#### Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin and Juan Zumarraga OFM

In 1531, Mary appeared at Tepeyac in present day Mexico City. She had a very definite message for St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin; *she desired healing and unity.*

The indigenous accounts of the apparition, the *Nican Mopohua*, records the purpose of the apparition:

“I am the Ever Virgin, Holy Mary, the Mother of the true *God-Teotl-Dios*, the Creator of Humanity...

“Greatly do I want, greatly do I desire that there be a place where they build me a church, so that from there I might reveal, I might show and bestow, all my love, compassion, aid and protection.

“Indeed I am truly your compassionate mother, for you and for all the other who in this land, live together as one people, and for all the various people who love me, who call to me, who seek me and who trust in me.”



In the years before and after the conquest of the great city of Tenochtitlan-Mexico (1519-1521), political oppression, invasions, pestilence and constant warfare were the only things that thrived. The sad fruit of those years was chaos and death. Such was the context for Juan Diego’s mission to carry a message to the bishop and the Spanish colonists.

The variety of multi-colored flowers (most likely carnations), and the miraculous appearance of the image of the Woman on the cloak of Juan Diego, was a moment of conversion for the new bishop, Juan Zumarraga OFM. The bishop insisted on welcoming Juan Diego into his home to spend some days, and they began a fruitful collaboration to establish a place of compassion as requested by the Woman.



The next 17 years were dangerous and difficult years for both Zumárraga and Juan Diego as they worked for the promised healing and unity of the peoples of Mexico. Both died in 1548. The Basilica of Guadalupe continues to welcome people from everywhere.

## Tisquantum and William Bradford

In 1620, the Pilgrims, religious refugees, landed in Cape Cod Bay in present day Massachusetts. Tisquantum (aka Squanto), a native of the area, helped them settle there, *servicing as interpreter, guide, and advisor*. Tisquantum had earlier been kidnapped (1614) and taken as a slave to Spain. He was ransomed by two Jesuit priests in Spain, perhaps baptized and sent to England. From there he returned to his native village in 1619, only to discover that all of his tribe had died in an epidemic. Remarkably, he helped the Pilgrims settle in an abandoned village where he had earlier lived with his family.



The Pilgrim refugees from Europe arrived on the Mayflower on November 21, 1620. They would not have survived the first winter without the help of the local Native American people who helped them find food and shelter. Still, half of the Pilgrims and many of the Mayflower crew died during the first winter.

In the spring of 1621, Tisquantum helped negotiate a peace agreement and alliance with the local indigenous peoples who feared invasion by the larger and stronger Narragansett people. He also taught the settlers how to gather and grow food for themselves. In the process, William Bradford, the Governor of the colony, and Tisquantum became good friends.

In the fall of 1621, once the crops had been harvested, a festival was held. The colonists brought fish and turkeys; some 90 natives brought five deer; and they celebrated for three days – *the first Thanksgiving*. In the following year, political intrigues, threats of war among the native peoples, jealousies and sickness brought discouragement on all sides. Tisquantum died of illness in late November 1622 while on a trading expedition. Bradford stayed with him. Bradford wrote that Tisquantum asked for the governor to pray for him so that he could go to the Englishmen’s God in heaven.

## Queen of the Americas

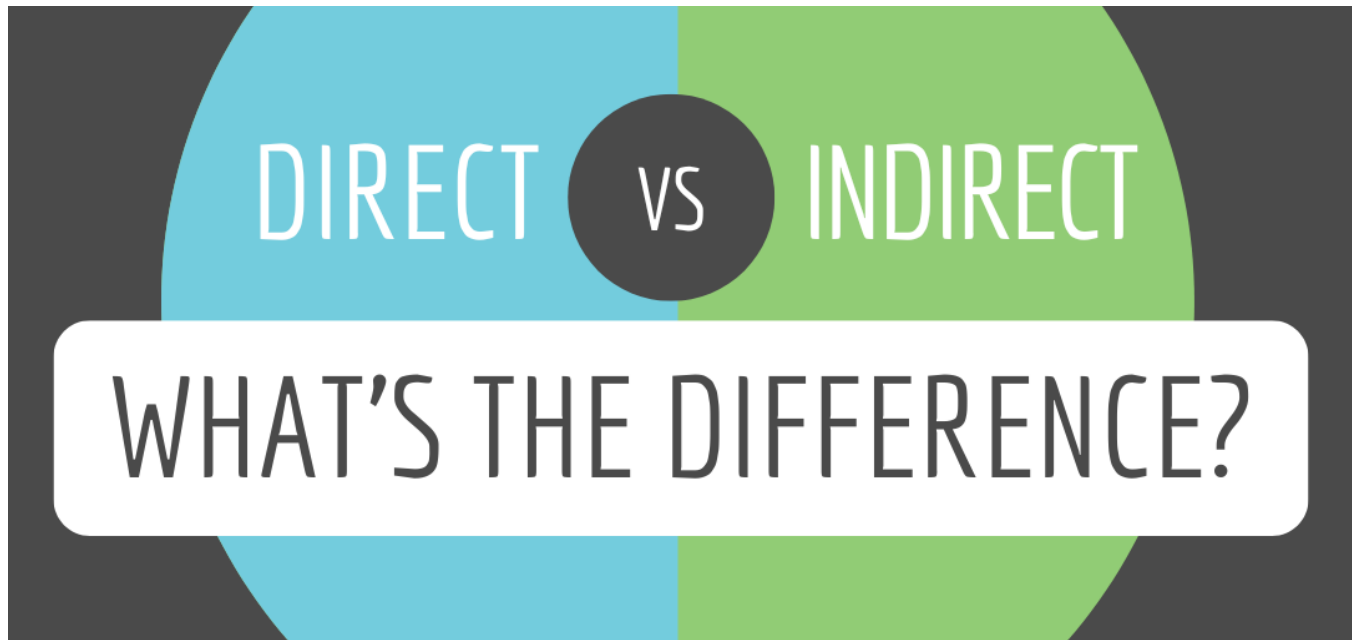
Mark Twain used to say: “History never repeats itself, but it does often rhyme.” Guadalupe and Thanksgiving rhyme. Every year Divine Word College celebrates Our Lady Queen of the Americas. We pray for courage, kindness and faithfulness, remembering the many painful encounters between the peoples of Europe and the peoples of the Americas. We need courage to welcome people who are different from us; we need kindness to show hospitality with those in need; and we need faithfulness for the long and difficult journey toward unity among all God’s peoples.

November is the month to celebrate Native American Heritage. It gives us an opportunity to honor the culture, traditions, and achievements of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. It also allows me to remember and give thanks for so many friends from among the native peoples of Mexico with whom I lived and worked for a time.

Our celebration on Saturday November 16 will remind us that we are all immigrants, and we are all natives. Welcome, kindness, and faithfulness to one another are the only paths to unity, especially in politically divisive times like ours. Giving thanks for shared help and blessings can lead to reconciliation; and Thanksgiving can mark progress on the journey to the Kingdom of Heaven where compassion reigns. We honor the Queen of the Americas by making room for all the various peoples of the American nations.

 Dr. Yasmin Rioux

# Assessment Bites



## What is the difference between direct and indirect assessment data collection?

**Indirect Measure:** Students (or others) report perceptions of how well students have achieved an objective (Allen, 2004, p. 169).

- **Surveys:** a questionnaire that collects information about beliefs, experiences, or attitudes (Allen, 2004, p. 172).
- **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).
- **Reflective Essays:** Respondents are asked to write essays on personal perspectives and experiences (Allen, 2004, p. 171).

**Direct Measure:** Students demonstrate that they have achieved a learning objective (Allen, 2004, p. 167).

- **Competence interview:** Test which is orally administered (Allen, 2004, p. 167).
- **Portfolios:** Collections of multiple student work samples are usually compiled over time and rated using rubrics. The design of a portfolio is dependent upon how the scoring results are going to be used. *Assessment Terms Glossary*, Northern Illinois University, <https://www.niu.edu/effectiveness/assessment/index.shtml>
- **Embedded Assignments:** Assessment activities occur in courses. Students generally are graded on this work, and some or all of it also is used to assess program learning objectives (Allen, 2004, p. 168).

For more info and definitions, please check out our Assessment website!



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD



### Queen of the Americas Celebration

This Saturday, November 16, 2024, the Asian American Hispanic Association (AAHA) will be organizing the Queen of the Americas celebration at Divine Word College. The Blessed Virgin Mary is central to the faith of all Catholics around the world. Many countries are devoted to Mary because of her apparitions during the time of the countries' needs and difficulties. The Queen of the Americas is celebrated to honor and pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary in all of the Americas (North America, Central America, and South America). To prepare ourselves for the celebration, there are a couple of things I want to remind you:

- Mass will begin at 3:00 pm in the main chapel, followed by a banquet in the main dining room. All students are required to attend this celebration, so please do not make any plans for this Saturday.
- To prepare ourselves for the liturgy, there will be liturgy preparation this Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the main chapel. All students are required to attend.
- Please come to the celebration in semi-formal, traditional, or religious attire.

### Theological Reflection

By this time, most of you are finished with your ministry practicum for the fall 2024 semester. I thank you for your time, effort, and dedication for your ministry and serving the Lord with faith and love. I also hope that each of you have found your ministry to be fulfilling as well as to strengthen your call to serve the Lord more each day. With the ministries ending, I want to remind you to take this time for some prayer and reflection to think about God's graces and blessings, as well as the challenges upon you in your ministry. Please write and submit your reflection paper and submit it to your ministry site supervisor. Your supervisor will schedule a meeting for Theological Reflection this week. Again, I want to remind you that the last day to submit your reflection paper is on November 17, 2024.

### Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving break will be from Thursday, November 28, 2024 to Sunday, December 1, 2024. If anyone wishes to be away for Thanksgiving, please inform me by Wednesday, November 20, 2024. All students are required to return to the college on Sunday before vespers. For those who are staying at Divine Word College, you are required to do three hours of community service. Please let me know right away so that I can assign the schedule for washing dishes and community service.

### Conference for Men and Women Religious in Temporary Vows

Next Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Ms. Cindy Erlich, the educational strategist, will be doing a conference for the men and women religious in temporary vows. The conference will be on *Critical Thinking Skills*. This conference is important because we need to develop critical thinking skills for our studies, and it is important for our future ministries. It is required for men and women religious in temporary vows to be at this conference. It is also open to anyone else who wants to come and learn. The conference will begin at 5:15 pm in room 107.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

### Encouraging Civil Conversations in the Workplace

In the aftermath of the recent elections, it is imperative that our community continues to cultivate civility and respectful discourse. As we move forward, we should consider the best approach to navigating difficult political conversations.

The link below was developed by SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) offers five clear, actionable steps to turn tough talks into teamwork, discord into dialogue, and conflict into opportunity, ultimately setting teams up for success.

<https://www.shrm.org/content/dam/en/shrm/topics-tools/topics/civility/shrm-5-steps-for-encouraging-civil-conversations-at-work.pdf>

## Justice and Peace Committee



### Laudato Si Presentation on November 13

Samuel Agcaracar SVD will speak on Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 PM CST (Chicago time). The title of his presentation is *Toward Eco-Missiology: The Case of the SVD Laudato Si' Farm*. Sam has a doctorate in Missiology, teaches at Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay, and is the executive director of his province's Laudato Si' SVD Farm in Tagaytay. Sam emphasizes the harmonious balance between environmental responsibility and spiritual growth and that the farm is a place for mission where anyone can encounter God, nature, and others.

The speaker series is intended for (1) SVDs, SSpS, and SSpSAP, (2) our alumni, members of our parishes and ministries, and (3) anyone who may be interested in the topic of the presentation. Those who are interested, can **register by clicking [HERE](#)**. The Zoom link is on the registration page. This should be an informative presentation.



### America Recycles Day - November 15


Small actions can lead to big impact! Each year on November 15, millions of Americans come together for America Recycles Day – a day all about spreading the word on how recycling helps us reduce waste, save energy, and conserve precious resources. For more information on actions you can take on behalf of the environment, please visit: <https://kab.org/>

## Mission Sunday Professional Photos

The Mission Sunday photos are here! Thank you to professional photographer Erin LaBelle for the stunning photos. To view the photos, click the link or scan the QR code. Feel free to share the link with others who are pictured. Please note that the files are very large.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z8pSgeTY3T9sZKwVpx2gEFgUCTmhwyBd?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z8pSgeTY3T9sZKwVpx2gEFgUCTmhwyBd?usp=drive_link)



 Matthew Jacoby Library

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

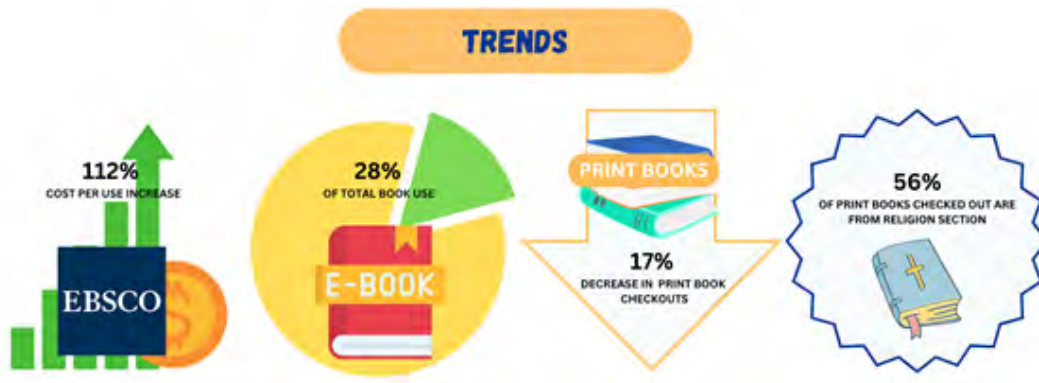


### Annual Library Survey

The library wants to hear from you! Students, faculty, staff, and SVDs are highly encouraged to take the 2024 library survey. Follow this link to take the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/Pu3pciNZbY>. You can also find the survey on the [library's website](#). Please fill it out by December 10th!

### Annual Library Report

Interested in learning more about the library's collection and its use? You can find the FY 23 and FY 24 Annual Library Reports on the library's website. Go to <https://opac.dwci.edu/> and then click *About the Library*. Short on time? View the [infographic](#).



**ASIAN AMERICAN HISPANIC ASSOCIATION (AAHA)**

*Cordially invites you to our*

# **Queen of the Americas Celebration**

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**

**3:00 PM Eucharist (main chapel)**

**4:00 PM Banquet & entertainment (Dining  
Room)**

*Semi-formal attire (traditional outfit) is required*