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THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

Hurry Up and..... WAIT!

Advent is upon us. The purple altar cloths and the candles are on full display in the Chapel. Advent wreaths are spread around the College. The readings of the season are full of challenge, promise and waiting.

- “The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah....” (Jeremiah 33:14)
- “Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever...” (Psalm 72)
- “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” (Isaiah 2:5)

I’ve learned a bit about waiting through the years.

When I was a little boy, my brothers and sisters and I were delighted to see the advent wreath appear once again. When we gathered for prayers at bedtime, ONE candle was a promise; TWO candles was excitement; THREE candles (a pink one) was joy; FOUR candles was near frenzy, Christmas on the doorstep!

As a teenager, I worked for my dad helping with his test plots in the fields. That’s where I learned the phrase, Hurry Up and WAIT! I showed up for work on time, but then waited around for instructions. That was a bit torturous, but I was consoled that I was getting paid by the hour!

Now, I am well into the second half of life, I hear the encouragement to WAIT as a blessing. When Advent reappears, and the Christmas lights and decorations are all around, I am filled with joy and wait with patient gladness. It is a treasure, now, to sit in silence and recall the Christmas exuberance of young nephews and nieces. Their children are the ones who go crazy now! It is bounty, now, to enjoy the company of confreres and coworkers as the hustle and bustle of the end-of-semester fades away.





I wear purple in the days of Advent. Some folks think it is because of my devotion to the Minnesota Vikings. They may be partly right. But the deeper reason is that purple is the color of royalty, and I feel welcomed into God's royal household during this season of purple. The King is coming.

Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy; For the LORD is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him! (Isaiah 18)




Advent 1884

*Standing: Hermann Wegener – Johannes Janssen;
Seated: Arnold Janssen – Johannes Anzer*

Advent 1884 – the Society of the Divine Word is named!

The first General Chapter of the Society of the Divine Word began in the second week of Advent in 1884. The Chapter, a legislative gathering for religious congregations, had a twofold objective: to form a missionary-religious congregation, and to produce a new rule of life. Bishop Anzer came to Steyl from China to represent the confreres there. Frs. Hermann Wegener and Johannes Janssen gathered with Fr. Arnold for the gathering that lasted from 10 December 1884 until 12 May 1886!

Originally St. Arnold worked to establish a Mission House at Steyl, Netherlands as a place to train diocesan clergy for missionary work in other parts of the world. However, experience taught him that what was really needed was a religious congregation dedicated to missionary service. Already in February 1875, before the inauguration of the mission house, Janssen wrote to Rome about the mission congregation he envisioned: “Nevertheless, I believe that we will not succeed unless we found a religious congregation. But I am reluctant to multiply such societies, especially one with a national character - which today is so often the enemy of God.”

On the first day, the Chapter was solemnly opened with a High Mass in honor of the Holy Spirit. During the Chapter, one Mass was offered each day to implore the blessing of the Holy Spirit on its work. On the second day, the four members agreed on a name for the Society: Societas Verbi Divini (SVD) or Society of the Divine Word. The same day, the Chapter also decided to introduce the three religious vows — poverty, chastity and obedience.

Now we give thanks to God for filling Fr. Arnold with the vision of an intercultural missionary society. Within our own communities we have the chance to open ourselves to the richly varied cultures, languages, and races of humanity. Not only do we offer missionary service to all peoples, but we also join together to be formed into one multicultural community, “a living symbol of unity and diversity” (Prologue, SVD Constitutions).

Two SVD Cardinals

On Saturday, December 7, two SVD missionaries will become Cardinals during the consistory to be held in Rome. They are:



Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi SVD, the Archbishop of Tokyo and President of Caritas Internationalis. Archbishop Kikuchi studied English at Epworth in 1983.



Ladislav Nemet SVD, the Archbishop of Belgrade, Serbia since 2022, is vice-president of the Council of the Bishops’ Conferences of Europe. He speaks Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian, English, German, Polish, and Italian!

The only other cardinal in SVD history was Thomas Cardinal Tien SVD, the Archbishop of Beijing, the first Chinese and first Asian cardinal. He became a cardinal in 1946.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

The Need for Epiphany

Everyone is looking forward to the start of Christmas break, even the faculty! It has been a very busy semester, and it seems there has been more work than ever. There’s just a little bit of time left to study for final exams and to prepare for ESL testing. But this time of year asks us to consider the timeless lessons of the Nativity of our Lord. Tomorrow, DWC will present a short program on the importance of giving for the Epworth Country Christmas. The central story is based on the Little Drummer Boy, a story about a poor shepherd boy that wanted to give a fine gift to the newborn king, Jesus. The young would-be disciple was ashamed of his poverty and that he could not match the rich gifts brought by the three kings that visited the Holy Family.



The story teaches us that what is really important is that we give of ourselves, that we share our talents and our presence with those in need. When we take the time to remember this, we experience an epiphany or a deep realization or insight in our lives, something the three kings in the nativity story experienced when they first saw the child-king. I pray you give yourself to your work and studies in these final days; offer your labor as a gift to the King and experience your next epiphany.

 **Dr. Yasmin Rioux**
Assessment Bites

Fall 2024 Assessment Project

The Fall 2024 Assessment Project will take place from late January to early February. Below are the specific dates and the faculty evaluator schedule:

**Faculty Evaluators for Fall 2024
 Administered Spring 2025**

Instructor	Assignment/Class	Faculty Evaluator				Assessed PLOs
		Round 1*	Round 2*	Round 3*	Round 4*	
Bro. Brian McLaughlin	ANT 163 Cultural Anthropology Project	Dr. Cathi Cleary	Dr. Richard Garrett	Dr. Sam Cunningham	Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal	CORE # 3
Dr. Jason Reed	PHI 320 Medieval Research Paper	Sr. Anna Trang Mai	Dr. Ben Wintress	Fr. Stephen Nguyen	Dr. Ron Condon	IDS/AA/1 CF/PTH/1 CF/PTH/2



***Evaluation Periods:** will be available from Monday 8 am to the following Monday at 8 am. Please allow a few minutes in between rounds to deactivate each!

- Round 1: January 20, 8 am to January 27, 8 am
- Round 2: January 27, 8 am to February 3, 8 am
- Round 3: February 3, 8 am to February 10, 8 am
- Round 4: February 10, 8 am to February 17, 8 am

May your Christmas be blessed with love, joy, happiness, and peace!



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



Epworth Country Christmas

This Wednesday, December 4, 2024, the town of Epworth will celebrate Epworth Country Christmas. It is a time when the Epworth community gets together to enjoy the Christmas performances and activities hosted by the fire department, the local churches and businesses. The Telegraph Herald mentions:

“The event’s activities include a visit with Santa at the Epworth Fire Department; cookies and in-store specials at the Quik ‘n’ Handi; free holiday photos and a hot cocoa bar at West Dubuque Global Methodist Church; live music, soup and pork loin sandwiches at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church parish hall; and numerous other activities at many local businesses.”

Divine Word College will be doing a performance at Locals Bar and Coffee highlighting the Importance of Giving at 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, and 6:30 pm. All students are highly encouraged to come and enjoy the celebration.

Visitation of the Superior General

Fr. Anselmo Ricardo Ribeiro, SVD, the Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word, will visit the college from Thursday, December 5, 2024 to Friday, December 6, 2024. The DWC community will formally introduce him at lunch this Thursday. From there, he will be touring the college and meeting with SVD members, students, employees, and committees to learn more about Divine Word College.



Also, on Thursday, December 5, 2024, the Superior General would like to meet all the SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors. We will have an informal social with him in the Pour House at 7:00 pm. All SVD Candidates and SVD Juniors are required to be at this social.

Foundation Day of the SSpS and SSpSAP

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, the Arnoldus family will celebrate the foundation of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS) and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP). St. Arnold Janssen, SVD, our founding father, had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this, he founded these two congregations on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The SSpS are dedicated partners sharing their lives with the SVDs in mission. While the SSpSAP have been with us through their prayers. We congratulate these two congregations on their foundation day, especially to our SSpS sisters who have been working hard at our college community. Thank you for your dedication.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Ugly Sweater Contest

Get ready to dazzle us with your festive fashion! All are welcome to join us at lunch for the annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest on Tuesday, December 10. Judging begins at 12:15. This is a one-day only event so be ready. The winner will get bragging rights until next year. Let's see who can rock the ugliest, most creative sweater.



Justice and Peace Committee



Laudato Si' Webinar

Let's join the Laudato Si' Action Platform in their monthly webinar. This month, December, they will reflect on how Christmas traditions align with the values of Laudato Si'. The session will examine the environmental impact of our celebrations, consider the deeper significance of Advent, and explore ways to embrace sustainability during this season of preparation and hope. After the webinar, there will be a 40-minute community discussion, where participants from around the world will share reflections and set intentions for this Advent season. This webinar will take place on Thursday, Dec. 5. For more information, [click here](#).


Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Tuesday December 10th | 12:15 PM



THIS COULD GET UGLY

Wear your ugly sweater to lunch
Best sweater wins!

 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

End of the Semester Reminder

If you have items out, check the due dates. You may need to renew the items over break. To check due dates, go to [https://opac.dwci.edu/](https://opac.dwci.edu) and then log into your library account using your DWC ID # and the pin you set up. Your ID# is below the barcode on the back of your DWC ID card. If you forgot your pin, click the “Forgot your password” link to reset it.

Undergraduate Bookstore

There will be a cart outside the bookstore starting today. Undergraduate students may return their books to the cart at any time before the end of the semester. Please review the textbook terms and conditions:

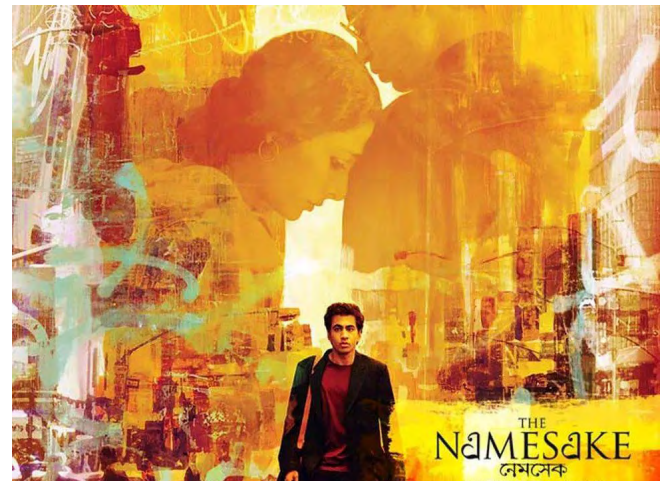
1. Rental textbook(s) are the property of the Divine Word College.
2. Rentals should be returned no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday of Finals Week.
3. Rental textbooks must be returned:
 - by the rental due date.
 - in good, undamaged and saleable condition.
 - with all components included in original package.
 - with no liquid damage.
 - without writing, underlining, or highlighting.
 - with all identifiable stickers/labels intact and unaltered.
 - without paper clips, sticky notes, or any other fasteners/adhesives.

All Fall 2024 textbooks must be returned by 4 PM on Friday, December 13th. If you would like to purchase one or more textbooks, please fill out the [Textbook Purchase Form](#). Please email ewinter@dwci.edu if you have any questions.



Read a book over break!

Come check out a book (or two...or three) to enjoy over winter break. There is a new display of books that will be perfect for the holidays!



Campus Read Movie Night

The Campus Read Movie Night is this Friday. Join us for candy, popcorn, and the “The Namesake.” We will start the movie at 7:05 PM in room 107. Please try to arrive by 7 PM. Want to learn more about the movie? Watch the trailer and read reviews [here](#).