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## Birthday Corner:

### DECEMBER

15	Sr. Dieu Vo, LHC
15	Fr. Linh Pham, SVD
15	Sr. Anna Trang Mai, IHM
18	Cory Rude
18	Chris Jackson



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### Open the Door to Hope

*What did you get for Christmas? Was it what you were hoping for?*

Especially for children in the US, those two big questions come up at Christmas time. I asked a few young folk about whether their hopes came true – their responses were enthusiastic, “Yeah!”

Pope Francis did some “gift” opening on Christmas Eve. During the liturgy at St. Peter’s Basilica, he opened the Holy Door, one that is only opened during Jubilee years. Since 1300 CE, a special jubilee year of grace has been celebrated every 25 years, and since 1450, the ritual of opening of the door has been observed. The symbolism of opening the door is built on several biblical texts including, “Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; *knock and the door will be opened to you*” Luke 11:9.

When Pope Francis knocked on the Holy Door, (the door on the right side of St. Peter’s), it opened for him and for all the pilgrims during this Jubilee year. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLuE6a3q6JQ>) In his Christmas Eve homily, Francis asked that we celebrate 2025 as a year of Hope:

“Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world” and “God speaks to each of us and says: ‘there is hope also for you!’”

“With haste,” therefore, he said, “let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. For Christian hope is not a ‘happy ending’ which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord’s promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs.”

As I myself enter the doorway to this year of Hope, a favorite missionary biblical text comes to mind. In the first letter of St. Peter we are instructed: “...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. *Always be ready to*



give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope...” 1 Peter 15.

**One cause of my hope** is the arrival of so many new students at Divine Word College since last August. They come to our front door from many parts of the world. In this first stage of their missionary pilgrimage, most start by learning English and then moving on to further studies at DWC or elsewhere. Others go on to new ministries in North America and around the world. Altogether, since August, **48 new students have entered our front door!** 32 entered in August, 3 in October, and 13 more in January. We expect a few more students in to begin studies in March.



Pope Francis opens Holy Door.

The new students this year include eleven SVD candidates and one SVD priest. Currently, the student members of the Arnoldus family here at DWC include: 21 SVD candidates, 7 SVDs in temporary vows, 3 SVDs in perpetual vows, 1 SVD sponsored layman, 4 SSps Sisters and 1 laywoman sponsored by the SSps.

The second stage of this DWC missionary pilgrimage also fills me with confident hope for the future. During the past year, **47 students have departed**, most for further studies in preparation for missionary service. Looking ahead, 2 SVD students will be leaving soon for ministry, one to Indonesia, another to Jamaica. 1 SVD candidate has just moved to the Theologate in Chicago. Last Spring’s 30 departing students included 4 SVD novices and 1 confrere now working in Canada.

The DWC front door is not only a door of hope for new arrivals, it is just as much a door of hope for those who go out from here to share good news.

Pope Francis concluded his Christmas Eve homily with the following: “Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the ‘holy door’ of God’s heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for us, for every man and woman. With him, joy flourishes; with Him, life changes; with Him, hope does not disappoint.”

My hopes have certainly not been disappointed.



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**Dr. Joshua Young**

## New Professional Development Opportunities

Divine Word College has joined the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE), a subsidiary of the Council for Independent Colleges that focuses on college education for all of life’s vocations. Joining



NetVUE offers important professional development opportunities for those at DWC. For instance, NetVUE offers workshops and conferences to help faculty better connect what they do in the classroom to helping a student discern their vocation.

Upcoming opportunities that DWC staff will take part in include workshops entitled, “*DEI and Assessment in Vocation Initiatives*,” and “*Integrating Vocation in the Academic Disciplines*.” NetVUE recently also announced an increase in grant funding available to member institutions, and the VPAA is working on identifying qualifying projects to apply for funding. Faculty and staff interested in learning more should contact the VPAA.

## Higher Learning Commission

### HLC Update: Progress on Accreditation Assurance

The second draft of the DWC Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Assurance Argument was completed just before Christmas break. Next, the steering committee will meet to review the draft and make one more round of edits and suggestions. The next draft is due Friday, March 21st. After this final draft, the report will go to the Faculty Senate, the Board of Administration, and the Board of Trustees for review and approval. An important next step will be moving the document and supporting evidence to HLC’s online system, which will go live later this semester.



 Dr. Yasmin Rioux

# Assessment Bites

## Faculty Evaluators for Fall 2024 Administered Spring 2025

**Evaluation Periods:** will be available from Monday 8:00 A.M. to the following Monday at 8:00 A.M. Please allow a few minutes in between rounds to deactivate each!

- **Round 1:** January 20th, 8:00 A.M. to January 27th, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 2:** January 27th, 8:00 A.M. to February 3rd, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 3:** February 3rd, 8:00 A.M. to February 10th, 8:00 A.M.
- **Round 4:** February 10th, 8:00 A.M. to February 17th, 8:00 A.M.

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



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

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Divine Word College! I hope that all of you had a restful vacation. I also want to welcome 13 new students who joined the Divine Word College community this semester. Eight students live on campus at Divine Word College, and five students live off campus.

#### SVD Formation

Last Sunday during vespers, SVD formation received five young men to enter formation with the Divine Word



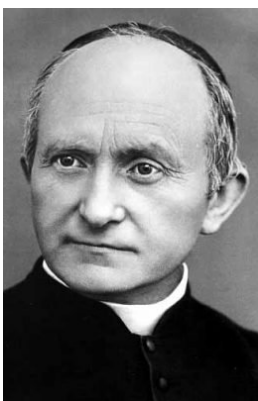
Missionaries. Fr. Sonny De Class, SVD, the Vice Rector of the SVD Community at Epworth, received them into the formation program. We congratulate Thien Bao Nguyen, An Truong, Khoa Pham, Anh Truong, and Ricardo Jose Rojas Chavez. We continue to pray for them as they begin their formation journey with the Divine Word Missionaries.

### Name tags

As we begin the new semester and continue to build up our college community, I ask you all to have your name tags on so that we can learn the names of one another, and more importantly, to get to know one another. Good luck to all of you as you begin the new spring semester.

## Triduum and Mass Dedicated to St. Arnold Janssen

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of three religious congregations – Society of the Divine Word, Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit, and Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration.



We begin to celebrate the feast with the triduum of St. Arnold Janssen on Sunday during vespers, and Monday and Tuesday during evening prayer. On Wednesday, we will have a large community mass to honor and celebrate St. Arnold Janssen. This year, we will take the theme “*Witnessing to the Light from Everywhere to Everyone*”

celebrating the 150 year jubilee of the Arnoldus Family. We ask you to join us in the triduum and mass, and pray with us.

## Ministry Resumes

A reminder that ministries will resume on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Ministry plays a vital part of our life and formation of who we are as religious, and it is encouraged that students who are doing ministry use this time to serve our brothers and sisters with faith and humility. We have made some changes and additions in ministry placements to some of our students. Please check the board this week for updates. Ministry supervisors, please be in contact with your members to give them more information. “*Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves*” (Philippians 2: 3).



## Pour House Promotion

The Pour House is offering a new promotion from Monday, January 13, 2025, through Friday, January 24, 2025, for those who want to deposit money into a Pour House account. When you open an account and deposit money, you will receive an additional 10% in your account. Membership cards can be purchased for \$1.00. However, if you deposit \$20.00 or more into an account, the Pour House will give you a free membership card. You can use this as an opportunity to support the Pour House.



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS**

**Len Uhal**

**Welcome Students**

While being excited to see all our returning students back on campus after the Christmas break, we warmly welcome our new students to our Divine Word College community. We have 13 new students this semester:

**SVD Candidates**

Ricardo Jose Rojas Chavez	Memphis, Tennessee
Thien Bao Nguyen	Belfry, Kentucky

**Religious Sisters**

Sr. Rabecca Wangore Hakonga, OLVSM	Kenya
Sr. Ha Thu Nguyen, ICM	Vietnam
Sr. Hang Minh Nguyen, ICM	Vietnam
Sr. Ha Thi Nguyen, ICM	Vietnam
Sr. Trang Huyen Nguyen Le, IHM	Vietnam
Sr. Khuyen Bao Minh Vo, IHM	Vietnam
Sr. Zhiwei Li, CSCM	China
Sr. Nan Wu, CSCM	China

**Male Religious**

Tam Minh Doan, CM	Vietnam
Thinh Dinh Dang, CM	Vietnam

**Diocesan Priest**

Fr. Genqiang Liu	China
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**VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS**


**Steve Winger**



**Classroom Etiquette**

Let's keep our classrooms sparkling clean! Please enjoy your meals outside the classroom. Beverages are allowed. Food is not allowed in any classroom. Beverages such as water, tea, and coffee are permitted while exercising caution against spillage.



 Matthew Jacoby Library

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




## Spring 2025 Library Reminders

- The library is open 24/7.
- You can access library resources off campus. You can pick up a remote access direction guide in the library.
- Students may borrow up to 25 physical items at a time. The loan period for this is 4 weeks (plus 3 renewals).
- Faculty and staff may borrow up to 50 physical items at time. The loan period for this is 8 weeks (plus 3 renewals).
- You can suggest new books or novels for the [library to purchase](#).
- You can fill out an [Interlibrary Loan \(ILL\) form](#) to get books and articles that are not in the Matthew Jacoby Library.
- The library provides research assistance. Email Library Director Liz Winter, or stop by the library to learn more.
- Search for on-site items in Koha, the library's online public access catalog (OPAC). Also, find links to other services and resources: <https://opac.dwci.edu/>
- Find journal articles and eBooks in the library's subscription databases from vendors such as Project Muse, JSTOR and EBSCOhost.
- Read or listen to books on the Libby app. Learn more about how to download and use Libby: <https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm>. There are over 10,000 audiobooks (books you listen to) and 15,000 eBooks (books you read on a laptop, tablet, or phone) that are available on Libby.
- Try Kanopy, the library's movie streaming service: <https://www.kanopy.com/>. There are over 10,000 movies available on Kanopy.



## Divine Word College Night


*With Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey*



# January 31

## Gametime 7:05 pm

**DWC Students = Free!**

**Faculty, Staff, SVD = \$13** 

*Students sign up on student board: Faculty, Staff, SVD see addendum in the LOG*

### Hockey Night

Divine Word College Night with Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey is on Friday, January 31st. Gametime is 7:05 P.M. DWC Students enter for free! Faculty, staff, and SVD pay a discounted price of \$13 for entry.

**DWC Students:** sign-up on the student board.

**Faculty, staff, SVD:** See the addendum for more information.

*It's all about*  
**Connection**

LIVE HEALTHY IOWA 10 WEEK WELLNESS CHALLENGE PROUD SPONSOR 

Team 1	Team 2
 Team Captain Emily Shedek	 Team Captain Steve Winger
 Fr. Sam Cunningham, SVD	 Len Uhal
 Chris Jackson	 Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD
 Liz Winter	 Jenna Gibson
 Barb Penney	 Mary Kay Lueck
 Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSPS	 Cathi Cleary
 Larry Udry	 Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth
 Heather Taylor	

### LiveHealthy Iowa 10-Week Wellness Challenge

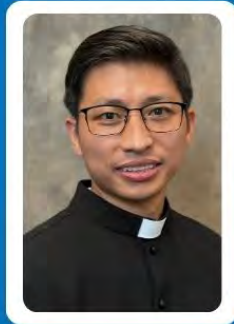
There's still time to sign up for the LiveHealthy Iowa 10-Week Wellness Challenge that runs from January 13th - March 21st. Together, we'll focus on achieving our health and wellness goals while supporting and motivating one another along the way. The first optional meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 15th during lunch in Room 143. Email Emily Shedek at [eshedek@dwci.edu](mailto:eshedek@dwci.edu) for more information or to get registered today!



# WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!



**Thinh Dinh  
Dang, CM**  
*Vietnam*



**Tam Minh Doan,  
CM**  
*Vietnam*



**Sr. Rabecca  
Wangore Hakonga,  
OLVSM**  
*Kenya*



**Sr. Trang Huyen  
Nguyen Le, IHM**  
*Vietnam*



**Sr. Zhiwei Li,  
CSCM**  
*China*



**Fr. Genqiang Liu**  
*China*



**Sr. Ha Thi  
Nguyen, ICM**  
*Vietnam*



**Sr. Ha Thu  
Nguyen, ICM**  
*Vietnam*



**Sr. Hang Minh  
Nguyen, ICM**  
*Vietnam*



**Thien Bao  
Nguyen**  
*USA*



**Sr. Khuyen Bao  
Minh Vo, IHM**  
*Vietnam*



**Ricardo Jose  
Rojas Chavez**  
*USA*



**Sr. Nan Wu,  
CSCM**  
*China*





# DIVINE WORD COLLEGE NIGHT

JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 7:05PM

## FIGHTING SAINTS VS FORCE

- 1 - Visit [DubuqueFightingSaints.com](http://DubuqueFightingSaints.com)
- 2 - Click on "Tickets," then "Single Game"
- 3 - Choose January 31<sup>st</sup> vs Fargo
- 4 - Apply promo code, "Divine13" then click, "Apply"
- 5 - Select, "Find Tickets," then select your seat and purchase

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT LIZ FLECKENSTEIN**

**[LFLECKENSTEIN@DUBUQUEFIGHTINGSAINTS.COM](mailto:LFLECKENSTEIN@DUBUQUEFIGHTINGSAINTS.COM)**

**563-587-2225**

**2425**