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## Birthday Corner:

### FEBRUARY

27 Sr. Comfort Ngyungong, SON

### MARCH

1 Seo Hyun Park

1 Fr. Benyamin Boro Nama, SVD

2 Fr. Sonny DeClass, SVD

3 Bro. Brian McLauchlin, SVD



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

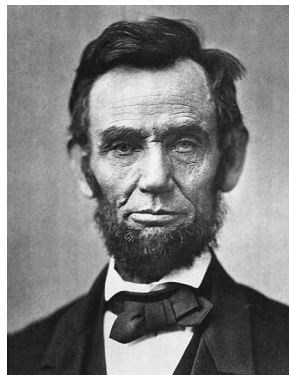
### Love Your Enemies...?

Jesus memorably teaches us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who mistreat us. His teaching was given in Galilee, in a time of often violent political struggle among Roman rulers, various Palestinian peoples, and Greek-speaking neighbors.

Two thousand years later, we too live in a time of political turmoil. Insults, suspicion, and hatred seem to rule our political discourse and our media.

**Is it even possible to take Jesus' advice today?** One great US president did try to live by that counsel.

Abraham Lincoln became president in the 1860's when the US was deeply polarized over slavery. Northern states had largely outlawed the practice, but it remained the norm in the southern states. Lincoln took office in March 1861, and barely one month later, the American Civil War began. Violence raged for four terrible years. It was the deadliest conflict in the history of the Americas, resulting in an estimated 620,000 to 750,000 deaths of Union and Confederate soldiers and civilians. (The US population at that time was only a tenth of what it is now, roughly 32 million, of whom 4 million were enslaved).



In January 1862, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation – a first step toward ending slavery. In January 1863 the emancipation of slaves began to take effect.

In March 1863, half-way through his first term, President Lincoln issued an executive order – a *Proclamation of a Day of National Humiliation Fasting and Prayer*, to be held on April 30, 1863. Some of the sentiments he expressed echo Jesus' teaching:

*“...it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord;*

*... may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. **But we have forgotten God.** We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.*

*It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.*

*...let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.”*

Two years later, on March 4, 1865, Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address, one of the most powerful speeches in American history. The Civil War was only months from its end, but the nation was still deeply divided. The address is marked by appeals for healing and reconciliation. The president stressed the importance of just and generous treatment of enemies. He noted that both the insurgents and the defenders of the Union...

*“...read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged.*

*Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away.*

***With malice toward none, with charity for all,** with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”*

This last passage encapsulates Lincoln’s vision for the future – rather than seeking retribution or continuing division, he focused on forgiveness, unity, and building a lasting peace.

One month later, in April 1865, President Lincoln was murdered in Washington DC. The words of his speech are engraved on the wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

Jesus emphasized love for enemies during his great sermon on the plain. Fourteen months later he was murdered in Jerusalem. His words are engraved in our hearts.

Jesus’ wisdom, as lived out in the life of President Lincoln, is evident in a popular anecdote from those war-torn years:

A woman was shocked when she heard Abraham Lincoln speak kindly of the Confederate soldiers. She challenged him, saying, “I think we’d be better advised to focus on destroying our enemies, rather than befriending them.”

Lincoln replied, *“Madam, we destroy our enemies when we befriend them.”*

It is fitting to remember President Lincoln in February – a month that includes Presidents Day, and celebrates the dignity of black people and their contribution to our national life. To honor Jesus’ advice I pray daily for President Trump, that the government he leads will be just, generous, and merciful.

I am also taking special care to speak both honestly and kindly with and about those whose political opinions are different from mine. I reach out in friendship to them.



### **A Pioneer Missionary with African Americans in Chicago**

Already in 1905, in the final years of the St. Arnold Janssen’s life, the Society initiated missionary outreach to African Americans in the South. Somewhat later, in 1921, the Society also began its work among African Americans in the North. In 2011, Mr. Anthony Calhoun, taking as his theme “the fear of God,” recounted the story of those early years in Chicago guided by of the ministry of Fr. Joseph Eckert SVD:

“...Who really knows the enormity of Father Joseph Eckert’s achievements, how he accomplished them, and what can be done to advance his mission today? Let me tell you.

“First, we are celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of the “fear of God” delivering Father Eckert to the Catholic African-American community of Chicago. In his unpublished memoir, Father Eckert writes there was little sleep that night following the Father Provincial’s request to take over as parish priest at St. Monica’s, the church that Father Augustus Tolton (the first universally recognized African-American priest) built. But for him, the vow of obedience, that is the fear of God, sealed his acceptance. On September 4, 1921, Father Eckert celebrated his first Holy Mass at St. Monica... he went on to expand the Catholic faith on the Southside of Chicago by pastoring St. Monica, St. Elizabeth, and St. Anselm... While carrying out his mission at those parishes, he conducted 3,982 Holy Baptisms, primarily to African Americans, from 1921 to 1940. That is an average greater than 209 per year. He established the first Catholic high school for blacks in Chicago. His successful mission work among the black population of Chicago inspired the archdiocese and religious societies to maintain parish operations in communities where blacks, migrating from the South, displaced the ethnic white population. Meanwhile other organized faiths closed shop.

“While Father Eckert’s record of bringing African Americans to the Catholic faith is nothing short of miraculous, what is more phenomenal are the trials and tribulations he overcame to carry out his mission

as a Catholic parish priest on the Southside of the city. Although Cardinal Mundelein felt that he was responsible for black souls as well as white souls, (the archbishop) was unable to give the appropriate level of care to the population due to prevailing attitudes of the times—thus leading to the need for the missionary efforts of the SVDs. To put it another way, Father Eckert achieved what he did with minimal archdiocesan support. Second, many black people who migrated to Chicago from the Deep South were dyed-in-the-wool Baptists or Methodists. While working the neighborhoods and visiting potential parishioners, many would not open their doors to Father Eckert. Others would spit in his face and tell him, “We do not want a Catholic priest around here,” then slam their doors shut.

“Meanwhile, remaining white parishioners at St. Elizabeth and St. Anselm wanted Father Eckert to adopt segregationist policies. To them Father Eckert would invoke the “fear of God” by telling those parishioners that such practices would be a sin and he would not become a sinner. Father Eckert also had to deal with two orders of white religious Sisters who decided to leave his parishes once the children transitioned from white to black. Catholicism was a faith for everyone. Father Eckert’s devotional services attracted thousands. One such service drew over 12,000 worshippers.

“Father Eckert effectively used the school where all children, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, were required to be present in religion class. Through the children, Father Eckert often reached the parents.

“Most importantly Father Eckert relied on constant prayer and study. He studied the lives of great missionaries such as St. Paul, St. Francis Xavier, St. Peter Claver, and the founder of the SVDs, St. Arnold Janssen. Father Eckert directed his efforts toward an increased spirit of prayer. Over time Father Eckert lived out the words Cardinal Mundelein counseled him with prior to his taking on the assignment at St. Monica; Father, you are about to undertake a difficult task. If you wish to be successful, you will have to spend yourself and be spent.”

So, what can we do as clergy and (laity) to further the mission of Father Eckert?

“To the clergy, I ask that you search your soul, not seven but seven hundred times, and find that inspiration that called you to the priesthood. Review the teaching and experiences of Father Eckert. Find that encouragement from the great missionaries previously mentioned and use it to reignite the spirit in your parishes.

“To the lay persons in this room, I ask you to be that lay apostle of whom Father Eckert was so proud. Start in your own homes... Talk to your relatives, friends, and associates about why you are Catholic and what your faith has done for you. As lay apostles, we have reaches that our priest does not. I beg you to use it...

“Last, I ask that after we get Father Augustus Tolton canonized... (that we promote) the canonization of Father Joseph Eckert SVD. My research has taught me, if it had not been for Father Joseph Eckert there would be but few if any black Catholics on the Southside of Chicago...”



Fr. Carl Gales, SVD

[In 2021, as part of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Renew My Church initiative, St. Elizabeth Parish was merged with four other historic Bronzeville parishes—St. Ambrose, St. Anselm, Corpus Christi, and Holy Angels—to form Our Lady of Africa Parish. This consolidation aimed to strengthen the Catholic presence in the Bronzeville, Washington Park, and Kenwood neighborhoods.

The newly formed Our Lady of Africa Parish continues the rich legacy of Black Catholic faith in Chicago, honoring the history and traditions of its predecessor parishes. The main worship site is located at 615 East Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60653. **Fr. Carl Gales SVD** serves as pastor there. Fr. Carl is a DWC alumnus having studied Philosophy here in 2014-2015. He was also our Bakhita celebrant and homilist in 2023.]



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Dr. Joshua Young**



### Feedback in Unexpected Places

When I recently visited the doctor’s office to treat my flu symptoms, the doctor asked me what I did for work. I said I teach at Divine Word College. The doctor paused for a minute, looking interestingly at me behind his mask. I said, “we think it’s a pretty special place.” It was in that moment that the doctor and I really connected. He is a fellow Catholic and is apparently very active within his parish. He said, “Of course it’s a special place! The Church has such great need and so many people, even if they claim to be Catholics, don’t know the faith.” He went on to talk about the various students from DWC he had met and the impact they had made on him and his fellow parishioners. We often look at our assessment data to gauge whether or not we’re meeting our goals. This encounter reminded me that not all assessment data can truly show the human impact our students are making; sometimes we need to look for feedback in the most unexpected places.

### Congratulations to Sr. Cecilia Egho, SUSC

Sr. Cecilia Egho was recently notified that she has won the Norton Speaker’s Prize National Speech Competition. The Norton Speaker’s Prize is a national speech competition sponsored by the publisher, W. W. Norton. W. W. Norton is one of the largest U.S. companies to publish textbooks, specializing in instructional materials for writing. The publisher has recently been developing communication textbooks. Two annual speaker prize awards are granted for the top submission for students from a two-year institution and students from a four-year institution. Sr. Cecilia’s entry was an advocacy speech she developed in Public Speaking last year. Her speech advocates for assistance addressing the global water crisis with a special focus on its impacts in Cameroon. The award comes with a cash prize that Sr. Cecilia plans on sending to her congregation to further support the well digging efforts in her community.



*Sr. Cecilia*

### ARC Reminder

The Academic Resource Center (located in the Basement, Room 010) is offering tutoring services to all students from 9:00am on Monday through 5:00pm on Friday. We strongly encourage students to come visit and receive writing help from one of our four excellent, experienced peer tutors. Advanced ESL writing students, and other ESL students who want to practice their English with a speaking partner, are also encouraged to drop in.

Please note that one of the policies is that students who wish to get help on an essay **MUST** come to the ARC and work with a tutor **IN PERSON**. Please do not send an essay draft to a tutor and ask the tutor to correct, edit, proofread, etc., your paper. And you cannot simply drop off your paper and ask the tutor to correct it. If you want tutoring help, you must bring your paper, either on your laptop or a hard copy, to the ARC and sit with the tutor, staying at the table for the duration of your visit. I have instructed our tutors not to look at any papers or drafts that are sent to them.

When you do come, please do not ask tutors to “correct” your paper. Instead, we ask that you have specific questions about your draft ready for the tutor. For example, you could ask the tutor to look closely at your thesis statement and offer advice on how to make it stronger. Or you can ask specific questions about grammar/syntax, punctuation, MLA, APA, or Chicago Style, etc.

Numerous studies have shown that students who work in person with a tutor in a one-on-one setting, looking at your essay together, talking to the tutor, asking questions, and listening to the tutor’s responses, improve their understanding and writing (and thus their grades) more than students who only receive written feedback on their drafts.

 **Dr. Yasmin Rioux**  

# Assessment Bites

On February 17, 2025, we concluded our Fall 2024 Assessment Project. The data reports have been uploaded to our “Assessment at DWC” Populi group and were addressed in the most recent IAC meeting on February 20, 2025. The reports will again be discussed during the upcoming March department meetings. According to our approved “Data-Based Feedback and Recommendations Procedure”, there is no need to generate recommendations or input at this time, but I wanted to share the mentioned protocol with the community again. The following procedural guidelines can also be found in the DWC Assessment Manual on the DWC website!

**Evaluations of procured data to make data-based recommendations for curricular changes.**

What	Who	When
Program Learning Outcomes	Institutional Assessment Committee appointed Ad-Hoc PLO/CC Assessment Committee. Committee comprised of departmental faculty who are relevant to assessed Program Learning Outcome.	Following 2-3 rounds of data collection for given Program Learning Outcome.
Core Competency	Institutional Assessment Committee appointed Ad-Hoc PLO/CC Assessment Committee. Committee comprised of departmental faculty who are relevant to assessed CC.	Following 2-3 rounds of data collection for given CC.

**Process and Timeline for Data-Based Recommendations**

Following two to three rounds of data collection for a given Program Learning Outcome or Core Competency, the members of the Institutional Assessment Committee assign relevant faculty to an Ad-Hoc PLO/CC Data Recommendation Committee. These Ad-Hoc Committee members meet to collaboratively create observations for each assessed PLO/CC and return their observations to the Institutional Assessment Committee. The members of the latter Committee then accept or refute the given observations, make recommendations, and send these back to the relevant department(s) for discussion and implementation of data-driven changes.



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



**Mass for Vocations – St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart**

On Thursday, February 27, 2025, the Community of St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart, sisters in perpetual vows living off campus, will organize the vocation mass. In this mass, Sr. Phuong Xuan Ngo, LHC-PT will share her vocational journey about how God has called her to religious life, particularly with the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Phan Thiet. We ask you to join us to support Sr. Phuong and St. Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart, and also to continue to pray for more vocations in the Catholic Church.

**Bible Sharing and Social for SVD Candidates**

This Friday, February 28, 2025, the SVD candidates will join the SVD community for bible sharing and social. This is an opportunity for our candidates to know more about the Arnoldus family, our community, and a time to share our stories. We will begin with evening prayer at 5:00 pm in the main chapel, and bible sharing and social will follow. All SVD candidates are expected to be at this gathering.

*Spring*  
break!

**Spring Break**

Spring break is just around the corner! Beginning March 8, 2025, you are free to travel anywhere in the United States for your spring break. For students living on campus, if you are planning to stay on campus, we ask you to do three hours of community service, plus washing dishes.

A sign out sheet is posted on the student bulletin board. Please sign out by Saturday March 1, 2025 to inform me whether you are staying or leaving for spring break.

# external affairs

## Beckman Catholic High School Teacher Retreat – February 27

On Thursday, February 27, Divine Word College will welcome 30 teachers from Beckman Catholic High School for a day of retreat. The retreat will take place from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Mother of Asia Chapel, providing a time of reflection and renewal for the educators.

As part of the retreat, a special Mass will be held at 2:00 PM in the main chapel. Participants will also join us for lunch in the main dining room at 12:15 PM. We kindly ask our community members to be mindful of our guests and, if possible, consider eating lunch a bit earlier to accommodate their visit.

Thank you for your hospitality as we welcome the Beckman Catholic teachers to our campus!

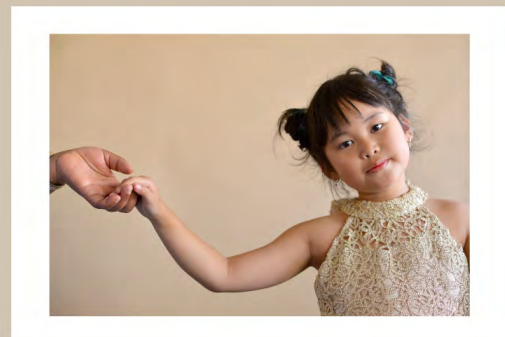
**Friday, Feb. 28**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Art Gallery**



## One Heart Exhibit Celebration



## Celebrate “One Heart” at the Weyland Art Gallery

Join us on Friday, February 28, at 5:00 PM for a special celebration of One Heart, the latest exhibit in the Weyland Art Gallery. This inspiring collection invites viewers to reflect on our unity, connection, and shared humanity through photography.

Come enjoy refreshments, engage with the artwork, and take time to experience the beauty and meaning behind One Heart. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, appreciate creativity, and be part of the artistic dialogue. We look forward to seeing you there!





**St. Bakhita Photos Available!**

Photos from the Feast of St. Bakhita are now available online. Access them with this link: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vPD00\\_ptH4USxFIFF-BJvFRitNeLopOY?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vPD00_ptH4USxFIFF-BJvFRitNeLopOY?usp=sharing)

# Justice and Peace Committee

## Educational Opportunity: Immigration

**Dubuque Area Congregations United**

**When:** Tuesday February 25th, 7:00 p.m.


**Where:** St. Patrick's Church, Foley Hall, 1425 Iowa Street, Dubuque, Iowa

**What:** Dubuque-area leaders discuss the faith community's role in the migrant community. Panelists include:



- Alex Baum - Director of Advocacy, Data & Learning, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
- Ry Meyer - Immigration Lawyer, Catholic Charities of Iowa & the Archdiocese of Dubuque
- Megan Ruiz - Executive Director, the Presentation Lantern Center, Dubuque
- Dora Serna Bedoya - Recent US Citizen & Multilingual Engagement Coordinator, Dubuque Community School District
- R.R.S. Stewart - Chair of the Board, Dubuque for Refugee Children

Visit the Dubuque Area Congregations United website: <http://www.dacuonline.org>

 Matthew Jacoby Library

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



## “DWC Picks Book Display” -- What’s your favorite book?

Starting in March, the library will have a display of books that are recommended by members of the DWC community (faculty, staff, students, and SVDs). Each book that is part of the display will have a placard that states the name of the recommender and a short blurb about why they recommended it.

So, what’s a book that inspired you? Fill out [this recommendation form](#)! Each DWC community member may submit up to two recommendations.

The recommendation form will also be available on the [library’s website](#).

### Student Research Assistance

It is rapidly approaching that time in the semester when preparation for research papers and projects is beginning. Students who are interested in learning about what library resources are available for their research paper or project are encouraged to set up a research appointment with the Library Director. Email [ewinter@dwci.edu](mailto:ewinter@dwci.edu) to set up an appointment today! To get a quick overview of the library’s resources, check out the [DWC Undergraduate Research Guide](#).