

In November, Divine Word College presented its prestigious Matthew 25 Award to the Epworth Community Volunteer Fire Department in recognition of their unwavering dedication and selfless service to the Epworth community.

The award, established in 2001, honors individuals or groups connected to the local area who embody the spirit of Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

College President Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD, expressed his gratitude during the award ceremony. "The Matthew 25 Award allows us to remember and celebrate works of kindness, welcome, and mercy by our neighbors in Dubuque County and the surrounding area," he said. "Today, we

particularly appreciate the long years of service of the Epworth Volunteer Fire Department."

Fifteen current and retired members of the department, along with their families, attended the event to accept the award. Fire Chief Tom Berger shared insights into the department's ongoing commitment to the community. "The Epworth community and the fire department are very appreciative of our wonderful relationship with Divine Word," he said. "The principal foundations of our fire department are dedication, professionalism, and volunteerism. I am extremely thankful for our active members who unselfishly give their time and talents to the department, ensuring a quick and professional response."

The Epworth Community Volunteer Fire Department currently has 40 members who respond to approximately 250 to 280 calls each year, exemplifying the spirit of service and community that the Matthew 25 Award celebrates.



PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE MISSIONARIES

Would you like to support the men at Divine Word College who are discerning their call to become Divine Word Missionary Priests or Brothers? Let us know, and we'll send you a profile card like this one! Each card features one of the 21 SVD candidates at the college, along with a glimpse into his journey on the back. Please keep him in your prayers as he listens to God's call and prepares for a life of mission and service.

To request a card, email **info@dwci.edu** with the subject line **"Send Me a Card."**Be sure to include your name and mailing address in the message.