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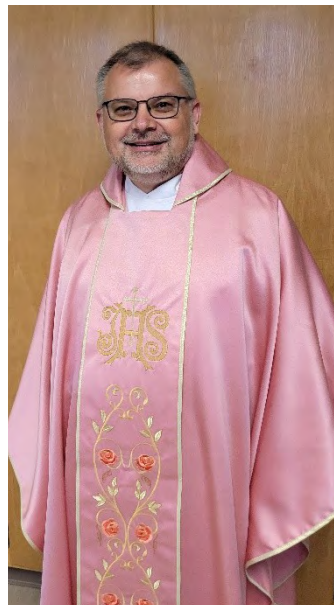
THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

The Wearing of the PINK!

Two weeks ago we were wearing the GREEN to celebrate St. Patrick and his adopted land of Ireland. This week, PINK is the color! The fourth Sunday in Lent is memorable for the “rose” colored vestments. The Mass opens with the traditional phrase: *Laetare Jerusalem*, “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” Pink/rose is the liturgical color for rejoicing. We are already halfway through our purple Lenten journey.

Fr. Adam Oleszczuk SVD, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Provincial of the Chicago Province of Divine Word Missionaries, was the celebrant in the DWC Chapel on Sunday. The SVD candidates, novices and juniors were gathered at DWC for a weekend celebration of SVD Formation. Adam, resplendent in a “rose” vestment, brought plenty of joy in his reflection on the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father. I carried away four ideas from the celebration.



Keep Forgiving. The father in Jesus’ story was a champion forgiver. He was longing for the return of his wayward son, and he rushed forward to embrace his son, forgiving all of the mischief and irresponsibility that he had shown. How often should we forgive? Jesus said seventy times seven. I feel both challenged and encouraged to keep on asking for forgiveness and to forgive readily.

Come to the Feast. The older brother in Jesus’ story was very unhappy about the abundant forgiveness offered to his younger brother. Jealousy and resentment of his irresponsible and disrespectful little brother invaded his heart. The opening prayer for



the Mass had this to say: “...hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.” Jealousy and anger make very sad traveling companions. I am reminded to loosen up; to “waste” more time with brothers and sisters and friends.

Mothering Sunday. At one point, Fr. Adam wondered, where is the mother in this story? Perhaps she was preparing the meal! Fr. Adam probably wasn’t aware that during the Middle Ages (and still today in Great Britain and in some parts of the Commonwealth) the fourth Sunday of Lent was celebrated as mothering Sunday. It is somewhat akin to Mother’s Day in the USA; however in Britain it is a day to visit the Church in which one was baptized, or one’s parish Church or the Cathedral. The opening antiphon of Laetare Sunday reminds us to *rejoice with Jerusalem*, the mother city of the dawning of the Kingdom of God, and to *exult and be glad at her consoling breast*. This week it would be good to keep in mind all the communities of faith that have mothered us and helped us prepare for the Eternal Paschal feast.

Pink Sisters. During Lent, our dining room tables are dressed in shades of purple, but for this week several of the tables are sporting pink tablecloths. Whenever we have a “pink” Sunday – Gaudete in Advent and Laetare in Lent – I can’t help but remember our Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP). When you visit them, you will learn that they can be an amazingly joyful group. Wear something PINK, proudly and full of joy!



150 Years – The Pink Sisters Foundation

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word, we are also remembering the foundation of the wider Arnoldus Family.

The Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP) are also known as the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. Together with the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS), and the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), they form the Arnoldus Family of missionary congregations. The Adoration Sisters are known affectionately by the color of their habit: they are the Pink Sisters.

Who chose pink for the SSpSAP? Apparently, it was Arnold Janssen himself. Already in 1890, when he was preparing the Rule for the Holy Spirit Sisters, he noted there would be both active missionary Sisters with a blue habit and cloistered Sisters with a pink habit (Bornemann, 1975, p. 231). The “Blue” Sisters were established in 1891 and the “Pink” sisters in 1896. Their rose-colored tunics are worn when they are in their cloister. Outside they wear a gray habit. Janssen chose the color because it represents the joy and hope of the Holy Spirit.

The website of the SSpSAP Convent of Divine Love in Philadelphia, PA shares the following information:

“Seeing the need not only for missionary priests and brothers but also for missionary women, Saint Arnold founded the Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit. He further saw the need for a third missionary Congregation, to support through prayer and sacrifice the work of his first two foundations. For this, he envisioned a strictly cloistered contemplative community with perpetual adoration and founded the Sister-Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration, more commonly known as the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. He chose the first members of this foundation from among the members of the active missionary Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit who had volunteered for this branch.



“With God’s blessing, the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters took root and began to flourish. It started modestly in 1896 in a separate wing of the missionary Sister’s Sacred Heart Convent, then in 1904 also in a separate wing in their newly built Motherhouse. By 1914, through the efforts of (the co-foundress), Mother Mary Michael, the cloistered Sisters could have a separate Motherhouse of their own, Holy Spirit Convent, which still exists today in its original structure.

“By 1915, Mother Mary Michael was able to found our first convent after the Motherhouse, the Convent of Divine Love in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This foundation came about through an invitation from Archbishop Edmund Francis Prendergast, who desired to have an adoration convent in his archdiocese. A wealthy Catholic layman, Cornelius A. Lane, had bequeathed a generous sum to the archdiocese for the establishment of an adoration convent. Thus the archbishop was in a position to make a generous offer. He would purchase a suitable piece of property, build and furnish a chapel and convent for the Sisters, and could promise to contribute to their support. It was a very favorable offer, which the Congregation could gratefully accept.

“In 1915, nine Sisters were sent from Steyl for the first community. Some American women soon applied and were admitted. This necessitated the establishment of a novitiate in the new convent. Several years ago, the novitiate was moved to our convent in St. Louis (Mount Grace Convent), where candidates from all parts of the United States are admitted and trained. Since its earliest years, the Sisters have kept adoration day and night before the Blessed Sacrament, and the people of Philadelphia have very frequently made visits to the chapel, joining the Sisters in prayerful vigil.

“In the course of time, more and more adoration convents would be founded by Mother Mary Michael, and after her death by her successors. At present our international religious congregation has 22 Houses in 12 countries and about 420 members in all.

“You can find our Houses in Argentina, Brazil, Germany, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, Togo, Chile, and the United States of America.” (<https://adorationsisters.org/>)

Currently there are four convents of Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters in the USA:

- Philadelphia – Convent of Divine Love (<https://adorationsisters.org/>)
- St. Louis – Mount Grace Convent (<https://www.mountgraceconvent.org/>)
- Corpus Christi, Texas – Blessed Sacrament Convent (<https://cloisteredlife.com/directory/corpus-christi>)
- Lincoln, Nebraska – Christ the King Convent (<https://cloisteredlife.com/directory/lincoln>)



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Joshua Young

Missio Dei- Conference Summary

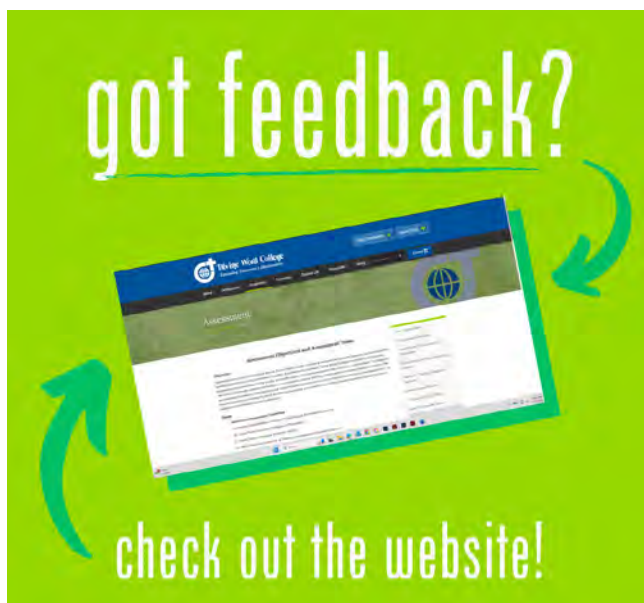
The Missio Dei Conference was a great success. The three day conference began with an address by Cardinal Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization. Cardinal Tagle reminded audience members of Pope Francis’s call to missionary discipleship before congratulating the Society of the Divine Word on their 150th anniversary and blessing conference participants. The first day theme was “healing wounds” and featured a keynote by Fr. Stephen Bevans, SVD, on dialogue as a key element in healing. The second day focused on the challenges of postmodernism in missionary efforts. The final day encouraged conference participants to embrace interculturality, with a keynote by Fr. Roger Shroeder presenting resources for understanding this concept as developed by the Arnoldus Family Mission. Proceeds of the conference will be published in the future and some presentations are available through SVDMissionTV on YouTube.

While at the conference, I had the opportunity to meet with Fr. Augustin Pushpa Anbu, SVD, Generalate Formation and Education Secretary. We discussed the work being done at DWC and the important relationship between the College and the Generalate. We have committed to working together to find opportunities to grow our relationship and providing opportunities for DWC community members to connect to the global Arnoldus Family educational mission. Overall, it was important that DWC be present for this important dialogue about the future of mission. I look forward to continuing the conversation from the conference to campus.



Dr. Yasmin Rioux

Assessment Bites



Feedback Requested

As we are moving closer to our HLC visit, it is important to update our individual websites, the department websites, and the College’s assessment website to ensure our HLC reviewers and visitors can easily and effectively access information they may need as part of their review. We are all very busy people, especially towards the end of the semester! However, if you find a few minutes, please check out the following link and provide feedback as needed: <https://www.dwci.edu/academics/assessment-1>. The members of the Institutional Assessment Committee will also engage in the same review process of our assessment website; the more reviewers, the merrier the page!



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

Roadside Cleanup

This Saturday, April 5, 2025, we will have a roadside cleanup. It is a way that we show our care and concern for the Epworth Community by way of keeping our community clean. We encourage all students to participate in the roadside cleanup as a way to express our generosity. For those who are interested in the roadside clean up, we will meet in the front entrance at 9:00 am.

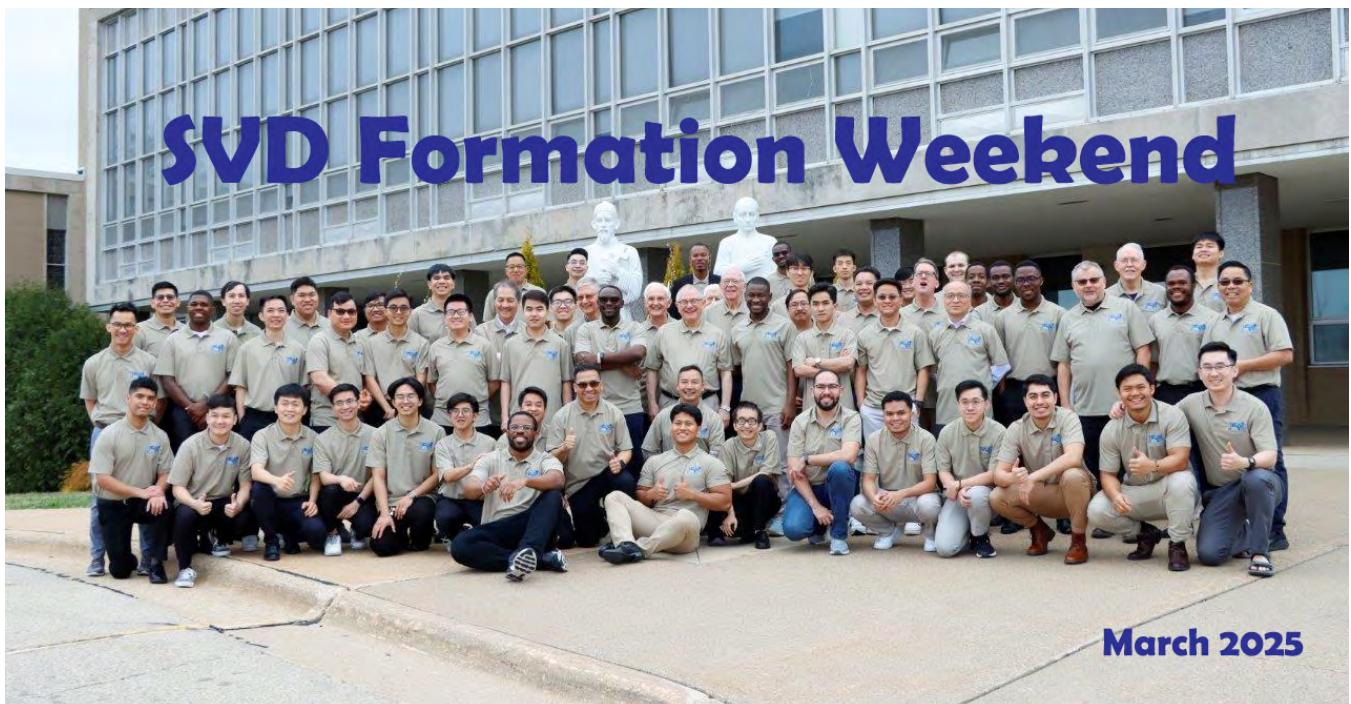
Donor Appreciation and Donaghey Award

A reminder that next Sunday, April 6, 2025, there will be a Donor Appreciation Celebration and the Presentation of the Donaghey Award. *“The Donaghey Award for Outstanding Service is named in honor of Rev. John Donaghey, SVD, in recognition of his long history of service to Divine Word College.”* This year, the recipients of the Donaghey Award will be given to the three sisters congregations who have

graciously accepted our students living off campus into their community during their studies at Divine Word College – Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sisters of St. Francis, and Sisters of the Presentation. Allowing our off campus students into their community is a joint effort and collaboration between Divine Word College and the religious congregation, and we appreciate them for their service.

To honor them, we will have a liturgy 10:00 am in the main chapel, followed by a banquet and program. All students are required to attend this celebration, and please come dressed in formal or religious attire. The college is also asking for your assistance preparing for this celebration and banquet. This week, Ms. Emily Shedek has posted a signup sheet asking for your help. I ask you for your help at this celebration and banquet.

There will be Mass for students helping with the Donor Brunch at 7 pm, Saturday, April 5 in the Mother of the Word Chapel (2nd floor). **This Mass is for student workers ONLY.**





VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

Steve Winger

Reporting Harassment and Sexual Misconduct on Campus

Divine Word College is committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Harassment and sexual misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. We encourage everyone to be an active bystander and report any incidents they experience or witness.

How to Report:

If you have experienced or witnessed harassment or sexual misconduct, you should report it. You can report to any of the following individuals:

- For Students: The Dean of Students, Fr. Tuan Hoang
- For Employees: Your Immediate Supervisor
- Any Member of the Board of Administration
- DWC College Mediator, Michelle McDonald, 563-552-0148



Your report will be taken seriously and handled with sensitivity and discretion. Divine Word College is committed to providing support and resources to those who have been affected by harassment or sexual misconduct. Retaliation against anyone making a report will not be tolerated. We all play a role in maintaining a respectful community. By reporting incidents of harassment or sexual misconduct, you help ensure a safer environment for everyone at Divine Word College. For more information, please see the DWC Student Handbook or the DWC Policy Handbook, Section 5.01 and 5.02.

Justice and Peace Committee



Taking Care of the Environment

Saturday, April 5 is Roadside Cleanup from 9:00-10:00. Please join us in cleaning up the highway and our college campus. A sign-up list will be posted on the student bulletin board. Thank you for doing your part in cleaning up our beautiful environment.

external affairs

Celebrating Generosity and Service

On Sunday, April 6, Divine Word College will host its annual **Donor Appreciation and Donaghey Award Celebration**, a special occasion to honor the generosity of our benefactors and recognize outstanding service in our community. We invite you to join us in celebrating this important event, which will include the **10 AM liturgy** followed by a **brunch in the dining room**.

This gathering is an opportunity to express gratitude to the donors whose generosity sustains Divine Word College. Their support allows our students to receive a quality education and formation as future missionaries of the Catholic Church. This event allows us to thank them personally for their impact on our community.

As with any large event, student assistance is needed. There is a **sign-up sheet on the student board** with various areas where help is required. Please consider volunteering to ensure the event runs smoothly and to show appreciation for those who support our college mission.

During the celebration, we will also present the **Donaghey Award for Outstanding Service** to three women's religious communities in Dubuque:

- The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- The Sisters of St. Francis



These communities have warmly welcomed our students into their congregations and continue to provide them with encouragement and support. Their hospitality and dedication to fostering missionary vocations make them truly deserving of this recognition.

We encourage all members of the Divine Word College community—students, faculty, staff, and friends—to attend this special event. Please join us as we give thanks, celebrate generosity, and honor those who make a difference in the lives of our students.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note: For those DWC Community members who are attending, please park in a spot farthest from the door or possibly at Megan Hall to leave as many parking spots as possible for our guests. Thank you!

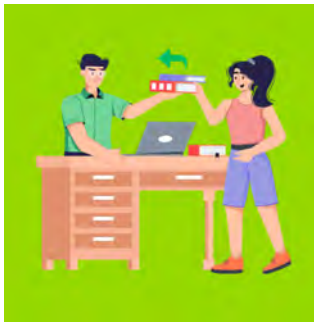
Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu



What's New in the Library

- New books are being added regularly.
- Incomplete or outdated catalog records are being updated to increase discoverability.
- SVD publications are being digitized to facilitate access to and awareness of SVD scholarship.
- We received a significant book donation from the Carmelite Sisters, who now reside at The Canticle in Clinton, Iowa.



Returns and Renewals

You do not need to check in your returns before putting them in the slot. There is a self-check in feature on the Self-Service machine in the library, but it is there largely for library workers to use to expedite the check process. If self-check is necessary for some reason, there will be a sign indicating that this is the case. Remember – You can renew items 3 times before returning them. Log into your library account on the [catalog](#). Forgot how to log in? Follow the directions in the [Matthew Jacoby Library Help Center](#).



ARC Workshop: Finding Credible Sources

Creativity and curiosity are required to be an effective researcher. Being able to quickly ascertain whether something is credible is necessary to be an efficient researcher. Liz Winter, Library Director and Archivist is leading an ARC workshop tomorrow to help students develop the skills required to be an effective and efficient researcher.

Learning Outcomes: Identify various search strategies and evaluation methods.

Target Audience: Undergrad Students

The Workshop is on Wednesday, April 2nd in the Academic Resource Center from 12:30-12:55 PM.



Dubuque County Reads Author Visit Event

Mark your calendars! Stephanie Foo, author of *What My Bones Know*, is visiting Dubuque on April 10th. In addition to writing a phenomenal book, Foo used to work as a radio producer for *This American Life* and *Snap Judgment*, freelanced for podcasts like *The Cut*, *Nancy*, *Reply All* and *99% Invisible*, and [wrote pieces for various media outlets](#). For more information visit bit.ly/DubCoReads25.

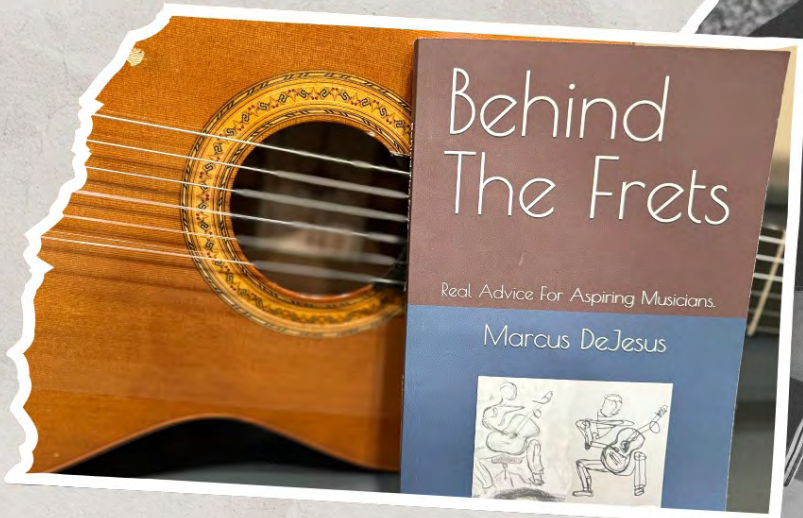
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Dubuque Colleges Sustainability Coalition Presents

CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 3

4-6 p.m.

**Loras College Alumni
Campus Center**

Enjoy crafts, food, dancing and information sessions from area experts on how **you** can make an impact on climate change.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Clarke University

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Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid

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ATTENDANCE IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

Serving God's People at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Memphis, TN

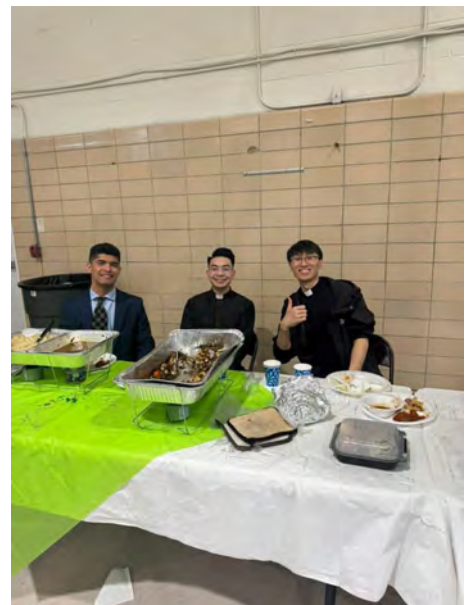
Fr. Keke Liu, SVD, Frt. Xuekai Shi, SVD and seminarian Ricardo Chavez

During spring break, my group served at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Memphis, Tennessee. It was a good opportunity to experience working in the parish, even though it was only for a week.

What did we do? Of course, we joined in some of the parish's activities. First, we cleaned the school that belongs to St. Augustine Catholic Church. This summer, the parish will have a summer peace camp for the children, so we prepared the place to host this event. Not only did we clean the place, but we also helped in preparing the summer peace camp. Second, we rebuilt the garden at the church. We planted some flowers and vegetables. Lastly, we joined the activity called Men Who Cook.

Though we feel that we did not do significant work for the parish, we enjoyed our time and gained insightful experiences. We got to know more about the SVD mission and ministry with the people of Memphis, TN. We were also exposed to the life of a parish priest. We recognized the presence of God. He works through us and with us. We hope there are more opportunities in the future where we can spend some time during our break in the SVD mission places around the USA. We thank God for calling us to be God's instruments as missionaries.

We thanked Fr. Stephen Brown, SVD, who invited us to his place. He has invited us to help him for the Summer Peace Camp in June 2025. We look forward to joining this event and serving the people of St. Augustine Parish closely.



The First Spring Break

By Truong Van Nguyen

It has been seven months since I lived and studied in this beautiful country of America. Studying in a new country, I also had my own experiences. One of the memories that I will probably never forget is a week of Spring Break at the Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri.

The first wonderful thing that left an impression on me was the care of Father Binh and Father Son Le. Usually, when coming to a completely new place, meeting people you have never



met before, people will feel uncomfortable because of many strange things. I am no exception. I was also a bit worried because I did not know the two priests before, and I had never been to this parish before. However, all my worries were gone because of the hospitality of the two priests. The two priests were like older brothers welcoming their younger siblings home. This made me think more about the community life of the SVD that I am pursuing. Indeed, I experienced it through my own experience.

Another thing that left an impression on me was the experience of parish activities. During my days at the parish, I had the opportunity to attend Mass with the parishioners, visit some families in the parish, attend funerals and encourage the bereaved families, and learn pastoral experiences from the priests. This was very useful for someone who is pursuing the SVD vocation like me. It helped me learn how the priests serve and live in relationship with the parishioners, something I had only learned from books before.





I also had the opportunity to help the priests clean the yard and repaint the doors. Being so busy with my studies, I had not had the opportunity to do these things for a long time, the work that I used to do with my father when I was at home. Therefore, when I was assigned the task, I thought I had completed it well. I was also very happy because I could contribute a little bit of my strength to serve God's house. This reminds me that: When I learn a lot, I will be able to help the Church a lot. Therefore, I will try to study well with the ability that God has given me to serve Him.



I am also quite impressed with the community of SSpsAp nuns in St Louis. Father Binh took me to visit the community of nuns here. I experienced the sacredness that the nuns gave to God when they adored the Blessed Sacrament. I also spent a few minutes praying with the nuns. This sacred act is like a reminder to me of the importance of prayer life.

Only a short week at the parish, but I have learned many useful things for my religious journey. May God, through the intercession of Mother Mary, grant the two priests and the parishioners here peace and always live in God's grace.

Spring Break Reflection: Our Lady of Africa

For the Spring Break, from March 7 to March 14, Frt. Kun Liu and myself visited Our Lady of Africa Parish in the South Side of Chicago. We stayed with the Pastor, Fr. Carl Gales SVD, at the Rectory. Our Lady of Africa is a Black American Parish with a growing number of immigrants from Africa proper. For 5 days straight, Kun and I got to experience parish life in all of its ups and downs, broken pipes included! The parishioners were so warm and welcoming and to experience the uniqueness of black catholic liturgy is something for myself at least something I will cherish. At the same time, Fr. Carl took Kun and I on a tour of Chicago! We got to visit many Churches including St. John Cantius. We also got to experience the diverse cuisines that make up Chicago's landscape. Oh, I forgot to mention that Kun and I got to visit the Theologate, CTU, and visit with our SVD brothers in formation at the theologate! The traffic is something Kun and I will have to get used to in the future! Overall, I think it would give the experience an A plus!

