

*Welcoming
the
World*





There is a Reason for All Those Flags

Many people know Divine Word College as "that building with all the flags" along Highway 20 at Epworth. Obviously, it is more than that. It is more than a college. It is more than a seminary. It is more than a place that celebrates the diversity of its students—exemplified by all those flags. It is the only college seminary in the U.S. dedicated to the education of Catholic missionaries.

Divine Word College (DWC) is one of many educational institutions belonging to the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), one of the largest Catholic missionary orders in the world. The SVD operates everything from elementary schools to seminaries to universities and research institutions. Though DWC offers its educational resources to other seminarians and religious sisters, its primary goal is to help young men decide if religious life is for them as a Divine Word Missionary priest or brother.

Divine Word Missionaries can be found working among the poorest and most disadvantaged people in 60 countries around the world. Our graduates work among children afflicted by HIV-AIDS in Thailand, disadvantaged orphans in India, the starving and impoverished in Mozambique as well as the under privileged in Chicago. Their work touches the lives of thousands upon thousands of God's neediest people every day.



The society was founded by Saint Arnold Janssen, a German-born priest and a teacher of math and science, during the peak of European colonialism. He wanted to

respond to Christ's call to spread the Gospel among those who had never heard its message and make disciples of all nations. In 1875, he decided to form a missionary order, but because of religious persecution in Germany, Father Arnold left his homeland and established his new missionary order in nearby Steyl, Holland. A primary source of funding was the sale of publications for German-speaking Catholics, which promoted missionary work in other countries



In 1878, Saint Joseph Freinademetz, a priest from Tyrol in northern Italy near Switzerland, joined the new order and was one of the first missionaries to go overseas,

traveling to China in 1879. He spent the rest of his life there and was much loved by the people.



Both men were canonized by Pope John Paul II, on October 5, 2003.

Through the faith, hard work and leadership of Saint Arnold and the on-mission example set by Saint Joseph Freinademetz, the society grew quickly over the coming decades, sending missionaries to counties on six continents. The first Divine Word Missionary came to the United States in 1895, and would be instrumental in establishing the society in the Midwest and in Iowa.



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Coming to America and the Midwest



German priest and was considered a German order. Bro. Wendelin was sent to the U.S. to seek out benefactors among German Catholic immigrants and to sell them subscriptions to popular SVD publications, a major source of funding for the society.

Intelligent and amiable with a good sense of humor, Bro. Wendelin made friends wherever he went. His travels took him to many parts of the country, including the Midwest, where he was welcomed in many places, including Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

During his first two years in the U.S., four other members of the missionary order were sent to join him. It wasn't long before they realized that there were many young men in the U.S. who would be open to religious missionary life. So the decision was made to establish a headquarters, or foundation, and a seminary.

At first, the five men were in New York City, and then a place was identified in Pennsylvania, where they stayed for a short time, as their search progressed westward into Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Finally, through an acquaintance, Bro. Wendelin heard of a 337-acre farm in Shermerville, Illinois, now known as Northbrook, just north of Chicago. St. Arnold noted that it was a prime spot, located in the middle of such a large country and near one of its largest cities.

On June 26, 1899, the SVD bought the property from the German Catholic Orphanage Board for \$42,000, under the condition that the society would establish a trade school there for orphaned boys. St. Joseph's Technical School was built, and the property eventually became known as Techny.

Over the coming years, an elementary school and St. Mary's seminary—the first in the United States dedicated to the

training of foreign missionaries—were constructed on the land. Meanwhile the farm prospered and became a major source of food and revenue for the religious community, as well as experiential training for the prospective missionaries.

Within three decades of arriving in the U.S., the SVD had established other seminaries in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin as well as Mississippi, which was the first to welcome African Americans, decades before the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Today, Techny continues to be the headquarters of the SVD in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean.

In 1916, a chance meeting at Techny between the SVD and a rector of a seminary in Cincinnati would lead to the SVD crossing the Mississippi River to establish a seminary in Epworth, Iowa.



Congratulations on 50 years!

American Trust honors Divine Word College for its 50 years in educating and preparing individuals for missionary service. Your dedication to helping people answer their calling perpetuates love and makes the world a better place. Divine Word College graduates improve lives all around the world and give the gift of hope through their spiritual guidance.

Your financial friends at American Trust wish you many more years of continued success.



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St. Paul's Mission House, Epworth, Iowa

As the SVD became established at Techny, Bro. Wenedin Meyer and his colleagues continued their work selling SVD publications to German Catholic immigrants living in the Midwest. During his travels, he found a great deal of support in Iowa, so it didn't take long before thoughts of establishing a minor—or high school—seminary there drew more and more interest.

Meanwhile, in 1918, the rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Monsignor Francis Beckman, decided to answer the call to meet at Techny to discuss the creation of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, to support foreign missions. As a result of the meeting, he became a good friend of the SVD, which came into play soon after he was appointed Archbishop of Dubuque, in January, 1930.



Hearing that the SVD wanted to establish a minor seminary in Iowa, Archbishop Beckman invited the missionary order to come to the archdiocese and suggested that it purchase a 16-acre parcel with eight buildings west of Dubuque, in the Town of Epworth. The site had been a former Methodist seminary, and for a short time a military academy, but the buildings and property had been vacant for several years.

The property was purchased in 1931, and on Oct. 30, 1932, Beckman presided over an open-air dedication Mass for St. Paul's Mission House, predecessor of Divine Word College.

In 1949, St. Paul's ceased being a minor seminary, and became the junior college for the SVD in the U.S. It continued in that mode until 1955 when it became a so-called "belated" school for young men who came from public schools and needed advanced study of philosophy and theology to enter the major seminary.

In the 1950s, there was a move nationally for accreditation of educational institutions. In 1959, the SVD leadership decided that though its primary purpose was to educate men for missionary service, they should also be offered an education that could provide a basis for a secondary profession. In the early 1960s, it was decided that the SVD needed a four-year liberal arts college and its property in Epworth was chosen for the site because of its central location in the country.

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DWC Construction in 1962

On July 10, 1962, Father Nicholas Bisheimer, SVD, provincial of the Northern Province based at Techny, broke ground to begin the two-year, \$3 million construction of Divine Word College Seminary. Brielmair, Sheer & Sheer of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the architectural firm that designed the building to accommodate 160 seminarians and 25 faculty and staff.

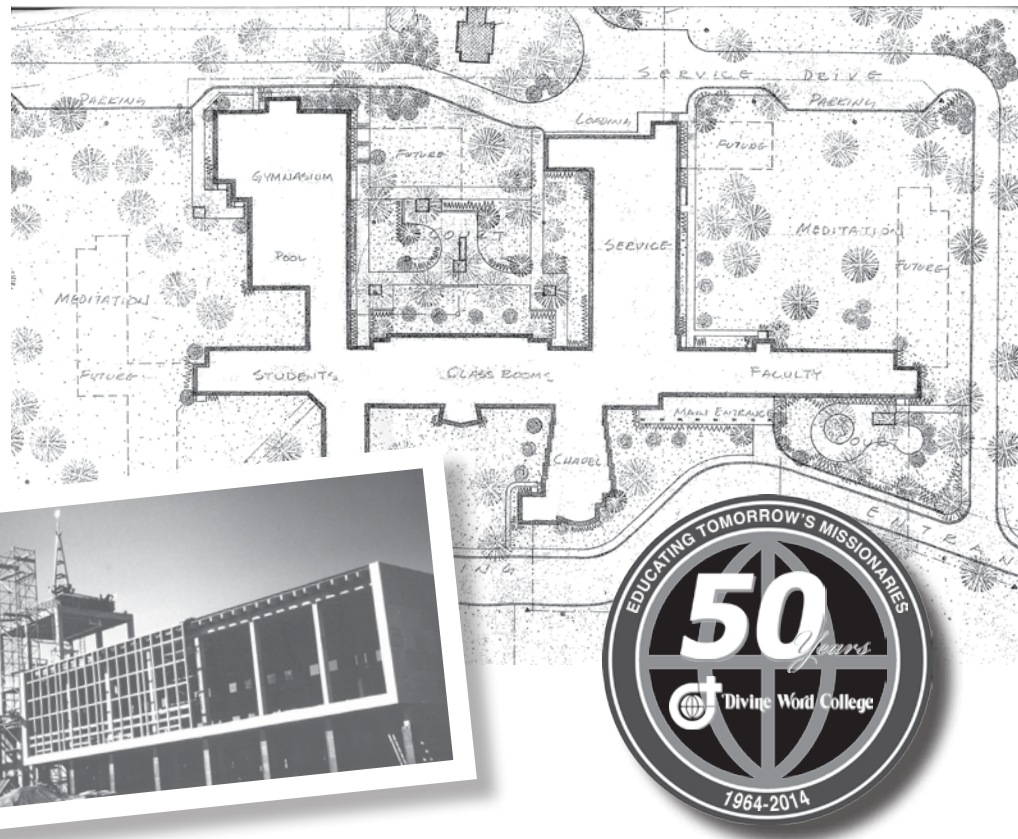
The footprint of the massive structure spans the length of two football fields and is more than a football field wide. The general contractor was J.P. Cullen and Son of Janesville, Wisconsin. Brother Richard (William) Krick, SVD, was the construction supervisor.

During excavation for the new seminary, it was discovered that the site's clay soil would not be suitable for such a huge structure. The problem was solved with approximately 1500 lengths of 10 3/4" steel pipe. With one end capped, the pipes were driven into the ground an

average of 25 feet and filled with concrete to support the foundation.

The project demanded so much concrete that Flynn Ready-Mix built a batching plant in Epworth to meet the need. The cornerstone was placed in 1963.

The building was completed in 1964, and the first wave of students was welcomed that fall. The following year, on Sunday, May 2, 1965, Archbishop James J. Byrne of Dubuque dedicated the new seminary. Superior General Father John Schuette, SVD, was on hand for the ceremony.




He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."
 Mark 16:15

50

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Blessings to you in this, your 50th year of "Educating Tomorrow's Missionaries."



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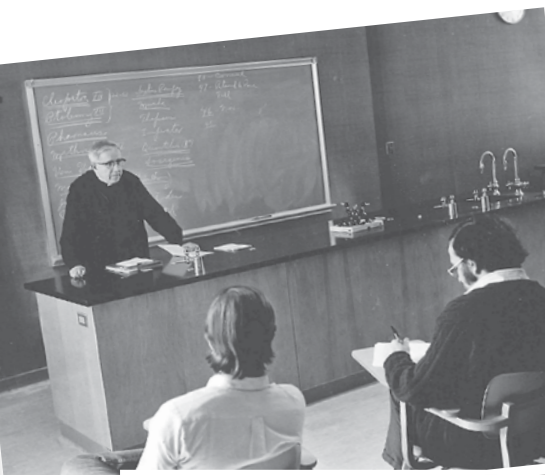
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Divine Word College 1964 - 2014 Timeline



September 1964

The newly completed Divine Word College, a two-year junior college, opens its doors to 64 freshman from SVD high school seminaries. Father Edward Dudink, SVD, is the first president.

September 1965

DWC becomes a four-year, liberal-arts college and welcomes students from the novitiate at Conesus, New York and the two-year liberal arts program at Duxbury (Miramar,) Massachusetts. The student population leaped to 186 students.

1975

DWC welcomes 16 Vietnamese seminarians, refugees after the fall of Saigon. The decision would spur the development of an extensive English as Second Language (ESL) program and a student body fortified with increased numbers of international students.

October 1985

First International Food Fest, following Mission Sunday Mass at DWC. This popular event continues to draw people from the area to enjoy different foods from around the world, prepared by students, faculty, staff and friends of the college.

April 1995

Msg. Ray Wahl, then pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church in Galena and a great friend of DWC, organized a fundraiser, the "Palm Sunday Brunch," which was held in the Galena Territories. It became an annual event later known as the Spring Brunch.

May 16, 1998

Patricia Cline became the first woman to graduate from Divine Word College, with a degree in Cross-Cultural Studies. In 1994, she had been one of the first two recipients of Joseph D. Simon, SVD, Diversity Scholarships.

January 2002

The first group of "Lost Boys of Sudan" arrive at DWC. Over the course of the next six years, 36 young men arrived, all victims of a decades-long civil war in Sudan. Tragically separated from their families when they were children, they fled to refugee camps for many years before coming to the U.S.

December, 2009

The Divine Word College Board of Trustees approves a new mission statement, which formally allows for the enrollment to include religious sisters, seminarians from other Catholic orders and lay persons.

May 2, 1965

The Most Reverend James J. Byrne, Archbishop of Dubuque presides over the dedication ceremony for DWC. Father John Schuette, SVD, Superior General of the SVD, made a special trip to Epworth to attend the ceremony.

1965

Divine Word College opens its swimming pool to the surrounding community. Fr. Matthew Jacoby, SVD, gave swimming lessons to area youth and became a local legend for his kindness and generosity ... especially when it came to handing out candy and cookies, which resulted in his nickname the "Cookie Man."

1976

First Lunar New Year celebration at Divine Word College. Held in the dining hall for the first few years, the annual celebration was moved to the gymnasium as the crowds grew larger. For decades, it has been a highlight on the calendar for DWC attracting many friends and benefactors.

September 30, 1993

Fr. Mike Hutchins, SVD, was inaugurated as the seventh president of Divine Word College. He would hold the position for 18 years, the longest tenure by a president in the history of the college.

January 1996

The college initiates the Friends Across Nations or "FAN" Club, which continues to connect international students with area families for cultural exchange while offering the students a connection to family life in this country.

August 13, 1998

Two SVDs—prominent at DWC since its beginning—departed for Techny. Brother Leonard Bauer, SVD, managed the Business Office and worked in Development. Brother Henry Oeser, SVD, was the maintenance engineer. Highly talented and professional men of deep faith, both made significant contributions to the college and the surrounding community and were loved and admired.

August 2006

Four religious sisters, members of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS), an affiliated order of the SVD, become the first women religious to enroll at DWC. Within three years, the number of religious sisters increased to more than 30.

August 2014

Divine Word College begins a series of events to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Beginning on August 2, with the Town and Country Days parade in Epworth, in which the community also honored the college, events will wrap in May 2015, with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Thank you Divine Word College for 50 years of giving of yourselves to others.

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Divine Word College Outreach Programs

Apostolic Activities – Students at Divine Word College are involved in community outreach as part of their religious-formation program. They teach religious-education classes, visit the sick in local hospitals, work with the handicapped and spend time at the local soup kitchen. These activities offer students the opportunity to serve others outside the college.



Lunar New Year – The hottest ticket at Divine Word College is for the annual Lunar New Year celebration, the most popular holiday on the Asian Lunar Calendar. Each New Year is marked by one of the 12 animals in the Asian zodiac. The celebration welcomes the New Year with hopes of good fortune and joy, and is highlighted by the appearance of a “lion”—a symbol of good luck in many Asian cultures.



Daily and Sunday Mass The college welcomes everyone to our beautiful Main Chapel to join in daily and Sunday Mass. The liturgy is celebrated Monday through Saturday, at 8 a.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.



6th Grade Vocation Day Working with the Dubuque Area Vocation Association (DAVA), Divine Word College welcomes sixth grade students from area Catholic schools every year during Vocation Day. DAVA members present information to the boys and girls about religious vocations.



Mission Sunday- The global Catholic Church celebrates its missionary nature each October during Mission Sunday, a day which carries special significance to Divine Word Missionaries. At Divine Word College, it is celebrated with a multilingual Mass followed by an International Food-Fest to nourish the soul...and the tummy!

Our Lady of Guadalupe – The Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 outside modern-day Mexico City. Her image miraculously appeared on Diego’s cloak and led to the celebration known as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Celebrated around the world, and especially in Hispanic countries, Divine Word College students honor Our Lady with a special Mass, banquet and entertainment.



FAN Club –The Friends Across Nations (FAN) Club brings together students and local families to build relationships and share insights into each others culture. Often, FAN Club friendships last long after students complete their studies and depart the college.

★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

*Congratulations to our friends
at Divine Word College!*



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A Full Day Every Day

Students at Divine Word College (DWC) put in long days. They are not only responsible for their academic studies, but religious formation and ministry programs add many hours to their education.



Academically, Divine Word College offers three majors: Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, and Intercultural Studies. As a four-year, liberal-arts college, the academic side also includes studies in history, science, literature, music, art and other course work that broadens their education.

Many students are non-native English speakers. Since the mid 1970s, DWC has developed a very successful English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Today, it attracts students from around the world, not only young men who are considering life as a Divine Word Missionary priest or brother but also priests as well as religious sisters and brothers from other orders.

Some come to learn or improve their English and then return to work in their dioceses or religious communities. Many students complete the ESL program and move on to pursue a degree—a daunting task if you can imagine how tough it would be to learn a totally different language, and then earn a degree that is taught in that language.

But our students' education goes beyond academics. Again, DWC is dedicated to educating students to work as



Catholic missionaries, so the college actively helps students grow spiritually, intellectually and personally. Each student has company on their journey as a member of a formation group. They also get personal advice and support from a spiritual director.

For young men who are deciding if religious life as a Divine Word Missionary is the path they want to take, their formation program can add clarity to their decision.

There are two other formation programs for our students. One is for religious sisters and the other for lay-ministry students who come from SVD parishes.

Meanwhile, students are also involved in ministry outreach, which gives them real-life missionary experience dealing directly with people outside the college, such as volunteering at area parishes, nursing homes and homeless shelters. During spring break, students can also travel to other parts of the country to do similar work but in different surroundings.

Add in their responsibilities to take part in religious services and cultural events, our students truly put in a full day, every day.

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Rev. Louis Luzbetak, SVD
1973-1978



Rev. Raymond Quetchenbach, SVD
1979-1981



Rev. John Donaghey, SVD
1981-1987



Rev. Joseph Simon, SVD
1987-1993



Rev. Michel Hutchins, SVD
1993-2011



Rev. Timothy Lenchak, SVD
2011-present



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Dear Friends:

Divine Word College has been blessed to be part of Epworth and of the Tri-State area for the last 50 years. Indeed, the Society of the Divine Word (otherwise known as Divine Word Missionaries or by our Latin initials, SVD) has been blessed to have been here for more than 80 years, dating back to the days of St. Paul's Mission House, the high-school seminary that preceded DWC. Over time, the friendships we've developed here have helped us grow and develop into the institution we are today.



Divine Word College faces an exciting future. Yes, there will be challenges. Every institution of higher learning – including a seminary – faces ongoing issues related to enrollment and finances. That will never change. But the future of DWC is bright because, fundamentally, it is poised to succeed.

Times have changed and our college seminary has shown over the last half century an ability to adapt to those changes. It has positioned itself to maintain healthy enrollments by offering its educational resources to diverse groups of students. The change in our mission statement, welcoming religious sisters as well as seminarians from dioceses and other Catholic orders, has attracted students from around the world.

Geographically, it is in a strong position. A central location in the U.S. was viewed as an essential point in the late 1890s by the founder of the Society of the Divine Word, Saint Arnold Janssen, when he established our first seminary at Techny, near Chicago. In the early 1960s, location was viewed as an important reason for building Divine Word College at Epworth. Its central location in the nation's heartland continues to be a benefit as we attract students from all parts of the country.

Through it all, there has always been one constant that the college and the SVD have enjoyed here, and that is the friendship of so many good and kind people. Women from Epworth, Farley and Dyersville helped prepare St. Paul's for its first students in the fall of 1932. On our first Christmas morning here, Epworth residents came running when a fire broke out in one of the seminary's buildings. Meanwhile, Divine Word Missionaries welcomed residents to picnics on the campus and, in the mid-1950s, offered one of its buildings to Silker's when the long-time local retail store burned down. In 1964, after construction of the new college was completed, local residents came to help clean the building before the first students arrived. Since then, DWC has offered its facilities—everything from meeting rooms to the swimming pool—to area residents, who have also enjoyed our special events, such as concerts, public lectures, Mission Sunday, and Lunar New Year.

In September 2014 Divine Word College celebrates 50 years as a four-year college seminary. It has been a very good 50 years for us, and we plan on celebrating this occasion throughout the 2014-2015 academic year. May the next 50 years be filled with as many blessings as the past 50!

On behalf of the Society of the Divine Word and Divine Word College, I want to thank all those in Epworth and the surrounding communities for being such good friends.

God's Blessings to You Always,

Fr. Tim Lenchak, SVD,
President of Divine Word College



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