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THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Honoring Women Peacemakers

On Sunday evening, September 29, DWC hosted "Peace Vespers," the closing event of a ten-day celebration of the Dubuque area International Day of Peace Festival. The theme for the festival was **Women Making Peace: Many Voices, Many Languages**. Representatives of three of the congregations who host DWC student-Sisters were present: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), Sisters of Saint Francis of Dubuque (OSF), and Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed

Virgin Mary (PBVM). An ice cream social followed the prayers. (A certain college president was heard to have wished the attendees, "May peace and ice cream be with you.")



Sr. Paula Schwendinger PBVM, the first recipient of the DWC Matthew 25 award, presided at the vesper service. Sr. Theresa Marie Tran SCC, a spiritual director and instructor at DWC offered a beautiful reflection. In her remarks, she honored the women's religious communities of the Dubuque area who have a long history of making peace.

"In a time of favor I answer you,
On the day of salvation, I help you." (Isaiah 48:8)

I am sure each one of us here can share our own experience of how God has answered our prayers and sent people to help us in times of need. Let us pause for a moment and thank God for those people.

This week we honor women whose voices make peace. Throughout history, significant women who live the Gospel Values, have stepped up and defended the poor; they have been the voice for the voiceless. They have been the agent of *peace* to the oppressed and marginalized.



We read about women of peace like Ruth in the Old Testament, like Mary in the New Testament.

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Recently in our lifetime, we hear of women of peace like Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, whose only goal is to get peace and to get an education for every child.

These women of different ethnic groups, cultures and faith traditions, have continued to be VOICE of Peace for others. They are women of peace who are **V O I C E!**

Women who are...

Vocal, they speak out for others.

Other-centered, they are selfless.

Invincible, they cannot be stopped from doing what is right.

Courageous, they put themselves in danger for the sake of others.

Empowering, they find ways to give others a voice and restore their dignity...

Tonight I would like to highlight some of these women in the Dubuque area, who have made a difference in the lives of others, especially the poor and marginalized.

Since Women Religious came to the Dubuque area about 200 years ago, they have been educating generations after generations, who today make up of more than 50% of the population of the city of Dubuque, where many hold leadership positions. Today, these religious Sisters continue to be agents of change and of peace.

In the year 2000, when there was a great need for housing for women and children in the Dubuque area, the five congregations (**the Franciscan Sisters, The BVMs, the PBVMs, the Visitations, and the Dominicans**) worked together with their friends to found *Maria House*, a haven for homeless women and children. Not long after, when Maria House was not able to accommodate the great need, *Theresa Shelter* was founded. Later on, *Francis Apartments* also came about as a joint effort of the five Congregations of religious women.

In addition, each individual congregation, according to their charism, responds to the apparent needs, working as agents of peace and change for others. For example, under the direction of Sister Corine Murray PBVM, the Presentation Sisters founded *The Lantern Center*, which offers hospitality, education, and advocacy for immigrants. The center not only teaches English, but also helps immigrants prepare for employment and citizenship exams.

Women like Franciscan Sister Helen Huewe, Dominican Sister Patty Caraher, Blessed Virgin Mary Sister Mary McCauley, and Presentation Sister Paula Schwendinger have all made a great impact in our society, especially in the Dubuque area.

Recently the Sisters responded to the needs of the immigrants at the southern border by forming a Task Force. They go down to the border and minister to the immigrants.

The sisters also open their homes in Dubuque to many of our students who need a home while attending classes at Divine Word College.

These religious women might be aging; but their legacy will live on and have a ripple effect in the generations to come. Their legacy will continue to bring peace to others, not only in the Dubuque area, but also in places where DWC students return to their respective native countries, after finishing their study here.

Perhaps the invitation for all of us today is like these women of peace, be the **V O I C E** for others. In what ways can we be vocal, other centered, invincible, courageous, and empowering so that the voiceless will have a voice? As the song challenges:

*Who will speak if we don't? Who will speak if we don't? Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if we don't?*

DWC Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees will be gathering at Divine Word College this weekend for their semi-annual meeting. The principal concerns of the meeting are:

- the Assurance Argument for the upcoming visit of the Higher Learning Commission.
- the newly combined DWC Policy Handbook.
- the results of the annual Audit of DWC.

R.I.P. Father Arnold Lang, SVD

Father Lang passed away on September 26 at the age of 93. Father Lang was well-known as the Assistant Professor of Biology at Divine Word College from 1967 to 1985.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *Fr. John Szukalski, SVD*

Faculty Professional Development

Fr. Ken Anich, SVD, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, has been granted professional development funding to attend the American Counseling Association Annual Conference from 17-19 April 2020 in San Diego, CA.



Student Course Evaluations

The primary purpose of Student Course Evaluations is to assess both course effectiveness and student learning, as detailed in Faculty Handbook #603:

- [to] facilitate the routine evaluation of each course
- [to] encourage teaching staff to reflect on effective course design and delivery
- [to] provide a mechanism for students to provide feedback to enhance the quality of learning and teaching
- [to] collect information concerning the implementation of the Student Learning Outcomes
- [to] gather evidence that may be used to demonstrate quality teaching and curriculum design.

Student Course Evaluations completed at the end of every ESL Term and Undergraduate Semester provide valuable feedback regarding course effectiveness and student learning. Students are encouraged to provide free and honest feedback. Ratings and comments are taken seriously by faculty and administration. Note that course evaluations are anonymous; no student names are attached to any course evaluation. While students do not directly evaluate teachers, data provided through the course evaluation process are rightly used by Department Chairs and the IELI Director as one of multiple criteria for evaluating teaching effectiveness in annual faculty performance evaluations (Faculty Handbook #232.2.2 and #263.2.2).

Sabbatical Application Request Deadline – Friday, November 1, 2019

All eligible faculty members are reminded that sabbatical leave application requests for the AY 2020-2021 are due to the VP for Academic Affairs no later than Friday, November 1, 2019. The policies and procedures governing sabbatical leave are published in the Faculty Handbook #221. The application form may be found on the College website under [Faculty & Staff Forms > Application for Leave](#).

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Bang Tran, SVD

Thursday, October 3 there will be a **piano concert** entitled “Sonatas of Nordic Composers,” performed by Dr. Asami Hagiwara, at 7:00 P.M, in the main chapel. All are highly encouraged to attend.

Members of the **Board of Trustees** will meet this weekend, beginning Friday, October 4 until Sunday, October 6. Please offer our guests the most hospitable welcome you can. All students are required to attend a **large community mass** with the members of the Board of Trustees on Saturday, October 5, at 11:15 A.M. Semi-formal attire is expected.

Saturday, October 5 is also scheduled for **ESL ministry** to visit the congregation of the sisters of Sr. Francis in Dubuque. Those ESL students involved in this ministry please gather at the front entrance at 9:20 A.M.



Sonatas of Nordic Composers

Piano Concert
by Dr. Asami Hagiwara
Thursday, October 3, 7 pm

DWC Main Chapel

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Mass for Vocations

Thank you, St. Therese of the Child Jesus formation group, for leading us this morning in prayer at our monthly Mass for Vocations. Special thanks to Sr. Tram Tran, IHM, for sharing her personal vocation story with us. The members of the Vocation Office are grateful to the entire DWC community for your continued prayers for our ministry.

Come and See Visitor

On Thursday, October 3, Anthony Nguyen will arrive on campus and will stay with us until Sunday. He lives in New York City and is coming to campus to learn more about Divine Word College and the SVD. Please pray for him as he discerns how God is calling him and thank you in advance for helping him to feel at home during his visit.

Knights of Columbus Scholarship

From time to time, different Knights of Columbus councils will offer scholarships to SVD candidates at Divine Word College. Currently, the council at St. Patrick Parish in St. Charles, Illinois, the parish of DWC Trustee Dan Kadolph, is offering a \$500 scholarship. If you are an SVD candidate here at Divine Word College, you may apply for this scholarship. Please see Mr. Len Uhal or Ms. Carolyn Waechter in the Admissions Office for an application. You must submit the application by October 25. The Admissions Office will keep all applications on file for future KC scholarships that become available. Click on the link to learn more about the [Knights of Columbus](#).

DWC Domestic Students

Financial Aid - All students who are U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents should meet with Ms. Carolyn Waechter to finish the FAFSA and financial aid process for the academic year. Please do so immediately!

The Word Among Us

The latest issue of The Word Among Us is now available. All students can find a copy of the booklet for October in your mailboxes. A few additional copies are available in the SVD lounge and the Vocation Office. We also have a limited supply of the book in Spanish. Please visit the Vocation Office if you would like a Spanish version.

Where are they now?

As some of you may have heard, Fr. Francis' father suffered a heart attack over the weekend. His father is very ill and Fr. Francis plans to leave this week for India to visit his father and be with his family. He will be there for about four weeks. Please keep Fr. Francis' father and the entire family in your prayers. Bro. Duylinh is in Texas this week promoting vocations at the Mini Marian Days. Fr. Anthony is in California this week visiting candidates and he will also travel to Seattle, Washington, to visit a candidate and attend a funeral (the mother of Fr. Brandon Nguyen, SVD). Fr. Adam is currently in Memphis at a retreat with college students, but will be on campus Thursday night to host our campus visitor. Fr. Emilio and Len will be on campus this week preparing for the Board of Trustee meeting this weekend.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS *Mr. Steve Winger*

Step Replacement

Workers from Kinsella Construction completed the step replacement project near the gym. If you recall, the old steps settled and were leaning toward the building. The new steps lean away from the building, keeping water and mud away the gym. The storm drain at the top of the steps was redesigned to better collect storm water and prevent puddles from forming. We should not have ice sheets forming on the sidewalk this winter. The hillside was regraded and grass seed applied. The grass will take time to establish itself so we ask that you not walk in the seeded areas.

DIVINE WORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

Garage Sale!

Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD

Mission in season and out of season-in the rain

With great joy I would like to congratulate our community for a wonderful and successful garage sale for mission. Despite all the rainy weather and the busyness of the semester, so many people have participated in this fund-raising event for the mission in Chad.

It's inspiring to see Fr. Bill Shea and several students standing on the side walk, holding the garage sale sign to wave people in, Sr. Theresa Marie Tran and the Megan Sisters spent hours to make the eggrolls and Vietnamese baguettes, Br. Duy Linh Tran worked so hard to bring us delicious chicken wings and fried rice, the students who used all their strong muscles to lift up onto the old truck the seem-like-thousand-ton desks from the basement storage, Fr. Ken Anich who despite having been entrusted with the job of formator-on-call for the weekend, came out to price the items and taught us how to be better sale persons, the Brothers' team (Brs. Vinh, Daniel, and Hoc Mai) with Sr. Thom Mai to set up a nice tent and tables for our shop, the shop attendants who treated our customers with great love and care, and all those who had worked so hard to set up and clean up throughout the event, and especially on Sunday when we had a lot of already-fried eggrolls left over, some sisters and students decided to buy them for us, although they were the one who made them for us. So many inspiring moments that we can thank God for in this past weekend. You have made the event a very meaningful one for the whole community.

I believe this is a successful event because the primary reason for this garage sale is about mission animation. I have personally seen that great missionary spirit being lived out through very concrete acts of sacrifice in this fund-raising event. So, a sincere thanks to each one of you.

May God continue to keep that fire for mission burning brightly in your hearts.

Here is a report of the garage sale for mission:

1. Garage sale net income : **\$3,510.00**
2. Donations: **\$ 7,350.00.**
(our hard work touched the hearts of many, and thus the donations in fact double the amount of our income.)

Total: \$10,860.00

All-Alumni Reunion planned for September 4 – 6, 2020

Planning is underway for a Divine Word alumni gathering Labor Day weekend – 2020. Alumni from all schools, all SVD and all faculty, staff and students at DWC are invited to participate in this homecoming and celebrate Family Feast!

Family Feast is a fond memory for many alumni and they are invited to take part in all aspects of the celebration on campus including prayer, games and banquet. It will be wonderful to have guests on campus and share in the tradition that began long ago.

Please contact Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD with any questions about the event.

Scenes from the Sale





September 17- Environmental Writing Field Trip

Climate Strike, Loras College, Dubuque IA

ICS 275 students experienced environmental activism as part of contextualizing aspects of the course. Students learned how other individuals, especially their own peers, are actively engaged in changing and challenging the current approach to more sustainable living as part of their preparation for the course unit on sustainability. For more information, visit www.strikewithus.org.

October 2 – Healthiest State Annual Walk

The state of Iowa is encouraging everyone to walk for at least 30 minutes. The Annual Walk serves as a kick-off to Healthiest State Month, happening throughout October, encouraging Iowans to get started. Set aside some time in your day, put on your walking shoes, find some friends and enjoy your walk!

October 3 - Piano Concert

Divine Word College Chapel

Dr. Asami Hagiwara will perform a piano concert entitled “Sonatas of Nordic Composers” in the Divine Word College Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Hagiwara is an Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, MN.

October 4-5 - DWC Board of Trustee Meeting.

Committee meetings are held on Friday evening and the full board meets on Saturday. Faculty and Staff are invited to a Meet and Greet on Friday afternoon at 5pm in the art gallery.

October 8 - ESL Field Trip

Dubuque, IA

ESL 056 students will practice fluency and pronunciation skills by playing communicative games with native speakers.

October 14 - DASH Board Meeting

Board members of DASH (Dubuque Area Swimmin’ Hurricanes) will meet in room 108 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please help them feel welcome.

October 15 - DWC Blood Drive

A sign-up sheet is on the main bulletin board. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday October 8.

October 27 - St. Patrick’s Church in Epworth -- Welcome for DWC students.

Coffee and Donuts at 8:30am (After the 7:30 am Mass and before the 9:30 am Mass).

November 20 – Matthew 25 Celebration