



THE LOG

Divine Word College

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A Bulletin for the Divine Word College Community

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In This Issue:

Matthew 25 Award	2
Ministry Reflection	4
ESL Reading Tree	4
Coming Events	5

Birthday Corner

- 20 Tung Cao Vu
- 23 Evelyn Dias
- 25 Truong An Duc Nguyen

THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

Three Intriguing Questions from HLC

One week ago, visitors from the Higher Learning Commission came to spend a day and a half at Divine Word College. Their visit was a whirlwind of meetings, open fora, interviews and reports, reports, reports. The visitors, who were all faculty and administrators from Midwestern colleges and universities, brought with them lots of questions. I thought that three of their questions were especially intriguing.

Ideal Enrollment? Since DWC is a very specialized college, we naturally serve a rather small number of students. At the first meeting, and then several times later, the visitors asked: *what do you think is the ideal enrollment for DWC?*



Most colleges rely heavily on tuition payments for income, so a large number of students is needed for such colleges to be financially viable. That is the day-to-day reality of our visiting educators. Divine Word College, though, is a missionary college with the strong backing of benefactors and the Society of the Divine Word. So, for us, the question of ideal enrollment is not about financial matters; it is about how many students we can effectively prepare for a missionary commitment. I think we are very close to the ideal number of students for DWC. We have facilities to serve the needs of about 120 to 140 students. More importantly, we truly get to know one another in a community this size. If we had a much larger enrollment we would likely have many students who remain anonymous to one another. By getting to know one another personally, we are all challenged to grow in intercultural competence, and to come to a deeper recognition of the call to missionary discipleship. What do you think would be an ideal number of DWC students? Why?



Online Courses? One HLC visitor mentioned that at his school a large number of students were online learners. That is, they were not physically at the school, but rather, they logged on to the internet to participate in distance learning. He wondered whether that might be a good option for DWC. Of

continued on page 2

course, his fundamental concern, again, was having enough students to pay tuition fees to help support his school. Our situation is different, but the question is still interesting.

While online learning is fairly effective at helping students to master some course content and sharpen some thinking skills, it is less effective at developing the interpersonal skills that are essential for ministry and for missionary outreach. Nevertheless, I wonder if it might be helpful for DWC students to take at least one online course during their studies here. In the future, when students are in full-time ministry, they may find that some forms of distance learning are good to continue learning. I frequently turn to webinars from various organizations to learn more about college administration.

What would you do with 5 million dollars?

The question that I thought was the most fun was how to spend a five million dollar gift to the college. Did you know that it costs a bit more than \$5 million dollars every year to operate the college?

If we receive such a gift, we might be tempted to think only of ways to make life more comfortable. Maybe we could explore ways to spend some of the riches for the benefit of the poor and marginalized? In one open forum, one of the SVD confreres said he would just hand it over to the rector and president, since he took a vow of poverty! The visitor remarked that he had NEVER heard that answer before. An answer that I heard from one student made me smile. He suggested we could use part of the money to put an ice-cream machine in every dorm room! Imagine a spigot of soft-serve ice cream placed right above your pillow. That, would be a great way to get moving in the morning!!!

Matthew 25 Award for Sr. Helen Huewe OSF

On Wednesday evening, we will celebrate the awarding of the DWC Matthew 25 award to Sr. Helen Huewe, a Franciscan Sister from Dubuque. She will be the 16th recipient of the award, established in 2001. The Matthew 25 Award recognizes people engaged in direct ministry with the “least among us,” in the spirit of the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25.

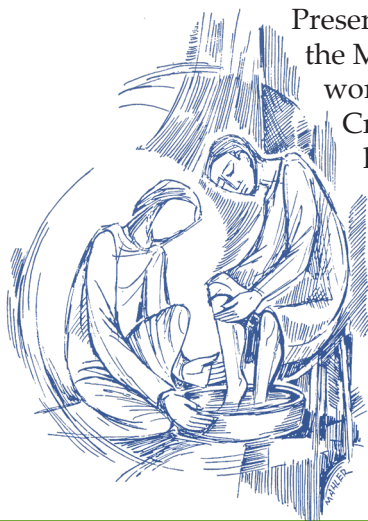
Sr. Helen was trained as a nurse and has been active in health care administration for many years. She helped to establish Maria House and other places of welcome for homeless women and children in the Dubuque area. In the process, she has worked with the major women’s religious congregations in our area: the



Presentations, the Visitations, the BVMs, the Dominicans, the Franciscans and the Mercy Sisters. Networking with others has been a strong part of Sr. Helen’s work. She has also been instrumental in calling people together to establish the Crescent Health Center to serve the poor and those who do not have sufficient health insurance.

Most recently, Sr. Helen is accompanying the Marshallese immigrant community in Dubuque. Many suffer health problems as a consequence of the US nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands in the 1950’s.

You know the famous story of St. Francis who heard God calling him to “Rebuild My Church.” Francis started by rebuilding a small chapel of San Damiano outside of Assisi; but God’s call went much deeper than



that. It seems to me that Sr. Huewe, following St. Francis' example is now helping to "rebuild the church" with the Marshallese people. She has helped to find support for building up the Dubuque Paradise Church in Dubuque. It is both a place of worship for the Assembly of God Church and a community center. There the Marshallese have given Sr. Helen a chance to see life through their eyes. You could call that networking, you could also call it love.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Bang Tran, SVD

Mass for Vocations

Tuesday, November 26, at 8:00 A.M in the main chapel. The community of St. Teresa of Avila will be in charge of organizing and planning this special Eucharist. Please come to pray for an increase of religious vocations, in particular for Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS, and members of St. Teresa of Avila.

Cultural Dinner

Many thanks to the formation group of SVD Juniors for a delicious cultural dinner.

Matthew 25 Award

Wednesday, November 20. There will be no formation meeting. All students are required to attend this event, beginning with a Vesper service at 6:00 P.M in the main chapel and immediately followed by a banquet in the dining room. Semi-formal attire is expected.

SVD Advent Recollection

begins from Friday, November 22 until Saturday, November 23 after lunch. Guadalupe Chapel will be reserved on Saturday at 11:00A.M. Please keep all the SVDs and SSpS in your prayer.

Vietnamese Martyrs Celebration

Saturday, November 23. There will be no Mass at 11:15 A.M. Instead, a solemn Eucharistic celebration for the feast of Vietnamese Martyrs begins at 4:30 P.M. in the main chapel, and a dinner immediately follows in the dining room. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Break

those students who are planning to be away during Thanksgiving break please send Fr. Bang Tran, SVD, your contact information by noon of November 22nd, 2019. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and be safe!



Ministry Reflection – Dr. Evelyn Dias

Our Monday ministry at Hills and Dales involves making music for their severely disabled young residents. Observing their inability to move or speak is always a sobering experience.

Over the past year I have been greatly moved by the spirit of service in our students and our group leader Sr. Theresa Marie. When they aren't dressed up as silly creatures for Halloween, a gentle pat on the back, tissues to wipe runny noses, and other simple gestures show that they care. The highlight of each visit is watching the beautiful smiles on the children's faces.



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS *Mr. Len Uhal*

Vocation Directors are on the move!

Fr. Anthony and Fr. Adam were in Boise, Idaho, this past weekend where they attended the diocesan youth conference. Fr. Anthony is returning to California this week to work with candidates applying to Divine Word College next semester. Fr. Adam will join Len, Fr. Francis, Sr. Aprilia and Sr. Skolastika in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the National Catholic Youth Conference where over 23,000 youth will gather for a three-day conference. Br. Duylinh is back on campus for a few days and the weekend, but will travel to St. Louis for a couple days to visit a candidate. While we welcome Fr. Francis back from his short home leave, Fr. Emilio is the spiritual director for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this week. Please keep all the vocation directors in your prayers and pray for the young people they work with as they discern God's call in their lives.

DIRECTOR OF THE INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

ESL Reading Tree is Thriving

Right across from Student Resource Center is ESL Reading Tree with its first 25 leaves through which 13 readers have shared their love of reading in Fall 2019. Besides our special congratulations to Sr. Francisca Aorakaa and Fr. Joseph Kesner, top two readers who posted the most leaves, all ESL students are welcome to grab a free snack from the Pour House to celebrate this collaborative achievement.

And the Reading Tree must go on—IELI faculty would continuously encourage students to select a good yet manageable book, improve reading tastes as well as reading fluency, and learn the joy of social reading—listening to others about the book that you read. If you are unsure what book to read next, simply ask our librarian or reading teachers. Ask colleagues in upper levels in the IELI or in the



undergraduate program about their favorite fiction and nonfiction. Read book reports on the Tree and search for book titles that interest you on one of the following e-catalogues:

DWC Matthew Jacoby Library: <https://opac.dwci.edu/>

Dubuque County Library District: <https://www.dubcolib.lib.ia.us/online-catalog/>

Reading Tree now makes a fresh start, leaving its old leaves stamped and joyfully looking forward to the next 25 leaves. Grab a book that will change your life forever TODAY, and help our Reading Tree continue to be leafy despite the freezing weather out there!



November 20 – Matthew 25 Celebration 6:00 p.m. Vespers followed by the banquet.

November 28-30 – Thanksgiving Break No classes; offices closed

December 3 – Final Music Juries 1:00 p.m.

December 3 - TRS/PHI/ICS Capstones 7:30 p.m.

December 4 – DWC Community Christmas Luncheon 11:45 – 1:00 p.m.

December 4 – Epworth Country Christmas 5 - 7:30 p.m.

December 5 – TRS/PHI/ICS Capstones 7:30 p.m.

December 6 – ESL Term B Classes End

December 10 - ESL Poster Presentation 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Student Resource Room Hallway

December 12 – Employee Christmas Social 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

December 13 – Christmas Break Begins