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### Birthday Corner

#### February

- 14 Fr. Vinh Phuc Nguyen, ICM
- 15 Fr. Ken Anich, SVD
- 16 Ha Si Bao Nguyen
- 16 Len Uhal

### THE PRESIDENT *Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD*

#### *Inner Freedom*

Our celebration of St. Josephine Bakhita this past Saturday gave us a moment to treasure our freedom. While still a young girl, she was kidnapped and torn away from her home in what is now South Sudan. Her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita (Lucky or Fortunate), though it was neither luck nor good fortune that they had in mind for her. They sold her as a slave, and she passed from one owner to another. Many treated her with great cruelty. Eventually she was taken to Italy by a new master who was more kindly, but still wanted to keep her as a slave. In 1899, the Italian courts gave Bakhita her outer freedom.

**Daughter of God.** Bakhita continued her search for inner freedom. She became a Christian and was baptized. Having lost her own father, she chose the name of Josephine to honor St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Bakhita found a special devotion to God the Father, and each time she entered the church, she would kiss the baptismal font, grateful that she had a father once again. She would say, "Here I became a daughter of God."

**Lucky and Forgiving.** Bakhita found mothers and sisters with the Canossian Daughters of Charity, an international missionary congregation. After professing vows, she spent 42 years in a small city of Schio in northern Italy, where she became well known for her kindness, calming voice, and ever-present smile. When serving as doorkeeper at the school, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children and give them a blessing. In those years, she told the story of her slavery and freedom many times. Her inner freedom grew as she became able to forgive those who enslaved her. She wrote, "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me



*continued next page*

and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today. . .”

**The Chains Are Too Tight.** In her final years, when confined to a wheel chair, she continued to bless the children who greeted her on their way to school. Internally, she was once again struggling for freedom. The trauma of her early years visited her in nightmares. She would cry out, “The chains are too tight; loosen them a little, please!” In the end, she relied on God her father, Sr. Josephine Bakhita died in 1947.

**Our Freedom.** We can sometimes feel too limited, too bound up in our inner lives, even as we enjoy outward liberty. The winter of Iowa, especially as it drags on into March, can make us feel trapped inside buildings. Though our buildings are spacious, we can still have a case of cabin fever! The constant pressure of deskwork, exams, classes, and meetings can obscure our inner freedom. What can we do? As we enter our own chapel, we can be like Bakhita. We can touch the water of baptism and cross ourselves in God’s name. As sons and daughters of God, we can remember our enormous inner freedom and say with a lucky saint, “My trust rests in the Lord for everything.”

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

### Faculty Professional Development: Annual Data Collection for Calendar Year 2019

Divine Word College encourages and facilitates ongoing professional development for instructional faculty. Indeed, ongoing professional development is necessary for faculty to maintain “a high level of subject matter knowledge and ensures that course content is current, accurate, representative, and appropriate to the position of the course within the student’s program of studies.” (DWC Policy Handbook 7.05.01) One of the Higher Learning Commission’s criterion for accreditation states: “The institution has processes and resources for assuring that instructors are current in their disciplines and adept in their teaching roles; it supports their professional development.” (HLC Criterion 3.C.4)

Through the Office of the VP for Academic Affairs, the College provides ample opportunity and generous funding for faculty ongoing professional development both for internal events (Faculty Institute, Faculty In-Services, web-based training) and for participation in external events (professional conferences and workshops).

In order to accurately document that all faculty are actively engaged in ongoing professional development activities, the Office of the VP for Academic Affairs compiles and publishes an Annual Report on Faculty Professional Development for submission to the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees. All faculty, excluding adjuncts, are kindly requested to briefly list their professional development activities during calendar year 2019 (January 1 – December 31) using the six categories indicated below. If there was no activity in a particular category, simply write “nothing to report.” Please email your report to the Registrar, Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth, no later than noon on Friday, February 28, 2020. Thanks in advance for your collaboration.

- Professional Memberships
- Publications (Monograph/Article)
- Conference Presentations
- Conferences Attended
- Performances, Exhibitions
- Other (research, webinars, etc.)

*\* A listing of Safe Colleges Training modules will be included for each member automatically.*

## St. John's University – Collegeville, Minnesota

Fr. Mike Patella, OSB and Ms. Donelle Poling (Director of Admissions) from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN will visit Divine Word College on February 17, 2020. Fr. Patella and Ms. Poling will be introduced at lunch and will be available throughout the afternoon to speak with any students interested in possibly attending St. John's University for graduate studies. They can help address any questions about degree programs, the application process, accommodations, and scholarship opportunities at St. John's.



### Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], has been granted professional development funding to attend and present at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting held April 1-3, 2020 in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Kanjirathinkal has organized a session of invited papers in the area of global and transnational sociology called "Connecting the Dots: Papal Bulls, Colonialism, Imperialism, and Climate Crisis." His own paper to be presented at that session is entitled: "Papal Bulls, White Supremacy, and United States Imperialism."

### Faculty Travel

Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal, Professor of Sociology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies [DIS], will serve as a Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Visit to St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska from March 16-18, 2020.

### The Chronicle of Higher Education

The Chronicle of Higher Education is a great professional resource for all faculty and administrators to keep up-to-date with current issues and trends in U.S. higher education. Issues covered include those that are of keen interest to Divine Word College: accreditation, compliance, assessment, shared governance, critical thinking, instructional methods, curriculum development / mapping / benchmarking, effective writing, faculty evaluations and promotions, and so on. Becoming familiar with such current issues and trends in U.S. higher education will allow for a more informed and contextualized approach in our academic endeavors and discussions here at DWC. I want to encourage all instructional faculty and academic administrators to cultivate the healthy habit of regularly reading The Chronicle of Higher Education as part of one's ongoing professional development. This resource is readily available in our DWC Periodical Reading room on the second floor.

## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Bang Tran, SVD

### St. Josephine Bakhita

Many thanks to all the members of the ACSA and all those who contributed significantly to making such a successful and wonderful feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. It was a celebration of unity and interculturality that reflects the diversity of our community here at DWC. Congrats and well done!

### Dean's Forum

Instead of Formation Meetings, the Dean's Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:30 P.M, in room 107. Attendance is mandatory.

# Images from Bakhita Celebration



Want to see more?  
Follow [this link](#)  
to Google Photos



**February 17 Visit by Admissions Personnel from St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN**

**February 24 Faculty In-Service – No classes for UG and ESL**

8:00 – 10:30 a.m. – “Learning How to Think: Teaching Reasoning, Problem Solving, and Critical Thinking Skills,” with Dr. Mark Taylor, M.S.W., Ed.D.

11:00 a.m. – Noon – “Academic Advising with Populi,” with Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – “Pronunciation Power Workshop,” with Mr. Adon Lee, VP of Product Development at English Computerized Learning. (ESL faculty only)

**February 29- March 1 World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

**March 18 HLC Assessment Academy Orientation, Chicago, IL**

**March 20 Student Resource Center Workshop**

“Professional Writing and Professional Presentation” – This workshop explores how to compose professional and effective documents and PowerPoint presentations.

**March 21 Student Lenten Reflection 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**March 22 Donaghey Award & Donor Appreciation Mass and Brunch 10:00 am Mass**

**March 28 Loras College Antioch Retreat Service 6 - 9 pm Held in Main Chapel**

**April 3 Student Resource Center Workshop**

“APA Seventh Edition...What’s New?” – This workshop reviews major changes to APA citation and style in the new seventh edition.

**April 9-11 Holy Week Triduum**

**April 18 Seniors CCTST (California Critical Thinking Skills Test)**

**April 24 Employee Retirement & End-of-Year Party**

5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at “The Barn House,” 13527 Gun Club Road, Epworth, IA

**April 30 Recognition and Awards Luncheon 11:50 am – 1:30 pm**

**May 1-2 Board of Trustees Meeting**

**June 3-5 HLC Assessment Academy Roundtable, Chicago, IL**

**June 15-17 Dubuque Archdiocesan Priest Convocation**