



# MISSION OFFICE 2019-2021 REPORT



## MISSION PRAYER

*Most High, glorious God  
we praise You and we thank You  
for the many good people and blessings  
You have bestowed upon Siena College  
since the time of its founding.  
We ask today  
that Your spirit of truth and goodness  
enlighten us as we embrace  
the opportunities  
and challenges of this day  
and give us true faith,  
certain hope and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge O Holy One,  
as we seek to carry forward  
the mission of Siena College*





## WELCOME FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF MISSION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings of peace!

In the summer of 2019, Siena President Brother Ed Coughlin, OFM, in conjunction with Siena's Board of Trustees, sought to more intentionally instill the Franciscan Tradition and Catholic identity into all aspects of the Siena experience. They developed the Mission Team, a new division



Left to Right: Michael Corman '20, Zach Brimmer '20, Fr. Mark G. Reamer, '83, O.F.M. D. Min. Vice President for Mission and Megan Pover '20 on the annual pilgrimage to Italy.

uniting five specifically Franciscan areas of the College. Together, under the leadership of the Vice President for Mission, they purposefully animate Siena's distinctive and unique value among liberal arts colleges.

The Mission Team is comprised of Campus Ministry and the Office of the Chaplain, the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy, the Sister Thea Bowman Center for Women, the Damietta Cross-Cultural Center, and the Mentoring and Summer Enrichment Program.

Working collaboratively across campus, the Mission Team strengthens the College's position as a learning community advancing the ideals of a liberal arts education, rooted in our identity as a Franciscan and Catholic institution.

These four complementary dimensions ground us in our tradition while leading our students to embody Siena's mission. The world needs more Saints – more Siena Saints. The Mission Team guides their engagement through a transformative intellectual, social, and spiritual journey expressed through our core values to be Person

Centered, Lifelong Learners, Inclusive, Innovative, and Compassionate Leaders.

Only months into the formation of our new Mission Team, a global pandemic confronted our campus and the world. Though challenging, we responded to this crisis in a spirit of togetherness and resilience. In the pages ahead, you'll understand the measures we took to fulfill our mission when it was more difficult than ever, while also more important than ever.

I am grateful to be surrounded by leaders on the Mission Team who are passionate and enthusiastic about developing future leaders and promoting the core values of Siena. I hope these pages give you a sense of how the mission of Siena College is alive and well on campus, made more vibrant through the excitement and enthusiasm of our Mission Team.

Peace and good,

Fr. Mark G. Reamer, '83, O.F.M. D. Min.  
Vice President for Mission

## SIENA COLLEGE MISSION

### AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY,

Siena is committed to a student-centered education emphasizing dynamic faculty-student interaction. Through a blending of liberal arts and professional education, Siena College provides experiences and courses of study instilling the values and knowledge to lead a compassionate, reflective, and productive life of service and leadership.

### AS A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE,

Siena fosters the rigorous intellectual development of its students through a healthy exchange of ideas both inside and outside the classroom. It provides opportunities to develop critical and creative thinking; to make reasoned and informed judgments; to appreciate cultural diversity; to deepen aesthetic sensibility and to enhance written and oral communication skills. It develops in each individual an appreciation for the richness of exploring knowledge from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.

### AS A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY,

Siena strives to embody the values and vision of St. Francis of Assisi: faith in a personal and provident God, reverence for all creation, affirmation of the unique worth of each person, appreciation for beauty, service to the poor and marginalized. We seek to build a community strengthened through diversity, where members work together in friendship and respect, committed to building a world that is more just, peaceable, and humane.

### AS A CATHOLIC COLLEGE,

Siena seeks to advance not only the intellectual growth of its students, but their spiritual, religious and ethical formation as well. To this end, Siena is composed of and in dialogue with people from different religious and cultural traditions; fosters a critical appreciation of the Catholic intellectual heritage in conversation with contemporary experience; provides ample opportunities for worship and service; explores the moral dimensions of decision-making in business and the professions; and affirms the dignity of the individual while pursuing the common good.

## SIENA COLLEGE'S CORE VALUES

Siena College's Franciscan, liberal arts learning community is committed to creating a more just, peaceable and humane world by providing tomorrow's leaders the Education for a Lifetime. This transformative journey of intellectual, social and spiritual discovery is expressed through our core values:

**PERSON CENTERED** We develop the whole person through engaging relationships and formative experiences across all aspects of campus life.

**LIFELONG LEARNERS** We foster intellectual curiosity and the passionate pursuit of knowledge to lead meaningful, successful, and fulfilling lives.

**INCLUSIVE** We respect and care for the dignity of all people while celebrating the diversity that enriches our community.

**COMPASSIONATE LEADERS** We lead by putting others first, through our commitment to social justice, service with others, and concern for the poor and vulnerable.

**INNOVATIVE** We identify, develop, and implement imaginative, forward-thinking ideas with the foresight to meet emerging needs.

## VISION

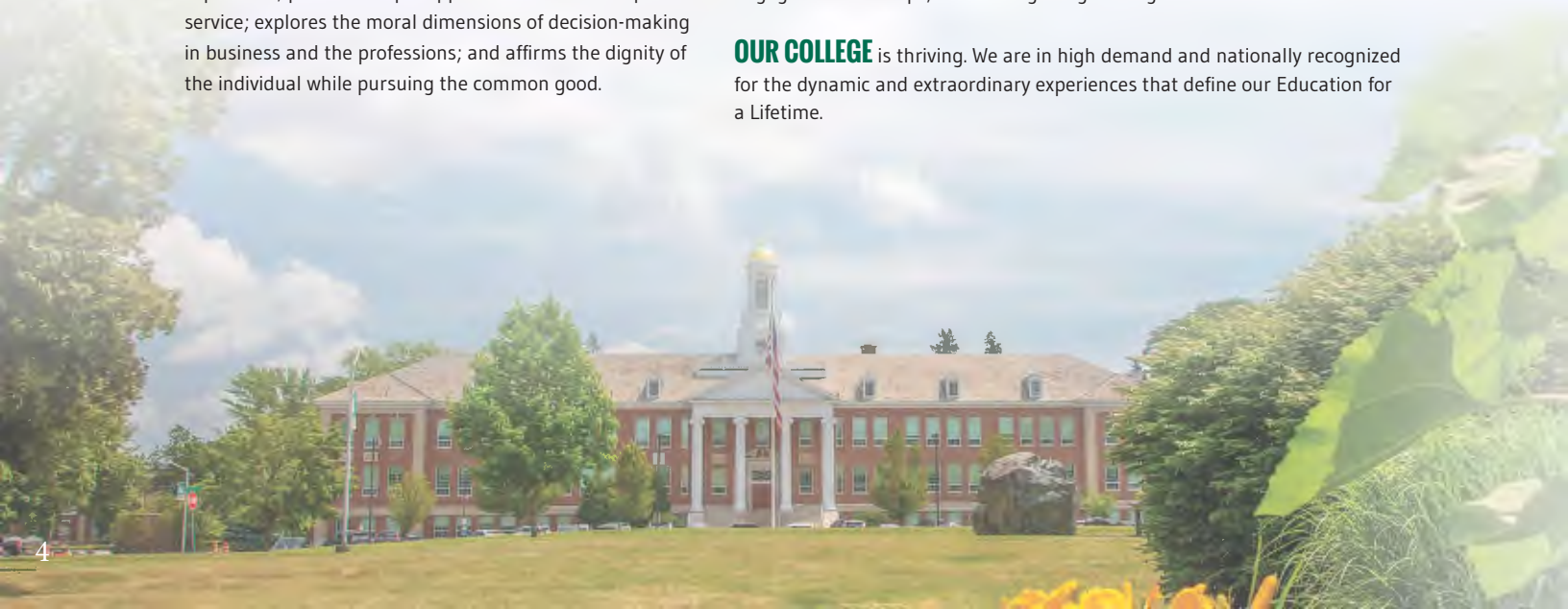
Siena College is an innovator in higher education grounded in a Franciscan and liberal arts heritage. We are the standard of excellence in educating and developing leaders who will build a more just, peaceful and humane world.

**OUR STUDENTS** experience a transformative journey featuring exceptional student-faculty engagement and life-changing opportunities. Our graduates are sought-after change agents who make a positive difference in their professions and communities.

**OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** are aligned with the needs of 21st century learners, employers and society.

**OUR COMMUNITY** is inclusive and vibrant. We attract a diverse set of students, faculty, friars and staff who are committed to academic excellence, engaged relationships, and serving the greater good.

**OUR COLLEGE** is thriving. We are in high demand and nationally recognized for the dynamic and extraordinary experiences that define our Education for a Lifetime.



# FRANCISCAN MISSION

The Franciscan Mission Office stewards, strengthens and animates the Siena College mission by building a more inclusive, just, peaceable and humane world through intentional efforts that support the integration of our Catholic, Franciscan, and Liberal Arts identity. We embody the vision and values of St. Francis of Assisi by working collaboratively in partnership with all Siena community members to bring our core values to fruition. We provide transformative experiences that are person-centered and relationship-driven to enhance the development of the whole person.

## INCLUSIVE



## INNOVATIVE



## COMPASSIONATE LEADERS



## PERSON CENTERED



## LIFELONG LEARNERS



# CAMPUS MINISTRY

## TRADITIONS CONTINUED:

- Baccalaureate Mass
- Blessing of the Brains
- Blessing of the Animals
- Senior Hike
- Senior Retreat

## LIVE STREAMING MASS

When the pandemic began, our Franciscan Friars livestreamed the Mass from the friary chapel on Siena alum Andy Murphy's '17 phone. Some months later moved to the college chapel thanks to the generosity of donors who contributed to permanent livestreaming equipment went virtual in March 2020 and has continued to be livestreamed on Facebook, including holiday Masses. We virtually hosted an average of 1000+ people each week. In-person attendance, with registration, began in April.

## SACRAMENTS

From May 2020 through May 2021, St. Mary Chapel of the Angels was home to 12 Weddings, 14 Baptisms, and 8 welcomed into full initiation into the Church.

Weekly programs for engaging students included: Adoration, Lectio Divina, Prayer and Worship, Rosary, Friday Fun Night, Station V, Theology on Tap, one to one mentoring, and Men's Spirituality.



### FR. ROBERT "TITO" SERRANO

"I began at Siena in July, 2020. Since then, my intention has been to build relationships with members of our campus community. I began by focusing on student-centered initiatives."

### SOME OF THESE INITIATIVES ARE:

- The Radio Show
- The Beverage Institute
- Mentor to the men's soccer team
- Men's basketball pre-game interviews with friars
- Bilingual Masses



(Left to Right): Gabrielle Tegiocchi - Music Minister  
 Judy Dougherty, Director, FCSA  
 Deacon Nick Ascoti, Campus Ministry  
 Br. Jason Damon, O.F.M., Friar Intern







## THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy was created with a generous endowed gift from the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province and calls upon the entire Siena College community to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community and the world.

### FCSA TRADITIONS WENT VIRTUAL:

**THE FRANCISCAN GIVING TREE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI!**

15 agencies supported  
215 gift cards collected  
\$2,585.00 donated





## PROGRAMS:

- Student Civic Engagement: Promoting Voting Rights
- Non Partisan Discussion Series: the Environment and the Economy
- Inauguration Day Roundtable Discussion
- Sacred People, Sacred Earth (Advocacy event for climate justice)
- Care for Creation environmental giveaway – reusable bags, wildflower and milkweed seeds.

## SIENASERVES:

- Virtual Immersion trip to Central America
- Campus Clean Up Days (fall and spring)
- Camp Southern Ground Info Session
- Living Franciscan Series: Service, Solidarity, Advocacy (4 sessions)

## INITIATIVES:

### THE FRANCISCAN SERVICE AND ADVOCACY MINOR (18 CREDITS)

- Created to foster the development of students through the Franciscan tradition and the value of service to others.

### YOU'RE NOT ALONE:

- Prepared and distributed 75 gift bags for students remaining on campus during Christmas break
- 30 Welcome Bags for new International Students

### ALZHEIMER'S WALK (VIRTUAL)

### THE MINDFUL NEST GRAND OPENING

- A special "nest" on campus to find complimentary copies of faculty and student publications, small notes of encouragement, zine projects, journals, and gently used books.

### MR. SIENA TO SUPPORT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



## THE MENTORING AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Providing one-on-one mentoring between inner-city youth of the Capital Region and Siena students since its inception in 1965, the Mentoring Program has become an integral component of the Siena College tradition.

Due to COVID restrictions, the Mentoring Program was suspended during 2020-2021. Plans are underway for the launch of a re-imagined program for the 2021-2022 academic year and summer.

Beginning even before the pandemic, a task force comprised of: Will Figueroa, Dale Taylor, April Bacchus, Michele McColgan, Fr. Mark, Fr. Sean, Bill McGoldrick met to reimagine the program.

The following *mission statement* guided their efforts, *Partner with families to establish a mentoring relationship between youth and a Siena student to support each other in realizing their full potential. We partner with Families committed to helping their child: develop academic abilities, build character and make good life decisions.*

## MENTORING PROGRAM REIMAGINED

The task force came up with several recommendations that were accepted by then Interim President Dr. Margaret Madden. Of note was the decision to return to partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. In April Fr. Sean took a new position with Catholic Charities as Director of the St John's St Ann's Outreach Center serving the community of South Albany. The Outreach Center provides food services through a "Welcome Table" soup kitchen as well as a food pantry. The Outreach Center assists with providing clothing and furniture to individuals as needed. Fr. Sean filled the great void that was left by Jim



(Left): Newly appointed September 2021, Will Figueroa, Assistant Director for Mission Engagement

Snyder and built on the past to serve those within the capital region that benefit from this worthwhile mentoring from our Siena Saints. The summer enrichment camp will further the mission of the Siena mentoring program and aid in closing the "summer learning loss." The community-building mentoring camp experience will strengthen the academic component taking advantage of the many summer experiences on the Siena campus.

# MISSION OFFICE SPECIAL EVENTS



**JUNE, 2019**

Mission Office created by Brother Edward Coughlin.



**MARCH, 2020**

Sunday Masses are live streamed each week.

**APRIL - MAY, 2020**

You're Not Alone Initiative, a collaboration between the Mission Office, Office of Enrollment and other offices on campus. A team of 35 administrators, led by Beth DeAngelis, called or emailed every Siena student at least twice to check-in.

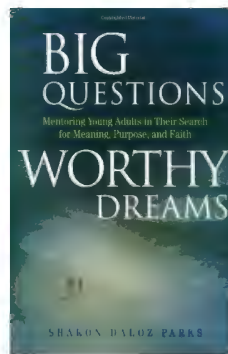
**MAY - JULY, 2020**

- You're Not Alone Video series led by Judy Dougherty, featured 50 members of the Siena community in short, positive video messages that were shared on social media outlets.
- Mission leaders meet for training.



**JUNE, 2020**

Strengthening the Bonds of Racial Justice - Welcoming the three bells from Holy Name Province, the bells of justice, love and humility (Micah 6).



**JANUARY, 2021**

Mission Office Professional Development on Mentoring emerging adults with Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks, author of *Big Questions Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Emerging Adults in their Search for Meaning, Purpose and Faith*.

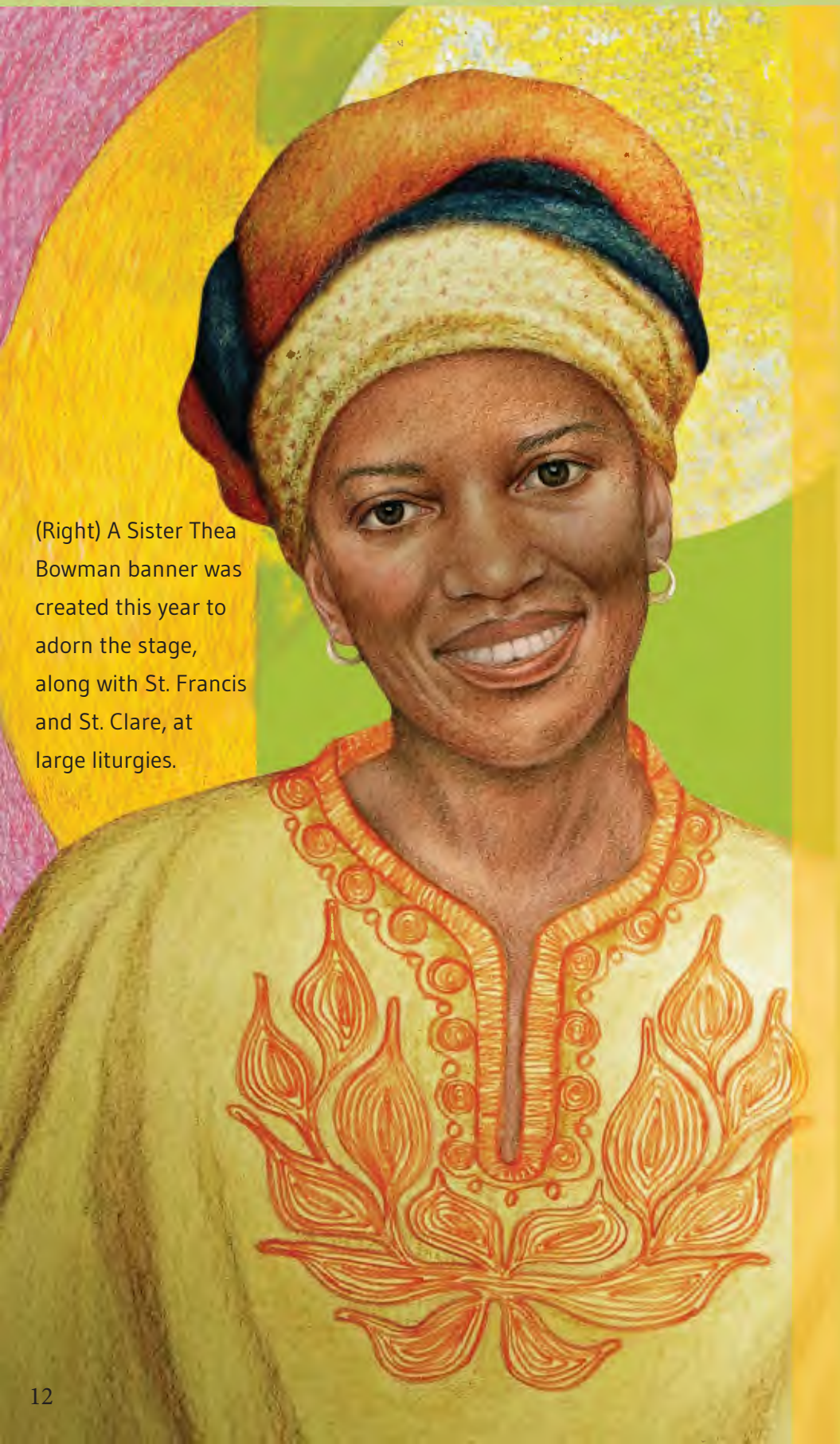
The President's Cabinet followed in the summer, 2021.



**JUNE, 2021**

Siena College hosts the first Juneteeth celebration.

## SR. THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN



(Right) A Sister Thea Bowman banner was created this year to adorn the stage, along with St. Francis and St. Clare, at large liturgies.

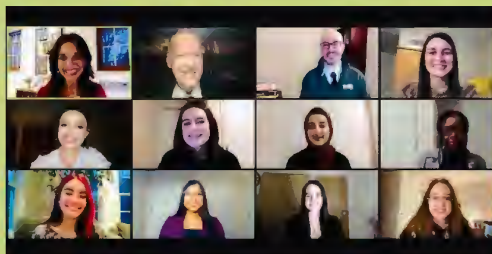
The legacy of Sister Thea Bowman embodies the generosity, inclusivity, and unconditional respect for human life that the Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women strives to promote on the Siena College campus. Regarded as a saint, Sister Thea's ideology and actions inform the way in which the Bowman Center educates the Siena community about gender equity and human rights. Throughout her life, Sister Thea pioneered the rights of African-Americans in the Catholic church and refused to accept the racial injustices that she witnessed within her community, paving the way for future female leaders.

## THE WOMEN'S CENTER SPONSORED TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS THIS YEAR TO PROMOTE JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY AMONG STUDENTS.

Dr. Bettina Love, Ph.D., an award-winning author of the book, *We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and The Pursuit of Educational Freedom*, and the Athletic Association Endowed Professor at the University of Georgia.



Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D., an American medical anthropologist, physician and co-founder of Partners in Health, a global non-profit organization that brings medical treatment to the world's poorest regions.



## 2 SESSIONS OF THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LAB

- Exploring women's leadership using social and emotional intelligence.

"I liked being able to grow even more and be able to connect with more women who are brilliant and so strong in this ever changing time in the world." - student participant

## WOMEN'S CENTER AND SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT:

**Supervision of 4 Social Work students** - developed a Zoom training on healthy relationships for Siena College which was later modified and presented at Averill Park's district health day.

## WOMEN'S CENTER 3 DAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Twelve men and women participated in a three day training on topics ranging from: Racial Justice, Gender Equity, Social and Emotional Intelligence, Healthy Relationships, and Advocacy.

## EXPLORING ADVOCACY:

- UN Women collaborate with the Women's Center. Two policy analysts spoke with students about international policy and advocacy.
- A Day in the Life of a Lobbyist, students in discussion with a local lobbyist.
- Legal Panel on Racial Justice with Judge Christina Ryba.

## 19TH AMENDMENT

- Tee shirts, Women's right to vote, voter registration efforts and social media campaigns to encourage voting.

## MENTORING:

- Individual sessions with Women Center leaders and students.
- Social and Emotional Intelligence training with the Women's Basketball team.





# THE MISSION TEAM

Vice-President for Mission

Fr. Mark G. Reamer, '83 O.F.M., D. Min.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fr. Larry Anderson, Chaplain of the College

Fr. Roberto Serrano, OFM Associate Chaplain

Deacon Nick Ascitti, Assistant Chaplain (not pictured)

Gabrielle Tegiacchi, Music Minister (not pictured)

Br. Jason Damon, O.F.M.

## SISTER THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN

Ms. Beth DeAngelis, Senior Director

## FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY:

Ms. Judy Dougherty, Director

## DAMIETTA CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER

Br. George Camacho, OFM, Director

## MENTORING AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Will Figeroa, Assistant Director

of Mission Engagement (not pictured)

## COLLABORATION WITH

Dr. Jerry DeFrancisco,

Executive in Residence

Mr. George Christian,

Presidential Actions Officer

Ms. Colleen Sheedy,

Assistant to the Office of Mission