



MISSION OFFICE 2021-2022 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.

Francis of Assisi often met people with the simple words of peace and good. His now familiar greeting was, at the time, a bold and powerful challenge to the prevailing wisdom. All around him, there was an unrestrained thirst for more – more power, more property, more possessions. Francis, instead, spread a message of peace, which he considered to be the gift that flows when we live in relationship with God. Inspired by the example of St. Francis, Siena's Mission Team is committed to much more than repeating his greeting of peace and good. We are focused upon addressing the deeper realities to which Francis directs our attention. We're calling on the entire Siena Community to be Siena Saints, and we're here to facilitate that gift that flows when we, as a community, live in relationship with God.



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.

This past year, we were fortunate to have Br. Jason Damon, OFM, join us for his internship. Br. Jason built up the Siena community through his presence in many aspects of campus. At the end of his time, Jason found that serving as a Friar in Residence was his most significant role. Plassmann Hall was his home away from the friary for the year and his interactions with students and the residence hall staff were meaningful. Jason was a great addition to the campus this past year. In late summer, Br. Jason returns to Chicago to complete his studies for the Master of Divinity at the Catholic Theological Union.

Friar recruitment to Siena is a priority of the College – in November Fr. Louis Iasiello, OFM, Ph.D., came for a visit to explore ministering at Siena and as a result joined the friar fraternity this summer. Fr. Lou will be teaching First-Year Seminar, working with the Institute for Leadership Development and sharing his abundant gifts and talents on the Mission Team. In March, the Franciscan Friar postulants (first year of initial formation for men discerning joining the friars) from Holy Name College in Silver Spring, Maryland spent a few days on campus learning about Franciscan Higher Education. During the spring and summer, four additional friars visited campus to explore opportunities for future ministry at Siena.

The world needs more saints – more Siena Saints. We are proud that so many shining examples serve on the Mission Team. In June,

Colleen Sheedy, administrative assistant for the Mission Team, was named the Saint of the Year by the College in recognition of her long-time commitment to Siena.

After leading the Sister Thea Bowman Center for Women the past six years, and most recently as senior director for the mission team, Beth DeAngelis will be leaving her full-time position with us – while continuing to teach emotional intelligence on campus. Beth has been a tremendous partner in ministry and a strong advocate for the development of students' wellness and development of the whole person. She has wonderfully accompanied and mentored students in their journey of faith and meaning and fostered the leadership of women.

It takes intentionality and commitment to be the learning community that our mission statement calls us to be. There are many examples of our partners across campus fulfilling this mission. I hope you enjoy this annual report, which provides a sampling of how we are living out our mission in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi, Bernardine of Siena, Anthony of Padua, Roger Bacon, Thomas Plassmann, Thea Bowman and the long line of Franciscan women and men who contributed to the Franciscan tradition that lives on at Siena College.

Peace and good,

Fr. Mark G. Reamer, OFM

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 and 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.



PEACE AND GOOD



THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Office of the College Chaplain serves as the spiritual center of campus where students and community members gather regularly to share their joys, triumphs, talents, questions, struggles, and, most significantly, their faith in God and their commitment to the Gospel.

MEET THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE STAFF

Father Larry Anderson, Chaplain of the College
Father Tito Serrano, Associate Campus Minister
Deacon Nick Ascoti, Assistant Campus Minister
Gabby Tegiacchi, Music Minister

TRADITIONS CONTINUED

Opening School Mass
Francis Week
Freshman Retreat
Franks with the Friars
Lessons and Carols
Lenten Lessons

CONTINUED WEEKLY TRADITIONS

Daily Mass
Adoration
Lectio Divina
Prayer and Worship
Rosary
Friday Fun Night





SACRAMENTS AT SAINT MARY OF THE ANGEL'S CHAPEL

Baptisms: 25
 First Communion: 5
 Confirmation: 9
 Weddings: 5
 Funerals: 2

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is the journey of adult Christians becoming Catholic and receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. It is also for baptized Catholics who desire to continue their journey to receive Holy Communion and Confirmation.

OTHER PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

- The Chaplain's Office also co-hosted events with campus partners
- The Breaking Bread series with the Damietta Center, an interfaith community discussion.
- Monetary and Medical Supply collection in a partnership with Siena student Cristian Spariosu and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church.
- Synod Discussions
- Friar presence increased in the Art Department and Athletics!

Students on campus were invited to participate in "For a Synodal Church" convened by Pope Francis. Discussions with students were prompted by questions such as, "What encourages or concerns you about the Catholic Church?" "What is your experience of speaking openly and freely about your faith?" The discussions were fruitful and the student responses gave us insights into how to better minister and be present to them.





THE DAMIETTA CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER

The Damietta Cross-Cultural Center provides support, services and events that promote diversity on campus in an engaging way. We believe diversity enriches the Siena experience for everyone. We seek to empower students to be agents of change by fostering an inclusive community.

MEET THE DAMIETTA CROSS CULTURAL CENTER DIRECTOR
BR. GEORGE CAMACHO

PROGRAMS:

In October, over 125 people attended the *Día de la Raza* Concert featuring Rick Reyes and the Pasofino Social Club. This Latinx Heritage Month event led Siena community members on a musical journey across the Caribbean, Central and South American culture; including, delicious food and dance lessons.

In March we hosted both, Carnaval/ Mardi Gras and Arab Culture, Music, Dance Night. The Mardi Gras event featured a JOY OF SAMBA workshop exploring Batucada, the street samba of Brazilian carnival.

Students also participated in an interactive percussion workshop.

Arab Culture Night featured interactive performances and folkloric dance. Over 150 students participated in these workshops.

CELEBRATION:

ALANA and Lavender Celebration of Achievement



AFFINITY CLUBS AND MENTORING: CLUBS ARE AN ESSENTIAL VEHICLE TO FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY AMONGST OUR STUDENTS.

Black Student Union
Muslim Student Association
Latinx Student Association
Pride: Gay Straight Alliance
Asian Student Association



DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 1,000 students attended Damietta Cross Cultural Center programming during 2021-2022 academic year!

Cafe Euphoria - LGBT History Month Keynote - October 21, 2021
Riley Lynn Nairn and Atsushi Akera, co-founders of a transgender owned and operated restaurant in Troy, NY spoke on their experiences creating this new and inclusive business model

Fall Fusion - November 18, 2021
Multicultural Talent Show featuring student performers; organized by Asian Student Association and Affinity Clubs

Beyond the Binary with CJ Suitt - Black History Month Keynote - February 9, 2022
Using poetry and spoken word to explore topics of identity, body positivity, and community building in an interactive LGBTQ+ workshop.

Expozé - April 9, 2022:
Multicultural Talent Show featuring student performers; organized by Black Student Union and Affinity Clubs



TRAININGS:

Peer led trainings were available to all members of the Siena community. These trainings increase awareness and foster a more just and inclusive campus community.

- Ally 101 Training, a workshop that provides education for allies of the LGBTQ+ community, for over 60 persons; including, students, faculty, and Public Safety Officers.

- 425 persons attended student-led diversity training/ classroom presentations like Ally 101, Breaking the Chain, and Microaggression Training.





THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy (FCSA) promotes and upholds Siena's Franciscan mission by engaging students and the Siena community in various service and advocacy programs, particularly among the poor and marginalized.

MEET THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR JUDY DOUGHERTY

FCSA TRADITIONS

The Francis Giving Tree received support from students, staff and alumni.

- 1,235 gifts were collected for the Franciscan Giving Tree.

- 18 Capital Region agencies were supported

- 1000 Capital Region children enjoyed gifts on Christmas morning.

Oxfam Hunger Banquet

- Students gathered to create awareness of hunger and inequality.

SIENASERVES:

- Community Service Days (Fall and Spring)

- 150 Students wrote thank you and encouragement cards for seniors and veterans for our Weeks of Welcome Service Project.

- Outreach Meal Packing program in April, 35 students prepared meals for the needy.

PROGRAMS:

- Fair Trade Sale

- A Close Knit Community-weekly knitting circle

- Service Saturdays

- Abroadfest-service immersion programming

- Siena Stands With-Equity, Identity, and Immersion in your own backyard.

- St. John's/St. Ann's: weekly meal distribution.

- Tutoring Program at Blessed Sacrament School

- Post Graduate Service & Volunteer Fair



THE FRANCISCAN SERVICE AND ADVOCACY MINOR

Academic Minor in Franciscan Service and Advocacy

-Students explore the College's Franciscan and Catholic Traditions and Commitment to Service within the context of their academic interests.

-The Minor is a combination of required courses and elective courses, a total of 18 credits.

-Goals of the Minor:

Introduce students to the rich Franciscan-Catholic Tradition.

Immerse students in applied academic experience of solidarity.

Invite reflection and real-world experiences into the classroom.



MISSION OFFICE SPECIAL EVENTS

MISSION TEAM NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The Mission Team curated a pilgrimage experience for all new students to foster a sense of belonging and community among them.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEADING THE WAY)

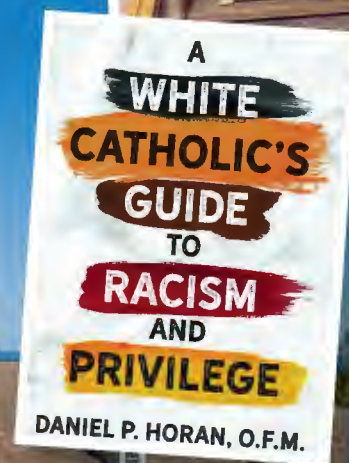
Two members of the Mission Team, Br. George Camacho and Ms. Beth DeAngelis, we are a part of the Strategic Planning committee.

PEYTON'S PATH BREAKS GROUND

The memory of a beloved Siena student who lost his life while training as a firefighter is being commemorated with a new outdoor pathway featuring the Stations of the Cross. "Like St. Francis, who found God within nature, Peyton also found peace and joy in the outdoors," said Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., Siena's chaplain. "Peyton was a man of faith, and no stranger to the chapel or the Grotto."

FR. DAN HORAN, OFM FRANCISCAN FRIAR, SCHOLAR, AUTHOR, PROFESSOR

Fr. Dan provided four presentations throughout his visit to Siena including facilitating a dialogue with our D-1 head coaches, lunch time conversation with student athletes, faculty presentation on his recent book and a "sold-out" keynote lecture for students.



THE MENTORING AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

MEET THE ASST. DIRECTOR FOR MISSION ENGAGEMENT, MR. WILL FIGUEROA.

The Siena College Mentoring Program has impacted the lives of Saints and Capital Region youth since 1965. Jim Snyder started the program as an initiative supported by Big Brothers and Sisters. Snyder passed away in 2014, but the program continues to serve children, known as Littles, by pairing them with a Siena student, a Big.

THE MENTORING PROGRAM IS BACK IN PERSON!

- Saturday's During the School Year

Relaunched in Spring 2022 with 10 pairs of Bigs and Littles and with a renewed partnership with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization.

- Summer Enrichment Camp in July

For the first time since 2019, we hosted the Summer Enrichment Camp in July with over 20 Littles and 4 Bigs! We gathered Monday through Friday for a full day of activities that include an academic, physical and social/character-building component.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SIENA MISSION

#MISSIONEVERYDAY

The Mission Team has a social media presence with videos featuring current students and recent alumni. [Follow us on Instagram at @sienacollegemission](#)



SR. THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN



(Right) A Sister Thea Bowman banner was created last year as a reminder to our commitment to strengthening the bonds of racial justice. Sr. Thea adorns the stage, along with St. Francis and St. Clare, at large liturgies.

The Sister Thea Bowman Center for Women, in collaboration with the Siena community, fosters advocacy efforts for social justice, gender equality, and women's development. We address issues of social justice, wellness, service, and advocacy.

MEET THE SR. THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN'S SENIOR DIRECTOR, BETH DEANGELIS

Student Leaders - Jenny Uzhca, Elham Malik, Jadhan Pierre, Adrianna Grande, Maria Paez, Lila Dodge, Liana Hall, and Skylar Nihawan.

KEY PROGRAMS

The 10th Annual Capital District Feminist Studies Conference

Beth DeAngelis and Dr. Laurie Naranch co-chaired the 10th annual Capital District Feminist Studies Consortium with the generous support of the Spirit of '68 and Academic Affairs. Nearly 150 community members representative of six regional colleges and universities attended.





STRESS AND ANXIETY RELIEF FOR STUDENTS

- **Yoga and Mindfulness in the Chapel** - 40 students gathered weekly.
- **Women's Center Weekly Mentoring Meeting** led by senior leaders Skylar Nijhawan and Adrianna Grande. The meetings focused on topics such as: healthy and unhealthy relationships, self-care practices, assertive communication and financial literacy.
- **Mindful Monday** Useful tips, skills and resources to cultivate more mindfulness and less stress. Written by Women Center leader, Maria Paez.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

The Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women collaborated with Unity House in Troy and Siena Faculty to provide awareness and advocacy opportunities during Domestic Violence awareness month in October.

Women-Up tee shirts were designed and shared on campus to promote awareness. Social work interns developed a social media campaign to highlight domestic violence statistics, and resources.



"Love is Not Abuse" program was led by three Unity House Counselors to provide awareness, empowerment and resources to students. The Sr. Thea Bowman partnered with Dacey Booney's Relationship Violence class for this program.

"Stall stories" featuring information on the Red Zone and the unique vulnerability of LGBTQ+ and Trans couples were created by Social Work interns and posted throughout campus. Dr. Marcela Garcés' class translated these into "stories" into Spanish to provide an actionable component to their class learning experience.



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING - DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) Research

Beth DeAngelis conducted an IRB approved research study on social/emotional skill development with 20 women students.

Six Seconds Higher Education Conference: Women Center leaders, Jenny Uzhca and Elham Malik, presented with Beth DeAngelis at a global Emotional Intelligence conference in June, 2022.





PARTNERSHIPS

UNWomen

Our colleagues at UNWomen joined the Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women in partnership with Dr. Vera Eccarius-Kelly (Department of Political Science) and Dr. Dirk DeJohn (Department of Social Work and Peace Studies) to discuss the the situation of women on the ground in Ukraine. The narrative focused on women’s resilience and strength during times of great challenge.

STUDENT MENTORING

Mentoring students is a large part of the contribution we make to the Siena community.

- The Women’s center staff of seven students receives regular mentoring from Sr. Director, Beth DeAngelis.
- Students in Dr. Draucker’s Sexual Violence Narratives, worked with Sr. Director, Beth DeAngelis, to develop their final impact projects.
- Students in the course Developing Your Emotional Intelligence receive 1:1 mentoring to cultivate social/emotional skills.
- Spiritual Companionship is available to students interested in cultivating their spiritual life.

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women hosted a Master Class to review the most recent White paper, *Mental Health & Higher Education in New York* by Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc (MHANYS).

Community partners from MHANYS and NYS Department of Mental Health presented to an audience of Siena students, faculty and administrators.

SELF-CARE

Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women gathered regularly for self-care. Some activities included: yoga, talk circles and parties.

WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE - A SPECIAL THANKS TO...



JERRY DEFRANCISCO, Siena '68 helps us stay strategic and raise spirits with his panache for storytelling, strategic planning and dedication to living the mission!
- Jerry helped us form a close alliance with the Spirit of '68, providing advice and counsel, and co-sponsoring the 2022 Feminist Conference.

GEORGE CHRISTIAN, Presidential Actions Officer (left). A friend to all!

ALL CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Mr. Siena contestants raising awareness for Habitat For Humanity



THE MISSION TEAM

Fr. Mark G. Reamer, O.F.M.,
Vice-President for Mission

Fr. Louis Iasiello, O.F.M.,
Franciscan Scholar in Residence

Ms. Colleen Sheedy,
Assistant to the Office of Mission

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., Chaplain of the College
Fr. Roberto Serrano, O.F.M. Associate Chaplain
Deacon Nick Ascoti, Assistant Campus Minister
Gabrielle Tegiacchi, Music Minister (not pictured)

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, O.F.M., Director

MENTORING AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Will Figueroa, Assistant Director
for Mission Engagement

COLLABORATION WITH

Dr. Jerry DeFrancisco,
Executive in Residence (not pictured)

Mr. George Christian,
Presidential Actions Officer