



MISSION OFFICE 2024-2025 REPORT



SIENA



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 God,

As we seek to carry forward

The mission of Siena College.





Pictured rt to left is President Charles Seifert; Provost Maggie Madden; Holly O'Garro '25, Pres of Black Student Union; Fr. Mark, and Tatiana Vaz '22 at the ALANA Lavender event in May 2025.



Fr. Mark blessing a graduate at the Baccalaureate Mass in May 2025.

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. Given the many conflicts that are taking place in our world, all the more this message of peace is needed.

Inspired by the example of St. Francis, Siena's Mission Team and our many, many partners in ministry are seeking ways to fulfill our Franciscan Mission 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.

To help us fulfill this mission we welcomed Ms. Davina Mayo-Dunham as the new Director of the Damietta Cross-cultural Center and Assistant VP for Mission, Fr. Ken Himes, OFM, the Director of the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy and Br. Jimmy Kernan, OFM Assistant Director of the Laudato Si Center for Integral Ecology. Among the highlights featured in this report is the inaugural Laudato Si Center Symposium "Earth's Cry, Humanity's Call" featured United Nations General Secretary Antonio Gutierrez with more than 1,000 participants.

It takes intentionality and commitment to be the learning community that our mission calls us to be. There are many examples of our partners across campus fulfilling this mission. Please 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, '83 OFM
Vice-President for Mission

SIENA UNIVERSITY 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 University 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 UNIVERSITY,

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 UNIVERSITY,

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 UNIVERSITY'S CORE VALUES

Siena University'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 University 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 UNIVERSITY 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 University 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.



PERSON CENTERED



LIFELONG LEARNERS



INCLUSIVE



COMPASSIONATE
LEADERS



INNOVATIVE

CENTER FOR FRANCISCAN LEADERSHIP

We facilitate a leadership program that helps Siena students achieve personal growth, career success, and prepares them to become a positive influence in their communities. It's a program built for students of all majors, with varied career goals, and the full spectrum of capabilities.



SR. THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN

We provide innovative programs and initiatives that educate, engage, and empower students. In collaboration with the Siena community, we foster advocacy efforts for social justice, gender equality, and women's development.



DAMIETTA CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER

We believe diversity enriches the Siena experience. We work to provide support, services, and events that change by fostering an inclusive community as active bystanders and peer educators.



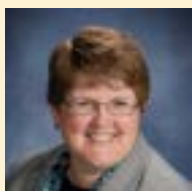
FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

We promote and uphold the Franciscan mission of the college by engaging students and the Siena community in various service and advocacy programs, particularly among the poor and marginalized locally, nationally, and abroad.



MISSION COORDINATION

We support the operations of the Mission Office and help make the partnerships and activities happen.



LAUDATO SI' CENTER FOR INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

We encourage a concern and care for creation. We seek to lead by example by reducing Siena's carbon footprint. We speak up for climate and environmental justice.



MENTORING PROGRAM

We combine the knowledge, resources, and opportunities of Siena and the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization to establish a mentoring relationship between a youth (Little) and a Siena student (Big) to support each other in realizing their full potential.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

We welcome all to join us for a few minutes of conversation, quiet prayer, a listening ear, or a fresh perspective. Students are invited to worship at our liturgies and participate in our faith-formation programs.

FALL SEMESTER

On August 29, we officially welcomed the Class of 2028 with our cherished Opening Day traditions, designed to foster belonging and community from the very start. The afternoon began with the Opening Mass at the UHY Center, where students, families, faculty, and staff gathered to seek blessings for the new academic year. The liturgy, organized by the Chaplain's Office, reflected Siena's Franciscan heritage and emphasized inclusivity, unity, and prayerful grounding. Later that evening, the Welcome Ceremony at the Bells of Remembrance formally introduced new students to the Siena family. With remarks from campus leaders and peers, the event invited students to step fully into their journey while forming connections that will last well beyond their Siena years.





FRANKS WITH FRIARS: FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND FRANCISCAN HOSPITALITY

On September 14, 2024, students, alumni, and friars came together for Franks with Friars, one of Siena's most cherished traditions. The event combined simple hospitality—hot dogs shared outdoors—with meaningful conversations between members of the Siena community. What began as a lighthearted student gathering has grown to include alumni and is a highlight of Reunion Weekend. These gatherings create space for fellowship on our Franciscan roots. The friars, who have been integral to the College since its founding, use these informal settings to connect personally with students and alumni alike.



A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP

The Damietta Cross-Cultural Center began 24–25 with new leadership, welcoming Davina Mayo–Dunham '20 as Assistant Vice President for Mission and Director of the Center. Under her direction, Damietta strengthened its presence on campus through increased social media engagement and new cross-campus partnerships with First Year Sem, Social Work, Education, Criminal Justice, Philosophy, Athletics, and Student Life. These collaborations expanded the Center's reach and created meaningful opportunities for students to connect across disciplines. Off campus, Damietta built partnerships with Colonie and Menands high schools, the Albany Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Food Bank—broadening its role as both a campus and community leader.



Fr. Kevin Mullen presides at the prayer service.

TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS: A JOURNEY TOWARD PEACE

On October 3, 2024, the Siena community gathered to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis, commemorating his passage from earthly life to eternal life. Presided over by Fr. Kevin Mullen, the prayer service was titled St. Francis: A Journey Towards the Culture of Peace. The liturgy combined reflection, prayer, and artistic expression, featuring a moving theatrical presentation by Siena alumnus Simon Meisel. Following the service, students, friars, and community members joined together in a candlelight procession from the Chapel to the Grotto, symbolizing Francis's enduring legacy of faith and peace. The event invited participants to reflect on how Franciscan values continue to inspire lives today.



WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS BUILDS CONFIDENCE

On October 7th, the Center for Women partnered with Public Safety and the Title IX Office to host the Albany County Sheriff's Women & Tactics Program (SWAT) on campus. Siena community members participated in the training, which focused on preventative strategies and included hands-on practice of basic self-defense maneuvers under the guidance of sheriff's deputies. The program gave participants the chance to build practical skills while also sparking important conversations about personal safety and empowerment. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive, with many participants expressing strong interest in returning for a follow-up session with more advanced techniques.

Participants practice how to block an assailant's blow, and learn how to throw a punch without hurting themselves.



CREATIVE OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

Damietta also broadened the way it engaged students of color and allies by expanding its communications tools. The Collective Impact newsletter, enhanced social media presence, creative theater, forums, and the Damietta Podcast gave students multiple entry points to engage. These platforms amplified student voices while highlighting upcoming opportunities and issues of social justice, making Damietta's work more visible and accessible than ever. By diversifying outreach, the Center ensured that students felt informed, included, and connected.



A NEW CHAPTER: RECONNECTING WITH OUR VALUES

This year marked a new chapter for the Siena Mentoring Program as we transitioned from our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters to new collaborations with All Saints Catholic Academy and Blessed Sacrament School in Albany. While the structure of the program shifted, the heart of our mission remained unchanged: pairing Siena students, our Bigs, with children, our Littles, to form meaningful one-to-one relationships. By strengthening ties with local schools, we ensured continuity of care for our Littles while creating fresh opportunities for compassion and growth. The new partnerships reflect Siena's Franciscan call to meet young people where they are, with joy and purpose. "Even though the program changed, being a Big still means showing up, listening, and making a difference," said Emma Hoy '25, Mentoring Club

Damietta cultural groups and organizations collaborated with the women's basketball team to raise awareness for Mental Health.



Paris DeFilippis '25 speaks with Basil Seggos during one of the panels at the symposium.

EARTH'S CRY, HUMANITY'S CALL SYMPOSIUM

From October 10–11th Siena hosted the Earth's Cry, Humanity's Call Symposium, led by the Laudato Si' Center for Integral Ecology. More than 1,000 participants gathered for this landmark event, which featured a keynote address by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres and a special letter from Pope Francis to attendees. The symposium brought together panelists offering local, national, and global perspectives on the climate crisis, with a particular focus on plastic pollution. Speakers emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive solutions that address both environmental and social challenges. In addition to the panels, many students participated in the Clean and Just Connection Sustainability Fair, where they engaged directly with hands-on initiatives.

Aidan James '25 said, "I was thrilled to see the symposium work out and succeed as it did."



Siena students – Kristian Fields '27, Lydia Kyaw '28, Emma Andros '26, Isabelle Rowley '26, Breanna Martell '26, Talia Narzymiski '26, Elca Hubbard '28, along with Donna Bradbury—meeting at the office of Rep. Paul Tonko.

FRANCISCAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN D.C.: ACTING FOR PEACE, PEOPLE, PLANET

From October 12–15, 2024, Donna Bradbury from the Bowman Center for Women and Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM from the Laudato Si' Center—led a group of eight Siena students to the Franciscan Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Organized by the Franciscan Action Network, the conference brought together students from Franciscan colleges and universities to explore the Franciscan vision for social and climate justice. Students participated in workshops on nonviolent communication and reflected on how Franciscan values can shape leadership for the common good. The conference culminated with student advocacy on Capitol Hill, where participants met with lawmakers to discuss pressing issues of peace, justice, and care for creation.

Kristian Fields '27: "I encourage my fellow Saints to participate in the political process to make life better for everyone including yourself."

LAUDATO SI' AND SIENA AROUND THE WORLD

The Laudato Si' Center is expanding an existing relationship between Siena University School of Business and the Franciscan University in Curitiba, Brazil, proposing a vision of integral ecology to reframe our understanding of the relationship between economy and sustainability by emphasizing the deep, intrinsic connection between social, economic, and environmental systems.



ROOTS CAFÉ: A FRESH TAKE ON TRADITION

On October 23th, the Center for Women partnered with Siena Fresh to host the first Roots Café of the fall semester in Massry Dining Hall. The popular pop-up featured a three-course Oktoberfest-themed meal, with student leaders from the Center for Women helping provide table service to their peers. While diners enjoyed a change of pace from their usual dining hall experience, additional student leaders collaborated with Public Safety, Title IX, and Health Promotion to share resources on how to stay safe during the Halloween season. The Free Use Closet also joined the event, offering costumes donated by the Theater Department—an added way to make the holiday accessible to all students.

Siena community members enjoyed a taste of OcktoberFest: Sauerbraten, spatzle, cabbage, and German potato salad.



FALL FUN: INDIAN LADDER FARMS AND HALLOWEEN AT SIENA

This fall, Bigs and Littles shared seasonal traditions that combined fun, learning, and community. In October, the program visited Indian Ladder Farms, where Littles enjoyed apple picking, exploring the pumpkin patch, and learning about local agriculture alongside their Bigs. Later that month, Siena hosted a Halloween event, complete with costumes, games, and candy. The day created opportunities for Bigs and Littles to laugh, play, and strengthen bonds in a festive, safe environment. These activities highlighted the importance of shared experiences outside the classroom, giving Littles a chance to learn and grow while enjoying the simple joys of fall. “Spending time at the farm with my Little reminded me how much the small things—like picking apples—really matter,” said Kelyse Mallory who served as a Big from 2023 to 25.



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS: AN ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

On Friday, December 6, 2024, about 75 members of the Siena community gathered for A Festival of Lessons & Carols, an Advent prayer service that blended music and scripture to prepare hearts for the Christmas season. The event, a partnership between the Chaplain’s Office and the Creative Arts Department, featured the Siena College Chorus, Psalm 150, and the Siena Chamber Singers. Their music provided a

powerful backdrop as students proclaimed scripture readings that told the story of Christ’s coming. The service created a space of beauty, anticipation, and reflection, drawing participants more deeply into the rhythm of Advent.

Siena Chamber Singers sing from the gallery.



Fr. Larry offers blessings



Fr. Larry Anderson with Katherine Williamson, Phia Guertin, and Colin Caulfield, readers

BLESSING OF THE BRAINS: FAITH, FOOD, AND FINALS

On December 10th, nearly 500 students gathered in the MAC for Siena’s beloved tradition, the Blessing of the Brains. The late-night service offered encouragement and prayer as students prepared for final exams. The Siena Friars provided individual blessings, reminding students that faith and perseverance go hand in hand during stressful times. After receiving their blessings, students enjoyed the familiar spread of “B’s to get their A’s”—bacon, bagels, bananas, and brownies—snacks meant to keep energy and spirits high for late-night studying. The event combined humor, hospitality, and holiness, creating community care in the busiest week of the semester.



BIG TIME COMPASSION

In December, our Bigs and staff extended Siena's Franciscan spirit of generosity beyond formal mentoring matches. At Blessed Sacrament School, Bigs delivered Christmas gifts to students in grades K–3, not all of whom are Littles, as an act of compassionate neighborliness. For our matched Littles, the holiday celebrations continued with gift-giving supported by AVI Foodsystems, who provided wrapped presents for each child. Bigs also brought Littles to campus for a Siena women's basketball game, cheering together and enjoying the excitement of Division I basketball. These events wove together joy, service, and relationship-building during the holiday season. "It wasn't just about the gifts—it was about making kids feel special and seen at Christmas," said one Big.

GIVING TREE 2024

Each holiday season, Siena's Franciscan Giving Tree brings the campus community together in a spirit of generosity and joy. In 2024, the effort was coordinated by Nick Ascoti, Assistant Campus Minister, who worked closely with local partners to identify families in need of support. Through the Giving Tree, community members selected tags listing the wishes of children and families, purchased and wrapped the gifts, and returned them to campus to be delivered in time for Christmas.

The impact was extraordinary: [INSERT #] community organizations were served through the project, and Siena faculty, staff, students, and alumni provided [INSERT #] gifts. Many of these were essentials—warm jackets, shoes, and winter gear—alongside toys and items that brought smiles and joy to children.

More than just a holiday tradition, the Giving Tree embodies Siena's Franciscan values of compassion and service, ensuring that families across the Capital Region feel cared for and celebrated during the Christmas season.

"Seeing the Siena community come together like this reminds us that generosity can transform the holidays for families who need it most," said Nick.



SPRING 2025



ALANA (African-American/Black, Latino/a, Asian/ Pacific Islander, Native American/Indigenous) and Lavender (LGBTQ+) is a pre-commencement tradition hosted by Damietta Cross Cultural Center that honors the resilience and the leadership of the students and allies who have advanced diversity, belonging, and unity within the Siena community. During the commencement weekend, Damietta recognized 72 student leaders and issued 4 honorary awards.



GROWTH IN PROGRAMS AND VISIBILITY

Damietta experienced unprecedented growth in programming during 2024–25, increasing from just five events the previous year to forty-five events. This expansion, averaging 33 attendees per semester, significantly boosted visibility and student participation across campus. The wider variety of offerings—ranging from cultural celebrations to educational forums—helped students feel represented and welcomed, while also building new bridges across campus communities. Damietta’s increased visibility was also strengthened by active social media engagement and creative use of newsletters and podcasts, which allowed the Center’s work to reach new audiences. Six new student advocates were recruited during the spring semester, ensuring strong peer leadership for future efforts.



From left to right: Melanie Osborn-Smith ‘25, Grace Caton ‘25, Emma Snizek ‘25, and Conor Zaferacopoulos ‘26 are ready to serve up a three-course meal.

ROOTS CAFÉ: HEART HEALTH ON THE MENU

In February 2025, the Center for Women and Siena Fresh Food Service teamed up once again to host a special Roots Café, this time focused on heart health. The themed meal featured dishes such as salmon, leafy greens, and whole grains—foods known for supporting cardiovascular wellness. Student leaders from the Center for Women played a key role in setting the tone of the evening, ensuring that each table included practical information on maintaining a healthy heart. Their efforts helped transform the pop-up meal into more than just a dining experience—it became a space for education, wellness, and connection among peers. The event was well received by students, faculty, and staff, who left with both full plates and helpful resources.



During Unity Week in the spring semester, the Damietta Center helped Siena University honor the Mohawk Tribe through the completion of the Land Acknowledgement and the raising of the Haudenosaunee flag

EXPANDING STUDENT AFFINITY & IDENTITY GROUPS

Student engagement thrived as Damietta introduced and supported new identity-based groups on campus. Two new affinity clubs—the Indigenous Student Union and Gaelic Society—were launched, each offering a space for cultural celebration and education. Three additional affinity groups—the International Student Association, Jewish Student Association, and Humanity First—joined the Center’s network, expanding representation for diverse voices. In addition, Damietta welcomed a new cultural expression group, the Latin Dance Club, which quickly became a vibrant presence at student events. These groups reflect Damietta’s commitment to creating space for every student to find belonging and to explore identity in community.



GALENTINE'S DAY: CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

On February 13th, the Center for Women marked Galentine's Day, a celebration of friendship and community, by teaming up with the Title IX Office for a cheerful outreach event. Student leaders greeted peers with cards, shared tips on building and maintaining healthy relationships, and handed out chocolate kisses as a sweet reminder of care and support. The event offered a lighthearted way to celebrate the importance of friendship while also creating space for important conversations around respect, boundaries, and mutual support.

Tara Dolack '27 looking festive with her impressive display of treats.



DIALOGUE & INTERFAITH GRANT

In Spring 2025, Damietta diversified its outreach by securing a \$5,000 grant from Interfaith America to pilot a dialogue framework on campus. The inaugural cohort of nine students successfully completed the program, learning to foster dialogue across differences in identity, faith, and worldview. This program represents a major step toward equipping students with the skills to engage in constructive and respectful dialogue on critical issues. Damietta will continue to build on this foundation by expanding the framework in future semesters.

Damietta Advocates show off their certificates of completions at their Honoring Ceremony. Left to right: Talia Narazymski, Fortune Iheanetu, Emma Harkness, Isaiah Guiden (back), Isiah St. Fleur (back) Jovon Linton, Joelle Afolabi, Kelyse Mallory, and Anna Patel.

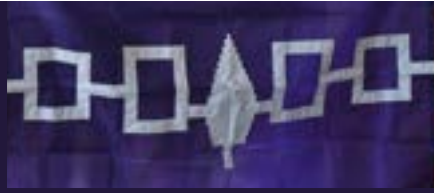
MISSION CONVERSATION: GUIDING SIENA IN A TIME OF CHANGE

On March 19th, faculty and staff gathered in Key Auditorium for a Mission Conversation, a candid dialogue about the role of Siena's Franciscan liberal arts mission in a rapidly changing world. Hosted by Fr. Mark Reamer, Vice President for Mission, the panel featured Fr. Ken Himes, Director of the Franciscan Center, Fr. Kevin Mullen, Guardian of the Friary, Trustee, and 10th President of Siena College, and Dr. Sarah Berke, Faculty Chair and Professor of Biology. Together we reflected on how Siena's mission continues to inspire, guide, and sustain the college during times of transition in higher education and society. The discussion underscored the enduring importance of compassion, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.



UNITY WEEK & HONORING INDIGENOUS PRESENCE

On Friday, April 4, 2025, the Siena community came together for Unity Day, the culminating event of Unity Week. Organized by the Damietta Cross-Cultural Center in partnership with Community Living, the celebration filled campus with music, food trucks, and performances that highlighted the joy of belonging. Unity Week expanded into a full week of events this year, offering the campus community a chance to celebrate diversity and solidarity across cultures. The programming was highlighted by the honoring and installation of the Haudenosaunee Flag and Land Acknowledgement in the Sarazen Student Union—a visible sign of commitment to recognizing Indigenous presence and history. These actions were received with gratitude by students and campus partners, who affirmed the importance of making such commitments visible and enduring. By expanding Unity Week and incorporating deeper acts of recognition, Damietta strengthened both community pride and intercultural awareness.



The flag represents the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy: Mohawk (Keepers of the Eastern Door), Oneida, Onondaga (Keepers of the Central Fire, symbolized by the White Tree), Cayuga, Seneca (Keepers of the Western Door), and the later-added Tuscarora.

PASSION SUNDAY: A CALL TO HUMILITY AND SERVICE

On April 13th, the Siena community gathered in front of Hines Hall to mark Passion Sunday, the beginning of Passiontide and a time of reflection on Christ's suffering and sacrifice. As a Franciscan institution, Siena integrates its faith traditions into both educational and spiritual life, and Passion Sunday provided an opportunity to unite prayer with action. The liturgy invited students, faculty, and friars



to reflect on the cross not as a symbol of defeat but as a testament to love, humility, and hope. The service challenged the community to carry those values forward in service and compassion on campus and beyond.



SIENA PAYS TRIBUTE TO POPE FRANCIS

On April 23th, the Siena community gathered for a prayer service to honor the life and witness of Pope Francis, the first pope to take the name of St. Francis of Assisi. Students, faculty, and friars filled the Chapel with the words of the Prayer of St. Francis, singing, "Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there is doubt, true faith in you." Speakers reflected on the pope's legacy of compassion for the poor and his call to care for creation. Fr. Daniel Dwyer, professor of history, noted that Francis lived the Franciscan charism he embraced: "He was always in touch with people, especially the marginalized." Students echoed this legacy, including freshman Kyle Carney, who said, "His advocacy for climate change inspires me to make the world more sustainable."



Janiece being baptized by Fr. Mark Reamer

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS AT SIENA

On Sunday, April 27th, the Chapel was filled to capacity as the Chaplain's Office welcomed 25 new members into the Catholic faith. Siena students and alumni received the sacraments of baptism, first communion, and confirmation in a moving celebration that united the community in prayer and joy. Presided over by the friars, the liturgy highlighted Siena's commitment to nurturing both the intellectual and spiritual lives of its students. The powerful witness of peers choosing to deepen their faith made a lasting impression on those present and reminded the community of the richness of Siena's Catholic identity.

"My time participating in RCIA was such an incredible experience. I had the pleasure of hearing so many different perspectives and grow in my faith. Overall it was such an amazing experience to be able meet every week to discuss more topics about the faith that I wouldn't have known." Janiece Roman '26



FR. Mark Reamer blesses Dan Leake '27

Over three-hundred students gather to receive a blessing

BLESSING OF THE BRAINS: SPRING EVENT

On April 28, 2025, more than 300 students gathered at the Grotto for the Blessing of the Brains. With finals week approaching, the Friars offered blessings for focus, perseverance, and peace of mind. True to tradition, the event also featured the familiar spread of "B's to get your A's"—this time including brownies, burritos, bananas, and bacon. Students fueled up for late-night study sessions while also sharing laughter and encouragement.

The combination of prayer and comfort food has made Blessing of the Brains one of Siena's most beloved campus traditions, offering both spiritual and practical support. "Blessing of the Brains is such an important tradition at Siena. It reminds us of our Franciscan identity and that we are not alone in our academic journey and that our hard work is supported by faith, intention, and a community that believes in our ability to succeed," said Dan Leake '27

DE-STRESS FEST: SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH FINALS

On May 5th—the final day of classes—the Center for Women joined the campus-wide De-Stress Fest, offering students a chance to recharge before finals. At their table, Center for Women student leaders encouraged peers to create personalized self-care bags, filling them with items like herbal tea, inspirational notebooks, stickers, fidget gadgets, and lavender sachets. The event gave students practical tools for managing stress and a reminder that their well-being matters. By engaging with their peers during such a high-pressure time, student leaders fostered community support and created space for encouragement and care.

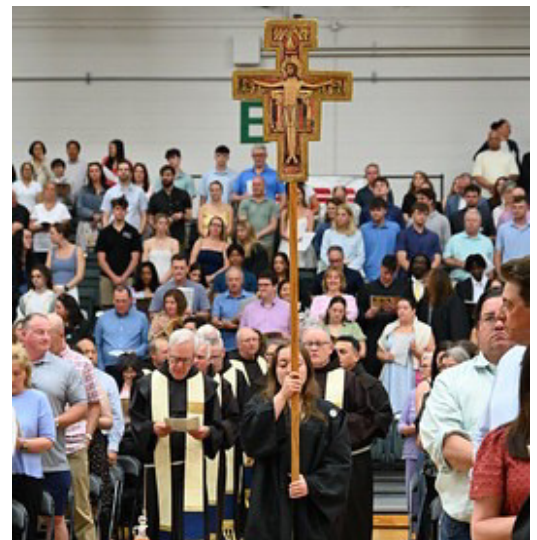
Emma Snizek '25, Grace Caton '25, and Janna Pervaiz '26 hand out self-care supplies to their peers





BACCALAUREATE MASS: A FINAL BLESSING FOR SENIORS

On Saturday, May 17th, seniors and their families gathered in thanksgiving for their years at Siena during the Baccalaureate Mass. More than 900 people joined the friars in worship, marking the final Mass for the Class of 2025 before Commencement. Fr. Larry Anderson, College Chaplain, presided at the liturgy, offering prayers and blessings for the graduates as they prepared to begin a new chapter of their lives. Music was provided by Psalm 150, Siena's student-led chapel music ministry, whose songs lifted the celebration with joy and reverence. The Mass was a moving opportunity to reflect on the friendships students had built and



(Above) Phia Guertin '25 processes with the San Damiano Cross. (Left) Psalm 150 provides inspirational music.



Bigs shaped young lives and left a lasting legacy at Siena. Their commitment reflects the heart of our Franciscan mission.

HONORING OUR GRADUATING BIGS

As the academic year closes, we honor our graduating Bigs—Valerie Trento, Adriana Fatato, Daniel Cordero, Breanna Martell, and Emma Hoy—for their extraordinary service in the Siena Mentoring Program. Each leaves behind a legacy of empathy, leadership, and joy. Valerie, who served as e-board president and vice president, reflected, "Being a Big has given me the opportunity to practice empathy in a time of life that is usually seen as very selfish. Watching my Little grow and become his own person over the last four years has been a true gift." Adriana found joy in bringing stability and positivity, Daniel emphasized the power of showing up, Breanna learned as much from her Little as she gave, and Emma called the program a cornerstone of her Siena journey. Together, they exemplify the Franciscan spirit of compassion and service.

LADAUTO SI' ACROSS THE GLOBE

The Laudato Si' Center presented at the May 2025 Justice, Peace and Integrity for Creation Course in Rome, Italy to an international



audience of friars and partners in ministry. We were invited to share our 'good practices' for work in justice, peace, and integrity for creation. The presentation encouraged a global network of Franciscans with the common goal of care for creation.

Above: Br. Jimmy shared the work of the Laudato Si' Center at the Justice, Peace and Integrity for Creation Course in Rome highlighting our work and engagement with students through symposia, work-study, social media, and service opportunities.

WELL WISHES FOR DONNA BRADBURY

At the close of the spring semester, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Donna Bradbury, who served as Senior Director of the Sister Thea Bowman Center for Women from 2022 to 2025. A proud Siena alumna, Donna brought decades of leadership in mental health, prevention, and community services to her role, infusing the Center with vision, energy, and care. Among her many contributions, Donna made the Free-Use Closet a signature part of the Center, providing students with free, sustainable access to clothing and essentials—an effort that embodied her commitment to dignity and inclusion. She was also instrumental in launching programs that championed gender equality, wellness, and social justice, while mentoring student leaders and serving as Senior Director of the Mission Office. We are grateful for Donna's service, the legacy she leaves behind, and we wish her every blessing in her next chapter.

MENTORING PROGRAM SUMMER ENRICHMENT 2025

This summer, the Siena College Mentoring Program welcomed 23 Littles and paired them with 5 dedicated Bigs—Leah Buono '26, Cean-Luke Saint Fort '26, Elizabeth Durfee '27, Ethan Corbin '27, Nyla Batista '26—for four weeks of learning, growth, and fun. Each morning, Littles joined their Bigs in book clubs, math games, and activities designed to keep skills sharp over the break. Afternoons brought swimming at the Siena pool, arts and crafts, and group games that encouraged teamwork and confidence. The summer also featured exciting trips, including Urban Air, Huck Finn's Playland, and Apex Entertainment, giving Littles and Bigs opportunities to explore and bond outside of campus. A highlight of the program was a collaboration with incoming HEOP freshmen who guided Littles through college-readiness activities like vision boards and goal-setting projects. These moments helped Littles see themselves as future scholars and leaders. The experience shaped the Bigs as much as the Littles. Serving as mentors challenged them to grow in leadership, empathy, and resilience.



LADAUTO SI' AT 2025 AFCU CONFERENCE

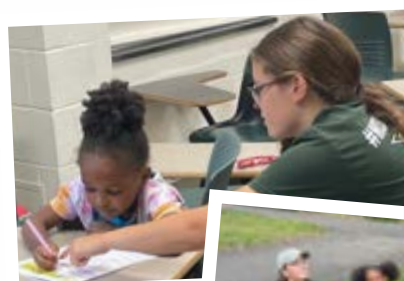
The Laudato Si' Center continues its collaboration with the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU). In June, the Laudato Si' Center traveled to Viterbo University in LaCrosse Wisconsin for the AFCU conference themed on the Cantic of the Creatures. Br. Michael gave the opening keynote address titled,

"Cantic of the Creatures: Renewing the Sacred Relationship Between Humanity and the Created World." Br. Jimmy presented, "St. Francis the Scientist: The Song, the Science, and a Call to Responsibility." A working group between seven of the AFCU institutions meet approximately monthly to network and collaborate on events.

Above: Br. Michael sharing at AFCU Conference



Donna surrounded by students at the Franciscan Action Network Conference in DC.



LAUDATO SI' CENTER FOR INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

Fr. Michael Perry, 'H22, O.F.M., Director
Br. Jacek Orzechowski, O.F.M., Associate Director
Br. Jimmy Kernan, O.F.M., Assistant Director

MENTORING AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS Mr. William
Figueroa, Assistant Director for Mission Engagement

CENTER FOR FRANCISCAN LEADERSHIP

DR. Jerry DeFrancisco, '68, Executive in Residence

COLLABORATION WITH

Fr. Kevin J. Mullen, '75, O.F.M., Franciscan Scholar in Residence

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

Mrs. Kristi-Lynn Pegarella, Office of Mission Coordinator

DAMIETTA CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER

Ms. Davina Mayo-Dunham, '20, AVP for Mission and the
Director of the Damietta Center

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., Chaplain of the College Deacon Nick
Ascioti, Assistant Campus Minister Mr. Richard J. Putorti,
Music Minister

SISTER THEA BOWMAN CENTER FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Donna Bradbury, '90, Senior Director

FRANCISCAN CENTER FOR SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Fr. Ken Himes, '71, O.F.M.,



Peace and all Good

