



INSIDE THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



Broadcasting Live From Siena College

When the pandemic threatened to knock the College chapel offline, rugby alumni stepped up to put services online.

Churches and chapels across the state were closed at the height of the pandemic, but College Chaplain Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., never skipped a Sunday 11:00 AM service. Using equipment borrowed from Siena's IT department, Sunday morning Mass was streamed on the recently created Siena College friars Facebook page. It was a temporary fix. Siena rugby alumni came along with a permanent solution.

Former College rugby players raised a majority of the funds to buy all new equipment for the chapel. Before churches were permitted to open their doors, Siena's Mass would attract more than 1,500 viewers online at once. And though worshipers are once again allowed in the pews, the equipment will stream more than Sunday

Mass. Fr. Larry expects to stream weddings, baptisms, and prayer services - all from multiple angles.

This October, there will be a wedding on campus; unfortunately family in Florida won't be able to attend. But thanks to rugby alumni, they'll have their own front row seat to the ceremony.

"This addition to the Chapel will allow us to minister to our alumni and friends beyond the Capital Region. Special thanks to the Siena rugby alumni who were so very generous in helping us reach this goal." Said Fr. Larry Anderson, O.F.M., chaplain.

To celebrate Mass on Sundays at 11:00 am, please visit www.facebook.com/sienafriars

Siena College, Maria College to Enhance Partnership

Siena College and Maria College announced that they will continue to develop their academic partnership to prepare students for careers in the health and caring professions.

The colleges are moving forward with a multi-pronged enhancement to their existing partnership, which reflects a shared commitment to their mutual Catholic heritage and the mindful delivery of patient- and client-centered care.

An articulation agreement for Siena students to obtain a master of science degree (M.S.) in occupational therapy at Maria. Details of this agreement could be finalized as soon as the end

of 2020, for submission for approval to the New York State Education Department. Siena students would be offered conditional admission to the master's program at Maria following successful completion of a Siena bachelor's degree in health studies, biology, nursing or related field. Maria currently offers weekend graduate courses in occupational therapy.

The colleges will also look to collaborate on administrative services, information technology services, extracurricular activities and campus ministries for these programs.

A Cut Above the Rest

Br. Angel Vázquez, O.F.M., a licensed barber and Siena College graduate who spent the past year at St. Bonaventure, professed his solemn vows as a Franciscan friar on Saturday, Aug. 29, during a Mass at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in downtown Hartford.

Br. Vázquez, a native of Staten Island, New York, graduated in 2004 from Siena College in Loudonville, New York, with a degree in political science. Later, while working as a recruiter for the college admissions office, he completed his master's degree in school counseling at nearby Sage Graduate School.

In early 2019, he obtained a barber license and then worked at a barbershop on the north side of Chicago, using his education and experience as a counselor to minister to the people who sat in his chair – mostly children and the elderly from poor neighborhoods.



“I use the simple act of a haircut to build relationships and mirror God’s love – helping people to see God and goodness in themselves while they are looking at their reflections in a mirror for 20 or 30 minutes,” he said.

After making his solemn profession as a Franciscan, Br. Vázquez will continue living at St. Bonaventure, serving as a resident minister and campus barber.



The Brown Robes

*It was my first day on Campus,
On the steps of the Hall.
Speaking under hooded habits,
Rope, sandals and all,
They taught me to learn,
In fulfilling their part.
With writing and thinking
And Science as an Art.*

*My time in the Hall
Was more than just learning.
It was how to live life,
Apart from just earning.
I learned life is short
And must be well lived-in.
It's not what you've received,
But what you have given.*

*I learned that living life
Should be more than just chances.
And the best path to follow
Is that of Saint Francis.*

*So at night when I pray,
I hope there's a Heaven.
For Friars Amadeus, Anthony,
For Cyprian, and Sennen.*

Bob Porcelli, Class of 1966, has proudly shared his most recent poem entitled "The Brown Robes" This poem is dedicated to all of the Siena friars that have made a difference in the lives of so many.



Experience Siena Virtually

We are pleased to have our Saints safely back on campus for the new academic year that began August 24.

The safety of our students has been and always will be our #1 priority. Things are different this semester, there is no doubt about that.

Nevertheless, the entire community is making every accommodation to ensure Siena continues to provide *The Education for a Lifetime*.

Our Marching Forward website outlines many of the changes that are now part of campus life. Information will be added and updated as the pandemic evolves and new guidance is received. Details showcasing plans from dining, student life & athletics, on campus living, and academics are provided.

Please visit siena.edu/marchingforward to learn more.

Every Saint Has a Story

When Mickey Mouse calls, you don't get a whole lot of advance warning. In 2017, Sheri Ann Schmitz '23 was unexpectedly laid off. She had been working in marketing for six years in New York City, but was let go when her company was acquired by a larger company. Schmitz quickly applied to a lot of jobs in a lot of cities, including Walt Disney World in Orlando. It had always been a dream to work for Disney, but for two months, she heard nothing. When they did finally call, Schmitz had all of three days to make her way to Florida.

Schmitz's dad grew up in Albany, and she knew her grandfather (Tony Schmitz '55) had gone to Siena. Also, she has a cousin on campus and another graduated from Siena last year. When Schmitz learned Siena had recently launched a nursing program, she took a closer look. Not only did she find the perfect program - she found her last name honorably dedicated on the campus.

Anthony "Tony" Schmitz grew up in Albany, but by 18, he was fighting in Sicily. Drafted into service, Schmitz survived some of WWII's



heaviest fighting in the Battle of Anzio and was part of a division that invaded Southern France in 1944. Many years later, France's ambassador to the United States thanked Schmitz for his bravery in helping liberate France from Nazi invasion.

Schmitz was 93 when he passed away peacefully at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany. That was three years ago, about one month after his granddaughter, Sheri Ann, started a new job in Florida. He would be pleased beyond words to know she is now a Saint.



October 15 – 3rd Thursday Social Event – SCRI Polling and Presidential Election Behind the Numbers

October 22 – Senior Saints – Basketball Preview with Coach Carmen Maciariello

October 29 – Virtual Meet the Brewers Night - Fort Orange, Common Roots, and Hank Hudson Brewing

November 10 – Virtual Night at the Breyo Observatory

November 11 – Veterans Recognition Virtual Dinner

November 21-25 – Final Exams

December 1 – Giving Tuesday

To learn more about these events, including locations and times, please visit siena.edu/alumni/events