

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ANNA MOLETTIERI

Michelle Marrone  
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An inspirational campus leader, Anna created an environment for students to explore and grow in their faith and to work together for justice and peace.



*Anna Molettieri and Campus Ministry Club President Vincent Swierk '23*

**A**nna Molettieri was the University's Director of Campus Ministry. She served Rivier students by fostering faith, fellowship, and service within and beyond the campus community.

**How would you describe your role as the leader of Campus Ministry?**

*Anna: I see my position fully in the context of Rivier's mission. Our mission speaks to educating the whole person in all that we do in and out of the classroom as well as a strong emphasis on Catholic social teaching. I work to provide students with opportunities to reflect on their spiritual growth and ways in which we can serve our community and be caring and engaged neighbors. I have the privilege of meeting students where they are on their faith journey and accompanying them on their path during their time at Rivier.*

**How does Campus Ministry support “educating the whole person”?**

*Anna:* Through education, reflection, and experience. I teach a course for first-year students that explores Christianity, Catholicism, and other religious traditions. There are opportunities for worship including a regular Mass schedule, a student-led rosary group, and seasonal prayer opportunities in Advent and Lent. I also connect students of different religious denominations to local area houses of worship. Fellowship events, retreats, and community service all contribute to the student experience.

**Do you see a transformation in students as they explore and reflect on questions of faith?**

*Anna:* For many students, this is their first time to think about their own faith independent of that of their family. College is a time when they can look at what they truly believe and claim faith as their own. I see this coming to life when students reflect on their own vocation. The “four big questions” that guide our core curriculum — Who am I and what is the world? Who is my neighbor? How shall we live? What, then, must we do? — allow students to reflect on where they have been and also begin to draw a map of where they are going.

**How does Campus Ministry support students’ spiritual growth on campus?**

*Anna:* This aspect of my work takes on different forms. At times, I meet with students one-on-one to provide support and guidance. Small group faith sharing connects students with one another to discuss topics of faith. Gathered over a meal, students explore how they see God working in their lives. We also offer opportunities for worship through a daily and Sunday Mass schedule. The students also plan social activities that allow for fellowship.

**How does Campus Ministry’s community outreach extend students’ worldview?**

*Anna:* Anytime we can enter into someone else’s experience we learn a bit more about what it means to be human. Service opportunities provide our students with a way to step outside their own lives. Many times, this leads to questioning and learning about the underlying causes of poverty and threats to human dignity. It is exciting when students, through their service, uncover a passion toward a cause.

Local service opportunities include a monthly dinner shift at the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, toy and food drives, and volunteering at local non-profit agencies. Beyond Greater Nashua, we organize an annual Alternative Spring Break Trip. In 2022, we are traveling to the Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey, to participate in the Urban Challenge Program, which is an inner-city, service-learning, immersion experience rooted in the Catholic faith tradition.

**From what do you draw inspiration?**

*Anna:* I have a quote pinned up at my desk from St. Ignatius of Loyola that reads, “Let us find God in all things.” I try to center my life and my work on this awareness. Sometimes in the busyness of our lives, we can use a reminder that in the hectic or in the mundane, God is there. ■