



When I arrived at St. Francis in September to be assistant to Brother Thomas Grady in Campus Ministry, I had no idea what a delightful journey I was about to begin. Campus Ministry is just that - ministering to ALL on campus, administration, faculty, staff and students.

In this year of Jubilee 2000 the Holy Father gave us the theme, "Open wide the doors to Christ." Brother Tom and I try to do just that, being of service and support not just to Catholic members but to those of other faiths. In keeping with this we attempt to keep midday prayer Christian but interreligious. The college chapel is always open for private prayer and reflection. We have weekly Mass often celebrated by St. Francis alumni. We have Eucharistic Adoration each Monday. During Lent we had Stations of the Cross each Friday.

The greatest plus for St. Francis is the students. They are warm, friendly and share easily both their joys and concerns. The fact that we have an office in the Mc Ardle student center enables us to be in the center of student activities thus making us easily available to students.

St. Francis is truly a community and to this end we in campus ministry and the young men and women who assist us collaborate with the many events of St. Francis. We participate in Family Day, Community Day and the special Christmas celebration for our international students. Mass is celebrated on Christmas day followed by Christmas dinner (soup to nuts and gifts) for no one should be alone on Christmas. Campus Ministry assists various clubs in their endeavors, food drives, clothing drives and toy drives are just a few. Club notices are often found in the campus ministry office. Brother Tom has been known to chaperone dances and parties. We work closely with health services, student activities and public relations.

Lectors and Eucharistic ministers work closely with me, they are most responsible and always say YES when asked to perform the above ministries.

Campus Ministry works closely with the Knights of Columbus on campus. We welcome students of all religious traditions. We sponsor a choir and an ESL program which meet weekly. We also sponsor a program of Community service through which students volunteer in neighboring communities. Through these efforts the college is enhanced as a community itself while extending its caring mission to the wider society.

Each year some students wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. We have an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for adults.) We meet weekly with these students and attend Sunday Mass with them during Lent. On Easter Saturday three young women will be baptized, Confirmed and received the Holy Eucharist. Two young women will receive Confirmation on Deutecost Sunday. There is no greater privilege than working walking with a group of young women responding to Gods call.

Most St. Francis student's study and work, free time for them is at a premium. With this in mind we will have our first evening of recollection for busy students. Next year we look forward to a retreat.

Needless to say Brother Tom and the Students have made me feel most welcome. I truly have come home to St. Francis.

Sister Colleen Colbert, OP



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Teaching at St. Francis for more than forty years has enriched me beyond measure. And in every way. How quickly the hours have sped into days, the years into decades. It would take another forty years to describe my wealth but already I am overly wordy, so let me confine myself to the human assets I have known.

Old and young, male and female, religious and lay person, I have known the finest persons anyone could ever meet. To weave together name after name would not be meaningful, would not do justice to their names.

Instead, let me single out one extraordinary person and focus all my gratitude on him. I refer here to Frank Sorrentino, who best embodies every aspect of the Franciscan spirit to me.

He is a splendid intellectual, a fabulous teacher, an erudite writer, and a peerless administrator. These are only his professional attainments. His human qualities take up much more space. I'll include all of them in a review of the past year 1999 - 2000, as is proper, since this is your year book and the events you have enjoyed.

The account of Frank Sorrentino's academic year begins in July and August of 1999, when he spent four days a week (only because we're closed Fridays), doing his chairman's duties. This included interviewing and hiring adjunct faculty (about 20), developing updated syllabi, hiring office help, assigning classes and a hundred other obligations. It did not include, of course, his own class preparations and putting the tedious finishing touches on his latest book.

The first week of class, this "vacation" ended and the work really began. Friday of the first week he led a score of students to the law school forum, held at the World Trade Center.

Then the collections began for operas, other types of cultural performances, museum trips, etc., etc. Let's cut it short and focus on one month, March 2000. Frank marched his students to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Porgy and Bess, and Tosca. For Tosca, he collected ticket money for 30 tickets. But then he got guilty. Thinking that some students might be left out because they didn't have the money in time, he ordered 30 more, covering it with his own check. Well, the next 30 sold out in days and there were a dozen more students who would have gone if he has had more tickets.

All this while he was conducting the Latin American Current Problems lecture series, juggling diplomats, congressmen and academics like the pro he is. And this paralleled the Italian-American Historical lecture series, which he also moderated.

And the lawyer Luncheon, the graduate school gathering, the mock trials the LSAT practice test, the letters of recommendation and a hundred other things I've forgotten. This is just one year in the life of a truly Franciscan person. And all done right . . . and with a smile.

Oh. Did I forget to tell you he took 47 persons on a 10 day trip to Spain? And that he took 10 000 students to Washington D.C. in April . . . on his vacation?

Oh, and did I also forget to tell you his car was totalled on the Verrazano Bridge? By a truck, a sixteen wheeler.

He must have missed a whole two days of work.

