

diocese of fall river



Catholic
Campus Ministry

April 19, 2013 was described by one UMass Dartmouth student as “surreal”. It was discovered that “Bomber #2” was a UMD student. Classes were cancelled and soon there was an evacuation of campus ordered. Some students went directly to the Newman House, located adjacent to campus. From Newman, I was able to meet with students in the midst of the crisis, assist in getting information from the university to students. Later in the day I was at Dartmouth High School to be with students who had been evacuated to that site.

In the week that followed, Catholic Campus Ministry staff were present for the students’ return to campus and worked with students, faculty and staff as they tried to get back to the realities of academic life and final exams.

The events on and following April 19 emphasized the need for campus ministry at all our colleges and universities in the diocese. This meant creating two new programs, one at Wheaton College and another at Bristol Community College. Fr. Robert Roetzel, CSC, is our new Chaplain at Wheaton and has had great success in starting a new program. I have been working with the administration at BCC in reestablishing a campus ministry there.

I am writing to first, ask for your prayers for the Campus Ministry staff and the students they serve. This is the most important resource that is needed. The second is an invitation to help us in our mission financially.

The growth of the number of programs as well as the response we have been receiving from students, faculty, and staff, has created the need for us to request assistance from organizations such as the Knights. Funding is needed for the following programs:

Retreats. We have partnered with Charis, a Jesuit retreat program. Retreats provide Catholic students the opportunity to gather away from the busyness of studies, to pray, learn more about their Catholic Faith, and to grow spiritually while meeting other students who share their faith.

Leadership Development. We have been accepted into a new Catholic leadership program that is still in beta. It started at Yale and has recently expanded through the country. This will allow us to provide training opportunities for our students to grow as leaders and disciples as they move on from college to career.

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Peer Ministry. This involves training students to be leaders in faith sharing, scripture studies, etc. This is one of the fastest growing programs in the United States and has had great success. I invite you to reflect on these needs to consider a financial contribution to our annual appeal.

Knights of Columbus. We are also working at creating a college council of the Knights of Columbus at UMass Dartmouth.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

Sincerely,



Rev. David C. Frederici

Director

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Office for Campus Ministry