



Dr. Sean J. Ryan
President of Anna Maria College

Dr. Sean J. Ryan assumed the role of the 12th President of Anna Maria College on July 1, 2025. A New England native with deep regional and Catholic roots, Dr. Ryan brings over 25 years of senior leadership experience in higher education to Anna Maria College.

Dr. Ryan's presidency at Anna Maria College marks a return to his home region and a renewed dedication to the mission of educating students to become ethical leaders and community-oriented professionals. He is committed to building on the College's strong foundation, honoring its legacy with the Sisters of Saint Anne, and guiding the institution toward new levels of academic excellence and distinction.

Most recently, Dr. Ryan served as Senior Vice President at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was responsible for Administration, Strategic Initiatives, and Trustee Affairs. During his 18-year career at Bellarmine, Dr. Ryan held a variety of progressively responsible leadership positions, including Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. As Bellarmine's Senior Vice President, Dr. Ryan's portfolio included oversight of Human Resources, Athletics, Information Technology, University Communications, and academic support services for student-athletes.

Under his leadership, Bellarmine experienced more than 50% overall enrollment growth, with first-year enrollment increasing by 62% and retention improving from 77% to 82%. A strategic thinker and collaborative leader, Dr. Ryan has an extensive record of institutional advancement. As Interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, Dr. Ryan raised \$7 million in just seven months and secured nearly \$13 million in overall philanthropic support at Bellarmine for scholarships, academic programs, and student success initiatives. He co-chaired an 18-month, campus-wide strategic planning process and worked with academic leadership to launch 23 new academic programs. He also led the university's NCAA reclassification from Division II to Division I.

Dr. Ryan is known for his inclusive leadership style, fundraising acumen, and strategic innovation. Educated in Catholic schools from kindergarten through graduate school, he developed a deep-rooted appreciation for the faith's identity and enduring values. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Regis College, and a bachelor's degree from Saint Anselm College. He has taught both undergraduate and doctoral students in Bellarmine's Leadership in Higher Education Ph.D. program, underscoring his commitment to academic excellence.

Dr. Ryan and his wife, Holly, have been married for nearly 25 years and are the proud parents of four children.