

*Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, Ep. 25 Transcript

The Bedrock of NACMS (with Teresa Trimboli, Brother Andrew Kosmowski, SM, Patti Gehred, and Gabby Bibeau)

**00:00 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

To me, I see the collection as kind of trying to become more like a strawberry plant in a way that we've got the main roots, but we also need to sprout into different places and then develop a collection in each of those areas.

**00:27 - Patti Gehred**

Welcome to *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*. I'm Patti Gehred.

**00:31 - Gabby Bibeau**

And I'm Gabby Bibeau.

**00:33 - Patti Gehred**

I'm pretty excited about today's podcast. We interviewed Teresa Trimboli and Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, our two librarians at the NACMS library and got the history of the NACMS library's, hopes for the future, and a lot of other very good information. What did you think of the interview, Gabby?

**00:57 - Gabby Bibeau**

Well, I thought it was very interesting. I mean, I knew some of the things about the history of the library and the classification system, but I also enjoyed hearing them talk about the collection like some of the rarer materials that are in the library, some of the really old materials that are in the library. I use the library quite a bit, and I think it is such a great resource that is underutilized or even people aren't aware of. But I'd like to know, this podcast was your idea Patti and you were the person who interviewed them, so what made you want to interview them? What do you think you learned from that?

**01:44 - Patti Gehred**

I learned a lot. I've been in NACMS for 18 years and I thought I knew more about the library than I actually did. I really enjoyed hearing the history, how it started in Bro. Larry Cada's home, basically. I was reminded that Teresa and Bro. Andrew are professional librarians. What a gift that is to NACMS! The reason I wanted to do this is we do promote programming a lot. We will promote new publications, but as Teresa said, the bedrock of NACMS and Marianist Studies and ways to share the Marianist charism is our library. One more thing that I would add is, they really would like the people in the Marianist family to contact them with research questions. Again, because their faces aren't always out there, I don't think people know they can go to them. So, I'm sure we'll put that in our podcast notes - their e-mail addresses, because they really, know sources we would never even dream of. Was there anything that was new to you, Gabby, because I know you are a big utilizer of the library?

**02:59 - Gabby Bibeau**

I knew some things about the library. I didn't realize that Teresa - that she called the Library of Congress to ask for their advice, and the person she talked to went to a Marianist school in Hawaii. I did not know that story. I thought that was very cool. One of the stories that I knew about with Teresa was her going to Fr. [William] Ferree and explaining to him how his classification system just didn't work. And she says that his response to her was like, "Change it, change it." And I was like, that's so "Ferree" cause I've done a lot of study on Fr. Ferree, who was a very prominent Marianist scholar and wrote a lot about social justice. And he was very matter-of-fact and not super-precious about his work. He would say, like, "If you have a better idea, please do it. I'll help you with it." That just sounded very much like him like, "You're the librarian. This isn't working. Change it. It's not going to hurt my feelings."

**04:05 - Patti Gehred**

It just shows you the passion and dedication that we have here at NACMS and a willingness to speak your mind and be listened to. It's very Marianist and the whole thing, how the whole thing happened. So, we really are a gem in the Marianist world.

**04:22 - Gabby Bibeau**

We encourage you if you are creating a Marianist program, if you work in a Marianist setting, or if you were in a Marianist Lay Community and you wonder "Is there a resource about Father Chaminade and the Rosary or Marianists and social justice," you can e-mail Teresa and Bro. Andy, and they can give you resources. And I know I've done that so many times and it's very helpful.

**04:53 - Patti Gehred**

And also, if you see a quote that's attributed to one of the Founders, they can tell you where that came from, what was the original source. So, we hope you enjoy this podcast, [that] it encourages you to contact the library to find out what books are available, get more information about the past, present, and future of the NACMS Library - which really, I think is an indicator of the past, present and future of the Marianist family - So, listen in and feel free to contact us with any questions and read the show notes for other information.

**05:33 - Teresa Trimboli**

My name is Teresa Trimboli. I am one of the librarians here at NACMS.

**05:42 - Brother Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

I'm Bro. Andrew Kosmowski. I'm the other librarian here at NACMS. And I started here in 2019.

**05:51 - Patti Gehred**

When did you start Teresa?

**05:53 – Teresa Trimboli**  
1997.

**05:55 – Patti Gehred**

One reason I wanted to interview each of you is to the outside world, we get a lot of attention for our publications and we're always promoting programs, and I just would really like the Marianist family to get a little glimpse into what our library is. How do we describe the NACMS Marianist Library?

**06:18 - Teresa Trimboli**

This is what we wrote as a description: "NACMS has the best library of Marianists materials in North America. Our library contains Marianists materials in the languages in which they are or were published." So, we have English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Korean, Japanese, and even some various languages from India and Africa. And the only comparable libraries of Marianists materials - as far as we know - are found in Europe at the General Administration in Rome and in the library gathered by Fr. Eduardo Benlloch in Spain.

**07:11 - Patti Gehred**

Thank you. So, I'm wondering, how did the library start?

**07:17 - Teresa Trimboli**

Well, NACMS at the very beginning didn't have permanent offices, so it moved around from Marianist community to Marianist community, wherever the director was assigned that particular year. And at one time, Larry Cada - I think it was 1988 - was the director and he lived at Terrace Avenue in Cincinnati. And it was the Terrace Avenue Community library that Larry was instrumental - among those, [there] were probably more than one person - was instrumental in putting together [what] became the core of the NACMS library.

**08:10 - Patti Gehred**

Thank you. Well, where was the library when you started working?

**08:15 - Teresa Trimboli**

It was in the area where the Marianist Mission is now. And at that time, we had maybe half of what we have now. Is this where you want me to get into the classification schedules?

**08:33 - Patti Gehred**

Yes, yes, I was; that was my next question. We absolutely have to talk about the classification system that you developed.

**08:41 - Teresa Trimboli**

Well, when I first came to NACMS one of the first things that was asked of me - both by Carol Ramey, who was the director at that time, and Larry - was, "We need to get the collection organized and classified, catalogued, so that people can find the materials more easily." In the

beginning, what was being used was a classification scheme, schedules that were compiled by Fr. Ferree. Now, Fr. Ferree put those schedules together for his own private use because he wanted a way of organizing his own personal library of Marianist materials. That classification scheme was based on the Dewey Decimal Scheme. Dewey Decimal is inadequate for a research library, especially since Ferree's schedules were static. They were static from... I think it was in the 1920s. So, one day, I happen to be in Dayton, Ohio, and I made an appointment with Fr. Ferree, and I took his schedules with me. And I spoke with him. He sat to my right, and I opened the book, and I went through every page, and I asked him questions about everything that he did. And I told him - the temerity - I told him, "This isn't working, Father." And so, at the end of it, he said - threw up his hands just like that - and he said, "Do whatever you want. Change it. Do whatever you want." He was very kind to me, very kind to me. And yes, he did say at the end, "Do whatever you want. Change it. You do what you want with it." But he said it with a smile, I think, if I remember correctly.

### **11:09 – Teresa Trimboli**

So, with that permission, I started over. I did research on how schedules are put together and I finally put in a cold call to the Library of Congress. And I forget his name right now, but this person from the Library of Congress, he happened to be the head of the cataloguing division. He happened to be a student of Bro. Richard Roesch who had lived and been a librarian in Hawaii. So, he already knew the Marianists, and he was a cataloger. Basically, he said, "Use the Library of Congress basic setup and put in the categories that you want."

### **12:05 – Teresa Trimboli**

So that's what I did, and it took me quite a while. I enlisted the help of anybody who would listen to me... professional catalogers that were not Marianist, Marianist people who knew the Marianists and the charism. So as a result of all that, we ended up with subject headings that are specifically for Marianists works. And those subject headings have been adopted by the Library of Congress as one of their lists of subject headings that can officially be used. That is huge in the library world. This may be a very unique set of schedules for cataloging a special library. Now, Andrew...

### **13:03 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

I'm going to jump in right now, Teresa, because this has been something that I've been researching on my own.

### **13:08 - Teresa Trimboli**

Yes.

### **13:10 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

I think in terms of it being unique, I don't think there are many other religious classification systems that are standalone, that are regularly being used. I know that the Franciscans had one in the past, the Benedictines had one in the past, but they're kind of diminishing. So, it's one of the

unique places in my encountering of theological librarianship. But we're now going down library jargon weed land here...

**13:48 - Patti Gehred**

Well, I think that's really interesting. I really appreciate that history because I've heard bits and pieces and it's just nice to hear the whole story. So as kind of fun facts, what is the oldest publication that we have?

**14:05 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

One of the more interesting rare books that we have is written in English, published in Ireland in 1795-ish on the state of the French clergy after the French Revolution. Some people might be interested in knowing what some of our statistics are. We have cataloged on our shelves [or] are in process of being put on our shelves over 11,000 items.

**14:40 - Patti Gehred**

If listeners want to know what's in the library, what should they do?

**14:44 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

So, they should first go to the NACMS website. Always a good place to start. They would see the “reddish orangish rust colored bar” with “Library” as one of the words. If they then hover over “Library,” they'll come to the catalog. The best option from where it lands is to click on “search” with the magnifying glass, and then type in words and see what comes.

**15:20 - Patti Gehred**

We want people to know that this is also a... *reference* library. So, if you have a question, we do have librarians, Bro. Andrew and Teresa, on staff that can answer your questions.

**15:35 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

So, I would suggest that - first with the reference question - send it either to Teresa or me or send it to the NACMS general mailbox. And Lauren [Boyd] is very good at forwarding those on to Teresa and me. Just that way, we can really help you precisely know what you're looking for, because maybe you're looking for an episode in like Adèle's life. [Such as] “I have this vague recollection of da-da-da. Am I making this up, or is this real?” Or maybe you're just doing a little research on what were some of the Marianist publications like, “Can I contrast the letters?” Things like that. Sometimes if it's in the depository, we will gladly send it out to you for just shipping cost. But just remembering that we're here to help you first. And you might think “Oh, but Bro. Andrew's busy cataloguing, he can't help.” No, my job is the reference first.

**16:41 - Patti Gehred**

Thank you. That's another reason I wanted to spotlight the library because we have a wealth of books, but we have a wealth of knowledge and two people that can get a lot of information that you're probably looking for faster than anybody else. So, we want that out there. And we will put your emails in our podcast notes. I know you can find it either way on the website, but we'll

definitely put it in the podcast notes. Andrew, I was going to ask you your hopes for the future of the library. I think you addressed that early on. Do you have anything to add to that?

**17:16 – Bro. Andrew Kosmowski, SM**

Some places that I can see future growth in would be better understanding the context of our Spanish martyrs. I think having - since the novitiate offers the novitiate program for - the region of Korea gaining more materials in those areas, but in Korean. That would be a helpful thread. Maybe some items on the Catholic experience in India. I think for me, it's not just where our roots are. To me, I see the collection kind of trying to become more like a strawberry plant in a way that we've got the main roots, but we also need to sprout into different places and then develop a collection in each of those areas. In my head - so this would very much be a "Please contact me before doing this." - trying to work with the Lay communities for their materials. Canon law requires the orders to keep archives, but the same requirement is not there for lay associations with the faithful, such as Marianist Lay communities. So, they might end up just sitting in boxes here for a while. But at least it's someplace to maybe think about housing materials.

**19:01 - Patti Gehred**

I just want to thank you for your time. You know the library is the first thing you see when you walk in. People always seem taken aback with the materials that are there. Again, we highlight other parts of NACMS. It's easier to highlight other parts of NACMS. You know, we can't always say, "Here's the library." But I really wanted to put a spotlight on it for people to know, it's the backbone for research. It is the bedrock. That's a better word. It's the bedrock of Marianist Studies, past and present.

**19:39 - Gabby Bibeau**

Thank you for listening to this episode of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*. As we said at the beginning of the podcast, you are welcome to submit any reference questions that you might have to Brother Andrew or to Teresa, and we'll put their emails and the show information for this episode. And as always, we invite you to go to our website to see all of the programs that we have being offered right now, to sign up for our newsletter, and of course to view the library catalog. So, you can go to our website at [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org). That's [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org). Thanks again for listening.