

Sharing Our Marianist Stories, Episode 33 Transcript  
A Series of Small Steps – With Bro. Mark Motz, SM and Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI

**0:00 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I always like to say that its formation and faith through intentional Christian communities that are guided by Mary. Formation and faith has got to be the important thing that we do. So many times, we're narrowed down to community or inclusivity or something like that, and I think it's got to be this formation in faith through intentional communities that are inclusive, that are guided and centered on how Mary made Christ present in the world.

**0:26 – Mike Bennett**

Welcome to Sharing Our Marianist Stories, a podcast produced by the North American Center for Marianist Studies in Dayton, Ohio. I'm Mike Bennett, Media Administrator for NACMS. The Catholic Church celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week during the first week of November each year. In celebration of National Vocation Awareness Week, we sit down with Bro. Mark Motz and Sr. Rose Rucoba in this episode to hear about their experiences of discerning vowed religious life and living as vowed religious within the Marianist Family.

**1:00 – Mike Bennett**

A few points of clarification before we jump in: In her introduction, Sr. Rose mentions individuals who were influential in her discernment process, specifically Gabby [Bibeau] and Caitlin [Cipolla-McCullough], who were in formation for vowed religious life in the story Sr. Rose mentions, and Nicole, which refers to Sr. Nicole Trahan, who is a Marianist Sister. Bro. Mark references Bro. Francis Heyer, who at the time of recording this episode was the oldest living Marianist. Bro. Francis passed away on October 31st, 2023, after 83 years of professed life at the age of 102. Bro. Mark also references a Lay Formation Program he participated in, which is a formation program designed to form undergraduate students at the University of Dayton to make a commitment as Lay Marianists. If you would like to learn more about vowed religious life as a Marianist brother, priest or sister, please e-mail the Marianist Vocations Office at [vocations@marianist.us](mailto:vocations@marianist.us). And with that, we'll turn it over to Sr. Rose to tell us a little bit about herself and her discernment journey.

**2:20 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

My name is Sr. Rose. I am currently in Dayton, Ohio, in the Sisters' Annunciation Community House, and I'm a temporary professed now with the Sisters. I met the Sisters when I went to college at UD, and I met them on a discernment retreat [at] the end of my second year. I met Sr. Nicole and Sr. Laura [Leming], along with a few of the other Brothers and Fr. Ted [Cassidy]. And I went into this discernment retreat not really knowing what it was about. I didn't realize that it was for students who were discerning religious life. I just kind of saw that you got to know the Sisters and Brothers, and I didn't really know them at the time. So, I went, and we were at Governor's Island, the Brothers' property there, and I met Gabby and Caitlin. I remember talking with Gabby about just things we had in common. We both loved Harry Potter and Gilmore Girls, and we had both been English majors. She recommended a lot of good professors and classes for me. So, I was kind of like, "Oh, that's cool. The Sisters are really similar to me." And then I went on what we call an Emmaus Walk – like a one-on-one walk – with Nicole, and we just kind of talked about theater cause we both love like theater and musicals.

### **3:42 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

And so, it was more just like, “Oh, they’re very similar to me.” And I left feeling interested in the Sisters, but still overwhelmed by the fact that I could join. And I remember telling Sr. Nicole that “I don't really feel like this is for me, but this has been a fun weekend.” And she was like, “That's okay. You should keep in touch.” And then, kind of over that summer, I was here on campus in Dayton. I was working on my honors thesis and just really started to feel that little nudge from God, that little tap on the shoulder and really utilized all the things on campus. I went to adoration a lot, and that kind of started an intense period of just personal prayer and personal reflection on “Is this something I could really see myself doing, entering religious life?” And then, when school started up again in the fall, I did eventually learn that I could ask the Brothers and Sisters for help and get mentoring from them.

### **4:43 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

So then, Sr. Nicole became my unofficial spiritual director, and I kept in touch, continued to discern until I graduated. And then, I went to her when I was about to graduate, and I was like, “I don't really know what to do. I can't find a job in Chicago that I really like, and I also don't want to stop being in touch with the Sisters.” So, she said I should really think about doing a year of service, a year of volunteering. That's what a lot of young adults do when they kind of need a gap year to think about things. So, I applied and got into Amate House, which is in Chicago. So, I went back, and through the Archdiocese of Chicago, I worked at a retreat center for high school and college students for nine months. And just during that time, [I] decided I really wanted to jump in the deep end and apply for pre-novitiate with the Sisters. So, starting in December of 2019, I started the process, and then I entered in July of 2020.

### **5:48 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

It's interesting now, looking back at my vocation story as Vocation Director, because everyone's looking for trumpets, night visions, and I don't have those necessarily. I'm not saying that God couldn't call with trumpets and night visions. But for me, I don't think I heard those, and I don't doubt my vocation any more than someone that heard those. So, I look back and I see nudges, kicks, whispers, those types of things. Not as many kicks as I probably would have liked. I met my first Marianist at six days old. I was born in November of 1987, and my uncle was a novice at the Mount St. John property. And my mom happened to be bringing me for a walk at the same time that my uncle was out on the property. The Novitiate is more of a protected time where you're a little away from family and friends. And so, [they] happened to run into each other. Whether that was an intentional accident or not, I'm not sure and I'll never admit. But I met my first Marianist at six days old. I went to a Marianist high school. I went to a Marianist university. I was raised Marianist. So, I entered formation knowing that I was going to be within this charism in some way, and I had to discern was it as a lay member or as a vowed member. And AJ Wagner told me, “Well, why don't you do both?” And I have done that ever since then – in both of those types of communities – and I have been for most of my life. For me, it was very practical. I know enough that I have to try this, and I've been trying it for the last 13 years. And I'm still here!

**7:15 – Mike Bennett**

That's great. Yeah, that's probably a unique dynamic to meet your first Marianist so young. Having heard a little bit about your discernment processes, I'm curious – Why Marianists? There's obviously a lot of different orders, congregations, [and] dioceses out there. Is there something specifically about the Marianists that struck you or drew you in? Yeah.

**7:37 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

Yes, for sure. You joined what you know, and I knew the Marianists. That's a big part of it. But I also wanted to look at other vocations, other communities to get a sense of who they were. And I think the Marianists have a good balance of what I call the “internal” and the “external” expressions of faith. So, the internal being retreats, prayer, devotionals, those types of things, the external being social justice, solidarity. So, there is a good balance of both in my life, and I found that within the Marianist Family.

**8:06 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

For me, I like to tell people now [that] I got a little bit of Marianist tunnel vision where I was just kind of like, “Well, why wouldn't I join the Marianists?” Because, obviously, I know them. I had a little bit of a period where I was able to at least see different orders when I was doing my year of service in Chicago, which is such a connecting space for Catholics and religious orders. I got to see the Franciscan Sisters and the Sisters of the Precious Blood. I can't even name all the ones I saw and was connected with. I just got to know so many different kinds of Sisters and how they live, but none of them drew me in enough to want to find out more exactly. I was still like, “Well, that's a beautiful way of life,” or “That's a beautiful way of prayer.” But I'm obviously still coming back to Dayton to join the Marianists.

**9:00 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

I can't quite put my finger on what that magical element is still all these years later, but I think the community aspect was a big one, and how the three branches of the Marianists are in community with one another. I wanted a model of living and of being that was more than just roommates, but was something more holistic than, like, a partner. So, the community aspect was huge, and now that I've seen how other orders of Sisters live on their own, I really value that the Marianists value community.

**9:40 – Mike Bennett**

I'm curious if there are ways your experience with Amate House informed your commitment and vow to the Sisters.

**9:48 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

Yeah, [I] definitely just felt so much affirmation and love for my discernment during that year, and that continues. I think the most tangible example is that four of them were able to come visit me and be present at my Vows Mass, and we got to host three of them overnight. And one of them read at my Vows. So they're, like, physically supporting me still, even though there's a few of them that still live in Chicago. But mostly we're kind of all over the map. So that's very affirming. I continue to learn from that experience, and it did give me a lot of good skills for when I do have to work with UD college students or CJ [Chaminade Julienne] high school students. Those skills are there.

**10:31 – Mike Bennett**

I hear you saying that time kind of helped you develop some of those skills and learn about yourself in ways that then empowered you to kind of seek out the different dynamics of the Sisters or of what that life as a vowed religious would look like.

**10:46 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

Yeah. And definitely when the question came up with Laura – when we do our second year of novitiate, it's more ministry based – she was like basically, “What do you want to do?” And I kind of had to be ready to come with ideas. And I was like, “Hispanic ministry is somewhere I'm leaning.” And now, a year and a half later, I'm doing exactly what I wanted, which is a gift. So, yeah, just kind of having that sense of self was good to have.

**11:13 – Mike Bennett**

Bro. Mark, I'm curious if there were influential experiences you had that impacted your discernment to become a Marianist Brother or empowered you to embrace that commitment?

**11:26 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

There were a lot of experiences that I had to help empower me to want to become a Brother, or at least explore that. I did lay formation as a student at the University of Dayton, and I remember a time we were all going around the circle and saying why we wanted to be a Lay Marianist. You know, the typical buzzwords were community, family spirit, discipleship of equals, the sense of faith of the heart. And I came to the realization that I've had that my whole life and never put the word *Marianist* to it. I just thought it was my expression of the Church of Catholicism. And even now, as Vocation Director, that's hard because I have a harder time expressing it as different than some people who came from a certain background and then came into the Marianist Family. But I think also a big part is experiences of community. So, whether that was living with the Brothers, doing a live-in, or even just joining them for prayer and dinner. But I think a bigger one, especially, was the University of Dayton's Summer Appalachia program. [That was] living with Bro. Tom Pieper in a real, intentional way. And more importantly, getting to know people's stories from a different perspective, but then bringing them back to community. We would pray together, we would eat together, we did everything together in a very intense way for nine weeks.

**12:31 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I have since gone back and helped moderate or visit that program, so that has been a big part of my life. So, experiences of community and the statistics show that people join for prayer life and community. That's why they're entering religious life. And for me, that's definitely true. [With] the prayer, yes. Could I pray as a lay person? Person. Of course. Could I pray in the same way? Mmm. I know myself... not really. I get busy very easily, but when there are people at home waiting for me to pray, I think it really helps to have that community.

**13:00 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

A quick story that fits in with that is one of my first years of ministry, I was working with a high school, and Marianist Life was at 7:00 every night. So, I'd stay at the school through 3:00-5:00, or whatever after school. And most days, I would head home for evening prayer and dinner, but on the days we had Life, I would just stick around. And Bro. Francis Heyer – who's now our

oldest Marianist, he was definitely the oldest in the community – said, “When you aren’t home, my prayer is not as good.” It was not a shaming thing. It was a “No, I get something from you being at prayer, Mark. So, if you need to skip, please remember that.” Of course, how do I skip prayer after that, you know? So, I think it was an important realization that community is such an important part of my life.

**13:49 – Mike Bennett**

You've both made references to your current ministries. I'm curious if each of you could talk a little bit about those different ministries that you're involved in?

**13:59 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

So, I work as a teacher’s aide and ESL [English as a Second Language] tutor at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School here in Dayton. [I] volunteered there just a few days a week last year, during my second year of novitiate, and then was blessed enough to be offered a job. I love the kids. I love working with – We’re over 50% Hispanic at OLR. We also have a lot of African immigrant families. And despite what's happening throughout most Catholic schools these days – especially in the Midwest, where they're shrinking – we are exploding in size this year. We had to move the 7th and 8th grade to Chaminade Julienne because we were literally out of classroom space. So, now we're in a bit of a bottleneck situation where preschool through 1st grade, we have two classrooms with about 40 kids total – like, 20 in each class. But then second grade through 8th grade is just one classroom. The immigrant families really trust us. They know that the kids are going to get a good education and get the social, emotional help that they need. And you can see that in the community that's there. It's really beautiful. We have this interesting setup this year where we have an English-speaking classroom and a Spanish-speaking classroom for Kindergarten. So, I kind of just move between the two rooms throughout the day. And my Spanish improves every day because I have to speak Spanish for half the day at least.

**15:36 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I joked with Bro. Dennis [Bautista], who is the Novice Director for the SM, that no one joins to be the Vocation Director [nor] joins to be the Novice Master. But they're very important roles and ministries within the life of the Province. I'm more trained and have more experience in the campus ministry world, which is accompaniment in a different way. As Vocation Director, I'm accompanying people that might or might not join the Marianists. I tell people all the time that my job is to help people discern where God is calling them, not where Bro. Mark is calling them. It's not that I want them to be a Marianist. It's that God is calling them to that, and they respond generously. And sometimes, that can be hard because you build relationships, and then they decide to go on a different path. But there's also a real grace in it that I am hearing people stories that they've never processed with anyone before about how God is calling them to respond. It's a real blessing to be part of that journey. So, in many ways it's a great opportunity. I've been in this role for six years. I don't know, one, two or three (depending on how you count them) were during COVID. So, that was a different time when people put their discernment on hold as well as their faith life. So, it's nice to be getting back into that as people are coming back and really discerning in an active and intentional way, again. so I'm happy to accompany them in this ministry.

**16:53 – Mike Bennett**

You've both talked about some of the fruits, the joys, the things that have led you to vowed religious life. But I think the reality is there's always going to be challenges to every vocation and most dynamics of life. I'm curious if each of you could name a challenge in your vocation as a vowed religious.

**17:14 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

So, whenever I do a vocations talk, I talk about the vows because they're something that makes us unique and distinguishes us. When I was in my senior year at the University of Dayton, I was doing what was called the "semester of service," and I was at Ruskin Elementary School in East End Community Services and kind of doing full time service in an area that was heavily populated by lay Marianists – the Nassau Community – which has now become the same people as the Mission of Mary Cooperative. I was discerning very heavily... this new monasticism movement of [the] Mission of Mary / Nassau Community, and I was thinking, "Well, these vows – poverty, justice, obedience – they live them, maybe, in an even more real way than some of the Brothers because they have to." Poverty, justice, and obedience really are not that different than an evangelical call that we are all called to live as, in different ways, given our state of life, but the difference for me was permanence. I'm doing this for the rest of my life. Not "I'm making a commitment for a year." And that was something that in the lay family, I didn't necessarily see. Yeah, there are communities that do make lifelong commitments, but it was not what I saw. And there's a stability that comes with the 200 years of tradition in the Marianist Family. But the hundreds of years of religious life tradition that I found comfort in and was able to find something so much bigger than myself, to be able to fit into something, especially the vow of obedience.

**18:37 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I never thought I would have been Vocation Director. My superiors said, "Hey, we see these gifts in you. Are you willing?" And I said, "What? Yes, of course." That's not something that I would have seen in myself. That's that part of being something so much bigger than myself. Whenever I do a vocation stop, the main point that I get across – because I know that when I talk to a group of 30 high school or 20,000 high school kids, whatever it is, they're not all going to join – but I try and get a point across that with every decision, there are yeses and nos. So, the vows are so much more than "no money, no honey, no funny." There are some big yeses that come in with these vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. I make the kids kind of tell me what are the yeses. But those nos are hard, too. For me [not] to have children – I would love to have children. That's a big no for me that I had to give up in order to say yes to the vow of solemn chastity. Well, that's a challenge. So, I think living these vows in a real and intentional way is hard. But if it weren't hard, it's kind of, "Well, what's the point? Why would I give up something that I don't want anyway?" So, that's still a challenge.

**19:44 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

For me, a challenge that's also pretty personal for the Sisters because we're significantly smaller, people leaving is difficult. I've been here for only three and a half years, and I've seen two people leave, and I've lived with both of them. That was a different kind of grief to learn in religious life, but it's not quite the same as a family where people can just leave. And I think that's been both an affirmation and a challenge every time it's happened, because it forces you to look at

yourself and ask yourself, “Well, why am I still here?” Both of the women who have left have really realized that their call was outside of religious life. Seeing them succeed and go on a different path that was equally as beautiful, but not religious life, has also been affirming. But because we're significantly smaller, we feel the impact of that a lot more.

**20:43 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I think – and I don't want to diminish your challenge, because I'm sure that is a challenge – the Vocation Director in me wants to [say] that formation is the best place to discern. So, the point of the novitiate is to discern. If you are truly discerning and discerning, especially, within the context of the community together, yes, it's hard. Yes, it's challenging, but that's the point of formation.

**21:09 – Mike Bennett**

One thing that I've been struck by is how people who might be discerning with either the Society of Mary or the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, or they may make temporary vows at some point and then do end up leaving. I've been struck by the people who still remain involved within the Marianist Family. And I was thinking about that at the recent Lay Assembly, because I noticed quite a few people at the Lay Assembly who had been at some point in formation with either the Brothers or the Sisters and then had left but are still really committed to the charism and to the Family overall. I just think there's a lot of things that that says about how the charism draws people in and how people find their place within it. I also was reflecting on how that says a lot about us as a Family. I'm not going to act like that's easy for everyone, more that everyone has maybe come to terms with those dynamics amongst all the individual relationships. Still, to see all those people gathered in the same place and passionate about the same charism and dynamics of the charism, I think it's really powerful.

**22:20 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

Yeah, I think that that's a real gift to our Marianist Family. When I define charism, I say that it's a gift of the Holy Spirit given to a founder in response to a specific need. So, that's like the original definition of charism that was given to Father Chaminade. And yet, it's a gift of the Holy Spirit, which means it's alive and it's moving in each of us. And the best thing that you can do in the process of discernment is learned to recognize the charism in your own life and how it fits into the charism of a community. So, how can you fit? And so, we as Marianists – lay, vowed religious – we recognize the charism in our lives, and so we're able to respond to that charism. And thankfully for us, we have a variety of ways to respond to that charism.

**23:06 – Mike Bennett**

We talked about a challenge. I'm curious if you could name a blessing of being vowed religious.

**23:13 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

I think what comes to mind for me is definitely just the sisterhood. There is an organization for young Sisters that meets, and they have like a nationwide gathering every other year. And last summer, in 2022, I got to go. And it was actually held in San Antonio, which was pretty convenient because we were already staying with the Sisters that summer, and it was just really nice, especially after the pandemic, to meet Sisters from all walks of life. We're seeing more and more here, a lot of Sisters from Latin America and Mexico, a lot of Sisters from parts of Africa

and Asia, so just lots of different languages. And we just had a really good time. Just like the after-hours dance parties, or we had a free evening, and we all went off and had dinner, and all the conversations that happened at lunch. So, just getting to put a lot of faces to names because we had seen each other, like, on Zoom but had never met them. And I think that was very affirming for where I was at the time in formation. There is this network of young Sisters that you can rely on and laugh with. That definitely empowers me.

#### **24:30 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

There are multiple blessings. But I'm going to say a surprise blessing is to be in an intergenerational community. I think it's an incredible blessing. It's terrifying and it's exciting, and it's so many different emotions all at once. Most people have lived with two or maybe three generations at a time, with your parents and grandparents. But I've lived with... four or maybe even five generations at one time. To live with people, my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents ages, but to be able to talk to them in such a way as equals. It's not just, "Oh, I'm passing down my information." I remember one of my first communities, we were talking about social media, and I was helping one of the older Brothers find his great-nieces and nephews on Facebook because they had pictures they were posting. And so, we created an account. And then, the next day, we were at dinner, and he was talking about his wooden bicycles or wooden tires on his bicycle. I forget if it was the World War or the Great Depression, but there was a reason why they had wooden tires on their bikes. Things that you don't hear about in history books necessarily, but it was his lived experience. And so, we were able to both cover each other's gifts and weaknesses together in community. And also, imagine being a first-year teacher to have years of experience [available to you]. It's like, "Hey, how do I do classroom management?" Ask one of the older Brothers and ask one of the younger Brothers. "Oh, you use a reverse classroom or flip classroom, whatever, where you do videos and stuff?" And you can ask people who've been there before. It's such a cool thing.

#### **26:01 – Mike Bennett**

I'm curious if either of you might have any advice for people who are considering discerning, they're in the process of discernment or formation. Based on your experiences and things you've seen, is there advice that you would give to others.

#### **26:18 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

Keep moving. Take a step. By not moving, you're making a choice even if you think you're not, and it's all a series of small steps. I remember when I was discerning, I had printed up on the formation steps, and I put them on my desk because it was something that I found interesting and cool. But now has Vocation Director, we have posters with the formation steps on them as a reminder that it is seven years *minimum* between your first moving into community and then making a lifelong commitment. So, many people are terrified that they're making a commitment for the rest of their life. And I say, "No, make a discernment on the next step, not the last step." Whether you're discerning becoming a contact, which means you're in communication with the Vocation Director and saying, "Hey, I'm open to Marianist religious life and open to you contacting me and inviting me to retreats." Or maybe you're discerning the aspirancy, the pre-novitiate where you live in the community with the Brothers or the Sisters for a year and see what the life is like. Discern that next step, not the last step.



**27:18 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

I would say, especially when it pertains to really early discernment, I made the mistake of thinking I could do it by myself or thinking I had to do it by myself. And I think that's a really easy way to psych yourself out and look in the wrong places or not pray with the right things or focus on the wrong things. And so, my early discernment was definitely this roller coaster of being on this high of, "Oh my gosh, this is perfect for me. I resonate with everything, and prayer life is going great." And then all of a sudden there would be a drop, and I would be like, "Wait, no one told me this was an aspect of religious life. I have to rethink my whole life now." Even if that means something as small as checking in with the trusted friend about "What do you think about this?" or "How do you see me and my gifts if I entered religious life?" And then, as you move along, that could mean a spiritual director or becoming a contact. You should just talk to other people.

**28:19 – Mike Bennett**

What would be a hope that each of you has for the Society of Mary and a hope for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate?

**28:27 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

Thinking about how we can become more global and interconnected as a whole congregation, we talk about different ways we can focus on language learning and what it looks like to partner with our Sisters around the world, both now and in the future. So, my hope would be just how can we become more global, especially as a United States Province, and how can we just become better connected with our Sisters around the world? Because it really is going to be a team effort.

**29:02 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

I'd like to see a clarity and focus on mission and finding active steps to participate in that mission. And I don't mean like writing mission statements and vision plans and all that kind of stuff. But the charism is alive, and therefore it's hard to nail down and it's hard to explain this great Marianist charism that we have because it is so multifaceted. And I do this experiment where I ask all types of different Marianists, "Well, describe the charism. What's our mission?" I always like to say that its formation and faith through intentional Christian communities that are guided by Mary. Formation and faith has got to be the important thing that we do. So many times, we're narrowed down to community or inclusivity or something like that, and I think it's got to be this formation in faith through intentional communities that are inclusive, that are guided and centered on how Mary made Christ present in the world. Currently there's a poster series that the vocation office just put out of a variety of ministries with one mission. And so, these variety of ministries could be anything, any type of work that we do. But I hope that we all focus on that one mission of making Christ present in the world. The formation in faith has got to be something important.

**30:14 – Mike Bennett**

Before we hear Bro. Mark and Sr. Rose's responses to our concluding question, I'd like to offer both of them a word of thanks for sharing their discernment stories and about their experience of being vowed religious within the Marianist Family. And a word of thanks to you, our listener, for listening to this episode of Sharing Our Marianist Stories, and for your continued support of the North American Center for Marianist Studies. Make sure to follow us wherever you listen to

podcasts so that you'll be notified when we have future episodes released and follow us on our social media accounts @ThisIsNACMS on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube so that you have access to our ongoing educational and formational content focused on our Marianist Family history and charism. And now, to wrap up this episode of Sharing Our Marianist Stories, we return with our final question. So, we know that the Marianist founders corresponded via letter writing. If you were going to write one person a letter, dead or alive, and be guaranteed a response, who would you write to and why?

**31:29 – Bro. Mark Motz, SM**

Fr. Bill Behringer. He was one of the first Marianists that I lived with in my experience in community. We moved in, and he moved in a week before me, so we were both the new guys in the community. He was 47 years older than me, and it was a real joy to live with him, to hear his witness. I've been thinking about him a lot lately, thinking about how he lived his life and whatnot. He was not my official spiritual director, but [we] had a lot of those similar relationships in the way that we talked.

**31:58 – Sr. Rose Rucoba, FMI**

This is so difficult. I have, like, seven different people. Probably Pope Francis, just because the more I learn about him, I feel like I get to know him as I've grown more into my faith, and especially in religious life, and gotten to know his writing and what he believes in. And also, I could practice my Spanish and write to him in Spanish and he could respond. And there would be kind of that level of intimacy. Plus, I just want like a piece of paper that has his signature on it that I can have forever.