

Interviewee: Brother Richard Kestler, FSC.

Interviewer: Alexandria M. Moraschi

Date: April 3, 2019

Location: Anselm Hall, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA

Running Time: 0:28:57

Recording Equipment: iPhone XR using the app Voice Memos

Log

- 0:00:07** He discussed winning an award from the Pope as a humbling experience. Becoming a member of the Papal household is an honor and he recalled being saluted when visiting Rome wearing his pin. He was nominated not only because he is dedicated and faithful, but also for his assistance in schools across Philadelphia to make them grow and succeed.
- 0:02:40** He explains that it's a struggle to now be back at La Salle because his soul is in secondary education and he does not know many students and people in general on campus. He observes the students walking to and from class, cell phones in front of their faces and says that the Christian Brothers strive to assist any student who needs it.
- 0:05:26** Changes that he has noticed besides the obvious physical changes include the demographic outside of campus and the safety issues that follow and the more awareness students should have in being off-campus in the surrounding area. He would like to help those students who are first generation college students but struggle because of the high tuition and eventual student-loan debt. He thinks that there should be more of a push to include the community in campus activities including MASK performances to build relationships.
- 0:8:55** Becoming a Christian Brother gave him many new experiences and opportunities such as traveling and gaining a larger world view along with learning about different cultures, religions, and backgrounds. He believes the the future of the Christian Brothers is changing because it is not as popular and while admired, it is not the path men choose. Teaching is also not as prominent of a job as it once was because of the pay and the fact that more women are becoming teachers than men. The Catholic Church is making drastic changes to becoming more open but there still is a "lack of transparency" and priests and nuns are being looked at as "moral guides" not as other human beings.
- 0:16:44** He discusses what he does in a typical day living in Anselm Hall. His days include reading, reflecting, prayer, watching the new, office work, doctors appointments, and interacting with the other brothers. He enjoys going to a matinee movie and gardening. He likes to keep busy within the community.

0:24:10 His greatest pride are the students he has taught and he explains how it is just like being a parent because he wants to hear their successes and stay in close contact. He stated that his greatest disappointment was not being able to interest young men in becoming a Christian Brother and wishes he had done so. In the years remaining, he wants to “stay positive” and to not get discouraged on the church or the government. He hopes to accept if it is his time to go into a nursing home realizing that it is not an easy acceptance. He hopes to go to more movies and ball games and has no desire to travel again.

0:28:35 In response to the question of if there was anything the narrator left out he jokes saying, that the questions “how tall are you” and “how heavy are you” were not asked of him. Closing remarks were stated by interviewer and interviewee.

0:28:57 **End of Session 2, Part 2**