

Hello,

My name is Br. Tim Blanchard and I am a student friar living in Silver Spring, Maryland studying at the Catholic University of America for my major in Media and Communications as well as a minor in Theology. I am slowly moving on to my fourth year with the friars and can say with great assurance that every step has been most beneficial to forming the person I am today and hopefully the person God is calling me to be. Before I had joined the order, I was aspiring, with much intent, to be trained in the culinary arts. My mother is Italian, so naturally we live our lives by these three pillars: faith, family and FOOD. For quite some time, I worked in a number of kitchens and was given many different tasks, my last one being a banquet manager for weddings and town events. Right before I made the move of applying for the Culinary Institute of America, my path was intertwined by a Franciscan friar who was convinced I had a vocation... I was eager to prove him wrong. Shortly after, he introduced me to the friars in Syracuse along with their youth ministry which I quickly fell in love with. As I agreed to go on discernment in Syracuse and put my culinary career on hold, like magic the dust that collected on my soul was blown off and for once that's where I felt God speaking to me. This feeling later made me realize, I was losing at convincing this friar that I didn't have a vocation and even more so, this was a game with God. The way I felt when I entered a friary was one of peace connected with the reality that it simply felt like home, and this is really what it boiled down to, what do I want to call home? As I continued discerning this call with long hours in the chapel swimming in the ocean of intense prayer much like the Agony in the Garden, although I was not sweating blood. After I came to a moment of peace about the decision, I decided to move forward into the first year with the friars (postulancy) in Chicago. Later I moved onto my second year (novitiate) which took place in Indiana and the rest in California where I later professed vows. Since then I have never had doubts about my happiness with the friars, and isn't that what a vocation is? It is God's intimate response to our happiness. As I continue my time here in Kensington at St. Paul's, I ask for your prayers that I might fulfill God's will here rather than my own. I look forward to meeting you all during my time here and creating memorable relationships that I can carry throughout my Franciscan vocation!



Peace and blessings,

Br. Tim Blanchard OFM Conv.