



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

## Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics



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### God Led Me Straight to the Capuchins

**An interview from our Seminarian Patrick O'Brien with his good friend and our Pro-life Warrior from Long Island, Brother Christopher Woods.**

We asked our brother Br. Christopher Woods, "Why Capuchin?"

1. Why did you choose to join the Capuchins?

Truly, God led me straight to the Capuchins! But I'd have to say that their fraternity & dedicated time for contemplative prayer every single day really sets them apart from other communities.

2. What aspect of our life attracted you to the Capuchin Province of St. Mary and why?

I'd say the fraternal love of the brothers made my heart fill with joy. Seeing the dedication and care that each brother shows for other brothers leaves a lasting impression and drew me in. There is true Christ-like love on display in our Friaries every day.

3. What do you appreciate about being a Capuchin Franciscan?

Having a dedicated prayer schedule where we can pray together, as a community, every day has been way more of a blessing than I ever could have imagined.

4. Who influenced you in your discernment to enter religious life and why?

I'd say three main groups. First, the clergy in my life, who encouraged me to follow the call in my heart to do the Lord's work. Second, my family, who not only formed me into the man I am today, but also supported me wholeheartedly on every step of this journey. And finally, the faith communities and friends I've developed relationships with, who saw something in me and weren't afraid to say it.

5. What advice would you give to someone who is discerning religious life?

Stay open, and don't assume that you know where God is leading - He's a God of joyful surprises! Listen to the voices around you, as God often speaks through others. And seek a deep peace unlike others you've felt before - that's when I knew the Capuchins were truly where God was calling me.

6. How do you see your Pro-life heart being lived out in the religious life?



Being a part of a religious order that promotes life at all stages has been such a blessing, from the womb, throughout life and to death. Being able to be a witness of Christ to all, at whatever stage in life they are at, has already been so exciting and I am sure will continue to be one of the highlights of my journey through religious life.