

Matthew was just a kid, living in Italy with his family, when his parents told him they were taking a trip back to the States to visit his grandmother, who was in the hospital. He was not expecting to return back to the States so soon, but he was glad that his grandma was in a place where people got well. His belief in the purpose of hospitals was shattered, and he was personally stunned when his grandma died. This was his introduction to death. Next he learned something about grief, as he watched his mother cry during the weeks that followed. Years later, as a young adult in college, Matthew cultivated the gift of empathy as he reflected on his childhood experience with dying and grieving. He went on to study theology and social work, and eventually settled on becoming a chaplain. These are weighty subjects, but folks who know him experience him as playful. This trait will serve him well since he hopes to provide spiritual care in a children's hospital someday. "Kids are more fun and easier to talk to!" he claims. The same can be said of Matthew.

Matthew is a Resident in St. Mark's Spiritual Care program.