



Maria Fatima Pacheco

Translated from Portuguese/English Mix

My name is Maria de Fátima Pacheco.

Interviewer: Do you have any stories you want to tell about living in New Bedford and immigrating?

I came from there when I was 21 years old, came with my parents. With my parents—my parents were already here. They sent for me and my two brothers. I got here on a Friday and went to work on Monday, in a factory, sewing coats. I like it, even though I never worked over there, but I got here, and got used to the job. So, after I went there to get married in 70. I got married, my husband stayed there 5 months, and after came here. At that moment three children were born. It was difficult because we didn't know English and didn't know anything in America, and, but we went on, and crawled and we got to today, thanks to God we are alive.

Interviewer: From where ...?

Where I am from? I am from St. Michael, from Achadinha, in the town of Nordeste. A small parish, but for me it's beautiful. It was there that I was born, that I was raised until age 21 and I came here. Even though I like to be here, I go there to visit, I like to be there but not to stay, because my country is here.

Interviewer: Your family are from ...?

My Family was all from Achadinha, but only my sister stayed there with three nephews. So, she did come here, but didn't like it. The children were studying there and over there they gave a better life to the children. So, we were the ones that came and stayed.

Interviewer: In what... Did you come to New Bedford when you immigrated? When you first got ...

Yeah, I came here to New Bedford. So, I attended school at DeValles School for a while. Almost that a girl brought us there to Fair Street, but it happened that I didn't know the streets and I didn't know where I lived, because it was at night, at 9 o'clock at night and, when the girl said: "Oh, it's more further up your house," and I came to County Street without knowing where I was. But when I got to St. John's Church, when I saw the church, because I knew how to come home from the church. When I saw the church I thought that I saw a lady coming down from the sky, because I knew how to go home. I Only knew how to go from home to church, and from home to work—nothing else. I didn't walk around there and everywhere.

Interviewer: Your brother lives in New Bedford?

My brothers? Yeah. All of my brothers lived here in New Bedford, but unfortunately, two already have died, my sister also died in 2021. So, it was a serious matter for us because I was very close to my sister. Even today I still feel her "Ais". (crying) I still can't believe that she died. We were both so very close, almost every day I talked with her, and today I have no sister. She is gone. But, thanks to God, we still continue living.

Interviewer: You have a brother?



I only have one brother and two Sisters here. One is in a nursing home at age 88, and I have another sister that is 82 years old. So, but the two of them are ill and there's me. We all were 10, and almost everyone is gone.

Interviewer: You have Family over there?

I have two sons and a daughter and nine grandchildren. It's those 9 grandchildren that fill my entire space because it's not one, it's another. But now they are all so grown, too. I loved it When they were all small because I used to take care of them, to say it well always. Those kids are like they are my children, even more than my children, because I adore them. There's no exception of liking one more than the Other. I adore them all.

Interviewer: You have grandson, or granddaughter?

One granddaughter that is 27 years old, and the youngest one is 17. The youngest are 17. I have no babies.

Interviewer: Where were your mother and your father born, in the Azores?

Yeah, in St. Michael.

Interviewer: Do you keep in contact with them?

They died already. My parents died many years ago. My father died in 1972 and my mother in 1992. My mother lasted 20 years more after my father. You know, they are doors that closed, because those doors were opened with life, we had more life. I had a mother that blessed us. We were all raised to ask for a blessing every day and mother or father would say: "God bless you". That was a blessing that we had Every day. And we really were every day.

Interviewer: When did you come to the Center?

Yeah, I come here to spend some time. Yeah, I spend here, at times, I come not for hours, only little bits. Like today, I only come for a little bit, but I have a doctor's appointment at twelve 45. But I said: "I am going to go there, even if it's for a bit." But I spent some time there. My time is always taken, if not one thing, it's another. Very occupied. But I always have little bits for every little thing.

Interviewer: Little thing?

Yeah.

Interviewer: Ah, how long did it take you to settle down in New Bedford?

How long I have been here? In New Bedford? I came here since 1968. Gonna be fifty-three or fifty-four.

Interviewer: Did you have any stories about immigration that you wanted to talk about? About family?

My Family all came here, by immigration. Except my sister that stayed there. My brothers all came here. All made their lives here. I have gone there on trips, but I return here because this is my country and my favorite country.

Interviewer: Thank you.

You are welcome, I wish you have a good day, and may Our Lord bless you.



Interviewer: Thank you.

Ok, bye.