**Rosanna’s experiences**

**First experience on Jesus Forsaken (After slide #30)**

I would like to share a small experience on Jesus Forsaken: the Frightened One

A few years ago, I was diagnosed with diabetes. The thought that I had no control over this disease, that this was something I had to live with for the rest of my life, was frightening. I felt helpless when I realized that my life would change. Accepting this change in lifestyle was difficult and scary.

At a certain moment, I felt an overwhelming fear, then I immediately remembered that Jesus Forsaken was exactly that. He was *truly frightened* because he was faced with something so grave, so devastating – being abandoned by the Father – that he too *was afraid.*

So I felt frightened, and I tried to give a name to this suffering. In saying the name, however, I tried to prepare myself to love this suffering: *Jesus Forsaken “frightened”,* and I called him by name: I called him by name in the sense that I said: “Frightened”. In that moment, it seemed that Jesus Forsaken could be summed up in this one word: “frightened”, that this one word explained Jesus Forsaken, the reality of Jesus Forsaken, who was “*the Frightened One.”*

And then I remembered that he was my spouse and that I should welcome him and love him. When I embraced the suffering that God had sent me in the guise of diabetes, my soul opened up and I was ready to meet Jesus, anyway he wanted to present himself to me. In this way, I was slowly able to realize that each insulin injection was a special, intimate meeting with Him. It was a solemn, sacred moment. A heart-to-heart. It was not something to be feared, but a joyful encounter to be loved.

**Second experience on Jesus Forsaken (After slide # 31)**

The many disguises of Jesus Forsaken

One day, while driving to work, I was thinking that things were going very well and I hadn’t experienced any suffering for a few days and I remember thinking: Something is wrong! I am sure that Jesus Forsaken has manifested himself to me, but obviously, I wasn’t loving enough, I wasn’t attentive and I didn’t recognize him.

This thought was interrupted by the sound of the siren of a police car and a policeman pulled me over. He told me I was driving over the speed limit and he gave me a ticket. I almost laughed, or at least I smiled,in the midst of this suffering, much to the amazement of the officer, because he had given me a pretty hefty fine. But I couldn’t help but be amused by the tactics of Jesus Forsaken.

At that very moment, when I wondered where He was, He appeared, disguised as a police officer to give me a ticket. It was almost a wink, as if to say: “Here I am. I am always here. You just need to recognize me”. I was surprised and in awe over this revelation: that Jesus often plays *A Game of love* with us.

When we embrace each and every suffering out of love for Jesus and recognize that Jesus is there in that suffering, our soul is prepared to receive him, to welcome him and to love whatever He wants for us. You want it Jesus, then I want it too. Then we experience his peace and serenity.

**Terry Gunn’s experience on Jesus in our midst (After slide #50)**

One of our friends, Terry, who is now in heaven, shared this experience with us.

When I was involved in interreligious dialogue, I met a group of Muslims. One of them came to our place for dinner one night, and he brought a group from the mosque. His daughter had fallen away from the five pillars of Islam. We didn’t know this.

We had a meal together, we spoke a lot, and it was a very beautiful atmosphere of Jesus’ presence among us. All of a sudden, she stopped and said: “Papa! Why is it that being here with these people I want to go back to my faith in God?”

Her father was so moved that he couldn’t speak, because he had been praying for this for so many years. He turned to me and said, “You explain; I can’t.

So there I was, explaining the presence of Jesus in the midst to a Muslim woman, but I used the phrase “God among us”. She returned to her faith.

It struck me that when Jesus is among us, you never know what is going to happen!