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Disfigured man pope kissed speaks to media

by NCR Staff

The Francis Chronicles

"He touched my face and when he was doing it, I only felt love," said the disfigured man who Pope Francis kissed in a touching moment caught on camera earlier this month.

Vinicio Riva, 53, gave an exclusive interview to the Italian magazine *Panorama*. Read about it in English [here](#).

"I tried to speak to say something but I was unable to," Riva, who lives near the Vicenza province, said according to a TIME translation of the interview. "The emotion was too strong. It lasted a little longer than a minute but it felt as if it were eternity."

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