

BROTHER JOSEPH L. R. BÉLANGER
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Brother Joseph L. R. Bélanger

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: MHP 2008.06.03

Name of Interviewee: Brother Joseph L. R. Bélanger

Birth Date: 11 July 1925

Address: 3399 North Road, CH 834, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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Main Topics: This interview discusses the life of Brother Joseph Bélanger growing up in the depression years, his life and education in the Marist Brothers school system, and the process of becoming a Marist Brother.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: John Ansley

Interview Date: 3 June 2008

Location of Interview: James Cannovino Library, Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 2 hours, 24 minutes, 40 seconds

Number of disks: 1

Recording medium/format: Microdrive

Brand of disks: IBM 1GB microdrive

Archival copy made: Burned to a gold alloy CD (MAM) and is held in the Marist College Archives and Special Collections. Saved as a .wav file at the highest resolution possible. CD copy is available for researchers.

Quality of original recording: Good

Describe any interference or interruptions: N/A

Release obtained: Yes **Date signed:** 03 June 2008

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Kimberly Wilson

Transcriber's comments: Transcription is of the first hour of the interview only.

Brief summary of interview context and recording contents: The interview was held in the James Cannavino Library on the Marist College campus.

Other: Note: the spelling of proper names was verified with the interviewee.

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.01 – 00:01.51	Brother Joseph Bélanger explains the origin of his name, as well as his family's French origins.
00:01.52 – 00:04:30	Brother Joseph explains the origins of his religious name.
00:04.31 – 00:12.04	Brother Joseph describes his hometown. He discusses growing up in a large and deeply religious family in the depression, and how they survived. His mother was a homemaker, his father worked for a textile mill, and then as a traveling salesman. He also goes on to talk about the beginning of his education in the Marist Brothers school system, and expressing initial interest in becoming a Marist Brother.
00:12.05 – 00:23.52	Brother Joseph continues to talk about his education in the Marist Brothers school system at Tyngsboro, moving on from grammar school to high school. He focuses on his education and the wide variety of courses he completed-- from English, to math, to languages, to music. He also discusses the teachers he had, and the excellent facilities that were available to him at his school, including a swimming pool, ice skating pond, and several music rehearsal rooms.

- 00:23.53 – 00:27.20 Brother Joseph arrived in Poughkeepsie, one of a group of 38 students, to continue his education and training as a Marist Brother. He reflects briefly on the different paths people took to arrive at Poughkeepsie for their training.
- 00:27.21 – 00:33.33 Brother Joseph explains the process of becoming a Marist Brother, as well as clarifying some of the Catholic terminology involved in the process. Postulantship, the novitiate, taking the habit, and vows are some of the topics discussed. Brother Joseph also discusses the year of work he completed as a tailor.
- 00:33.34 – 00:39.46 Brother Joseph talks about the history of Marist College, and its transition from a two year Junior College for the Marist Brothers, to a four year college for Marist Brothers, to a four year college open to Marist Brothers and lay students. He also reflects on the decision to change the name from Marian College to Marist College in order to keep potential students from confusing it as a women's college.
- 00:39.47 – 00:50.22 Brother Joseph discusses the first two graduating classes at Marist College. He compares the grading system between his graduating class and today, and the fact that students were told what their majors would be.
- 00:50.23 – 00:56.09 Brother Joseph discusses his duties after graduating from Marian College. He taught for several years at Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx during which time he also attained his master's degree in English at St. John's. He continues his discussion of his teaching experiences at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, West Virginia. He goes on to discuss the completion of his Ph.D. At the end of this section he comments on the wonderful, thoughtful, and intelligent people he has encountered throughout his life as a Marist Brother.
- 00:56.10 – 00:58.58 Brother Joseph briefly remarks on the paths his other family members took in life. He also reflects on his life as a Marist Brother, and that he plans to die a Marist Brother.