

MAURICE BIBEAU
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Maurice Bibeau

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 023

Name of Interviewee: Maurice Bibeau

Main Topics: Maurice Bibeau gives an account of his early years in Lawrence, Massachusetts, attending elementary school and Central Catholic High School. He decided to enter the Marist Brothers after high school, and in his college years majored in Spanish. After graduating from Marist College he elected to immerse himself in the Spanish culture, spending nine summers in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Peru and Spain rather than pursuing the Ph.D. in Spanish. His fine recollections of his early life mention with affection his close moderator and friend, Dr. Gerry Weiss.

Others present?: Yes

Interviewed by: Richard Foy

Interview Date: 15 March 2002

Location of Interview: Archives and Special Collections Reading Room at Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 57 minutes, 45 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

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Nancy Decker

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

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Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)	Summary
00:00.01 – 00:07.22	Maurice Bibeau briefly runs through his family history. He talks about where his parents came from, what they did for a living, where he and his brother grew up and went to grammar and high school, how he was introduced to the Marist Brothers, and why he ultimately ended up joining them. He entered Tynngsboro in its first year as a novitiate, and went through his postulant and novitiate years there, as well as his first year of college. Then he traveled to Marian College in Poughkeepsie, NY, completed his degree and graduated in 1954.
00:07.23 – 00:14.53	Maurice talks about the agricultural, self-sustaining aspect of Marian College which was starting to disappear when he arrived. He spends some time comparing with the interviewer what used to be on campus in regards to the farm with what was there when he arrived. He then moved on to talk a little bit about the academics, how the Marist Brothers learned, and where some of the classes were.
00:14.54 – 00:25.51	Maurice remembers some of the construction projects that went on at Marist, especially building the chapel. From there he moves into a discussion about churches and some of the changes they've been going through. Returning to the topic of Marist College, Maurice majored in Spanish, and then taught for nine years at Mount St. Michael's while he received his masters in Spanish from St. John's University. After that he went to study in Rome for a year which was great for his foreign language development.
00:25.52 – 00:36.24	When Maurice returned from Europe he went to Poughkeepsie to be the Assistant Director of Scholastics for the student Brothers, which he did for three years while teaching part-time. He talks about the student Brothers that he worked with, who he felt were the brightest students on campus, and the struggle they went through in the sixties trying to decide if the life of a Brother was what they wanted. He talks about the struggle that even the existing Marist Brothers went through in the evolving world, and how many eventually left the Brothers including Maurice himself.

- 00:36.25 – 00:45.21 Maurice briefly discusses the type of students that Marist has today, comparing them ever so slightly to the student Brothers of the past. He moves on to talk about foreign languages, which is slowly being phased out in many schools, while simultaneously talking about his own foreign language development.
- 00:45.22 – 00:57.46 Maurice is an avid sports fan, and he goes on to talk about the sports program at Marist College. He thinks the size and the number of participants in the sports program at Marist, as well as the other activities available, is just phenomenal. He mentions how accepting women to the college was wonderful for the foreign language program because the women excelled at it more than the men, and there would always be more women students in the classes.