

LINUS RICHARD FOY
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Linus Richard Foy

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 005

Name of Interviewee: Linus Richard Foy

Main Topics: This interview covers the life and times of Linus Foy, Marist College's second official president. The interview gives a brief detail of his birth, and then goes directly to his beginnings in the Marist community with the subjects and teachers he had. After that, it transitions to his becoming the second president of Marist College. It covers some of his specific duties and objectives in the growth of the college and its many changes over the years. The first part of the interview ends with the construction of some of the dorms and the diversity that the college tried to achieve.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 11 October 2001

Location of Interview: Marist Archives and Special Collections Reading Room

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 1 hour, 3 minutes, 16 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: Jaime Edwards

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

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Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)	Summary
00:00.00 – 00:02.20	Dr. Linus Foy, the former President of Marist College, begins his interview discussing where he was born and when, his siblings, the origin of his name, and his early education.
00:02.21 – 00:09.04	Dr. Foy recalls how he and his brother were recruited into the Marist Brothers and their arrival and first years on the Esopus campus. He talks about the physical beauty of the campus, and the education they received under highly qualified teachers. He moves on to briefly discuss the continuing of his education at Poughkeepsie and reflects on his belief that he learned wonderful time management skills from his years in Poughkeepsie and Esopus. He also lists and describes some of the duties that Marist Brothers had to do while they were training and after, as well as some that only he did, such as being the beekeeper and then a secretary for Brother Paul Ambrose.
00:09.05 – 00:15.32	Dr. Foy reflects on the buildings that were on campus while he was there, and on some of the building and construction that was done as well. He discusses what he majored in and the number of students in his class. He also spends some time talking about Brother Francis Xavier, who was the director of operations for construction projects on campus, who Dr. Foy learned a great deal from both in and outside the classroom.
00:15.33 – 00:23.19	After graduating Dr. Foy's first teaching assignment was at St. Ann's Academy and he describes the school buildings, his time there and the skills that he learned. He taught many different classes while at St. Ann's, and he also became a photographer and an electrician for the school, and he describes how both of those activities came about. Also while teaching at St. Ann's he received his Masters in math at St. John's and then received his doctorate from NYU. During the summers he would often come and teach some summer classes for Marian College as well.
00:23.20 – 00:38.41	Dr. Foy explains the sequence of events that led up to him being president of Marist College. He was told by the provincial that he was going to be

president of the college, and then continued to teach at Cardinal Hayes for the remainder of the year, traveling to Marist once a week to give talks to spread the word about the college and meet with the faculty. When the high school year was over he took a course on finances, and then in July he finally moved up to the college. He names the principal members of the college staff when he arrived, and he describes the decision making and implementation process of forming a night school at Marist primarily for the people working at IBM. He describes his office and the transition it made over the years, and he also talks about the decision to take down the stone wall surrounding the campus, why the wall was there to begin with, why it was important that it came down, and the other steps that had to be taken to ensure that the community knew the school was not only for Catholics. He goes on to talk about opening the school up in general, with the night school and the day school, and how he believed that Brother Paul Ambrose had always, from the beginning, envisioned Marist as a school to educate everyone.

- 00:38.42 – 00:44.40 Dr. Foy talks about the transition of the college, and leaving the old monastic ways, such as farm life, behind. Monasteries used to be as self-sufficient as they could be, and the Marist Brothers were expected to pitch in as part of their tuition, but that gradually changed to college graduates during the farm work, cooking, and laundry because they were older and had more experience. However, Dr. Foy almost immediately changed that because the reason the Marist Brothers had received an education was to teach, not do manual labor, so he sent the college graduates off to teach, and hired cooks and gardeners. He strongly believed that the Brothers needed to be valued for the education they could bring, and not because they could save money.
- 00:44.41 – 00:51.21 Dr. Foy describes another big change he implemented, which was to have the lay students live in dormitories in order to get more money into the college. The first lay students to live on campus were shuttled around from place to place until they ended up in Donnelly Hall in temporary dormitories. He goes on to describe the plans for building permanent dormitories, the funding they received, the building material they experimented with, and the building of Sheahan, and eventually Leo Hall. He also discusses the decision to transfer a large portion of land from the Brothers to the College.
- 00:51.22 – 01:03.16 Dr. Foy reflects on his struggle to get the board to accept the hiring of lay teachers, the decision to build Champagnat with a dining hall and classrooms as well as dormitories, and the move to put well-known laymen on the board of trustees to open the college up but also hopefully bring more money into the college. He also describes the decision making process and the struggle he went through in allowing women to enter the college and get their degrees. He concludes the interview talking about the

Upward Bound program and how that came about, as well as teaching prisoners at a local prison, allowing some to completely turn their lives around.