

LINUS RICHARD FOY
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
Transcribed by Jamie Edwards
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Transcript – Linus Richard Foy

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 006

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, then goes directly to his beginnings in the Marist community with the sort of 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: 18 October 2001

Location of Interview: Marist Archives and Special Collections Reading Room

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 59 minutes, 43 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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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.03 – 00:12.21	Dr. Linus Foy reviews many of his principal goals for Marist College when he took over as president, several of which he discussed during his last interview. Some of his goals included making the college a strong academic institution, making it a boarding school, and to build the college as big as he could, because money would only become more expensive in the future. He also discusses what he feels were some of his most important accomplishments at Marist which includes transferring control of the college from the Marist Brothers to the Corporation, and opening the school up to women students. He spends some time discussing women entering Marist College and why he feels it was important, as well as explaining why Marist never took over the nursing school at St. Francis and why that was a good decision.
00:12:22 – 00:22.49	Dr. Foy reflects on the decisions he's made in the past and feels that most of them were the right decisions to make at the time. The only decision he can think of that he knows was definitely wrong was waiting to begin any varsity athletics, which he put off as long as he could because he wanted the school to be primarily an academic organization. However he did want intramural sports to prosper, but they didn't until the school started varsity athletics, and it was then that he realized there was a corollary between varsity athletics and intramurals. He also goes into a description of the decision to build over the Marist Brothers cemetery and why it had to be done.
00:22.50 – 00:28.27	Dr Foy talks about leaving the presidency after twenty-one years, and how he had nothing to do with the college for three years after that because he wanted the new president to make his own goals and steer the college in the direction he wanted without any interference from him. However he eventually returned to work for the college, beginning by teaching a couple of courses, and then moving on to serving on the academics committee and the student life committee. He is also an honorary trustee of the college.

- 00:28.28 – 00:34.05 Dr. Foy discusses faculty governance, the part he played in it, and who the influential figures were, especially Dan Kirk. He reminisces about the days in St. Ann's where he and several other faculty members, including Dan Kirk, ran the school and its programs, even though they were only faculty, because the administration at the time was weak. However Dr. Foy does feel that he may have gotten the faculty too involved however, and that it was slowing down the process of adding new programs because sometimes faculty members don't like to change what they're doing. However he definitely thinks the faculty should always be involved because they are the heart of the school.
- 00:34.06 – 00:40.52 Dr. Foy discusses his decision to leave the brotherhood. He talks about the different factions that were springing up within the Brotherhood, both liberal and conservative, and how he was constantly in the middle and being asked impossible demands by both sides. He also spends some time comparing his two main occupations of being president of Marist College and working at recruitment for Boyden College. Although they both gave him unique challenges, he preferred working in academics rather than in recruitment.
- 00:40.53 – 00:45.04 Dr. Foy spends a little bit of time comparing his presidency with Brother Paul Ambrose and with Dennis Murray, but what he ultimately decides is that they each were the right man for the job at the time they were in the position.
- 00:45.05 – 00:53.11 Dr. Foy discusses the changes that Marist has gone through since his time and whether he thinks they are positive or negative. He also discusses the future of Marist, and he thinks that technology will play a big role, and that Marist will continue to be successful. He spends some time discussing distance learning as an example of the technology of the future that will become a norm and that Marist will have to deal with. He also briefly discusses some of Marist's strengths and unique attributes.
- 00:53.11 – 00:59.43 Dr. Foy concludes the interview by discussing a little bit about the importance of purchasing land. He briefly recounts all of the land purchases that Marist has made, and hypothesizes if Dennis Murray should continue to purchase land and where that should or could be.