

LAWRENCE MENAPACE
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Lawrence Menapace

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 024

Name of Interviewee: Lawrence Menapace

Main Topics: The following interview is with Dr. Lawrence Menapace from the Chemistry Department at Marist College. In the beginning of the interview, Lawrence Menapace gives a brief description of his educational background, as well as his professional background working as a full-time chemist for Texaco. After transferring to Marist College, Lawrence Menapace became a full-time organic chemist. In the interview, Lawrence Menapace compares the environments of Marist College now and in his early teaching years, particularly in terms of the faculty and students. Lawrence Menapace also describes his participation as an Academic Advisor and Assistant Varsity Coach for Marist's basketball team. The interview ends with Lawrence Menapace's account of the differences between students entering the college now and the students enrolled in the college during his earlier teaching years.

Others present?: Yes

Interviewed by: Richard Foy

Interview Date: 20 March 2002

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

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 53 minutes, 47 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: Erin Kelly

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

TAPE INDEX:

<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.02 – 00:05.49	Lawrence Menapace discusses his history, where he was born and raised, where his parents came from and what they did for a living, his siblings, where he went to school, college, and graduate school, and finally he talks about his wife and children. His daughter received her Masters degree in Psychology from Marist College, which she heard about when Lawrence moved to the area in 1966.
00:05.50 – 00:13.38	Lawrence talks about getting the job at Marist College, and some of the first Marist Brothers that he met. When he started teaching full-time at Marist he came at a volatile time. He still had some student Brothers in his advanced chemistry classes, but soon things were going to be changing for them, and it was also the first year that women were accepted to the college. He talks about feeling very comfortable teaching in a Catholic environment, and also feeling no discomfort or tension during the time when some of the Brothers started leaving the order but still remained on campus.
00:13.39 – 00:25.09	Lawrence spends some time comparing the students that were at Marist when he first started teaching to the students of today in regards to the background and environment that they're coming from, their academic preparation, and their work ethic. He also reflects on what he thinks will happen as the number of Brothers and the "old school model" of teachers leaves the college. He thinks the situation is very ominous and something needs to be done right away to correct it.
00:25.10 – 00:36.18	Lawrence briefly mentions the physical construction of the campus and how it has spread out. He talks about the athletics at Marist College, their development, and the role he played in ensuring that the academic standards stayed high when Marist switched over to a Division I school.

- 00:36.19 – 00:47.34 Lawrence mentions how he most likely will only continue teaching for another year or two at the most, joining a large group of people who are retiring. He spends some time reminiscing about some of the people that he has worked with over the years in the chemistry department. He also discusses the state of the chemistry department, and the science program at Marist College and their success rate with sending students to medical school.
- 00:47.35 – 00:53.49 If Lawrence could give any advice to the college it would be to be careful of all they are asking of the faculty, because it is coming at a cost to the service of the students. He also very briefly compares the administrations of Richard Foy and Dennis Murray and reflects on the changes he's seen in the students over the years.