

**EDWARD O'KEEFE**  
**Marist College**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY**  
**For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections**  
**Index – Edward O'Keefe**

**Project Name:** Marist Heritage Project

**Transcript:** Yes

**Summary:** Yes

**Photograph(s):** Yes

**CD#:** 036

**Name of Interviewee:** Edward O'Keefe

**Main Topics:** The following interview is with Dr. Edward O'Keefe, former professor at Marist College. The interview begins with a brief summary of Dr. O'Keefe's educational background and his connection to Marist through the Marist Brothers. Dr. O'Keefe reflects on his participation in developing the Psychology major and Master's program at Marist with Dan Kirk. The development of the internship program for the Psychology Department through the Cardinal Hayes' Home, now known as the Astor Home, is also described within the interview. The interview ends with Dr. O'Keefe's stance on the importance of a Core Liberal Studies program at Marist College.

**Others present?:** No

**Interviewed by:** Gus Nolan

**Interview Date:** 20 September 2002

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

**Recorder model and type:** Marantz PMD 690

**Length of interview:** 59 minutes, 48 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>
00:00.01 – 00:08.11	Edward O'Keefe runs through his personal history and background. He discusses where he was born and raised, who his parents and siblings were, what his early education was like, how he met his wife, what his children are now doing with their lives, and finally his college education and the teaching experience he had before coming to Marist College.
00:08.12 – 00:23.16	Edward reflects on being hired to teach at Marist College, and what it was like to teach here in the beginning. He discusses his work in setting up a counseling office and a placement office, and attempting to have Marist as a member of the College Placement Council. He also reflects on the process of getting a raise and promotion, which in the beginning days of Marist was very informal and rather haphazard.
00:23.17 – 00:31.25	Edward talks about the development of the Psychology Department. He mentions his work for the childcare agency at the Cardinal Hayes home in Millbrook, which he is still involved with today. He talks about the creation of the Masters program in community psychology at Marist, which was fairly revolutionary for its time, and about the creation of internships within the Masters program.
00:31.26 – 00:37.32	Edward discusses why he stayed with Marist for so many years and never considered leaving to work for a more experienced college. Part of the reason was the novelty of building a college from scratch, and he recounts what it was like setting up all the committees, everything they had to think about and do, and some of the missteps that they made.
00:37.33 – 00:45.24	Edward reflects on the strengths and the weaknesses of Marist College. He compares the student body of today to the student body that he worked with when he first began teaching here.
00:45.25 – 00:59.49	Edward compares two of the presidents of Marist College, Linus Foy and Dennis Murray, both of whom he speaks very highly of. He reflects on

what he feels his major contributions to the college were. The contribution that he is most proud of is the work that he did with the students, counseling them, encouraging them, and steering them into career choices and professions. On the flip side he also talks about what disappointments he has had over the years. To end his interview he talks about how grateful he is to the teaching profession, and what a noble profession it is, and how lucky he has been in his life to have been a part of it.