

PETER O'KEEFE
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Peter O'Keefe

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 026

Name of Interviewee: Peter O'Keefe

Main Topics: In the following interview, Peter O'Keefe speaks of his years at Marist College as a History professor. The interview begins with Peter O'Keefe's introduction to Marist College and progresses to touch upon his continued involvement with the college, for example with the Bridge Program. Peter O'Keefe speaks of the development of the core program from the 60-60 program and the changes among the college, in terms of the student body, faculty, and physical development of the college.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 16 May 2002

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

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 54 minutes, 29 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

Describe any interference or interruptions: Much of the interview is difficult to hear and understand. Because of this there are many sections that are omitted.

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Mary Ellen Lent

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>
00:00.05 – 00:09.50	Peter O’Keefe discusses his personal life and history. He describes the origin of his name, when he was born and where he grew up, his parents names and occupations, his siblings, where he went to school, his time spent in the seminary for The Divine Word Fathers, meeting and marrying his wife, his children, and the various he jobs he had before coming to Marist College.
00:09.51 – 00:22.19	Peter talks about getting the job at Marist College, what he taught in the first few years and then branching out to participate in extracurricular activities such as Marist’s Bridge Program and the Academic Policy Committee. Eventually he also began creating and working on Continuing Education for Marist as well.
00:22.20 – 00:28.19	Peter believes his most important contribution to the college was the part he played in the development of the core program, and he spends some time discussing that. He also feels one of the least intelligent moves he made was backing the creation of divisions among faculty, and he talks about that as well.
00:28.20 – 00:40.47	Peter reflects on the physical layout of the campus when he first arrived at Marist and compares it to the way it looks today. He talks about what Marist had going for it back when the college was small and cramped, and what it has going for it today. The tradition of Marist College he feels, however, is fading, but he also feels that there is the potential for it to continue. Finally he talks about the development of the student body and how different the students are today.
00:40.48 – 00:45.50	Peter discusses the administration that he was worked under at Marist College. He believes Foy’s greatest contribution was his hand’s off policy, and that his only mistake was that he stayed on a little too long. He feels that Murray’s greatest contribution is the image of the college and marketing.

00:45.51 – 00:54.34 Peter briefly talks about the future of Marist and some of the decisions that will have to be made in regards to technology and the graduate program. He talks about some of the relationships he formed with people at Marist over the years. He ends the interview by briefly discussing what he has been doing since he retired from Marist, even though he is still involved in the campus and still very busy.