

**BROTHER RICHARD RANCOURT**  
**Marist College**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY**  
**For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections**  
**Index – Brother Richard Rancourt**

**Project Name:** Marist Heritage Project

**Transcript:** Yes

**Summary:** Yes

**Photograph(s):** Yes

**CD#:** 019

**Name of Interviewee:** Brother Richard Rancourt

**Main Topics:** Brother Richard recalls his early childhood, his family and his early education. Brother Richard discusses his many experiences in becoming a Marist Brother, his talent as a pianist and his many different teaching roles, his commitment to the Marist Brothers and their teachings.

**Others present?:** Yes

**Interviewed by:** Richard Foy

**Interview Date:** 21 February 2002

**Location of Interview:** Archives Room, Cannavino Library, Marist College

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

**Length of interview:** 1 hour, 5 minutes, 11 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:** Mary Ellen Lent

**Brief summary of interview context and recording contents:** The interview was held in the James 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 – 00:06.47                            | Brother Richard Rancourt briefly discusses his personal history; the origin of his name, his parents and their occupations, his siblings, where he was born and raised, and where he went to school. He mentions the first time that he saw, and became aware of, the Marist Brothers. He also spends some time talking about how he learned to play the piano and organ, which he became quite proficient at, and all of the people who helped to teach him and develop his skills over the years. |
| 00:06.48 – 00:25.21                            | Brother Rancourt describes his journey becoming a Marist Brother at the Esopus campus, then coming to Poughkeepsie for his postulant and novitiate. He talks a little bit about the schedule and the duties they had, and he talks quite a bit about a cemetery for the Marist Brothers, which he was quite fond of. He compares the life of a Brother to military life but also gives some examples of when things started to change and become less rigid.  |
| 00:25.22 – 00:39.06                            | Brother Rancourt talks about scholasticate, which he enjoyed very much, and compares it to the novitiate. He enjoyed the studies, they had a bit more freedom with their time, they cultivated their own particular talents, and Brother Paul Ambrose allowed some occasional secular activities. He reminisces about the ten mile walk to Esopus, and about his time spent at Camp Sunset. He ended up leaving scholasticate a year early so he could go out and teach.                            |
| 00:39.07 – 00:55.37                            | Brother Rancourt remembers his years teaching in high schools and middle schools while he completed his bachelor's degree in mathematics and his graduate work in philosophy. He taught many different subjects over the years, and even taught in the Marist extension school part-time. During this time he also took lessons on how to become a better organist from the organist of St. Patrick's cathedral.  |
| 00:55.38 – 01:05.13                            | Brother Rancourt came to Marist College and taught for ten years before he left to teach at various other schools and colleges. He returned to Marist in the early eighties where he applied for and received the position of Director of the Refugee Assistance Program. After three years of working  |

in that position he began teaching in the math department. He ends the interview by promising to come again to talk about his years at Marist.