

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#: 022

Name of Interviewee: Brother Richard Rancourt

Main Topics: In the following interview, Brother Richard Rancourt speaks about the early days of Marist College as a student and as a professor. After studying in the juniorate at Esopus, Richard Rancourt continued his studies by becoming a Brother at the novitiate at Marian College. After being a Brother in the novitiate, Richard Rancourt joined the scholasticate and began teaching after that. In the interview, Brother Richard Rancourt talks about his daily life as a student in the novitiate as well as the changes that took place in the college as lay students began to come on the campus. The interview also focuses on Richard Rancourt's account of the physical grounds of Marist College in its earlier years before construction of several of Marist's current buildings. The interview ends with Brother Richard Rancourt's account of the transition of Marist's student population from mostly Brothers to the majority being lay students.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: John Ansley

Interview Date: 14 March 2002

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

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 58 minutes, 2 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

Describe any interference or interruptions: The interview comes to an abrupt end.

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

TAPE INDEX:

Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)	Summary
00:00.01 – 00:15.40	Brother Richard Rancourt discusses the process that he went through to become a Marist Brother. He goes into considerable detail about the course of studies that the student Brothers would take, possible duties they would be assigned, and the duties that he personally was assigned. He also discusses some of the rules that were unique to the novitiate and a few anecdotal stories of life in the novitiate and scholasticate.
00:15.41 – 00:27.38	Brother Rancourt talks about how the college supplied itself. They had farms and livestock, and they had the egg run where they sold eggs to schools. Brother Rancourt also reflects on how the college pretty much kept to itself while he was in his scholasticate. They did interact some with the nuns at St. Francis. A couple of times the Marist Brothers choir would sing for the nuns at their Christmas party, or events like that. Brother Rancourt goes on to briefly recount his graduation from Marist, the size of the graduating class, and the difference from the graduation of today.
00:27.39 – 00:36.02	Brother Rancourt describes some of the buildings that were on campus while he was there, some of which no longer exist. He also talks about some of the new changes that have recently occurred on campus, such as the building of the Cannavino Library. He describes the physical layout of the campus while he was going to school here, paying special attention to the gardens, the beehives, and the pastures for their cows.
00:36.03 – 00:46.29	Brother Rancourt briefly discusses some of the construction projects that went on at Marist, which he never really was involved in. He talked about the pool, how they took care of it, and what it was used for. Currently the Lowell Thomas building is built where the pool used to be.

00:46.30 – 00:58.02 Brother Rancourt remembers the introduction of women onto the campus and the dramatic change that brought. In fact there were many people who were not happy with the change. He also remembers the introduction of the lay students on campus and the small amount of friction that occurred because of it.