

JOHN RITSCHDORFF
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – John Ritschdorff

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 032

Name of Interviewee: John Ritschdorff

Main Topics: In the following interview, Dr. John Ritschdorff reflects on his years at Marist College. Within the interview, Dr. Ritschdorff speaks of his teaching mathematics as well as an introductory computer course among other courses. Other roles that he has participated in throughout his years at Marist College include being elected as Chair of AAC, working towards the adoption of the Core program from the sixty-sixty program, as well as his position as an Athletic Director. Dr. Ritschdorff also compares Marist students from the college's early years to the college's current students and describes the expansion of the campus in terms of both the physical grounds and the student population. The interview ends with Dr. Ritschdorff's thoughts on the direction of the college for the future.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 27 June 2002

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

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 57 minutes, 8 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.

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.00 – 00:06.41	John Ritschdorff relates his biographical information, such as where he was born and raised, the names and occupations of his parents, where he went to school, and when and whom he was married to. After graduating from Archbishop Molloy High School, John entered the novitiate for the Marist Brothers at Esopus. He very briefly runs through his years in the novitiate and his years in graduate school, and then he came to Marist to teach in 1970.
00:06.42 – 00:16.47	John discusses the first teaching assignments he had, as well as reflecting on some of the opportunities he had to leave Marist over the years and why he never did. He spends time talking about some of the committees that he served on as well, such as the AAC, the core program, the presidential search committee, and Chairman of the Faculty.
00:16.48 – 00:37.57	John talks about some of the changes that Marist College has gone through over the years, such as the highly qualified faculty, and the change from a departmental to a school structure. He then moves on to the athletic portion of his career, how he got the job, and the development of the program. He talks about his participation in board meetings, how they ran, and some of the things they talked about.
00:37.58 – 00:45.12	John reflects on the quality and type of student that comes to Marist College, and what changes he's seen in them over the years. He breaks the student body down into three main categories, based on their major, and broadly discusses what happens to students who enter each of those fields.
00:45.13 – 00:57.08	John compares the presidencies of both Linus Foy and Dennis Murray, and he has positive things to say about both college presidents. He reflects on the contributions that he has personally made to the college over the

years, and also reflects on a few regrets that he has as well. He considers what the future of Marist could be, and thinks back once more to what Marist was when he attended as a student.