

LOUIS ZUCCARELLO
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Louis Zuccarello

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 007

Name of Interviewee: Louis Zuccarello

Main Topics: This interview begins with Louis Zuccarello's youth and then his beginnings as one of the first lay faculty members at Marist College. The interview then goes on discuss various faculty, and the different roles that Zuccarello took on in administration. He talks about each one of these roles, how they were different, and how each posed unique challenges. He also expresses his concern for the Marist Brothers fading authority within Marist College. The changing of course requirements is discussed, showing its initial start and growing of requirements. The interview ends with Zuccarello's feelings towards distance learning in the future and the direction of the college, as well as the ongoing relationship between lay faculty and the Brothers.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 01 November 2001

Location of Interview: Marist Archives and Special Collections Reading Room

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 53 minutes, 4 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: Jaime Edwards

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

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.02 – 00:03.03	Louis Zuccarello begins the interview by discussing his early childhood, where his name came from, where he grew up, his siblings, what his parents did for a living, where he attended high school and college, and where he received his graduate degree and Ph.D.
00:03.04 – 00:09.58	Mr. Zuccarello describes how it came to be that he was one of the first lay faculty at Marist College, and what it was like working alongside the Marist Brothers. He also names some of the other lay faculty who began working at Marist. He reflects on what it was like to teach at the college when he first arrived, and what the physical layout of the campus was like.
00:09.59 – 00:13.49	Mr. Zuccarello talks about two significant events in Marist College history and their impact on him, the introduction of women, and transferring control of the college over to the Marist College Educational Corporation. Mr. Zuccarello had no problem with women entering the college, having taught co-ed high school classes for eight years of his life. He was a little upset over the transfer, however, not because he thought it was a bad idea, but because the Marist Brothers gave up all control and say in the direction of the college. This meant that at any point, and at any point in the future, someone could move this college in a direction the Marist Brothers would never want it to go, and they have no say in the matter.
00:13.50 – 00:21.41	Mr. Zuccarello reflects on the various positions he has held here throughout his career, and how he slowly became involved in administrative duties, eventually becoming the academic vice president. He enjoyed the administrative work very much, and he had several goals that he wanted to work on, and he feels as though he made a good contribution. Two rewarding memories that stand out to him were the passage of the Core Liberal Studies Program and faculty development. He

also briefly recounts an example of some of the bizarre issues that he had to deal with, such as whether students could pose as nude models for the art department and have it count as work-study.

- 00:21.42 – 00:29.43 Mr. Zuccarello discusses the time he spent as the director of the Core Liberal Studies program, why and how the program began, the reaction on campus, the benefits of the program and what it looked like, and how the program has changed over the years. He also talks briefly about his role at the Center for Teaching Excellence, which at the time of this interview he was still working for. This program is for faculty development, and so far it has been doing well, they've had some successful workshops and more are scheduled.
- 00:29.44 – 00:37.18 Mr. Zuccarello briefly mentions a paper he wrote supporting academic and student life areas of value concern. He also recalls the nursing program that he attempted to bring to Marist but it did not pan out, and the paralegal program that he helped Carolyn Landau to get off of the ground. Some other programs that he takes credit for starting are the Criminal Justice program and the Social Work Program. He discusses his opinion on the graduate programs at Marist, which he thinks are great as long as they are successful and pay for themselves, and distance learning which he is not crazy about. He also talks about the fashion program which began while he was Academic Dean, although he gives all of the credit to Ed Waters, the executive vice president at the time. He also was a contributor to a new class time schedule for Marist. The final program discussed in this interview, the Study Abroad Program, he thinks is excellent.
- 00:37.19 – 00:43.05 Mr. Zuccarello spends some time discussing the administrations of Linus Foy and Dennis Murray. He feels that it's important to realize that the school that Linus Foy was President over is not the same school that it is today, so it requires a different kind of president. However, he feels that Linus Foy was a great president, very fair, ethical, very intelligent, forward-looking with computers, and big on academics. He also feels that Dennis Murray has done a good job, especially with the image of the college and public relations, and he's grateful that Dennis has a sense of the heritage of the college so it can be preserved.
- 00:43.06 – 00:46.55 Mr. Zuccarello believes that the old spirit of the Marist Brothers and Marist College is still around today, but that it is diluted, however he feels that it is diluted in society as well, and not just the college. He also compares the reward structure for faculty when Marist was first beginning to now. It has changed a great deal, so he doesn't know if he would advise young faculty to follow the old structure, the one that he followed because the world is so much different now.

00:46.56 – 00:53.04 Mr. Zuccarello reflects on the future of Marist College, and the direction he feels it will go in. He feels that the college should move in the direction of what will make money for them, what will bring in the most tuition, even if it means distance learning, and that they should support and promote on campus programs that are popular and attract a lot of students. He is also very concerned for the heritage and the history of the founding of the college, and he hopes that the board will find some way to guarantee that a Marist presence is always around in the school. Before concluding the interview he also addresses the relationship between the lay faculty and the Marist Brothers, which started out very collaborative and collegial, but he does feel there was a moment in history when there was some tension, because the Marist Brothers saw the lay faculty as a threat to their control of the college, which eventually they were, and Mr. Zuccarello mentions it to reiterate his belief that the Marist Brothers need to bring a presence back to the college.