

2007

Interview of Daniel Burke F.S.C., Ph.D.

Daniel Burke F.S.C., Ph.D.
La Salle University

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Field Notes

Narrator: Brother Daniel Burke, FSC

Interviewer: Christopher A Thompson

Date: April 10-11, 2007 (for written questions -see Appendix A)
 April 14, 2007 (Interview session 1a-1b) 12:30-3:00 p.m.
 April 20, 2007 (interview session 2) 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: **Sesion 1a-1b: Brother Daniel's Office (163 Olney Hall, LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA.)**
Session 2 : Sitting room of Christian Brother retiree Community House (main campus of LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA.)

Language: English

I originally spoke via telephone with Brother Daniel on April 9th, 2007, regarding the interview. I asked if he would like a copy of the 153-odd questions I was prepared to ask him. He said yes. On April 10, 2007, I delivered the questions personally to Brother Daniel. On first meeting, I personally thought Brother Daniel was a no-nonsense business-like person, as he didn't wear the broad smile that I associate with him now and would see in our other meetings. On April 11, 2007 I received them from brother Daniel with the answers filled in (see Appendix a,) I thought nothing of the written answers, and scheduled the interview for April 12th, 2007.

April 12th 2007, Brother Daniel and I met at his office. 163 Olney Hall is a typical office that a professor would have: small, neat, clean and full of books. Brother Daniel sat at his Desk in his usual chair while I the interviewer sat at a chair to the left side of his desk, facing him. Upon entering, Brother Daniel immediately started to discuss his parents and family with me, producing copious quantities of pictures that added greatly to the discussion. Unfortunately, it was not recorded, as I, the interviewer, was waiting for a break in the action to turn on my recorder and begin the formal introductions. I think Brother Daniel did not know that this was going to be a recorded Oral Life history Interview. When I finally got to the Formal Introduction (Session 1a 14:26,) I had recorded some of his talk, but only fourteen minutes of it where he discusses his Ph.D. dissertation and his work and input in the *Catholic Commission*. (See session 1a for more regarding the *Catholic Commission*.)

When I proceeded to begin the formal interview, (Session 1b), I sensed that Brother Daniel was taken aback by my asking the same questions that he already answered, so I was forced to improvise a little on my questions. You will see this improvisation when you look at Brother Daniel Written answers to my original questions

(Appendix A,) my initial interview question (Appendix B) and what was actually asked during the interviews.

Session 2 took place on Friday April 20, 2007 at 5:00 in the sitting room of the Christain Brothers retiree Community House on LaSalle's Main Campus. The Community house is a Greek-Revival/Federalist type building and the sitting room is to the left off the main entry. The Sitting room is full of couches, and is and would be a nice quiet reading room. We both took our positions in armchairs facing each other with a table in the middle (where I strategically placed my digital recorder.) The Second interview, in this interviewer's opinion, did not go as well as session 1b, but all three interviews are full of useful information on the Christain Brotherhood, LaSalle, and Brother Daniel Burke Himself. Brother Daniel Burke revealed himself to be a very nice well mannered person, with a wicked sense of humor (pardon the interviewer's laughs throughout the composition,) and a style and ease of leadership that is surely missed in today academia. Except for the minor difficulties remembering name and places, the interviews went well. After the final interview I was invited to have dinner with the retired brother at the Community House, it was a splendid affair with a stuffed crab and shrimp crochets and broccoli main course, with macaroni and Cheese, a Ceasar salad, fresh bread and coffee, tea, and assorted soft drinks. Desert was fruit and sweeties from the Cafeteria bakery. All the Brothers present revealed them selves to be warm, inviting and all around friendly, highly intelligent gentleman.

Christoher A. Thompson LaSalle University May, 1, 2007