

**Interview of Br. Gerry Molyneaux  
By Megan M. Crowe  
Philadelphia  
March 1, 2012**

Audio file 1 Br. Gerry Molyneaux: March 1, 2012

M. Crowe: Hello, this is Megan Crowe. It is March 1<sup>st</sup> around 2 p.m. in LaSalle University Communication Center room 221.<sup>1</sup> We'll be conducting an oral history interview with Br. Gerry Molyneaux. Do I have your permission to conduct this interview?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, you do.

M. Crowe: Could you please state your name?

Br. Molyneaux : Gerard Molyneaux

M. Crowe: When were you born?

Br. Molyneaux: February 23, 1935

M. Crowe: And where were you born?

Br. Molyneaux: Upper Darby, Pennsylvania<sup>2</sup>

M. Crowe: How long did you live in this location?

**[00:00:36]**

Audio file 2 Br. Gerry Molyneaux<sup>3</sup>

**[00:00:00]**

M. Crowe: And how long did you live in Upper Darby?

Br. Molyneaux: About seven years and we moved to Springfield, we moved around a lot. Springfield for three years and Lansdowne then back to Springfield-

M. Crowe: Do you know why you moved a lot as a family?

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<sup>1</sup> See campus map. Index 1 building 65.

<sup>2</sup> Upper Darby Township borders Philadelphia to the West and is a part of Delaware County. Thomas J. DiFilippo, "The History and Development of Upper Darby Township- Second Edition." Upper Darby Historical Association. Accessed April 24, 2012. <http://www.udhistory.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Recording was paused to shut the office door. The restarting of the audio player created two separate files.

[00:00:23]

Br. Molyneaux: Well, we rented houses. So, that's how it happened- And my parents would decide that this house was a better deal and then move and-

M. Crowe: Do you know why your parents choose to rent over own? Was it economical?

Br. Molyneaux: I have no idea. I don't know but they always did. My mother never bought a house- I think, maybe I'm wrong. We did buy a house in Lansdowne. We owned that house. Then we moved to Springfield when I was about and we started renting again- Kept renting.

M. Crowe: That's interesting to find out. The different economical concepts too-<sup>4</sup>

Br. Molyneaux: At 17 years old, I was not really up on it.

M. Crowe: I don't think at 17 I paid attention to that. Would you categorize where you grew up, as in city, suburbs, country?

Br. Molyneaux: Suburbs.

M. Crowe: What was your neighborhood like?

Br. Molyneaux: Which one?

M. Crowe: Where you're- the first about seven years. You said, in Springfield?

Br. Molyneaux: When I was a kid- that was row house, blue collar neighborhood.<sup>5</sup> Springfield was a little bit more out in the suburbs- Further out, I won't call it country but it was still growing a lot. That was a single home. Then we moved to Lansdowne, that was a row house as well. Then we moved back to Springfield that was again a single home. When we got there-- There was a development that was just starting Again, blue collar, middle class, that sort of neighborhood.

M. Crowe: And I guess if you want to just pick one of the houses that you lived in you have the most vivid memories of, what was it like – What was the house like: the structure? I know you mentioned row home?

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<sup>4</sup> "Sheriff Sales." Chester Times, Chester, PA. March 4, 1933. See index for article.

<sup>5</sup> Blue collar refers to working class families, worked for hourly wages usually in manual labor jobs.

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Br. Molyneaux: Well, I'd say the one in Springfield was the one that would become kind of the family house because once we got there- then we stayed, but that was around 1952 and the family stayed there until 1993 or so. So that became a place where I'm most familiar with. Even though after one year I left there and entered the brothers.<sup>6</sup> But that's still kind of what I think of as home.

M. Crowe: I guess we can go through some of your family now and family life. I guess we'll start with your grandparents' generation and then work our way down.

Br. Molyneaux: I'd never met any grandparent. They were...by the time, I was the youngest of nine kids and by the time I got around, they were all deceased.<sup>7</sup>

M. Crowe: When you were growing up, did you have anyone to fill that kind of role as a grandparent?

Br. Molyneaux: I've had some aunts and uncles, plenty of them

M. Crowe: And what type of influence did they have on you?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, love and affection. They were good people. I remember one aunt would always come at Christmas. She'd be with the family. She was a maiden aunt so she was always there at Christmas and she was very kind and I think any time anyone of her nieces or nephews made their First Communion, she would always buy the Communion dress or suit, very nice women.

M. Crowe: And you said she stayed in contact with your family through the years?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah.

M. Crowe: We'll move on. And now I'd like to ask you about your parents. So we begin with your father and what was his full name?

Br. Molyneaux: John F. Molyneaux.

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<sup>6</sup> Brothers refer to the De LaSalle Christian Brothers, who would have worked at the high school he attended. Their vocation is geared toward education. "Our Mission." De LaSalle Brothers of Christian Schools. Accessed April 24, 2012, <http://www.brothersvocation.org>

<sup>7</sup> United States Census records from 1900 and 1910 indicate that Kate Molyneaux, Br. Molyneaux grandmother, was widowed between those years. 1900; Census Place: *Manhattan, New York, New York* Roll; 1105; Page; 13A; Enumeration District; 518; FHL microfilm: 1241105., 1910; Census Place: *New Rochelle Ward 4, Westchester, New York*, Roll;T624\_1091 Page; 17B; Enumeration District; 0092 Image: 1069; FHL microfilm: 1375104.

[00:04:17]

- M. Crowe: Where was he born?
- Br. Molyneaux: He was born in- I don't know where he was born. I think in New Rochelle, New York.<sup>8</sup> He lived there-- that's I think he was from.
- M. Crowe: Do you know when he was born?
- Br. Molyneaux: 1891
- M. Crowe: And he was from New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York. How did he come to this area?
- Br. Molyneaux: I think when he was in the Navy. He met my mom and came here, married her and stayed.
- M. Crowe: So you mentioned, he was in Navy but what did he do for a living after he got out of the service?
- Br. Molyneaux: He was a marble mason: marble, granite slate and tile. He was in the marble, granite slate and tile union. That has been in my family for five generations.
- M. Crowe: Did your siblings go into that type of work as well?
- Br. Molyneaux: Yes, one of my brothers did and his nephew did- But his son did and his son did.
- M. Crowe: Very generational. How old was your father when he passed?
- Br. Molyneaux: He was about 80, about 79.<sup>9</sup>
- M. Crowe: And how would you describe him? Like his personality, what was he like?
- Br. Molyneaux: Rather quiet, self educated, he went to a couple of years to high school. Again, hardworking man raised nine kids. Loving, caring, got us through the Depression, with nine- That wasn't easy.
- M. Crowe: Do you remember him stressing any certain values in the household, in the family?

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<sup>8</sup> New Rochelle is located about a 115 miles north of Philadelphia. <http://www.newrochelleny.com/>

<sup>9</sup> The Social Security Death Index indicates that John F Molyneaux passed away in March of 1970. Social Security Death Index, Number 173-05-1400; Issue State: *Pennsylvania*; Issue Date: *Before 1951*.

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Br. Molyneaux: He wanted us to study hard. He wanted us to work. He didn't wanted us sitting around-- He checked our report cards and wanted us to do well; but that was about it. He wasn't somebody that would hover over, make you study or something like that. He was very concerned when I entered the Brothers.<sup>10</sup> He didn't know whether it was a good idea or not. I don't think he did at that time. He got kind of used to it after a while.

M. Crowe: Do you know why he had those reservations?

Br. Molyneaux: I think he had some bad experience with Brothers, not Christian Brothers. But some other Brothers when he was growing up-hitting kids a lot- They were very, very strict and he thought unfair- so maybe that was on his mind. Then I had an older brother who went to the seminary for a while and that didn't work out.<sup>11</sup> So there were some red flags, I guess. I was not- what do you call, a model student or something like that. On the other hand, I think he had ambitions for me. He knew I was fairly smart and could do different things. So I guess that was part of it.

M. Crowe: Can we talk about your mother now?

Br. Molyneaux: Of course.

M. Crowe: Kind of run through the same thing- What was her full name?

Br. Molyneaux: Anne Kelley, Anne A-N-N-E Kelley, K-E-L-L-E-Y. Anne Elizabeth Kelley.

M. Crowe: And you mentioned before she was from this area. Was she in Philadelphia?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, she was a native of South Philly.<sup>12</sup>

M. Crowe: When was she born?

Br. Molyneaux: 1900

M. Crowe: And did she take an occupation?

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<sup>10</sup> He is referring to the Christian Brothers De LaSalle.

<sup>11</sup> Seminaries are theological colleges where Roman Catholic priests are prepared for their vocation.

<sup>12</sup> South Philadelphia was a blue collar immigrant neighborhood in the early twentieth century.

**[00:08:19]**

Br. Molyneaux: No, she tried one. She tried a couple of times during the war and it was a fiasco. I think she lasted about three days. She thought she could help the war effort or something, just couldn't do it. So she came back to the nest in a hurry.<sup>13</sup>

M. Crowe: Did she have any defining characteristics or certain personality traits that were striking?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, actually she was a good Catholic mom. She was the best sense to that word. She was really hardworking. If you think about it- Somehow raising nine kids- I was born in 1935, that's Depression dead on. And I remember asking her one time, I was doing something like this interview. I said to her, "What was the Depression like?" and she just shook her head and said, "Long, it just went on and on and on." So here was a woman who was doing laundry for nine kids, feeding them, taking care of them- Pretty demanding, you know. She had a couple of years of high school education. Sort of like that.

M. Crowe: So you mentioned would she be this figure that really raised you guys as your father was out?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, my mom and my dad.

M. Crowe: Yeah, traditional family roles.

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, I was lucky that way. I come home at the end of school and mom would be there. Pop would get home for dinner, every night. That was very regular.

M. Crowe: Now did she have a different influence in your life than your father? As you described before, he had some concerns with you going in the seminary- was there anything- or going to the Brothers. Was it anything like that for your mother?

Br. Molyneaux: I think there were some reservations there but not as strong. I think she was more willing to let me go ahead. Although, I remember hearing the day I left for the Brothers- I was a kid, I didn't put two and two together. My sister suddenly stayed home from work to be with my mom. And I thought that's odd- well I didn't know till 12 years later that she stayed home to be with my mom because she

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<sup>13</sup> Elaine Tyler May, in her research of American families during the early and mid twentieth century, states that during WWII, married women for the first time were encourage to enter the workforce as a part of their patriotic duty as well as necessity to meet a shortage of labor during the war. Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*. (Basic Books: New York, 2008), 58-89

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knew how upset my mom would be when the baby of the family left. So there were a lot of tears shed on that occasion- but it worked out very well.

M. Crowe: Then we'll just talk a little bit about your siblings. You mentioned you had nine. Could you talk a little bit about it?

Br. Molyneaux: I have four brothers and four sisters. Two of my brothers are deceased. My sisters are all around; two of my brothers are alive.

M. Crowe: Do you have any memories of growing up in the household with them? What was that dynamic like between siblings?

Br. Molyneaux: It's a big family – you sit nine people, eleven people around the table and you got a lot of interaction going. As the youngest I didn't have a lot of say. Although they seemed to accept me pretty well- You know, it's one of the things- I was closer- I was pretty close to my younger brothers who were two years older than me- One by three years and one by five years- Like the one with the senior in high school when I went there and he kind of shepherded me through it. In the summer, we would work on- We would go down to the shore and we worked down there for the summer. He was in charge of me when I was a junior in high school. He was a junior here.<sup>14</sup> So, we got pretty close and then my other brother, Jim and I, I think we waited a little bit longer but grew very close over the years. The two of them were really big. My sisters were always there and it was a different kind of relationship.

M. Crowe: Did the other siblings all get married and what did they end up- What type occupations did they go into?

Br. Molyneaux: My two brothers that died did not get married. The two brothers who are alive did; of my four sisters, three got married, one did not.

M. Crowe: Do you know why some chose to remain unmarried? Just a life choice?

Br. Molyneaux: Just the way it is. I don't know.

M. Crowe: The next thing, we can go into- A little bit about your childhood and growing up. Do you remember like- What's your first memory as a child?

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<sup>14</sup> LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA

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Br. Molyneaux: Oh my gosh! I hadn't- I'll throw one out. I remember telling people about this, Christmas time. I remember when I was a little kid lying at the top of the steps and looking down. I could hear my father working on some toy, a sled or something like that. I remember he would yell, "You better get back in bed up there or I'm going to come up there and put you back in bed." And so I would run back to bed and I'd sneak out again. My father would be wailing away at this- But then I walked down the next morning, there was a big red wagon. Again- when- you don't appreciate when you're seven or six years old whatever it was. You think back and say, "How the hell did they ever afford that?" That's a memory.

I remember getting hit by a car as a kid, knocked down and taken to the hospital. Just ran out in the street. Whack! I was very lucky. That's another kind of memory.

M. Crowe: What types of things did you play or activities you would do as a child?

Br. Molyneaux: Kid games, hide-and-see, and tag- As I got older, started playing baseball and football and stuff - basketball- all those things. Going to the movies even then- Even when I was seven- As you look around the room, you see I teach movies.<sup>15</sup> And at seven, I was pretty serious about movies. There were weekends where the deal was my mom would say, "Well, you can go Saturday or Sunday?" and I'd say Saturday!" Then Sunday, will come around, "c'mon mom", and you know, most of the time it worked.

M. Crowe: What do you think made you so interested in movies at such a young age?

Br. Molyneaux: No idea, I just got hooked. I'll tell you one thing, it might have had an influence was that everybody went. I mean, there wasn't television and stuff like that. This was the entertainment. You have radio but the entertainment was go to the movies. The movies provided fodder for playing games later on. So you'd be the good guys, we'll be the bad guys; I'd be this guy, just what we saw in the movies. We would act out movie stuff.  
So it was kind of pervasive thing, if you missed the serial on Saturday. You were kind of out of the loop. That was a very important thing.

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<sup>15</sup> Movie paraphernalia decorates Br. Molyneaux's office reflecting his continued interest and passion for movies.

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M. Crowe: I know you had you mentioned that you went down the shore with your brother? Is that the type of family outings and vacations- you used to go on?

Br. Molyneaux: This wasn't an outing. This was work. I was a junior in high school. I've finished junior year in high school and didn't have a great performance. My mom was kind of upset with my grades and my brother, Joe, stepped in and said, "You give him to me, I'll take him down the shore. And I will make him work. I'm going to make him really tow the line." And my mom bought it. So my brother got me out of the house. Thank God, down to the shore. Where I worked pretty hard- Bus boy and doing dishes and stuff like that- It worked out pretty well. It's a pretty good summer down in Ocean City.<sup>16</sup> We wound up working at a little restaurant called Orsady's. I was a bus boy and my brother parked the cars. We did very well. He came back to LaSalle for his senior year and I went back to high school for my senior year. But ironically, it turned out he was right. I mean, I did have to become responsible down there that summer. I did have to get up, did have to get the job done too. It was pretty deal.

Megan: The next thing we can do is- what type of role do religion play in your family?

Br. Molyneaux: Big, Big time.

M. Crowe: Could you talk more about that or describe?

Br. Molyneaux: Sure. We were very Catholic family. When you look around the house, there were crucifixes, statues- We all went to Catholic grade school. Priests would come in to the house. They were very welcome. They'd come for dinner- all kinds of connections. I'd seen my mom ironing or something like that and you could see her lips moving. She was praying. I remember my dad seeing him at his bedside he'd be saying his night prayers and in the morning, saying a prayer before he went off to work. So, it was a very Catholic environment.

M. Crowe: And I guess the next thing, we'll just talk a little bit. We'll talk about your neighbors, was your family close with your neighbors? I know you had ties with the church and priests but-

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<sup>16</sup> Ocean City is located on the Southeastern coast of New Jersey and is often a popular vacation destination for Philadelphia families in the summer time.

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Br. Molyneaux: Yeah I'd say- We had very good relationships with the neighbors. I'd say in the first neighborhood, we were probably the very closest. The neighbor connection that lasted a long while- We moved out to Springfield, they were okay, pretty good. In Lansdowne, they were okay, then we moved back to Springfield, and then they were very good again. We knew people to the right and to the left and the people in the houses beyond those. So there were good relationships with neighbors. We would go over their house; they would come over our house- so they were good. When I was growing up, the- It was a very- Probably with the least economically advantaged was the neighborhood. Where I grew up until I was seven. There I thought the neighbors were very close, very helpful and very concerned about each other. If somebody was sick, some of the other neighbors would send up some food or something like that – that was a good neighborhood who cared about each other.

M. Crowe: Why do you think it was that way?

Br. Molyneaux: I think maybe it was the Depression; they had to help each other.<sup>17</sup> I think that was a bit part of it. Everybody was struggling together and developed a caring attitude.

M. Crowe: And then just really quick, one more question about your neighborhood. -That you grew up in- Do you think that there were identifiable different classes where you grew up? Or was that something you were aware of as a child?

Br. Molyneaux: The classes -It wasn't economic classes. It was religious classes: there were Protestant kids, Catholic kids, Jewish kids- That was the only- I don't think there were any- There were people that had cars, that was another division. But the neighborhood, there were- I heard stories for the first time the other day and as it turned out- I always thought, my mom was going to go shopping the day I was born and it got disrupted. But what actually happened was- She had pneumonia and she couldn't go out. There was a huge blizzard going on. So, somebody ran down the street to the corner grocery store, the Grossman's, Jewish family, because their son had just become a doctor. The doctor got his bag, came up the hill and delivered me. I was his first baby. But they were so worried about my mom with pneumonia that they put me in some wicker basket

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<sup>17</sup> The Depression in the 1930s was particularly hard on working class neighborhoods, whose families were large and relied on one income. Neighbors were interdependent on one another in these working class neighborhoods. Margaret Tinkcom, "Depression and War: 1929-1946" in *Philadelphia: A Three Hundred Year History*. (Norton & Company: New York, 1982), 601-649

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or something and forgot about me for about two to three days- I don't know if it was quite that long but that was the story. But I never knew why- My aunt Margaret, whom I said, used to come every Christmas. She said, "I forgot about you," because my mom was in pretty serious shape. My sister was telling me the other day how all my sisters would run around the neighbors and say, "Oh, we have a new baby boy!" They were very excited. So I forgot what your question was.

M. Crowe: About the different classes.

Br. Molyneaux: Well, yeah the different classes- but after that, the Grossman family- Anytime there was- When I get sick, they would send up some ice cream because I was the first baby delivered by their son. Their son's name's Morris. For a while there was a rumor that my middle name was Morris but that was a passing thought I think.

M. Crowe: The next thing we can do is move on to school. You said you went to a Catholic elementary school? Which one?

Br. Molyneaux: I went to four. I went to St. Lawrence, St. Francis, St. Philomena. Just those three. Again, they were Catholic schools and nuns were in charge. I think maybe once or twice they would bring in some woman to do public speaking but it was all nuns that run the schools. One of the schools at Springfield was a little farther out than most. It was suburb but it was close to rural. At that school you would do first and second grade were one room; third and fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth- and it was very small. I think in my brother's graduation class in eighth grade, there were seven boys and seven girls. It was a small school. St. Philomena is ahead. Regular grades- that was a little bigger.<sup>18</sup> That's where I graduated from grade school out in Lansdowne.

M. Crowe: Do you have any striking experiences from elementary school that you think helped shaped you as you went into high school? Or anything that interests you- Any particular about the classrooms that you remember?

Br. Molyneaux: I remember one time I got a report card. I guess I was in third grade. The pastor in those days would come over and give out the report cards. I had made some sort of stupendous jump from 70 to 90 on the report card. He was really- He couldn't get over it. I just

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<sup>18</sup> St Philomena is an Archdiocesan parochial school located on 41 E. Baltimore Ave in Lansdowne, PA. It was founded in 1898. <http://home.catholicweb.com/stphilomenapa/index.cfm>

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remember- It dawned on me. I might have a brain cell or two. It was kind of enlightening. I did pretty well in grade school. But it was constant shuffling around. It was from one to the other. I was constantly making new friends and stuff. I guess there were kids in first school, St. Lawrence that I stayed closest to.

M. Crowe: Why do you think that was?

Br. Molyneaux: I don't know, maybe because we just started out together, stayed together- Even when we were in high school, they were my closest friends.

M. Crowe: Did they go to the same high school as you?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah.

M. Crowe: We can move on to high school. What high school did you attend?

Br. Molyneaux: West Catholic. It was on the chopping block, with a lot of other high schools all around here. But supposedly it's back, we'll see.<sup>19</sup> It was a big school about 2500 students, all guys.

M. Crowe: Oh, it was all boys.

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, taught by the Christian Brothers, kind of a neat school. You were asking about diversity, here's there more of it – kids from the suburbs, kids from the city, kids from way up from the suburbs in Phoenixville come to school there. I think maybe there were two black kids in the whole school at the time, maybe three – different kind of high school.

M. Crowe: What were the classrooms like, your academics, your curricula?

Br. Molyneaux: It was pretty much standard high school stuff and I got to a point where I could avoid science if I took Latin. So I took Latin. The usual stuff- So a little bit of foreign language, four years of English, four years of Math. It was a rather small class. It was about forty. Towards the end- I got to choose the Latin stuff- You got put into a certain class and pretty intelligent with people in that class. It was also a kind of a signal that if we were taking Latin in those years, you were bound for the seminary or something. A lot of guys- I think in my senior homeroom of forty, there were eight guys that went to the seminary and eight that went to the Brothers.

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<sup>19</sup> In 2012 the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced they would be closing 6 area high schools, West Catholic was on that list. "Archdiocesan School Closings/Mergers" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 6, 2012.

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It was a pretty smart group of people. They were really bright guys.

I didn't realize the kind of education I was getting until I woke up one- After I graduated from high school, some said, "Did you take the college board, yet?" And I said, "No." "You better if you want to go to college." I said, "Okay." So I went down to Penn, took them. They said, "Where are you applying?" And I said, "LaSalle, Penn, Penn State," and I got into all three.<sup>20</sup>

I was surprised- I mean Penn even at that time was still hard to get into.<sup>21</sup> All of a sudden I found out I got in there, I was surprised. So I think the education we got there was pretty good if I did that well. I wasn't, by a long shot, the smartest guy in my homeroom. They were smart; really smart people and eventually life proved how smart they were. They were pretty- One is that guy in the picture over there, Peter Boyle.<sup>22</sup> We were in classes together for two years, very talented guy. Another friend of ours became kind of a jazz expert or Swedish jazz. All kinds of bright boys in that room-

M. Crowe: Did you have any particular teachers that had an impact? Or really influenced you?

Br. Molyneaux: Sure. One of them became the President of LaSalle; his name is Brother Daniel Burke.<sup>23</sup> He was my homeroom teacher when I was a freshman and a big influence. So did some of the other Brothers there. Our half an hour is coming to a close.

M. Crowe: So I guess we'll stop here for now and then we can pick up at a later date. Thank you for your time.

[00:29:54] End of Audio

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<sup>20</sup> LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pa; Pennsylvania State College, State College, PA; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

<sup>21</sup> University of Pennsylvania is an Ivy League school and has considerably more difficult requirements for acceptance than state and private schools.

<sup>22</sup> Peter Boyle was an actor most known for playing Young Frankenstein and the father on *Everybody Loves Raymond*. He passed away in 2006. <http://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/peter-boyle/bio/>

<sup>23</sup> Br. Daniel Burke served as President of LaSalle University from 1969-1976. He currently serves as Director of LaSalle's Art Museum. <http://www.lasalle.edu/president/index>

Audio File 2: March 13, 2012

[00:00:00]

M. Crowe: Hello, it's March 13<sup>th</sup>, this is Megan Crowe, I'm continuing an oral history interview with Br. Gerry Molyneaux. Do I have your permission to conduct this interview?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, you do.

M. Crowe: So for today's session, we're going to talk about- we can start with leisure time. That's defined as anything outside of employment. The time period we're starting out would be late adolescence or early adulthood. What are some of the things that you like to do outside of school or work?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, when I was a kid, I always liked sports. It's a great time growing up in Philly. I was a manager of the track team. I was a cheerleader for the basketball and football. I ran a little bit, played intramural this and that, used to usher at the University of Pennsylvania football games. That was great because at that time, they were real power. Franklin- Are you from Philadelphia?

M. Crowe: Yes, I am.

Br. Molyneaux: Do you know Franklin Field?<sup>24</sup>

M. Crowe: I ran there a few times, yeah.

Br. Molyneaux: Really? I'll get back to that in a second. So at that time when I was growing up, that stadium held 70,000 people. Penn was bringing in some of the best teams in the country: Notre Dame and Michigan and all those. Much more important than the Eagles- It was Penn football. So there was that. Then when I was growing up, there was also the basketball games- Again, much better than the pros- There was Convention Hall and at convention hall La Salle, St. Joseph's and Temple would play double-headers. Then down the street, at the Palestra- Penn and Villanova would play double-headers.<sup>25</sup> And they'd both be packed places. It was really neat atmosphere. Then there were also the Penn Relays which I'd gone to since I was- Since 1949- Just about every year that I am in Philadelphia, I really try to get there. My brother and I now every year, that's our moment together. Every other time, during the year, there are other people around. But that's the time; we just go

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<sup>24</sup> Franklin Field is the Football and Track arena at the University of Pennsylvania.

<sup>25</sup> The Palestra is located on University of Pennsylvania's campus, and is sometimes referred to as the Cathedral of College Basketball. <http://www.pennathletics.com>

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to the Relays, just the two of us. It's a lot of fun. It will be great this year because it's an Olympic year. So that always makes a kind of special year for the Penn Relays.<sup>26</sup> They've been drawing huge crowds, especially when they bring in the professionals.

M. Crowe: Yeah, the relays- it's amazing-

Br. Molyneaux: It's a very special Philadelphia event. Carnival is a good name for it.

M. Crowe: Yeah.

Br. Molyneaux: What else besides that? Kid music when I was growing up- Not too much travel when I was a kid- I mean, Wildwood or Ocean City was a big deal, sort of like that.

M. Crowe: Did you have a certain place that you and your friends would hang out?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, in high school, there were dances on the weekends, on Friday nights, there was a dance at the St. Francis de Sales.

M. Crowe: 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Springfield?

Br. Molyneaux: Exactly, so that was on Friday nights. Then on Saturday, they would have the dance at my parish, Holy Cross, Springfield. Which is really convenient because it was within walking distance- So I'd go to the dance on Saturday night. They had it in an auditorium. The next day they'd have the place cleaned up. The church- That's where we would have mass too; it was a new parish just growing up. So we hang out there. Movies were still a big thing even- Well, movies have always been a big thing ever since I was seven years old.

In high school, that didn't change; but movies within- interesting time. That was because movies were kind of fighting television. They would offer you like- They pay your fare. They'd pay the trolley fare to the theatre. Just to get you to go to the movies. There was the Tower Theatre. That's still going, 69<sup>th</sup> St. That store-music place and I saw a lot of movies there. There were three theatres in that neighborhood, but there were so many more movie theatres around the area at that time- Movies, sports, reading not so much, that was pretty much it.

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<sup>26</sup> The Penn Relays began in April 1895, and it is currently the longest uninterrupted collegiate track meet in addition to being the largest track crowd in the city. <http://www.thepennrelays.com>

[00:05:04]

M. Crowe: What were your friends like? Can you describe a few of your closest childhood friends and did you stay in contact throughout the years?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, we stayed in contact pretty well. Dick Riley was a good friend. Ray Donohue, Bob Hagan- They were all St. Lawrence guys that I went to first grade with and fourth and fifth grades as well. So we stayed in touch over the years. Then the guys in the track team, I would hang out with them. It was pretty much those guys. The guys that were in the homeroom in high school- Peter Boyle and I, we would get together in some weekends. He was very cosmopolitan. He knew the city and he'd take us around the city, showed us different things- Also from St. Francis de Sales- So those are the guys. From first grade right through high school, we stayed in touch with them and college. Ray went on to become- Well, his whole family was undertakers, Donohue Undertakers. They're very big in out in the Delaware County area. He died about two years ago; Bob Hagan went on to Penn; Dick Riley was St. Joe's grad. Some of the guys in high school joined the Brothers with me. I got to know them a lot over the years. They were in my homeroom, I think I might have mentioned this last time. There were eight guys who went to the seminary and eight guys who went to the Brothers. Pretty good club- One of the guys, who was in there was a fellow by the name of Charlie Kendrickin. Charlie became Dean of the Law School at Suffolk University in Boston. He went here, got his undergraduate here. So he was - We launched a campaign to get him put into the West Catholic Hall of Fame. He's in that- Some of the guys, Chuck Kilbride was a captain at the track team, a year ahead of me but we stay in touch. He was in the Brother's for awhile. A guy by the name of Paul Braceland- He was in my class and went off in high school- He went to the Brothers, I stayed in high school but we've been friends for 50 years or more. So there were a lot of different people like that. I can't think of any of them- Jack Guroy was a guy in my homeroom. He was in the track team. He was in the Brothers. We stayed- He died last year. We were friends for a lot of years in a lot of different ways.

M. Crowe: You got- There's so many connections.

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah.

M. Crowe: That's nice to see everyone moving through. We can kind of go on to talk about your training. Entering into the Christian Brothers-

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Br. Molyneaux:

I feel – It’s a little on the exotic side. I wanted to go into the Brothers when I was a sophomore high school. My parents said ‘no’. I wanted to go when I was in junior in high school. My parents said ‘no’. Senior in high school, my parents said ‘no’. So I said- You have to understand how goofy I was in high school. They said, “Go out and work,” I said, “All right, I’ll go out and work.” So I went out and worked the summer after I got out of high school- I was supposed to be at the B&O train station with a bunch of my classmates to go down and join the Brothers down in Maryland.<sup>27</sup> While they were waiting at the train station, they were- ‘Where’s Gerry Molyneaux?’ I was out in Western Pennsylvania talking with my dad, who’s at the convention out near Buffalo and saying to him, “You know, I really go into this,” and he said, “No, you shouldn’t,” and I said, “I guess I shouldn’t.” I came back and worked that summer and joined the summer. I persisted and finally- The paper box factory was interesting because it was hard work and kind of dangerous. What it was? They printed these cardboard boxes and I had to take them off this printer and stack them. Your hands had to get very used to it because you know how cardboard and cut. Well this is kind of dangerous- I had a thing where they take all these big stacks of cardboard boxes and strap them with thin wires. Like this wide and thick, they were sharp. It was called palletizing. This just holds these things together so they could ship ‘em. I was told much to my dismay that I would never be a palletizer because I could never quite get them to tighten up enough. I put in a lot of extra hours made a lot of money. Probably made more than my dad made that summer because of overtime and stuff like that. They were people- The regular employees would go on vacation I’d be just the utility infielder and fill-in were necessary.

Anyway, after the summer was over, I got laid off at that company and hung around. I worked at the church for a while just cleaning up. October 1<sup>st</sup> or something, a couple of Brothers came out from West Catholic, put me in the car and took me to Annandale, Maryland, novitiate.<sup>28</sup> That’s where I started to become a brother. It was October, by February; I was given the habit of the Brothers and a new name, Brother Richard. In fact, I still get addressed that way by kids I taught back when I was teaching Joe Grabenstein, I was Brother Richard at that time.

So let’s see. There was a year of novitiate. It was very, very strict, no talking, very little talking, up at 5 or so in the chapel and lots

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<sup>27</sup> Ammendale, Maryland

<sup>28</sup> Ammendale Normal Institute, built to house the novitiate and school of the Christian Brothers, a teaching order of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1880, the Christian Brothers purchased this 20-acre property from Admiral Ammen. <http://www.hmdb.org/>

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and lots of praying, lots and lots of studying, spirituality— very, very rigorous kind of year. At the end of the year, then, if you survive that year, you make first vows as well.

Towards the end of the year, the novitiate was on a farm. I was in the middle of a retreat, the last retreat before you make first vows. I was working- Cutting up roots from trees and stuff- Getting them out. I was holding a pair of root shears and I was sitting on the tractor and on the seat of the tractor- The driver was facing this way. There was kind of thing here that you could sit. The wheel was there and I faced backwards. I was holding the root shears and I let go of the handle of the root shears. The handle spun around and closed on my stomach. So it missed the liver by about this much and sent me to Georgetown Hospital for about five days.<sup>29</sup>

This is how religious life was at that time. When I got out of the hospital instead of saying, ‘Good you’re out of the hospital,’ he said, “Good you’re out of the hospital but you still have to do those five days of the retreat. Canon Law says you have to do this retreat.” So I stayed there and did the retreat. On a Sunday morning, made my final vows- They put me on a train up to- What’s that station about half mile up the road here? Wayne Junction. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad dropped me off there. Some Brothers picked me up, took me to Elkins Park where the Brothers had this Scholasticate.<sup>30</sup> The next day, I began college.

It was right as people were- Servicemen, who were returning from Korea- The classes were packed jammed. There would be like 60 people in a class and the way they’re scheduled- It was set it up, I had six hours a week of history, six hours a week of economics, three of English and other stuff. It was hell of introduction to college. Economics was- Fortunately I got through it, but it was close. So that was my start in college.

M. Crowe: Do you remember noticing anything different between your daily rituals in life and regular college kids who were-

Br. Molyneaux: Everything. You weren’t allowed to talk to them. They would corrupt us. Even my cousins were there at the time. I could say- I could be civil. I could say hello to them. We weren’t allowed to hang out and talk. You have to just go about being a Brother. You were supposed to be quiet. Not talking to anybody- As I said, ‘it’s strict.’ The novitiate are strict in college too. You can talk in class and naturally- But outside the class, it was quiet. I was faced by a

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<sup>29</sup> Georgetown University Hospital is located about twenty miles away from Ammendale.

<sup>30</sup> Scholasticate is defined as a college-level school of general study for preparing for membership in a Roman Catholic religious order. <http://www.merriam-webster.com>

[00:15:31]

choice there. Since I got there in February, it meant that I could do college and an M.A. in 2 ½ years or 3 ½ years.

M. Crowe: All of- A B.A and M.A<sup>31</sup>

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, so I chose to do it in 2 ½ years. Some semesters I was taking like 28 hours.

M. Crowe: That is a lot. (laughing)

Br. Molyneaux: It was a lot. So, it really taught me time management. When I went to the library- I'd put my hands over my head, start reading and taking notes, got through it. Squeezed in the last credit of college by practice teaching while I was doing my M.A. studies in Theology. I was practice teaching at La Salle high school which at that time was in Wister Hall.<sup>32</sup> The top two floors, that was La Salle high school. That's where I did my practice teaching. So by spring of 19- I got there in January '55. By the spring of '58 had finished my B.A. They couldn't give me two degrees in the same year so they held the M.A. the following year.

M. Crowe: And what was your B.A. officially in Theology?

Br. Molyneaux: English for the B.A. and Theology for the M.A.

M. Crowe: After you were done in your study in college, what was your first assignment? I'm not sure how it's worded.

Br. Molyneaux: First assignment was at St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C. It was a prep school, private school, military school.

M. Crowe: Was it all boys?

Br. Molyneaux: All boys, yeah. I went there. When I got there, they were in the middle of building. They were just beginning to build a new school. That was in process. That whole year we were selling chances and going around to the houses and begging parents to give more money. At the end of the year they said, "You're going to Cumberland, Maryland."<sup>33</sup> I was CRUSHED because there was just a new school, I watched going up. I was eager and ready. They

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<sup>31</sup> Degrees B.A. and M.A. refer to Bachelor of the Arts and Master of the Arts, respectively.

<sup>32</sup> See Map of LaSalle Campus, Index 1; building 45.

<sup>33</sup> Cumberland is a city located in the Western part of Maryland in Allegany County.  
<http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us>

[00:18:11]

said, “Go west, young man.” So with broke heart, I headed west to Cumberland, Maryland. Cumberland, Maryland was a little town of about 40,000 or so, out in the mountains. It was a really small school about 200 kids.

M. Crowe: For a high school?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, all boys. The tuition was dirt cheap, incredibly cheap- Because it was so small, you had to teach and do everything. Like teach, say sophomore religion- One group of kids I had four times a day, for Religion, Latin, English and study period. We drove each other nuts that first year. But after that, we got along fine. It took a while but we got used to each other. I’ll be back at their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in August. They broke me in- In fact, this guy was in the class- This guy wrote this book, he was in that class. His name is John Sitter.<sup>34</sup> He went on to become the Chair of the English Department of Notre Dame. I met him last summer. He’ll be back there. So it was a small school. I had to teach a lot. There was no heat in the Brother’s House, rarely heat in school. You’d be teaching and kids would be sitting in there in gloves and coat and hats. That was a pretty primitive place. In addition to teaching I also had to do intramurals, the baseball team, the school paper – and that sort of stuff.

M. Crowe: Yeah, the extra-curriculars.

Br. Molyneaux: All that stuff. So it kept you busy.

M. Crowe: Yeah.

Br. Molyneaux: Really. It was a good school, it was an amazing school. What we were able to do and was out very much- Nothing fancy. Certainly a far craft from that beautiful new school that I left- Was this school they are dealing with basic tools. It was worth it.

M. Crowe: Yes, and there you taught Br. Grabenstein?

Br. Molyneaux: I did. I taught him and Br. Ed Sheehy.<sup>35</sup>

M. Crowe: Okay.

Br. Molyneaux: He’s in your History Department.

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<sup>34</sup> Br. Molyneaux is referring to *Literary Loneliness in Mid-Eighteenth-Century England*.

<sup>35</sup> Br. Ed Sheehy is a military historian in LaSalle University’s History department. [www.lasalle.edu](http://www.lasalle.edu)

[00:20:29]

M. Crowe: Yes.

Br. Molyneaux: Yah, I taught them.

M. Crowe: Is it funny to run back into them here?

Br. Molyneaux: Oh, yah. We all talk about Cumberland a lot. He was class of '63 so he keeps me up with that class. They're having their celebration next year. I will be lined up for that one.

M. Crowe: After Cumberland, Maryland, what was your next-

Br. Molyneaux: Pittsburgh next stop. When I was in Cumberland, Maryland- Because I was the head of the newspaper, moderated the newspaper- The Wall Street Journal decided one way to improve journalism in United States was to improve the level of journalism at the high school level. So the Institute of Scholars spent summer. They said, "Apply and pick the school that you want to go to study journalism." I looked around and sure enough Notre Dame had a program. I had always wanted to go to Notre Dame. I went there on the scholarship to study journalism and then went back the next several summers and got my degree in English, my M.A. After I got that the head of the journalism department said, "Look, you've been"- Did I tell you this before?

M. Crowe: No.

Br. Molyneaux: He said, "You've been working really hard on this getting the degree. Come back next summer and just relax. Take any course you want. I'll give you my card go into Chicago, enjoy." The course I've picked was film.

And I had a very enjoyable summer. It was a lot of fun, but I was hooked on film. Well there's a story that we'll lead into- At the end of that, in '66, I got transferred to Southfield Catholic High School in Pittsburgh. All boys, about a thousand- Real good English department, very energetic, creative people- Good school, nice variety of kids- Rich kid, poor kids mixing together. Smart kids, really bright, I really enjoyed it. When I was there- As I walk in the door they said, "Oh, you're the producer for our close circuit TV station."

Okay. So I did that. That summer I went off to North Western and learned- Really learned about television and came back into the next 2 years continued to that. That was kind of a shattering experience because at that time in 1968. We lost a ton of Christian

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brothers. They've left and that say the community that I was living in there might have been 30 brothers and I would say about 10 of them left. It was an excruciating year of people deciding what they wanted do with their lives, this was '67, '68.

M. Crowe: Do you know why that year would spark something?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, there was a lot going on at that time. It was just an anti-war thing was starting Civil Rights was big. The Pope came out; there was the Vatican 2 we were still getting the throws of that. The Pope came out with saying, "You can't practice birth control." That was a huge turn off for scores of Catholics including Brothers who just said 'The hell with the Church' and marched away. So it was really a traumatic and painful year. Maybe the most painful year of my life was that year. Constant discussions about what you're going to do. You going to stay? You going to go? Why you're staying? Why you're going? It was really tough. So the next year I came back tried graduate school. Applied to University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin- Went down to Illinois, I was going to be in English department there. They offered me teaching-assistantship. Wisconsin didn't offer me a teaching-assistantship but they did offer me a job as head of Ogg Hall.

M. Crowe: Odd hall?

Br. Molyneaux: It was a resident Hall O-G-G twin towers, 12 stories, and all men. It was eye opening. It was tough enough just dealing with all guys cause they have a thing at the time called parietal hours.

M. Crowe: What was parietal hours?

Br. Molyneaux: Parietal hours meant that women could only be in the dorms for certain hours and they had to be out. So it's sort of like cat and mouse all the time. Catching people and saying, "Get out!" That became small potatoes as the year went on however because this was a year of violent antiwar, anti-Vietnam war protest. So the little charades are going on about parietals, by April of that year the dorm was surrounded by protesting students. Cops were trying to get into the hall with clubs. They had tear gas masks on. They threw tear gas into the hall. I remember kicking it and kicking it out the door, then running to a sink and just retching. The students were rioting. I remember one kid that I knew- This is a funny story. There was a kid who came down from up North Wisconsin, a farm boy. We got talking early on. We got to know each other and like each other.

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So in the midst of this thing- He comes running in, there are trucks overturned outside and fires going on- They had told me- I don't know why the hell I did it- They said, "You and another RA, you go up to the roof and see if there is any people up on the roof throwing stuff at the police." The other guy and I went up to the roof, looked around the roof. There were helicopters overhead and I said, "Let's get the hell out of here."

So we got the hell out of there, went back down. Kids at this point had set up big tubs of water because the tear gas was affecting people's eyes. They'd run outside and do nutty things. They run in and use this water to get their tear gas out. There's one kid comes running in- I don't know why we did it- The kid I was talking about was the farm boy- We shook hands, the left hand. I said, "How you're doing?" He said "Fine." I went like this.<sup>36</sup> My hand was covered by gasoline.

He was one of the guys who sent the trucks on fire. This was the same kid who was asking about whether he should join the ROTC in September. By April, he had done 180.

So, I got to complete this story.

M. Crowe: Of course, yeah.

Br. Molyneaux: 1976, I finished all my dissertation. That big black book up there that says Charlie Chaplin.

M. Crowe: City of Lights, yah.

Br. Molyneaux: That's my dissertation. I finished it, am now walking out. I'm now Dr. Molyneaux and a bus stops at the corner. I'm standing there. The bus door opens there's the kid. He said, "I just got back from India now I'm driving a bus." And off he went. The symmetry of it- I really like because he was one of the first kids I got to know. The day I have finished with Wisconsin there he was.

M. Crowe: Yeah, there he was.

Br. Molyneaux: It's certainly it was wrapped up. So while I was at Wisconsin I started out in English. Some friend of mine said, "Walk me up. I wanna talk-I wanna interview this professor in communications." I said, "Ah, I'll go with you." So, we went up. She started interviewing and I started asking more questions than she was asking. I said, "This sounds really like what I wanna do." That's how I got from English to Communications.

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<sup>36</sup> He gestured to giving the boy a hand shake.

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M. Crowe: And at that time were those two fields closely linked?

Br. Molyneaux: No, two different departments. Very different department- I did fine in English. I had been studying English, English, English. I thought how about we try something different. With the communication I could study, speech and rhetoric. I could study mass communication. I could study film. I could study journalism. I think this is where I want to be. So then I got into that and gradually gravitated to the film department. I got interested.

M. Crowe: Was that sparked by your interest on that class at Notre Dame?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, I think so. That was a carryover from Notre Dame, yah. So I TA-ed in film, TA-ed in television production- Then it became time to write the dissertation. I don't know. What do I do? "There's an old Charlie Chaplin movie up in the attic. Why don't you go and take a look at it."<sup>37</sup> So I got it and wrote on Charlie Chaplin.

M. Crowe: Yeah. What about Charlie Chaplin really sparked your interest?

Br. Molyneaux: But it was convenience, it had nothing to do with interest. I hadn't seen Charlie Chaplin films since I was 7 years old. I remember my mom took me to see a film- I didn't- this was years and years later I finally recognized that the film should took me to it's called *Gold Rush*.<sup>38</sup> It is merely the fact that they happened to have this Chaplin film I thought, "Oh, that sounds good." I started working on that and wound up writing a book on it. The book got published later on. Still later on I got to go to Paris to give a lecture on Charlie Chaplin.<sup>39</sup>

M. Crowe: That was in the late 80s?

Br. Molyneaux: That was around 1989. That was great. That was terrific because- What made it fun also- they had it in Sorbonne, a big national University of France.<sup>40</sup> That's where St. John Baptist of La Salle

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<sup>37</sup> He is referring to his dissertation mentor at Wisconsin.

<sup>38</sup> *Gold Rush* was a comedic silent film made by Charlie Chaplin in 1925. <http://www.charliechaplin.com/>

<sup>39</sup> Br. Molyneaux spoke at Charlie Chaplin 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Heather Markwalter, "Communication Department head speaks at Paris Chaplin symposium." *LaSalle Collegian*, April 26, 1989.

<sup>40</sup> Paris Sorbonne University (Paris IV) is the main inheritor of the old Sorbonne, which dates back to the 13th century. It was one of the first universities in the world. <http://www.english.paris-sorbonne.fr/>

**[00:32:19]**

went to college. I was thinking of sitting in this room and giving this talk, the ghost of St. John Baptist of La Salle. It was nice. The article I presented there, they published later on, in a beautiful, beautiful book called *Charlie Chaplin in These Modern Times*. From Wisconsin I went to Lewis University, Lewis College at the time, spent one year there. That's in Joliet, Illinois- After a year there came to La Salle in the English department. They didn't really know what to do with me. They said- They had a film course. The film course was like this- a hundred students met in Olney 100 once a week. They said, "Do that and teach public speaking." As soon as I saw the class of 100, I said, "Well, okay, we'll do this but after the movie is over, you 30 stay, you 30 I'll see you on Tuesday morning, you 30, I'll see you on Thursday." That's how that was- I didn't want to lecture to a hundred people, just wasn't my style. That's how I got started. Then somebody said, "What else can you do?" And I said, "I can do TV production." Then they had a little dinky studio in the basement of Olney. I said, "Okay." The kids were all psyched. "What else? What else?" "Mass media, Introduction to Mass Media," "Oh, c'mon we'll do that," and so gradually it built up from four courses to a minor to major and then the department.

M. Crowe: That's great- I guess we'll stop there for today. Then we'll pick up next time at a later date?

Br. Molyneaux: Okay, Megan,

M. Crowe: Thank you so much for your time.

**[00:33:50] End of Audio**

Audio File 3 March 20, 2012

[00:00:00]

M. Crowe: Hello, this is Megan Crowe, it is March 20<sup>th</sup>, around 3:30 pm, I'm with Brother Molyneaux. We are continuing our oral history interview. Do I have your permission to conduct this interview?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, you do.

M. Crowe: We'll first start off with- We talked about last time you're schooling at Wisconsin, while you were there, you also were a professor at Lewis University?

Br. Molyneaux: No, that's not correct.

Megan: You were finished at Wisconsin in 1972?

Br. Molyneaux: No, when I left Wisconsin in 1972. I had not finished my dissertation. I had two offers of position: one was at Gonzaga University in Spokane and the other was at St. Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

M. Crowe: Why did you choose Lewis University?

Br. Molyneaux: Because they allowed me more time to work on the dissertation.

M. Crowe: How was your experience there?

Br. Molyneaux: I think I did get enough work done on my dissertation. I did teach a couple of classes there. I lived with the Brothers there for a year. I liked Lewis, enjoyed the students. Taught a film course. Also a weekend course for virtually evening students. That was pretty good.

M. Crowe: What were the biggest differences you noticed teaching at the university level? I know you had previous experience in high school.

Br. Molyneaux: Dealing with more mature audience, older kids. Of course, no discipline problems or anything like that- High school stuff. But it's the same kind of- Correcting the papers and explaining of ideas, not a huge gap.

M. Crowe: So then after you completed- Why did you decide to move La Salle?

[00:02:29]

Br. Molyneaux:

La Salle had made me an offer, but I couldn't quite get it because- There was something going on between the administration. The Chair of the English department- They would write letters back and forth. I had no idea what they were talking about. There was some turf battle going on there about, "Was the administration forcing this department to accept this guy?" At one point, I said, "To heck with it," and went out to Lewis.

Meanwhile, a Brother who was here in the Psychology department, Br. Jack Mondero came out to Lewis. Met me and persuaded me- That despite all the nonsense of what's going on, the red tape blah, blah, blah- Once I got here, they would let me do what I wanted to do and he was absolutely correct.

Once I got here and started doing things. The gates opened, there wasn't any problem. But I must say when I first got here; they didn't quite know what to do with me. I think I mentioned this last time. Gave me one film course and one public speaking course then I built up from there.

He persuaded me to come here. He persuaded Br. Joe Burke, who chaired the Psychology department.<sup>41</sup> At that time Br. Mark Ratkus, who was finishing his doctorate at Notre Dame in Economics. So we all came here. Not only came to the university but formed a Brothers Community together. That was the doing of Br. Jack Mondero.

M. Crowe:

Quite the recruiter. What was your first impression of the campus? You attended as a student. Did it change over the years? When you came back?

Br. Molyneaux:

To be honest, I think in first year I was in a total fog. I didn't know what was going on politically or what was going on in the college. I was just really focused on teaching my class. The other stuff- It took me awhile to just get my feet on the ground as a teacher. That's pretty much the way the first year went. I think it went pretty well. The students seemed to like the courses. I got to know a few people. I guess I knew some of the brothers here, not too many of the faculty. But I became pretty good friends with a lot of the English department.

M. Crowe:

When did Communications become an official major at La Salle?

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<sup>41</sup> Br. Burke is currently a professor of Psychology at LaSalle University. [www.lasalle.edu](http://www.lasalle.edu)

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Br. Molyneaux: It was around 1978, it became a major. We had our first graduate. No, we had our first graduate in 1978; it was a major by then.<sup>42</sup> In 1979 we had a class of majors, who graduated in Communication. We were in the English department. It was just within that- By '78 or so, they had made me an Assistant Chair in charge of Communications.

M. Crowe: How did you decide that you wanted to structure Communications? Did you work with the English department? The people who are already working or-

Br. Molyneaux: I think it was- Sid McCloud, who was teaching here at the time, in the English department and Bob Vogel, who's in the Education department and I would get together in an office somewhere and decide, "This might be worth doing." It was just sort of gradually assembling a curriculum, using people that we had, people who were already here. I would borrow Bob to do a course. I would borrow somebody in the old office of Communications, have that person teach Journalism course. Have somebody else to do an interpersonal course. That's how we got it moving. Just using the resources that we had- We had a little dinky TV studio down in the basement of Olney Hall with little Sony black and white cameras. We made do with that. It wasn't built to have a production class taught in it, but we made it work. We found another room and turned that into radio studio. Just gradually assembled different things and for a while, we'd just had to find places. The TV production studio moved out from the basement of Olney over to a dorm lounge that we converted into a TV studio and control room, St Cassain Residence Hall.<sup>43</sup> Our faculty room in the third floor, the second floor, and the first floor- We were all over the place. The radio room was behind the screen. Have you ever seen 100 in Olney?

M. Crowe: Yes.

Br. Molyneaux: They have a big screen up front. Behind that screen, there's a room. It was originally- I don't want to get too detailed about it but that room 100 was designed for rear screen projection. So the projectors were supposed to be behind the screen. Make it like magic, to just appear. It wasn't really a good idea. We shortly gave up on that. We turned that room into a regular studio.

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<sup>42</sup> At this time the communications department was beginning to take off, with their television and radio studios attracting prospective high school seniors. "The Art of Communicating Grows at LaSalle." *LaSalle, Winter 1978-79*

<sup>43</sup> See Campus Map, Index 1; building 22.

[00:08:18]

We just kept finding little niches and places where we could do our stuff.

M. Crowe: Was it natural then for the Communications department, as you kind of grew and got more people involved, more majors to break from the English department? I think that was in 1985? Correct me if I am wrong.

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, that's correct. We brought on some people. We brought on Richard Goodkoop to teach Broadcasting and Media. We brought on Bill Wine to do some of the film courses and writing courses. Then we started bringing on people to do Public Relations and courses like that.

By 1985, we were in the English department but bigger than the English department. There were more Communications majors than English majors. We also felt at that time that it was time to control our destiny. Rather than working with English, we would step aside and say, "This is where, we as Communications want to go." It was a very amicable separation, no hard feelings. They wished us well and we separated.

M. Crowe: At that point, were you modeling your program- Did you get any ideas from surrounding colleges or other successful Communications departments?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, I was keeping an eye out for different things. I think that's why we added Public Relations pretty early on, why we added an Ethics course pretty early in the going. I had my ears tuned into what was happening, yes.

M. Crowe: Wonderful. Can you talk a little bit about how the Communications department developed after in 1985?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah. We kept- It was pretty democratic department. One- As we put more women, like to process stuff, like to meet and discuss and analyze, plan- Before, with men it was just, "You do it," and I did. As we got bigger, we saw the need for more planning, more integrating of faculty opinion. We worked at that and gradually we were- We became suspicious of our own curriculum and brought in some experts to look at it and decide, "Well, this is okay but you do better if you divided it into tracks." So we divided into Public Relations, Mass Communications, Writing and Film. I think, at that time.

We also saw opportunities to get to do Graduate Programs. This was in the mid- 90s. We started investigating that. Then around

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1990 or so, La Salle bought this property. That you can see here, which was St. Basil's orphanage and school and took over and opened Neumann Hall.<sup>44</sup> That was around 1991. This building had been a school building. La Salle was not sure what to do with it. The Dean walked me down here one day and said, "What would you think of this for Communications? And I said, "This would be just great."

It would pull us together; we wouldn't have to be behind the screen in Olney teaching production over in Cassain, having faculty on three different floors. Everything could come together here. With a little reconfiguring of the rooms, it was a very nice fit. It was ample was enough that we could hold our classes. It was the right move. The Provost and the President had the guts to say, "Okay, you guys, it's all yours." So we revised the place. The TV studio, when we got here was a cafetorium. That's a cafeteria and an auditorium. The auditorium was there and that became a studio.<sup>45</sup> Then the place where they did the cooking became the control room.

So there's even a stage in there that we didn't tear down. It would have been too hard. Who knows, someday we might be teaching theatre anyway. We left the stage in there. Downstairs, we found a room that would be good for a screening room. Another room to do computers, although they came much later. We found a radio studio room. It was a really good fit. It became a better fit. After we got here, I would say within two years, our enrollment had doubled. We'd gone from 200 to 400, because the place was very, very attractive to students.

There was also a case along about that time. Comcast invited LaSalle to take a station on their cable. We took Channel 56. That became another big attraction for students. They would not only produce TV shows for class, but they would be producing them and those shows would reach 300,000 homes. That became an attraction for students, became a very good activity for students, and became a real good way to get students into careers in Broadcasting.

M. Crowe: So the Department has a lot of success with students finding careers in Broadcasting in the area?

Br. Molyneaux: Not just the area. We go out quite a ways. All over from Minneapolis to Texas to Maine, we're-

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<sup>44</sup> He was referring to the location of the Communications Building on Campus. See Campus Map, Index ; building 62.

<sup>45</sup> With his hand he was gesturing, that half of the rectangular room was used for one thing and the other half for another.

[00:14:37

M. Crowe:

That's quite impressive. In addition to like chairing the Communications department, what types of courses were you teaching? Maybe describe the students you taught over the years. You started teaching in 1973 until now. Have you seen a change?

Br. Molyneaux:

Oh yeah, very definitely. I've taught a variety of courses; Mass Media, Film, Public Speaking and mainly those kinds of courses, I did some Graduate Teaching when we had the Graduate Program. I ran the practicum part of that which is sort of the Graduate School version of interning. I ran that for a number of years. I forgot to mention that in 1994, when we moved down here, we also started a Graduate Program here. A few years later, around 2000 was a lot and lot of persuasion involved- I got the faculty to agree to begin a program in Prague.

We started a Graduate Program over there. A few years later began another Graduate Program in Athens. We had programs in three locations. We had Graduate Program here in this building. We had them up in Bucks County. We had them in Prague; we had them in Athens. That was exciting. It was very good for the faculty, sort of able to expand their horizons. I think that it did La Salle a lot good in the sense- You were asking about student body, well now our student body included people from South Africa, Russia, Albania, Greece, Africa, from Japan. All kinds of things were happening. It was not just students were coming here. We were taking our program to them.

Students, who couldn't afford to come to United States to get an American degree, were able to get it in Athens and in Prague.

M. Crowe:

What about those two cities- How are they good fits for your program or how did you choose them?

Br. Molyneaux:

That was pretty tricky. The company we were dealing with had established schools in both those places. So then we just- They would help market the program, provide the classroom space and other administrative things. We would provide the program. We would provide the faculty. We would provide mainly, most importantly the degree.

So we would have some faculty from Prague, half of the faculty from here same things in Athens. That's how it worked out.

M. Crowe:

Did you ever teach courses in Prague or Athens?

[00:17:41]

Br. Molyneaux: No, I didn't. What I did for both Prague and Athens was I ran their practicum programs and I ran the programs. I ran the practicum program in both places for a while, when I was directing the Graduate Programs there. I never taught a regular course in either of those places. I was the Chief Administrator, hiring faculty, making sure that the contracts were signed and so on.

M. Crowe: Amidst of your administrative duties and teaching, I saw that you got some time to write a few biographies. The first one we can talk about is James Stewart, published in 1992. What made you choose Jimmy Stewart?

Br. Molyneaux: It was quite an accident. There was a publisher, who actually asked Bill Wine if he wanted to write a book on somebody. Bill said, "No, I don't particularly," because Bill was into radio and TV at the time, doing film reviews. Bill said to the guy, "I know somebody who might." So the fellow approached me and said, "Would you want to write a book, a biography of somebody?" What they call bio-bibliography. It's about 40 pages of biography then maybe 200 pages of detailing their career, listing every film they made, the credits for it, how it got produced, what kind of profits they made, what kind of awards it got- It's a very painstaking kind of research that goes into it. One of the names that was on the list was Jimmy Stewart. I always liked Jimmy Stewart, so I said, "I'll do one on Jimmy Stewart," and did.<sup>46</sup> I had a year off to do it, went out to Moraga, California, and got the book done.<sup>47</sup>

M. Crowe: I saw you also have one on Gregory Peck, is that the same type of idea?

Br. Molyneaux: Same idea, yeah. Just much, much bigger book- Also a little bit more interesting because I was able to interview Gregory Peck talked to him about it and talked to some of the people that knew him that worked with him. I forgot when that came out. Was it '95 or something?

M. Crowe: I believe 1995.

Br. Molyneaux: I did that when on the run. I didn't have any time off to do that. I just did in summers and on spring breaks and got it done.

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<sup>46</sup> Gerard Molyneaux, *Jimmy Stewart: A Bio-Bibliography*. (Greenwood Press: New York, 1992)

<sup>47</sup> Gerard Molyneaux, *Gregory Peck: A Bio-Bibliography*. (Greenwood Press: Westport, 1995)

[00:20:27]

M. Crowe: I read a newspaper article. It was interviewing you- You said that he only offered you- he agreed to do an hour with you- He was in California, you ended up getting three days?<sup>48</sup>

Br. Molyneaux: That's right.

M. Crowe: Can you describe a little bit how that-

Br. Molyneaux: Somehow, I got his phone number from somebody and wound up- I wrote to him a couple of times and wound up calling him up saying, "Would you agree to an interview for this book that I want to write?" and he said, "I'm so busy, I don't have to time to do this." I said, "Well, just give me an hour, just," He said, "Can you come up here for an hour?" and I said, "Yes, I would come up there for an hour." so he said, "Alright, come up for an hour." I out there for the hour- I'm waiting for Gregory Peck, this idol of mine, the most famous hero in all of film was Gregory Peck, in his role as Atticus Finch. That's the way American Film Institute rated him. I'm waiting and waiting, he comes down. He's on crutches, and it was really astounding. He had hurt his back somehow and was getting around on crutches. We sat down, we talked for a while, and he said, "Well, come back tomorrow and I have 45 cartons of materials down the basement of my house. You can go through them, after you go through them, we'll talk." I went down- I came back the next day, I said, "Greg, it's me," he said, "Gerry, come on in." I went down to the basement. I spent most of the day reading stuff, nobody had access to anywhere but that basement. Then we talked about it. He said, "One more day, you can come back for one more day." I came back for one more day, talked to him again. Then went home and wrote the book.

M. Crowe: Did he like you- I'm not sure if James Stewart was still alive-

Br. Molyneaux: He was alive, he wasn't very sharp. He was getting old.

M. Crowe: And did Gregory Peck read your work?

Br. Molyneaux: He liked some of the parts. He didn't like some of the parts. He disagreed. It's funny, he disagree with them- He would say, "How do you know this?" and I'd give him- I'd say, "Here, here, here," and so, he got a little annoyed. A couple of years later, somebody wrote a book and they did it with him. It was a little too tight. One

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<sup>48</sup> This story first appeared in the Catholic Standard and Times, in an article about his upcoming book on Gregory Peck. Lou Baldwin, "The Film Media is the Message for Gerry Molyneaux" *The Catholic Standard and Times*. July 17, 2003.

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of the criticisms of the book was that it sounded like Gregory Peck wrote it. Rather than somebody who was pretty objective- So I managed to work with him, but I also reserved the right to write, what I thought was accurate. Sometimes we agree, sometimes we didn't; sooner or later, you have to say, "I'm writing this and you're not."

M. Crowe: It's your work.

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah.

M. Crowe: The last one and published in 2000. John-

Br. Molyneaux: John Sayles that was the most fun. Because that's one where I interviewed a lot, a lot of people who knew John Sayles. John Sayles is probably was the foremost independent film maker in the country. He's still a pretty important guy. He never agreed to talk to me. I said, "All right, can you do this? Can you tell everybody else?" He said, "Sure." I said, "Can I send you this note?" He said, "Tell everybody else that I said it's okay to squeal." Anybody that worked with him on a film, I'd say, "Yeah, he's on board." He said, "Go ahead, squeal away." They would talk. I'm trying to think exactly how it went. What the sequence was- As you make contacts with one person, then you parlay that into connecting with other people. You ask them always at the end of the interview, "Is there anybody else you could recommend that I talk to?" They would invariably have some recommendations. I remember- Just trying to think here-<sup>49</sup> I was pretty lucky getting interviews, I'm trying to remember the first guy that called me because it really was a surprise. He's a famous American author. He was very famous for writing books about the American worker. I'd find it here in a second. Studs Terkel, Mr. Chicago. He called up one day out of the blue and said, "I got your call, you want to talk about the movie?" I said, "I sure do." I started talking to him. Then I would send a word out, I just talk to Studs Terkel, "Would you be willing to talk?" The next time the phone rang, I picked it up. I heard his voice say, "I understand you like to talk about John Sayles and filmmaking?" I said, "I would," and that voice belonged to James Earle Jones. So that was kind of exciting. I was just talking to big people and little people. I talked to people in his hometown. I talked to John's coach in high school football, talked to his dad, talked to his mom, talked to his brother, talked

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<sup>49</sup> Br. Molyneaux got up to get the book, *John Sayles: an Unauthorized Biography of a Pioneer Indy Filmmaker*, from a shelf in his office published in 2000.

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to a lot of people that worked even little jobs on the film. Some of the people are really good in helping out. They weren't big stars or anything. They knew how he made films and they were fun to talk to.

I talked to the most famous B-film director of all time, Roger Corman. I talked to Joe Dante, who's in some of the terrible films that Sayles did when he worked for Roger Corman. Corman was the king of the B's, cheap sex and violent movies, *Attack of the Alligators*. Crap like that- I talked to John Frankenhiemer who was a huge famous director in Hollywood film. Chris Kristofferson, the musician, who was in the film called *Lone Star*.<sup>50</sup> Kevin McCarthy, who was famous for Hollywood 50 films- A lot of folks- So that made it kind of fun, just talking to these people,. Sayles never- His mom and dad tried to convince him to talk to me. He wouldn't do it to the very end and never did. Until after the book was out and published did I ever get to talk to him and meet him.

M. Crowe: What did he think of your work?

Br. Molyneaux: He seemed very happy with it. He seemed okay. It was fun- He had the advantage, what he did was pretty smart. What he did actually worked for me because- Here he had a chance to find out what other people thought about what he was doing. They just did all the talking and he could do all the listening. I had got break meanwhile because somebody came out with a book that was just a compilation of interviews with John Sayles. I was not competing with that book; there weren't any interviews with John Sayles. It kind of opened up the market.

M. Crowe: I'm amazed you got to speak Studs Terkel. Did you interview him or just a talk?

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, I had the phone interview. It was good, he was a friendly crotchety guy. He had been in a movie, a baseball movie called *Eight Men Out*. It was about the Black Sox scandal and he played a reporter in that movie. They had to persuade him to do that but he was good. He did a good job.

M. Crowe: I also read his interviews, he's very good. How do you think of your time in the Communications department? Did you notice the campus change?

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<sup>50</sup> *Lone Star* was directed by John Sayles in 1989.

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Br. Molyneaux: I'm going to get back to your question earlier. You asked the question about the students and how they've changed. They have. I think my teaching has changed in regard to that. I think in the olden days, I would go into a class and they would do two papers and mid-term and a final. That was it. Now, I think you have to do things in more bite size. Really, get them into habitual writing. Not just the big project, but habitual writing. So, my class now, has paper every week, at least a two-pager thinking about films. That's changed.

What kind of surprised me- I hadn't taught about the Basic Film course in a number of years because I was chairing and I was also doing the practicum stuff and doing Athens and Prague. I finally went back and did the Basic Film Course, what really surprised me there was how the composition of the class had become much more diversified. In regard to gender, that's changed, my goodness.

Back when I got here, it was probably 70-30 men versus women; now it's almost the opposite.

Also diversity of ethnic and race- I'd say typically lately, about a third of the class I teach is racially diversified. It's quite a dramatic shift at La Salle, I think and for the better. So I just wanted to say that.

M. Crowe: Why did you change your teaching style to break writing up?

Br. Molyneaux: A friend of mine Bob Vogel, in the Education Department said, "They're wired differently than they were back then." They're just multitasking all over the place and you see them walking across the campus, the headphones constantly on. You have to almost beat them with a stick to drop the cell phones and just work on one thing. I think their attention span is different than it was. I've seen it. I not only try to watch my own class but see other professors teaching. Invariably after 20 minutes of doing anything, whether it's a group work, lecture, slide presentation or whatever. Stop and do something else because if you don't you're going to really lose them. So I just think you have to keep adapting to changes like that.

M. Crowe: And you think this like this change in more diversified student populations that are reflection, administration at La Salle or how things are run? Do you think just solely with changing of the times in the city?

Br. Molyneaux: Well I think La Salle had some choices to make many years ago. One was there was a time when people were saying, "La Salle will

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get up and move out of this city.” And I think fortunately, they didn’t listen. We stayed here because this is where we ought to be as Christian Brother’s institution. This is where we ought to be, this is where our kind of students – We are not Harvard; we don’t want to be Harvard. Look, let me put it this way. My older brother was a terrible high school student. Then he went into World War II. Then he came out and the priest had to beg, this place to get him in after World War II. Because all the GIs were packing schools- Finally they said, “Father alright will let this kid in.” They let him in and he went on to get a degree from here and a law degree from Georgetown. If it weren’t for here, that wouldn’t have happened. My other brother worked here. He’s slightly older than me and he would commute from way out in Springfield Delaware County, on the trolley to 69<sup>th</sup> Street then the Elle, the Broad Street subway, the 26<sup>th</sup> plus everyday up and back. He worked different jobs here, got his education. He’s terrifically loyal to LaSalle, very generous to La Salle, very loyal.

That’s the kind of thing I admire about this place. They will give people a chance. They will take the average and make them excellent. I think that happens a lot and hopefully the excellent stay excellent. I think La Salle does a terrific job with students who are pretty good, high school kids that come here and become very good college students. That takes a lot of work. I don’t think it takes a lot of work to teach at Harvard, frankly. I think the kids are bright enough, they probably don’t need too many professors. Here they do.

M. Crowe: As a student I can attest to that. I found that my experience. All right, we’ll stop here for today and then we’ll continue at a later

**[00:35:10] End of Audio**

Audio File 4: April 2, 2012

**[00:00:00]**

M. Crowe: Hello, it's April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00am. This is Megan Crowe. I am continuing my oral history interview with Br. Gerry Molyneaux. Do I have your permission to conduct this interview?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, you do.

M. Crowe: Looking back on your career, I see that you have many Distinguishments and awards, notably the Lindback Award in 1983; the Distinguished Educator Award in 2001, 50 years as a Christian Brother in 2003, the Brother Anselm Award for West Catholic Alumni in 1997; Friends of Bill Rafferty Golf Outing in 2009. What do these honors mean to you?

Br. Molyneaux: I got more.

M. Crowe: There are more?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, the West Catholic Hall of Fame, that's not the same as the Anselm Award. That's different, it's more selective. The other is the La Salle Service Award, which I got three years ago. He's dated. He's out-of-date. There's also an award from Sigma Phi Lambda Fraternity for service. It's called the Faculty Distinguished Service Award, that's 2009.

M. Crowe: Faculty Distinguished Service Award in 2009?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, and the Spirit Fidelity and Leadership Award that was in 2010, that's Sigma Phi Lambda Fraternity. I was also selected, meanwhile as the Speaker in the Pennsylvania Speakers Association, that's put together by the State of Pennsylvania. Two others- Bill Wine got it this year coming up. I did it for the past

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two years. They pick distinguished educators and others and have them give speeches to different groups. I've spoken at synagogues. I've spoken at libraries. That was also another honor.

M. Crowe: How do you react to the news when you hear you won an award?

Br. Molyneaux: I feel pretty good, of course. Who wouldn't?

M. Crowe: Does anyone of these awards stand out to you? Or mean more?

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Br. Molyneaux: No, I think they're all- They each have different values and importance.

M. Crowe: When did you step down as Chair of the Communications Department?

Br. Molyneaux: I don't remember to be honest. I really honestly don't remember- 2003? 2004? I forgot.

M. Crowe: Do you know why you decided to step down?

Br. Molyneaux: I just thought it was time. I'd done it for about 25 years or so. I thought it was time to give somebody else a shot at it, who wanted it.

M. Crowe: I think it was 2004; I have the dates here. You stepped down as Chair and that also coincided with your 50 years as a Christian Brother-

Br. Molyneaux: That was not- That's coincidental, it wasn't planned that way. The 50<sup>th</sup> was a lot of fun, I think Joe was there.<sup>51</sup> We had a big, big celebration down at the Brothers Place in Ocean City called Ocean Rest. There were a lot of people there. It was very nice.

M. Crowe: Nice to have your family and friends.

Br. Molyneaux: Family, friends, colleagues –all of it. Students, janitors, everybody– There were a lot of people there, all kinds.

M. Crowe: How do you think the Department has progressed since you stepped down as Chair? Have you seen any noted changes?

Br. Molyneaux: I think the curriculum changed a bit. I don't think there's any great dramatic change now. I think there's some tweaking of things that are different. We're still going about the same thing that we've done for the past 30 years.

M. Crowe: Where would you like to see that the Department in 20 years? What's your hopes for them?

Br. Molyneaux: I mean, at one point, we came very, very close to being a school of Communications. I still would think that would be a really good thing. I think Communications tends to get caught in between the Liberal Arts and the Social Sciences. They can't quite figure out

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<sup>51</sup> He is referring to Br. Joe Grabenstien the University Archivist and our mutual contact.

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what we are. Sometimes our categorize us with English and the Fine Arts. At other times, they put us in with Psych and Social, Economics, while I think the uniqueness of the program might suggest that maybe it ought to be- We have a separate building and we came to really really close to being a school at one point.

So I think that might be a pretty good idea, if we could get the numbers of students back up. We're also diversion of it, it could be a school. Some people are teaching Film; some people are teaching Mass Media; some people are teaching Public Relations; some people are teaching Organizational Communications.

So within this Department, we have pretty distinct units. We all get along very well but I think there's enough difference there that we could have a school.

M. Crowe: What do you hope to see La Salle in 20 years, as a school?

Br. Molyneaux: I can't -who knows? That's really impossible. Who knows where education will be? I mean, look at the way it's been changing. I would think that, wherever we are and whatever we're doing, it will always have the interpersonal dimension. There's so many things going on and they're changing education – computers and online education and notebooks. We're taught on computer – all kinds of things are happening. I think it will be different. I don't know how many times people will meet students. I don't think that professors have to be the gurus that they used to be in the past. I think what they become or will become a more and more are conduits to channel people towards the right information and to help them get that information. Students don't need more information. They need right information, best information. I mean, there's a glut of information out there.

I think that would be a change. At the same time I just hope that would maintain that deep personal commitment to the kind of student that we have. The kind of thing I've been talking about, last time of not being in Harvard. Being in the trenches and doing the

heavy lifting- I think that's where LaSalle ought to be I think it's got a great history of doing very, very well with the kind of students it's been serving.

M. Crowe: Do you have any regrets about your career or time spent at La Salle, anything you liked to do over?

Br. Molyneaux: Not to be self-satisfied but I- I don't look back very often. I think we've done pretty well.

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M. Crowe: Yeah.

Br. Molyneaux: So, no big regrets that I can see.

M. Crowe: And now, what do you see for your future in your current role now at La Salle and beyond?

Br. Molyneaux: Well, I'm pretty happy with the courses in a way. If the courses are going well and I feel good teaching them, if the students appreciate them, enjoy them and get something out of it, then I'll keep doing what I'm doing. But if I don't feel up to it physically or psychologically, then I would stop. Right now, the evaluations from my courses are very strong and I like meeting students. I would miss it terribly if that wasn't there.

As long as the courses are going okay and the internship program is doing very well. Students appreciate that- I send out emails to them three or four times a day, but they don't seem to mind. They seem to value the information that they're getting.

So the program has grown steadily in the past. I've had it for, it's my 4<sup>th</sup> year. It's been growing very well, very nice. That's fun and I enjoy that part. I don't think it's the same kind of relationship with interns that I had with the students. It's just a little different, having them in class and having them as interns. Partly, because I only meet with them three times a semester- That's not very much, but I feel useful doing that.

M. Crowe: I didn't ask you about it last time, but could you describe the internship program? I noticed the gap.

Br. Molyneaux: Oh sure, yeah, it's - What we've been trying to do is get students involved. It's been a very concerted effort, to make sure our students take advantage of the opportunity to intern because the competition out there- About 80% of all college students are doing something like it. So if our students are trying to compete. They better stay up with that. I think they are. Our numbers have grown steadily. We're now if you want to get itsy-bitsy about it, we had 79% of the seniors who graduated last year did an internship, what about the other 21% who didn't? Some of them have jobs; some of them can't afford intern during the summer- That I'd like to see remedied. Some of them are athletes and I don't think the coaches, in my perspective- Let me put it this way, I think we have to do a better- I have to do, we have to do a better job of educating

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coaches, telling them how important internships are and getting their students involved in that.

Some students already have jobs and they can't afford to give up the job to intern. We've tapped the pool pretty well when we get 80% of the seniors to do it. Could we improve on it? We have to try to find ways to get students who can't afford to intern, give them some sort of scholarship, give them work-study money, and try to get the athletes involved in the summer. So they can do this in the summer, some of them do. There's still a little bit of work to be done but I think about 80% is pretty good.

M. Crowe: What do you think is the most important thing besides, being competitive in the job market; get out of internship over learning in the classroom?

Br. Molyneaux: It's in tandem with the classroom learning. They learn stuff in the classroom that they can apply out there in the marketplace. Before we get to what they actually learn on the job, the specific things. What they learn is not to be afraid. I had a meeting with some students who were- had an interned and they were talking freshman and sophomores about interning- There's a panel discussion it was going pretty well. I threw out the question to them, I said: "How scared were you the first day of your internship?" They all started to laugh, which is, pretty good sign that they were all pretty scared. One of the most gratifying things the interns find out is that they're not treated like students. They're treated like co-workers. That's extremely gratifying for them. They found out that they have the talent. The talent is appreciated; and given the right jobs, they can do terrific work. That's what it's all about, not the specific things whether they learn the system of editing. It's that they can fit into the marketplace and do well. That's a big thing.

The other thing is they do pick up specific information from places; the third part is that they network. They develop a system of communication with people who can help them out. Some of them will do- We started out with thinking one internship. About half them go two, there are some that do three and now, there are some that do four. It's become an easier sell because of the culture. We have a culture around here of interning and students are always talking about it. There are signs in the bulletin board. Our process of encouraging the students has paid off, big time.

[00:14:48]

M. Crowe: Yeah, is internship part of course credit?

Br. Molyneaux: Yes, it is.

M. Crowe: Going back to teaching- Where there any students that you were most proud of, had a moment where you were most proud of them or felt their success?

Br. Molyneaux: I could name several students and talk about them and how they were good students here. I'm looking up in the bulletin board and I see Tim O'Toole was a kid from Pittsburg. He was in my first film course here, he was a freshman, and he was the only freshman in the class. I got to know Tim pretty well and he worked in my office. He was going to leave us when he was a junior because he couldn't afford it. I found a way to get him some money so he stayed. He went on to Law School at Pitt; he became the head of Conrail. He became the head of the underground system in London. He was virtually knighted by the Queen, now he's back running the rail system in England; so he's one of the guys I'm very proud of. We stay in touch. He was- that picture when he got his Honorary Degree at La Salle about 2007.

The guy on his left is another guy I'm proud of, Ben Rossheart. He was an honors student that had a couple of- I got them- I recruited them to come to La Salle. I remembered walking around, there are a lot of kids here, and they'll remind me. They'll say, "You gave me a tour of this place and I decided that was the reason I decided to come here." That makes me feel good. I've got award, but that's a real award, that's really nice when they remind me about that. Ben was one of those guys. Ben is now newscaster out in Quad Cities, Iowa.

There are some other guys in the pictures down at Eagles game. They're all guys that I've taught. The two guys below that one in the paper picture, the one on the right is a television director of a program called, "Dog Whispers," and the guy on his right is Neil Tyler, who was doing audio work for him. He's out in California. The two of them went out there. They were big buddies here, did a lot of films together. Judy Walsh, who was one of the students back in the 80s and she went on to get a Fulbright Scholarship, went to New Zealand, studied there for two years and came back. She is now pretty high up with Wall Street Journal -A lot of those, those pictures bring back a lot of memories.

M. Crowe: Wow! Guess kind of on the flip side of that, has there been time you've been disappointed?

[00:18:05]

Br. Molyneaux:

Yes, sure when I get done with a class, when I'm not satisfied with it. I don't think it went well. I get disappointed in that and try to do something about it, of course. There are some ups and downs, you're dealing with 18-year-olds and sometimes they act like they're 18 or 19. They do some zany stuff. There were some guys I know, sprayed painted a tree out here a couple of weeks ago. That's not a good thing to do, that's kind of- not using their heads. I don't think that they're mean people. They don't mean to do mean stuff. They just do dumb stuff. So you have to remind me occasionally to think ahead and you're little foresight caution circumspection look around like that.

Some professors here reminded me many, many years ago about college- He gave me this kind of mantra to take with me, his name was Joe Moran. And he told me one day, I was murmuring and groaning and stuff and he said, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and that's a line from Alexander Pope. My interpretation of it is that hope is never in the season of fall or winter or summer, it's always springing. It's always just beginning, it's always just starting.

So as a college teacher, I think you really have to believe in and hope in the young people that you're teaching. You got to believe that they will grow up to be as nice and good as 90% of the people that you've already taught. It just sometimes, you got to be a little bit- These are little things that drive me crazy. Some kid had an appointment today to register for our courses, she blew, she didn't show up, she's a freshman. She'll grow up. She'll be responsible some day. If she is not very responsible now and I'll say something to her, "You know, step up, take care of it." She's just 18 and I'm sure the nice- I was kidding- I was at the Bill Rafferty Golf Outing a couple of years ago and I started imitating the basketball coach, how he reacts on the sidelines; yelling at the guys, "Oh my God," and the couple player taught me how to imitate him. So he got to charge out and he really accepted it very graciously. I was trying to say to him indirectly was, "I'm completely sympathetic towards yelling, I often feel like doing the same thing." I don't have 10,000 people watching me do it. I get off pretty easy sometimes. Walk out of the classroom and just go on with my life. We're all dealing with kids. I got to remember- I'm sure when I see John Giannini go crazy when the guy makes a dumb play. I think, I get dumb test, I get kids don't show up on time- If you don't like it, get out of it. If you don't like it, if you can't handle that, get the hell out of here. Don't even stay, go away.

**[00:21:35]**

This is part of the deal- you're going to get all the vitality, enthusiasm, intelligence, goodness that those students have – you have to give back. You have to give back sometimes patience. That's the trade and that's a sweet deal.

M. Crowe: So you find that reward in itself.

Br. Molyneaux: Yeah, such a sweet deal.

M. Crowe: Do you have any other things to add about your time at La Salle or something that I didn't ask about?

Br. Molyneaux: I think you've covered a lot of ground. I think what I've tried to do is replicate what I enjoyed here. I tried to repeat for students what happened to me. Somebody here took time, worked with me, helped me mature, helped me grow as a thinker, as a writer, a students and therefore, as a person. That's what I'm trying to do here.<sup>52</sup> I do tend to comment because I want students to know that I take seriously. That was the one and it's all of them. I want them to know that their important and therefore that they're important and therefore that they ought to take the writing seriously.<sup>53</sup>

M. Crowe: All right, well thank you so much for your time.

Br. Molyneaux: Good luck with your project, I hope it will work out well.

M. Crowe: Thank you again so much for your time. I appreciate it.

Br. Molyneaux: You're welcome and good luck with it; I'm sympathetic toward you because I'd done the same thing. I've been in your side. I've asked lots of people for interviews over the years. I'd be really remiss if I didn't help you out.

M. Crowe: I will turn the tape off now.

**[00:22:39]**

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<sup>52</sup> He showed a student paper, where he has made numerous comments.

<sup>53</sup> Holding the papers, he was playfully illustrating the point he made earlier in the interview, that sometimes students do not take their work as seriously as they should.