

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Father Ronald Margherio

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-048

Father Ronald Margherio, former Superintendent at St. Bede Academy with over 54 years with the school, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 27, 2018 Location: St. Bede Academy, Peru Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 17, 2018.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

© 2018 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Ronald Margherio, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-048

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ronald Margherio was born in Spring Valley, Illinois in 1950. He grew up in Ladd, Illinois where he attended grade school. Ronald attended high school St. Bede Academy in Peru, Illinois. While there, he would play freshman football and worked on the school's yearbook and newspaper, as well as school clubs. Following graduation in 1968, he studied later at St. Thomas in Minnesota and Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa from 1968-70. He returned to St. Bede as a novice. He then went to St. Anselms in Manchester, New Hampshire, graduating with a major in Philosophy in 1973. He again returned to St. Bede and taught biology. In 1977, Father Ronald earned a degree from St. Anselmo on the Aventine Hills, Rome. Once again, Father Ronald returned to St. Bede, serving as a teacher, the school superintendent, the Development Director, and now as Chaplain for both the Abbey and the Academy. He is part of the Benedictine Order and maintains a residence at St. Bede. Overall, Father Ronald has spent 54 years at St. Bede.

Father Margherio discusses the history of St. Bede Academy, which dates to 1890. He describes the 100-acre campus which includes an active farm, two farm houses converted into residential housing, an enclosed building which contains both the 1890 section but also a new chapel, a new science wing, gymnasium, swimming pool, library, and student refectory. St. Bede serves between 280-300 students from grade 9-12. It began as an all-boys boarding school and is now a coed school and includes a small residential international student population. Father Margherio discusses the Academy's Benedictine philosophy of "All Things God May Be Glorified." St. Bede stresses service learning, requiring twenty-five hours per year, advanced placement and dual credit classes, plus extracurriculars and athletics. Ten different sports are offered with St. Bede winning a state baseball title in 1995. He discussed the governance of the school, the Alumni's funding support and student enrollment, scholarships, and tuition. Father Margherio also covered the role of the Monks who have worked and lived in the Abbey and in the local parish churches. He concludes by reviewing the advantages and challenges of parochial academies.

Subject Headings/Key Words: history of St. Bede Academy going back to 1890; transition from all-boys school to coed school; description of St. Bede Academy grounds and buildings; St. Bede governance; parental and alumni support for St. Bede; St. Bede Academy philosophy; St. Bede extra-curriculars, clubs and sports;

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955