

# Simmons Grant Oral History Collection

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Interviewee: Bob Doran

Interviewer: Michelle Sweetser

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Michelle Sweetser: Look like we are recording now.

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Michelle Sweetser I was going to ask about that, because I did see some records that indicated that

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Maureen Lynch, who was my—I think she had the title of assistant director. She was only part time, I guess she was also doing a program in theology. Well we went around visited as many academic departments as we could and spoke to the faculty, and some were very welcoming and others couldn't care less. But anyway, we made contact there. We were in charge of the liturgies on campus, we set up

Michelle Sweetser: Great. What did you see as some of the more successful programs in those years, and why do you think that they were successful?

Bob Doran: I think, for those students who were—whom I think I did a quite good job. Vatican II had, you know, recently ended and was quite a change in the liturgical life in the Church and a lot of, and this is not to criticize them at all, but a lot of the older Jesuit priests were not used to this—and you know, the Mass in front of the people and facing the people and all of that, and they were very uncomfortable doing it. Well I had just been ordained and this was the only thing I knew, so I wanted people who could do that sort of thing. Some also had—when we had staff meetings there were others who were not formally on the staff, because they weren't being paid by the Campus Ministry staff, but they were Jesuits—

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Bob Doran: Hopewell

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departments—there were faculty who were in

think the parish presented the fact that the university went ahead and set up a campus ministry—what's wrong with the parish, you know? So there were some of those tensions at that time. And of course there were some things that could only be done at the parish: marriages could only be done at the parish, and I think that's probably still the case. There were a number of students—and every year I made a petition—I mean every year for three years before I became director and the two years that I was in—that they allow weddings to be held at Joan of Arc Chapel because there were a number of students who wanted to be married at Joan of Arc, and they just—it was the diocese that would not allow it. And I don't know whether they have ever gone beyond that or not, whether weddings can be done at Joan of Arc. I don't know.

Michelle Sweetser I'm not sure either.

Bob Doran: But there were students that wanted that. So, in those days the tension was that I think the parish felt that we were kind of an upstart.

Michelle Sweetser Ok, sure. And why do you think it was, that students weren't going to Gesu?

Bob Doran: I think the, the—in general, I have to be very careful, that, how far is this going to be—

Michelle Sweetser: sure!

Bob Doran: I think there wasn't—the—the comfort with the change to the post Vatican II Church. It just took a while for the parish to catch up.

Michelle Sweetser And students were ready.

Bob Doran: Yeah, they were ready. Definitely ready. And some of them wanted even more than Vatican II was ready to offer, but they certainly wanted what Vatican II had provided. But now I think it's very different.

Michelle Sweetser Could you talk maybe a little bit about how Campus Ministry addressed the needs of minorities, international students, and students from other faiths—non-Catholic faiths?

Bob Doran: Well what we tried to do when I was director was to connect, and we did connect with the pastor—the Lutheran pastor at the Lutheran Church on Nineteenth and Wisconsin. His name was Alan Davis, in those days. And he became a member of our staff, not paid, but he was on the staff because he used to do things in his parish for Lutheran students attending Marquette. And so he met with us and he came to our meetings. And so there was some collaboration there. And then there was a Jewish professor of political science, Bob Freedman, who came to our meetings and was a liaison at least with Jewish students. Whether he was a rabbi or not I don't know. I'm not sure. I think through those years we wanted to do more for racial minorities than we did—than we actually accomplished. And I think we felt—even in those days, and it's much more acute today—how segregated the city of Milwaukee is. It's one of the most segregated cities in the United States. And we can't seem to crack that as a city. And I know Archbishop Weakland said his biggest regret as archbishop was that he couldn't do anything—that he wasn't able to make any inroads on that problem, the racial divide in the city. So I don't know whether we did much there to help, you know? I mean we certainly were available to minority students. We did not have a minority person on our staff, and that was probably a mistake, in those days. But I did have to assemble the staff quite fast.



Michelle Sweetser: Sure. So you had these people kind of attend either as liaisons, or kind of—did you offer any programming as a result, geared towards people of those—students of those faiths, or was it kind of more taking in information and incorporating as you planned?

Bob Doran: It was more of the latter, I don't remember much in terms of programming. Now, I maybe forgetting something, but I'm forgetting c o r p o r a

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Bob Doran: No, I don't think you missed anything. I'm surprised that I remembered as much as I did!  
[Laughter] No, I don't think you missed anything. I'm glad that we got it started. I'm glad that it's still going. As far as I know, it's going strong. I don't—I'm very much into the academic stuff now, and I don't have time to do a lot more than that. I'm confident—I'm aware of that fact of how old I am and how much I still want to get done before I can't do it anymore, so my energies are very focused these days.

Michelle Sweetser: That's understandable.

[audio ends: 00:36:06]