Fr. Thomas P. Kennealy is a member of the Society of Jesus. A native of Cincinnati, Fr. Tom has had and continues to have a distinguished, remarkable career at Xavier University. He has served at Xavier since 1969 in various roles: professor, administrator, and now as University Archivist. Fr. Tom has been
nearly 53 years a priest, 65 years as a Jesuit, and 45 years as a Xavier Musketeer. For his many years of faithful service to Xavier, Fr. Tom has received various awards, most notably the Paul O’Connor Leadership Award in 2006. Upon his “retirement,” Fr. Tom has served Xavier as University Archivist.

In this interview Fr. Kennealy discusses his early personal, family life. He describes his entrance into the Society of Jesus and his training as a Jesuit. His many years on the Xavier campus are recounted, as a professor of French and as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He reminisces on various notable personalities on the Xavier campus. His greatest Xavier challenges and accomplishments are discussed. His present role as University Archivist is related. Fr. Tom reflects on his vocation as priest and his priestly activity here on the university campus.

In conclusion Fr. Tom considers what challenges and opportunities are faced by Xavier University, both now and in the future.

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**Xavier University – Fr. Tom Kennealy**

>> Interviewer: Good morning. My name is Tim McCabe and I'm the Archives Librarian at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Today is Friday, February 27th, 2015 and I am seated here in the Brueggeman Center at Xavier University. With me is Fr. Tom Kennealy who has graciously agreed to be interviewed this morning for Xavier's archival collection of oral histories. Let me give you a little bit of background on Fr. Kennealy. Fr. Kennealy is a member of the Society of Jesus, a native of Cincinnati, Fr. Tom has served the Xavier community since 1969 as professor, administrator, and now as university archivist. Fr. Tom has been nearly 53 years a priest, 65 years as a Jesuit, and 45 years as a Xavier Musketeer. For his many years of faithful service to Xavier, Fr. Tom has received various awards, most notably the Paul O'Connor Leadership Award in 2006. Since May, 2006 I personally have had the pleasure of working with Fr. Tom in the Xavier University Archives.

01:30 First of all, Fr. Tom, welcome, and thank you for your willingness to share with us your memories of Xavier and your many years of association with the school.

>> Respondent: You're welcome.

01:45 >> Interviewer: I guess we ought to start at the very beginning. Where were you born and raised?

>> Respondent: Yes, well as you mentioned, Tim, I was born here in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September the 19th, 1931. So if you know mathematics that means I'm about 83 years old. I've had a very interesting life in many ways. First of all just to point out I was born in 1931 in the very early years of The Great Depression. And though my family did very well, my father had a good job, he was an attorney, members of the family, relations and friends did not fair as well and I remember those days as dark and somewhat bleak for many people. I remember the Second World War as well. I was ten years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. I remember that day well. My father was listening to the radio, he came running down the stairs to tell us that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese and of course I didn't have any idea where Pearl Harbor was, but I certainly learned. And those were grim days. I remember well meat rationing, in particular I hate and always have hated liver, but in those days meat was very scarce and we had liver once a week whether we liked it or not. I remember sugar rationing and there was very little
candy and ice cream for a couple of years there. I remember gasoline rationing and you didn't travel around very much. And I remember even butter was rationed and that's when margarine came into existence. So that's how my life got started.

03:23
>> Interviewer: How large was your family, Father?

>> Respondent: I'm the oldest of six. And one of my siblings, my brother Dan is now deceased, but I have three sisters and a brother still living, all of them married, two of them as a matter of fact widowed at this point. Ours was a large very closely-knit Irish Catholic family. We lived in Price Hill, which means we lived on the west side of Cincinnati and were always persecuted for that -- you know-- the conflict between the east and west side of Cincinnati. I once said to my good friend Fr. Tom Savage, I referred to "Price Hill culture," and he reminded me that was an oxymoron. But that's where I lived, was very much of a Catholic ghetto, St. William's Parish with a wonderful pastor Monsignor Riordan who was one of the great examples of my life.

04:15
>> Interviewer: Your father, what did your father do?

>> Respondent: My father was an attorney with Ragland, Dixon, and Murphy office downtown. And practiced law for about 51 years, yes.

>> Interviewer: Didn't he have association with St. Xavier College?

>> Respondent: Yes, his law degree was from a Xavier. He graduated from the law school in 1922. Many people don't know that Xavier had a law school, but they did for about twelve years or so.

>> Interviewer: That's good. What drew you to the Society of Jesus?

>> Respondent: Well, I went to St. Xavier High School, first of all, in downtown Cincinnati-- at my father's insistence. That was his alma mater and that's where I went. And those were wonderful years. The school at that time was at 7th and Sycamore, the old building, now a parking lot, which is right next to St. Xavier Church. And I think there were two things that attracted me. First of all, I had come from a very faith-filled family, religion was very important to us. And I think from my earliest years I was drawn to the idea of the priesthood, to serve God, to serve the Church, to administer the sacraments, to preach. This had an appeal to me from very early years. That combined with the Jesuits that I met at St. Xavier High School. Of course in those days the school was virtually all Jesuits, the faculty, the administration. And I was impressed with what they did. I enjoyed teaching, the thought of teaching appealed to me. And these were men who did it well, who were devoted to it,
who are were enthusiastic, brought a lot of joy and contentment to it. And though they lived in a terrible building down there at 7th and Sycamore they seemed to be very happy people and I thought, “That's for me because it combines the religious life with teaching and the priesthood.” Yeah.

>> Interviewer: And when and where did you enter the Jesuits?

>> Respondent: I entered the Jesuits in July-- July the 24th, 1949. I was just out of high school, I wasn't even 18 at the time. I would not recommend that today at all someone entering that young, but in my days it worked, certainly worked for me. The novitiate was located at Milford, Ohio. And the building is still there. It was sold by the Jesuits in '69 when it became too big for our use, but it adjoins the grounds of the Milford Retreat House, so it is now a retirement facility. I entered there at that point and I made my novitiate there for two years. We began of course with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for 30 days, which is so formative. I still look upon that as one of the most important events in my life. And I spent the rest -- the next two years learning how to pray, learning how to do manual labor, and eventually on the Feast of Ignatius, July 31st, 1951, I took my first vows. So I was Jesuit then.

>> Interviewer: When – when and where were you ordained?

>> Respondent: Well, I was ordained at West Baden in Indiana, we'll maybe talk about that more maybe a little bit later on but that was 1962, June the 10th, yes.

>> Interviewer: Then after that didn't you make a Tertianship?

>> Respondent: Well, yes, that's true. Of course, we've kind of skipped over my years of training and maybe I should make some remarks about that. I spent two years as a novice at Milford as I mentioned. And then I moved to the other side of that building in Milford novitiate and did what we called in those days a junior aide program and that was largely undergraduate studies. I studied Latin and Greek, a great deal of English, public speaking-- we got all kinds of training in public speaking-- history, mathematics. And that was really my undergraduate training. In 1953 my class moved from Milford to West Baden College in southern Indiana. And if you've ever been in that area the place still exists, West Baden Springs Hotel was build in 1902. At the time it was referred to as the “8th Wonder of the World.” It’s a huge circular building with the largest unsupported dome in the western hemisphere. It is an immense thing, spectacular
to see. It was built in 1902 though as a spa. They were famous for what they called their Sprudel Water and people, particularly the elite and the rich, came from all over the country to take the water at West Baden, it’s supposed to cure just about any ailment that you had.

09:00 A little bit later on it became a gambling casino, and a man by the name of Ed Ballard owned it and prospered. Well, the Great Depression came and suddenly the bottom fell out of his business. He had this immense building and several days after the crash of the stock market I he had two guests in the entire building. So he wanted to give it away. And at first he offered it to the Jesuits, we said, “No, we weren't interested,” but eventually changed our minds. And so in 1934 he gave us the building, this majestic place. We had a way of making things considerably simpler; it was not a luxury hotel in my day. We were there for 30 years, sold it in 1964. And if you're at all interested, it exists to this day once again as a luxury hotel. But I went there in '53 and did studies in philosophy. I really did three things through that period: I got a Bachelor’s degree from Loyola in Chicago, we were affiliated with -- West Baden was affiliated with Loyola at the time -- I did a Master's degree in classical languages, and licentiate in philosophy. I left there in '56 because the next step in Jesuit training then and now is what we call Regency. It’s a period between philosophy and theology where you practice a ministry to see if this is really what you want to do with your life.

10:30 And I went to teach at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland. Wonderful three years up there. It was a wonderful city, a wonderful school. I taught Latin, I taught Greek, I was in charge of about four or five different extracurricular activities, and I was brokenhearted when I had to leave there in '59 but life went on and went back to West Baden in southern Indiana. And I did four years of theology there. And as I mentioned, after the third year in '62 I was ordained a priest by Archbishop Schulte of Indianapolis and that was a very happy day as well. One I do not regret, yeah.

11:11 >> Interviewer: Okay, was it then that you did your Tertianship?
>> Respondent: Yes, after I left Baden in '63, it was an interesting year. Let me explain what Tertianship is. It’s from the Latin “tertius annus” which means “the third year.” And St. Ignatius our founder had this idea. He was afraid that after many years of study some of that fervor that you had as a novice might well have worn off. So he
wanted a third year of novitiate at the very end. And that's what I did. I got permission however to do it in Europe and that was quite novel in those days. I remember sailing to Europe on a liner, a German liner, to Bremerhaven. I spent about eight weeks in Bonn, Germany for a while learning some German and Bonn was a lovely city, right on the Rhine River and was the capital of West Germany at the time. Our residence was only about four blocks from the German white house where Konrad Adenauer -- the Chancellor's Office where Konrad Adenauer was living. Then I did have an opportunity to visit Greece, which was wonderful. I had my Master's degree in classics, I visited Athens and Mycenae and Tiryns, Epidaurus, Olympus. It was a wonderful experience.

12:30

Then I flew across the Alps which was a trip in itself to Great Britain and I made my year of Tertianship in North Wales in the British Province, and that was very interesting. We were in North Wales on a clear day, there weren't many, but on a clear day you could see the Irish Sea and Mount Snowdon, and that was a wonderful year, also spiritually. Our Tertian director was Fr. Paul Kennedy, a truly holy and very, very perceptive learned man and I -- I owe a great deal to him for a wonderful experience.

13:07

>> Interviewer: And after Tertianship what positions did you hold prior to Xavier?

>> Respondent: Oh, yes, well there were about four years between. I spent a year and a half in Bloomington, Indiana, getting a second Master's degree, this in French and linguistics, but most I spent back at Milford. I was sent back to the Milford Novitiate to teach the novices Latin, Greek, and ultimately French as well. But to be very honest they were very, very difficult, painful years for a lot of reasons. Bear in mind this is the late of '60s and the Society of Jesus and the Church was in great turmoil as a result of Vatican II. Because Vatican II ended in '65 if you remember. And while Vatican II's reforms were modest enough, there were many people who were interpreting them their own way, there was a lot of confusion, a lot of controversy and a lot of pain through those years as to just what the Church and the Society should represent. Complicating it of course there is first of all the civil rights turmoil of that time and the assassination of Martin Luther King. There were the anti-war, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations going on, there was counterculture with the hippies and Woodstock. All of this came together and what happened through those years is that many people
who had -- many Jesuits and others who had devoted themselves to the
life of the Society simply left. We lost many, many people, we lost
many, many of our novices. It really seemed to many of us it almost
like the end of the world-- where we were going to go from here? So
those were painful, difficult years. And in '69 the novitiate had
become so small we sold the building and that's really when I left.

>> Interviewer: When did you come to Xavier and how did it come about that you
landed here?

15:07 >> Respondent: Well that's interesting. I came to Xavier in the
Fall of '69 and frankly it was because Milford closed. I think had
Milford not closed, had things not changed I would have spent my
years at Milford teaching the seminarians. I think that would have
been my career. But that ended and then it was decided by the
supriors, and I was in complete agreement, I should come to Xavier.
So I was given an appointment in the Modern Language Department to
teach linguistics and French and that's how I got started here.

>> Interviewer: What were your first impressions of Xavier?, like, you know, the
people you encountered?, the campus environment?

15:45 >> Respondent: Yes, bear in mind these were painful days just as
they had been very difficult at Milford they were very painful here.
There was a lot of unrest among students and faculty. Students
objecting to all kinds of things that had been accepted, such as for
instance, obligatory Mass once a week, obligatory retreats once a
year, obligatory other spiritual activities. Students were in
revolt against all this type of thing. Added to all of the other
confusion, the faculty, and particularly the administration, was
really at a loss what to do. And it was a very painful, difficult
time. Of course I knew many of the Jesuits, Fr. Paul O'Connor was
the President, I had known him a long time. Fr. Vic Nieporte was
his Executive Vice President, a fine man, built many of the
buildings put up throughout that period. Fr. Peter Buschmann,
always one of my heroes, was here at the time. Fr. Jeremiah
O'Callaghan was Academic Vice President. But they were under great
stress. Fr. John Felten was Dean at the time, but I wasn't here
long, Tim, before I realized that there were major problems and
there were serious financial problems.

17:00 The university was rumored was borrowing money just to make payroll,
and I suspect that was probably true. When I got into the Dean's
Office I realized what the issue was. At that time, the early '70's,
the enrollment of this institution, and we're talking about body
count, was 2/3 graduate and only 1/3 undergraduate. Now the problem there is graduate students take a course or two, you don't get much in tuition there. Where you really have to gain your tuition is undergraduate, and our numbers were pitifully small. Today, by contrast, we have about 1/3 graduate and a little bit over 2/3 undergraduate, that gives you a much better financial base. So there was great concern there through that period of time would we survive financially? Also, and I think this occurred shortly after I came and something people have to keep in mind----

Up until 1972 the Jesuits ran Xavier University, we governed the place. There was a board of trustees, but every member was a Jesuit. But more importantly the university was run from Chicago and indeed from Rome in many ways. We couldn't build a building without the permission of Father General in Rome. The president and officers were all appointed by the provincial in Chicago. The Jesuits ran the school. That changed in '72. What happened in '72 was that the board of trustees was totally reconstructed. And laymen were put on the board for the first time and the new chair was, I will never forget, Fletcher Nyce, a Cincinnati banker, who became the first chair of the board. Superiors in the Society made clear to him and the others, “You run the university. You run the university. We will help you, we want to make sure it remains Catholic and Jesuit and but you run the school.” That's what happened and it was quite a change. All of that really in my early years here, yeah.

>> Interviewer: You put out a picture of a lot of change as you entered Xavier.

>> Respondent: Yes, that's right. And at the time, just to point out, I moved with the Jesuits into the Schott Residence in February of '70, I was here about six months at the time. We filled that building. Today the community is maybe 17, 18 people, any number of whom are retired. So it gives you some idea, another major change that has occurred over the years. Yeah.

>> Interviewer: What positions have you held at Xavier University?

>> Respondent: While I came, Tim, as a professor of French and I thought perhaps that's how I would spend my days and enjoyed it. I had a tenure track position, I taught full-time, mostly basic language courses, all of us did at that time but I taught French literature and linguistics courses as well. Then in '73 Fr. Jeremiah O’Callaghan called me into his office and he said, he made it very clear, he said "I'm very concerned about our lack of
academic advising on campus. Would you be willing to take over and build a program of academic advising?" And I said, well, I would do that. And that year I divided my time between academic advising on the first floor of Alter Hall and teaching. The following year he called me in in June and he said to me, "Fr. Cliff Besse is retiring and resigning as Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences. Do you want the job?" And I said, "Well I never really thought of getting into administration, but if you think can I do it-- give me-- I will try it. I know if it doesn't work you will get rid of me in a year or so and that will take care of that." Well I got into the office Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, associate to Fr. John Felten. I was promoted two years later to Associate Dean. In 1990 I became Associate Dean of both Arts and Sciences and the College of Social Sciences for a number of reasons.

And that was very interesting because, as a result, I had a foot in really two of the colleges of the university, got to know them well. And did a lot of work in academic advising, working particularly with freshmen and sophomores on retention. And that was very enjoyable work. And of course I knew the business school well because I worked with their associate dean and that was enjoyable.

>> Interviewer: So you were both a professor and an administrator.

>> Respondent: Yes, correct.

>> Interviewer: But first professor and then administrator.

>> Respondent: That's right. In fact I continued to teach one class every semester down to 1990.

>> Interviewer: What was your favorite class?

>> Respondent: You know I think probably several. One semester I taught French literature and translation. These of course were non-majors, and that was a lot of fun. It got me into a wider area of students. And I also enjoyed linguistics, it was an introductory course but I suspect that might be my favorite, yeah.

>> Interviewer: Then you moved gradually into administration.

>> Respondent: That's right.

>> Interviewer: What were your biggest challenges as an administrator? What were your greatest accomplishments too?

>> Respondent: Well, let me explain what the job is because it has changed. In those days there were far fewer administrators, so you picked up all kinds of other things to do. But basically I was responsible for the freshmen and the sophomores in the college, their academic progress. It was I who tried to make sure they were
making proper progress, they were in the right courses and the right
times and right classes. I was in charge of sending out the dean's
list letters. I did the dismissing of people under suspension,
probation and all that kind of thing. Over and beyond that though
picked up all kinds of other things. For instance I chaired the
Scholarship Committee for 32 years. And in those days that was a
big committee. There was virtually no office of financial aid so all
of the financial aid questions, so to say, came to my office. I
chaired the Fredin Scholarship Committee. The Fredin Scholarship
Committee was the result of a very generous bequest to Xavier by a
woman by the name of Aline Fredin, she was French-born. And she
gave Xavier in excess of $200,000 and the interest on that money was
to be used to send Xavier students to France to learn French.

23:45

So, I oversaw that program for 32 years. That was a lot of fun. I
also got me to Paris four or five times just to checkup to make sure
they were doing what they were supposed to do and incidentally do a
little siteseeing myself. I chaired the Curriculum Committee in the
college and that's very important. That's a quality control
committee. You could not introduce a program or a course even into
the curriculum without our approval. So you would have to appear
before our committee, the chair of the department, and if we
approved your course, we found it in keeping with our philosophy and
our curriculum, then you could offer it. That was a lot of fun
because it got me into learning a lot about various departments as
well. And I also for many years ran the annual Honors Convocation.
I was also a chairman of the Marti Gras Committee that raised money
for the scholarship fund. I also ran the Summer Prep Program,
preparation for the incoming freshmen. And in later years with Mr.
Adrian Schiess we greatly expanded that program to include parents
as well. And other things as well.

25:00

>> Interviewer: A number of things in your career both as professor
and administrator. But what motivated you as an administrator?

>> Respondent: You know, I've always conceived of things in this manner, and
maybe even going back to the time when I entered the Society. I was
always convinced that individuals can achieve a great deal of good
if we decide to. But, if you team up with other people, and you
work together on a common cause, the group of you can do far more
than any individual can alone. And that's what attracted me to the
Society of Jesus. It's what attracted me to Xavier. No professor,
no administrator can do any more than he or she has talent to do.
But together, if we work together, we can do something that no individual alone can do. And that was the feeling I had that we were working together to help these young men and women to grow first of all intellectually, but also we would hope morally and spiritually. They would go away from Xavier realizing we are indeed our brothers’ and our sisters’ keeper. That’s what we are here for. And if you forget that, no matter what kind of living you may make, you’ve lost one of the essential ingredients. And so I would say working with the students and helping them to grow as part of a team was what attracted me. I remember when I first came here, or shortly after I came, we had an admissions director by the name of Rene Durand, I don't know if you remember him. On his desk he had a little sign which I'll never forget, and the sign said, "Students are never an interruption. Students are our reason for being here." That's important to remember. You forget that-- go out and dig ditches or make a living some other way.

>> Interviewer: Then in 2006 you officially retired.

>> Respondent: That's right. That's right. I gave up my tenured position in Modern Languages and I resigned as Associate Dean of the two colleges. Yes.

>> Interviewer: But you really didn't retire, did you?

>> Respondent: Not exactly.

>> Interviewer: So what happened?

>> Respondent: Well, what happened when I decided that it was time, I turned 75 that year, and I asked Provincial Superior if I could step down and he said yes, he said that's fine. And then I said to him, "But I'd like to stay at the university and I think what I'm going to do is see Fr. Graham the President and ask if there's some job I can do," I had one in mind. So I saw Father Graham and he was very grateful for my work and very kind and I said, "I'd like to stay on, Mike, is there anything I could do?" And he said, "Do you have anything in mind?" And I said, "Yes, there has been no archivist since Fr. Felten stepped down. I think I could do that job even though I have no training there." He said, "It's yours." And that's how I became archivist on a part-time basis and got to work with Tim. So that's --

>> Interviewer: Good years.

>> Respondent: That's right, that's right.

>> Interviewer: How do you see yourself as a priest and how has your calling as a priest been realized here at Xavier University?
Respondent: In some respects I think I've answered that question, Tim. I think that what I might add to that is this: St. Ignatius of Loyola allowed the Jesuits or promoted the Jesuits into education because he was convinced that education was an apostolic apostolate-- an apostolate, a ministry. That is to say, there is the ministry of the sacraments, there is the ministry of preaching and then there's education. And he believed this was a good tool to train people spiritually, to train people religiously, to develop a class of committed Catholics. And that's why the Jesuits got into education in the first place. And I think that has to be our calling. We are here as educators, yes, and quality education, yes. But our goal is essentially spiritual and religious. We want to help people to grow spiritually regardless what their religion might happen to be. And I think that's what has made the work here satisfactory for me, so satisfactory.

Interviewer: Part of your work here as a priest I know on campus is you're involved with Life After Sunday.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Tell us a little bit about that.

Respondent: Well Life After Sunday is a club and I'll tell you when it got started, it started about ten years ago just as I was leaving the Dean's Office. And several students approached me and they had an idea for a club. And the idea was prayer. There were other activities in the social domain and the cultural domain and entertainment. They wanted an organization just given to prayer. And they wanted a faculty advisor. And I said, "Yes, I'd be very happy to do that." And the club prospered. We started out with maybe half a dozen members, now our membership runs probably between 35 and 40, students of all years. What we do briefly is this: We gather every evening-- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 9 o'clock in the side Chapel of Bellarmine to pray the Rosary and then follow by night prayer. On Tuesday night I stay afterwards for Reconciliation, for confession. We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday between the noon Mass and the 5 o'clock Mass. We also have “holy power hours” and this is adoration, benediction, a little sermon, and prayer together. We do that about six times in the course of the year. And usually also have a retreat every year. Pretty much as you can see strictly prayer but it obviously meets a need and most I would say are Catholic, though there are several non-Catholics in the group as well.
>> Interviewer: Good. Father, you've been here quite a long time-- how do you think Xavier University has changed over the years?

>> Respondent: I think in a lot of ways. Let me go back just to reiterate what I said about the change in the make of the Board of Trustees-- the essential handing over of governance by the Society of Jesus to the lay folk here at Xavier with the even enthusiasm of Jesuits by the way-- it was not in any way contrary to their will. But that certainly represented a major change. But growth would be the other. And by growth I mean first of all academic growth. I would begin with the purchase of Edgecliff College in 1980. Through that purchase we inherited a wonderful art department, a music department, a nursing department, hospital administration department, criminal justice, social work.

32:00 We expanded considerably. Later on we added occupational therapy, the business school has grown as you know incrementally over the years. We've added several doctoral programs, one in clinical psychology and one in education administration. Over and above that of course there's also the physical growth. The plant has just -- the acquisitions of land, the Cohen Center from U.S. Shoe was a huge acquisition. The closing of Herald Avenue by the City of Cincinnati for the academic mall. The closing of the northern section of Ledgewood for the residential mall. Then the closing of the southern section of Edgecliff for the Hoff Quadrangle. All of these. But I think also the things I would point out as major changes, the dropping of football in 1973 might not strike you, but that was really very, very controversial at the time. And I just encountered within the last six months a former Xavier student who was still angry with us at dropping football. He was a football player at the time, so understandable.

33:15 I think also going big-time in basketball. That was a major decision and the building of Cintas Center of course followed as a result of that. A major change, I don't think there's any doubt about that. And one that might -- you might overlook, the introduction of the computer. And I -- I remember this very well, I remember 1981, the summer of 1981, I was in the Dean's Office at that time working with freshmen, you get the picture. The registrar went online with registration for the very first time. Chaos. My father was very ill that summer, I had been gone a while, we had to put him into a nursing facility. I came back only to find out that this computer, which I did not support in the first place, had
canceled the schedules of about 90 freshmen. Well, being smart, I had kept paper copies so we get these people re-registered. But we had trouble all that year. The computer was constantly getting things wrong or maybe the people feeding the data in were getting it wrong.

>> Interviewer: Punch cards system?

34:25  >> Respondent: Punch cards, yes. We had one student -- we had two students with the very same first and last name. I found out six weeks into the semester what had happened. These two students were the same names. One young lady wasn’t unregistered, had no classes at all. The other had 31 credit hours. What the computer had done was combine all of them under one of the students. We spent hours working on it. And I once said to my secretary on a Friday evening I said, "Do you think maybe you could come in tomorrow morning? You and I will pick up these computers, your’s and mine, we will drive down to the Suspension Bridge and drop these things into the Ohio River." Well of course we didn’t do that. But that was a major change as well.

35:15  >> Interviewer: (inaudible) Well, as far as the personalities you've encountered here at Xavier, what persons have really stood out for you?

>> Respondent: Yes, many. I was always an admirer of Fr. Paul O'Connor. Of course he was President and I was very young at the time. I admired him and he was universally admired around Cincinnati, a great, great President. I admired Fr. Bob Mulligan, he came in and really got the financial house in order. And that was not easy, a few heads had to roll and that took courage and I respected him for that. I always admired Fr. Vic Nieporte who was a very hardworking man. He built a lot of the buildings on campus here. Fr. Pete Buschmann who was very holy and taught me how to combine my religious life and my commit -- and my religious commitments to higher education. I think I learned a lot from Pete Buschmann. I learned a lot from my friend Fr. Tom Savage. Tom Savage --

36:15  >> Interviewer: From the English Department.

>> Respondent: The English Department, yes. A character in many ways, but a great, great man and very perceptive. Among the laymen I always admired Mr. Ed VonderHaar, never got the credit he deserved but behind the scenes he was the Development Office for years. Many creative, innovative ideas were really his work. Dr. Raymond McCoy who founded the Graduate School, ran the Education Department. He
and Father -- Dr. Tom Hailstones who founded the Business School, we owe a tremendous debt to those two men. Financially they saved the place through the '70s and early '80s while we working at the undergraduate are trying to get our act together.

They were great men. But Charlie Gallagher who gave the Gallagher Center -- another great man. But maybe one of the most important is Mike Conaton. Mike Conaton, former Chair of the Board, a Xavier grad, as I think an ideal of what every Christian man should be and I admire him greatly.

>> Interviewer: What do you see are the biggest challenges facing Xavier today?

>> Respondent: I think there are several, Tim. First of all, I think it’s absolutely essential that Xavier commit itself to its Catholic Jesuit identity. Not that we preclude other people, that's never been the Jesuit way. Going all the way back to 1840 a significant segment of the student body in those days was not Catholic, you know as well as I do. But rather we're committed to these ideals because people come here and that's what they want, that's why they come here. If they don’t they go somewhere else and that's perfectly all right. But I think it is important for Xavier to maintain that distinctive nature, because if we don't we'll become just another liberal arts college and heaven knows we've got enough of those around, and good ones. Miami, for example.

I think that's essential. Number two, Xavier has to remain a quality institution. The quality of the education has to be high here. And I think that includes a commitment to a core curriculum that's meaty and substantial, that will attract people as well. I think if we can maintain those, a lot of growth may be not in our interest right now. I think perhaps enough of that for the time being, but commit ourselves to a religious orientation and a quality education.

>> Interviewer: Okay, so as far as opportunities for growth in the future and for development in the future you would say an emphasis upon Catholic education and a quality curriculum.

>> Respondent: That's right, that would be my -- my directions if anyone's listening.

>> Interviewer: Okay. Tell us about your closest friends at Xavier.

>> Respondent: Well I had many very good friends and I've already mentioned some. But one of my best friends and person I really miss is Fr. Jim Hoff. Fr. Jim Hoff was President here from 1991 to the year 2000 and I think a great President. A great President. Not an easy
man to work with by any means. He was very demanding and wanted nothing but the best and didn't hesitate to tell you when you did not do your job. But over and above that he had a gift for raising money. When we sat at his inauguration in 1991 at Music Hall downtown he said to us on that occasion something like, "The endowment of this institution is $27 million. When I leave here it will be over 100 million." And we all laughed and smiled at one another. You know what the endowment was when he left? $110 million; he did it. But so far as raising money the nerve of a burglar. But the same time a man committed I think to Catholic, Jesuit education and quality education as I mentioned before.

>> Interviewer: You told me a story once about Fr. Hoff asking a certain amount from a certain individual. Why don't you tell us that.

>> Respondent: This is one of my favorite Fr. Hoff stories and I've heard this from Mike Conaton. Mike Conaton was chair of the board here and a close friend of Fr. Hoff's. And after his first wife Nan - Betsy. Betsy died of Lupus and several years later Mike decided to remarry his present wife Nancy. And at the time they sent out wedding invitations to people and the wedding invitation indicated, "Please come, but no gifts." Well a good friend of Mike Conaton called him and he said, "Mike I understand why you don't want any gifts. But you and I have been friends for years and I'm going to give Xavier University $20,000 in your name." I don't know the exact amount but $20,000 is close. Mike said, "Oh, that's wonderful. $20,000, that will be greatly appreciated. Call my friend Fr. Hoff and he'll make the arrangements." So this fellow calls Fr. Hoff, gets him in the office and he says, "Fr. Hoff, I'm so-and-so, I'm a good friend of Mike Conaton. He doesn't want any wedding gifts, but we're long time friends and I have decided that in his honor and Nancy's honor I'm going to give money to Xavier University." Fr. Hoff said, "Well how much?" And the man said, "twenty thousand dollars." There was a pause. And Fr. Hoff said, "Well, isn't Mike Conaton worth more than $20,000?" (laughs)

>> Interviewer: That's brazen.

>> Respondent: (laughing) and the fellow calls Mike Conaton back and said, "I offered him $20,000 and you know what he told me? It isn't enough." I bet any amount of money though that person gave more than $20,000. And Fr. Hoff got away with it, it was brazen, your
word, but everybody knew it wasn't for him, he didn't get a thing out of it. But it's a great story about him.

>> Interviewer: Yeah. Fr. Tom, looking back do you have any regrets or any unfulfilled dreams?

42:35 >> Respondent: You know that's a hard question to answer. And I would say maybe the fact that I never got my doctorate. Maybe you would say that's more personal regret and perhaps that's correct. There are moments when I think I could have served Xavier better with my doctorate. But when I first left my studies as a Jesuit it seemed unnecessary, it really did seem to serve no purpose. I was offered the opportunity to do it, declined. And there are moments when I wish maybe I had. I might have been able to do other things at Xavier. On the other hand, as I look back, I say to myself what would I have changed? I'm not sure I would have changed anything. So I don't know, that's one possibly.

>> Interviewer: Well, is there anything else you would like to add at this time?

43:30 >> Respondent: No, other than that I'm grateful. I think God has been very good to me. The Society of Jesus has been very good to me. And Xavier has been very good to me. And if I have made any contribution over the years it's a small token of my gratitude and thanks. And that's about all I have to add.

>> Interviewer: Well that's wonderful. Well I think this concludes our interview with Fr. Kennealy. I want to thank Fr. Tom once again for coming today. This has been a very interesting conversation and I've really enjoyed it. I've really enjoyed working with you all this time also. I hope you've enjoyed our conversation this morning.

>> Respondent: Absolutely.

>> Interviewer: I think at the conclusion of this interview it would be fitting to repeat some of the remarks given by Fr. John Larocca of the Xavier faculty.

>> Respondent: Now, this is added.

>> Interviewer: Fr. Tom doesn't know this.

>> Respondent: I didn't know this was coming. (laughs)

>> Interviewer: If would you have known, you wouldn't have been here.

>> Respondent: It would have been vetoed. That's right.

>> Interviewer: At the May 13th, 2006 commencement Fr. Larocca presented on the behalf of Xavier University to Fr. Tom the Paul L. O'Connor Leadership Award. And at that time Fr. Larocca said, and I think it is totally appropriate to repeat that at this time. Fr. Larocca,
said, "In his own quiet way Thomas P. Kennealy, SJ, represents much of what is best at Xavier University: intelligence, compassion, humility. He is well known around campus for his generous spirit, his marked skill for successfully taking on any position or assignment and, perhaps most admirably, his ability to achieve so much without any personal fanfare. As a result Fr. Kennealy has over the years created his own very special place in the heart of the Xavier community. And in recognition for his legacy of dedication and selfless service Xavier University is proud to present Thomas P. Kennealy, SJ with the Paul L. O'Connor Leadership Award." It was true then in 2006 and it’s true also now and, Father, I just want to thank you for your life of ongoing dedication.

>> Respondent: Um-hmm. Thank you.
>> Interviewer: Thank you.
>> Respondent: You're welcome.
(end of interview)