

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** James Lee Babin

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0138

**IDENTIFICATION:** LSU English professor and member of Christ the King congregation

**INTERVIEWER:** Karla Woggon

**SERIES:** University History - Religion

**INTERVIEW DATES:** May 13, 1992; May 28, 1992

**FOCUS DATES:** 1950s - 1970s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 191**

Christ the King as a church parish; priests and nuns leaving church; Father Michael Cody stepping down from altar to protest segregation; types of priests at Christ the King; Claretians at LSU; academic training of Claretians; evangelical Christians luring Catholics away from church; response to evangelicals; Bishop Robert Tracy and Christ the King; Bishop Joseph Sullivan's conservatism; creation of Catholic faculty group; Bishop Sullivan's attempt to purge liberal clergy; controversy over Father Charles Curran (birth control advocate) lecture; removal of Claretians; shift from Latin to English mass; Father Richard Green as pastor; student reaction to dismissal of Claretians; retreats; impact of G. I. Bill on LSU in 1950s; Babin's crisis of faith; decision to leave seminary; becoming an English professor

**Tape 192**

counseling students; poorly educated priests at Christ the King; breach between Christ the King and LSU Catholic faculty; Fr. Michael Cody and protest against segregation; Vietnam Moratorium (1969); Prof. Herbert Rothschild's extreme liberalism; Billy Graham Crusade at LSU; relationship between Catholics and evangelicals on campus; Vatican II; Christ the King parish council; membership in Theta Kappa Phi; classes taught by Father Borders; Catholic Student Center; meeting wife at LSU; philosophy professor Jason Xenakis

**TAPES:** 2 (T191; T192)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 2 hours, 40 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 93 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None