the Mary and Brother Russell gallery

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After discharge from the Army, John entered the Marist Brothers as a postulant in September 1946. He had some fellow ex-servicemen, notable Eddie Lyons and Dennis Hyndsman, but the most part his fellow students were ten years younger, and far less mature. He handled this gracefully, which reminds the Brothers how Father Champagnat must have felt when he first entered the junior seminary, thrown in with youngsters in southern France.

At the time he became a novice, he received the name Brother Cornelius Joseph, and used that name for the first decade of his teaching career. The order reversed its policy, and Brothers were allowed to revert to their family names. At Marist College, he was called Brother Cornelius J Russell — the "J" may stand for John, his original name, or Joseph, his father's name.

At Marist College, he had a choice of majoring in either history or mathematics, and chose history, graduating in 1950. For his graduate work, he chose Columbia University for an MBA, following somewhat in the steps of his father, who was an employee of a bank for many years.

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