

## Oral History with Tom Clardy

November 11, 2020

In this Oral History, Tom Clardy recounts his growing up years in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, his school years, activities in school, meeting his wife, raising children and his life with COVID-19. He relates his skiing days with his sister and father, supporting his wife, Stacy during her years in medical school and his varied experiences with NASA, taking courses at Penn state and as Director of Research Planning for Neurosurgery. Annamaria and Cecilia's birth and personalities are reviewed. Tom expresses the joys and challenges raising children during COVID.

When the COVID-19 restrictions were imposed, their family was not to be isolated. In the summer, they convened socially-distanced picnics with friends in the backyard and Stacy spoke to her patients on long walks around the neighborhood. Tom and his family are practicing Catholics and attend the St. Mary's Church in Park City. Father Gray, their Priest, has live-streamed a spiritual message every day since the lockdown began in March and continues to this day; a practice that has increased Tom's respect for him inordinately. Wistfully, Tom describes those meetings having a "tremendous spirit of fellowship and community because you thought, 'Okay, here's everybody else coming and here is the group of the faithful.'" Tom sadly recounts that the "Easter and Christmas crowd" joined in for a while at the beginning of the lockdown but appear to have since "gotten their fill." St. Mary's church resumed services in September, and with that the COVID-style Eucharist. Tom and his family are relieved to be back. He attributes his fortified faith during the pandemic to his thinking about it "all the time." In the final moments of the interview, Tom revealed that he feels strength from God. He hears Him whisper, "Steady on."

Tom saw a need for ventilators so got a team together to design simple, inexpensive ventilators. They are now being used throughout the world. It is this type of action that describes Tom. Resourceful, innovative, caring and willing to put in the work to make things happen.

Diane Livingston, Interviewer  
December 14, 2020  
Dr. Patrick Mason, professor  
History 6420  
Utah State University Graduate Student

## Interview with Tom Clardy

November 7, 2020

Time Stamp

- 1:10 Growing up years
- 2:53 Impressions of the United States founding
- 6:02 Sister, childhood games
- 8:27 Skiing
- 10:04 Education
- 11:41 Meeting Stacy
- 15:08 Mars Desert Research Station
- 17:36 Annamaria's birth
- 21:17 Cecilia's birth
- 27:59 Sports
- 30:50 Professional Life
- 31:40 Juggling work and family during COVID
- 37:43 Being raised Catholic and discovering Stacy is Catholic too
- 43:28 St. Mary's Catholic Church response to COVID
- 49:33 Modified distribution of the Eucharist and Church Services
- 51:55 Feelings about Zoom church
- 53:02 Ways COVID has affected his faith – Do not watch scary movies
- 55:18 Praying for and getting an answer about how to help with COVID-Ventilator Project
- 1:00:38 Surprised the church goers have dropped off again
- 1:03:20 Good and bad of COVID
- 1:05:14 "Steady on"
- 1:07:30 Hopes for the country to return to a God-fearing constitutional republic