



Thomas Jost, SJ
50 Years in the Priesthood

A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be to you.

(Lv. 25:11)

It shall be holy to you. (Lv. 25:12)

Fifty years as a Catholic, Jesuit priest! My mind staggers in the effort to grasp this reality. I know my Jesuit priesthood has been a great blessing, revealing the infinite goodness of God. I believe that he called me to this ministry and has been present and active in my life, accomplishing whatever good I have done.

I have enjoyed celebrating all the sacraments, but especially the Eucharist. Being ordained at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, I enjoyed the freedom of celebrating Mass and the sacraments in English, the freedom to focus on being prayerful and making the prayers and rituals understandable. I received a wonderful theological education and a sabbatical in the Holy Land that enabled me to open the sacred scriptures for many.

Eighteen of those years I was a priest-English teacher, helping students appreciate the moral dimension of using language, not to deceive, but to communicate the truth. And I used literature to show that all great stories treat some aspect of the greatest story ever told, that of Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord.

Looking back, I have so much for which to be grateful. And I acknowledge that the Spirit of God accomplished all that was good.

Glory be to him, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or even imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

