



**John McCarthy, SJ**  
***70 Years as a Jesuit***

Many years ago, when I was first received into the Society of Jesus at Florissant, Missouri, I surely had some vague expectations of what the future might hold for me. How different the Lord's plans proved to be from what I had anticipated!

Most of my apostolates were carried on inside the houses of the Society on behalf of other Jesuits. I was privileged to play a minor role in Father General's Curia in Rome, where I had the opportunity to meet and observe Jesuit leaders from all around the world. What an opportunity that was, to learn of the flourishing apostolates that Jesuits were carrying on everywhere. Problems there were, of course, but so much good was still being done by the exertions of our men in every part of the world. I also experienced the scholarly apostolic works being carried on at Creighton University in Omaha and, in more recent times, at Jesuit Hall in St. Louis. Again, I was greatly edified by the diligent scholarship evident in the classrooms and the zeal to serve the spiritual needs of the students and faculty. To have contributed to the apostolates of these Jesuits even in a minor capacity was a source of much spiritual benefit to me.

No, life has not unfolded exactly as I had anticipated, but God has chosen the better paths for me. I am most grateful that his designs for me have been so merciful.

