

## **Francis Renfroe, SJ** ***50 Years in the Priesthood***

My thoughts on my fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood as a Jesuit presented me with an interesting question – What fact made me somewhat unique as a Jesuit novice? The answer: I was drafted out of our Grand Coteau novitiate 17 days after my arrival. I had just received my cassock but now found it necessary to leave for a two-year service in the U.S. Navy! (Can anyone top this?) After my discharge in 1955, I again returned to Grand Coteau for my two years of novitiate, 1955-57.



One of things I am most grateful for is the wonderful reception that all of us novices experienced from the Jesuit order. Nothing financial was asked of me – zero dollars – which helped make my decision to enter most agreeable. This fact is because of the generosity of benefactors who had given donations to the Jesuits before my entrance. That generosity made possible my Jesuit life – this year I celebrate 50 years a priest. Alleluia!! and a promise to remember my unknown benefactors at my 50th ordination Mass.