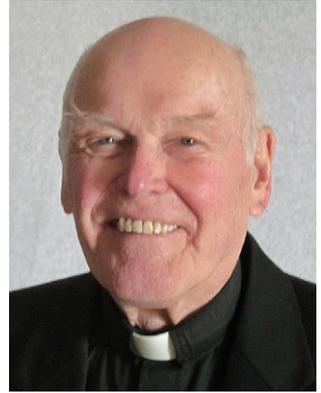




James A. Sebesta, SJ ***60 Years as a Jesuit***

I am very grateful to God for the 60 years I have spent in the Society of Jesus, especially for my 28 years among the native people of Alaska and my 23 years at Saint Louis University among the many passionate professional students in the Flight Sciences Program.



My most memorable times were living, struggling and rejoicing with the Indian people of Kaltag, Alaska, and the surrounding villages. God permitted me to enter their lives as they struggled with problems, to work with them in planning the future, to form deep personal bonds of friendship, to offer them the Good News of Christ's life through the blessings I had received in our course of studies.

As area director of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Alaska for 10 years, I had the privilege of entering the lives of these most generous people working in the schools, the native villages, the radio station, hospital and the cities of Alaska. I must say they influenced my heart to be generous in deeply personal ways. God certainly blessed me to be so involved with these unique people and prepared me for my years at Saint Louis University.

After serving as Jesuit Superior for six years, I was offered a sabbatical and ended up in the Flight Sciences Program at Saint Louis University. My many hours of flight experience in Alaska turned out to be a unique service I could provide to many eager students. I responded in gratitude to give to my students in the same way so many people gave to me in my early years learning to fly.

When I entered the Society, I had no idea if my natural talents would be recognized and used so well in the service of Gods people. My life as a Jesuit has been truly blessed.