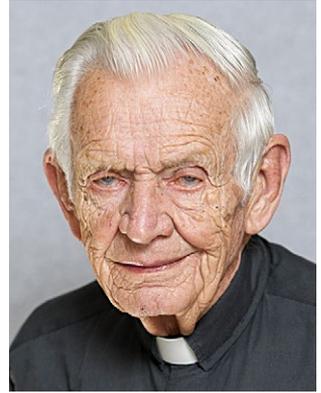




Leo Weber, SJ

75 Years as a Jesuit

A reflection on my life as a Jesuit: whatever I have done, where I have been, has really been fulfilling and happy – and continues to be. God is SO good. And I am grateful to the Good Lord, to my brother Jesuits, and to the many people I've served through these years. It's all of you who are responsible for my happiness. Thanks, God bless you all.



Most of my priestly life was in Belize. What a privilege. A lot of it was at St. John's College – a high school in U.S. language. I was able, within those years, to establish a Junior College, again U.S. terminology. It is co-ed. What has always impressed and inspired me is the immense effort these low-income families make to have their sons and daughters in a Catholic school.

The final ten years of my Belize career was as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in the southern-most town of Punta Gorda. I could sit on the front veranda of the rectory and have the Caribbean Ocean 50 yards in front of me. What more could one want!

There are 17 Maya Indian villages attached to the parish. Each had Sunday Mass and the sacraments at least once a month. The whole village would be outside the thatch church as I arrived over the so-called roads. Their welcome was wonderful and made me so grateful for the gift of priesthood that made it possible for me to bring the Mass and the sacraments to them.

Eventually I was transferred to Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver. Again, a blessing and joy – until I was placed in the uncomfortable state of *retirement*. But it is acceptable because of the many joyful and grateful memories of a wonderful life as a Jesuit priest. God is SO GOOD!

