Photography interests give Jesuit recognition

What started out as a hobby for the Rev. Michael Flecky, S.J., has given him recognition around the state and country.

Two teaching experiences led Flecky to further his interest in photography. During the early 1960s, he was asked to teach by the principal of North House, an all-black, inner-city school in St. Louis.

At North House, Flecky taught a photography class which proved successful with the students. He left St. Louis in 1968 to teach students on the Rosebud Indian reservation in South Dakota.

He left Rosebud in 1969 and studied photography independently in Omaha and California.

Fleeky’s interest in the visual arts then led him to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York in 1979.

Fleeky came to Creighton in the spring of 1981 and became a full-time teacher of art and photography after becoming a member of the Society of Jesus.

“Sometimes I know that there is a feeling in what I photograph and where I photograph it, he said, “but sometimes it takes years before I realize what it (the message) really is. “It’s so different than photojournalism by which pictures tell a story — it’s so much more.”

Fleeky is currently working on the opening of another show for late January and early February at the Sheldon Art Gallery in Lincoln. He plans to include at least 25 color and black-and-white photos of the Sandhills.

“The beauty of the photo world is exciting,” he said. “One can write an expression down, but a photo becomes your own, a lasting concrete experience that can be shared a thousand times over.”