Doll invited to photo ‘America’ project

By Kristen Moore

The Rev. Don Doll, S.J., Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, a nationally recognized photographer, has been invited to join other photographers in a project titled “A Day in the Life of America.”

America is Doll’s specialty, and three of his Indian reservation pictures are included in the book.

Only 110 photographers have pictures in the book, which will be available in bookstores in October. Doll was introduced to free lance photography as a young Jesuit, when he was asked to do public relations pictures for the St. Francis Mission.

He received his first formal instruction in photojournalism at Marquette University in 1994. It was then that his photographic past time became a vocation.

In 1988, Doll was appointed to the faculty of Creighton as an instructor of photography. Spending one year on leave from Creighton in 1974, Doll lived in the Rosebud Reservation community of South Dakota as the parish priest and took photographs in the community.

His goal was to portray the residents in their natural surroundings and to promote understanding of life on an Indian Reservation. This work was compiled into a series of 100 images.

The show opened at Creighton in September, 1972. Doll received “special recognition” for the photographs in the Pictures of the Year Competition in the World Understanding category, in April of 1978.

Doll said a camera is “just the start for any photographer. “A thinking person is needed behind the camera in order to look for the unique characteristics and gestures that everyone has,” he said.

“Photography is so easy and so hard at the same time,” Doll said, “because a picture only becomes a photograph when suffused in meaning.”

Doll’s other accomplishments in photography include a 1976 book titled “Crying for a Vision,” and a black and white photo collection titled “Eskimo Hunters in Alaska,” which appeared in the June 1984 issue of “National Geographic.”

Doll’s work on the Sioux Indians is expected to appear in the upcoming December issue of “National Geographic."

In addition, Doll is a frequent contributor to Creighton’s “Window” magazine. In October, Doll will teach a workshop for professional photographers at the University of Missouri.

Doll at gallery show