Flecky captures the blues of England in photo exhibit

By Mike Krupinsky
Reporter

The color blue can mean many things. To Michael Flecky, S.J., fine arts professor, it is more than his favorite color, it is an emotion which was sparked in him while spending time in England and northern Europe.

Flecky used pictures from his time teaching as an assistant professor at Richmond College in London to compose an exhibit of photos which are now on display at the 13th Street Gallery at 1264 South 13th Street.

The photos are finished entirely with a blue print process. With this process only two colors are available: white and blue.

Flecky used this process because of the mood of England. "The color matches the experience," said Flecky.

Through his eyes, the depression of the culture fit the blue of the prints.

This was his third visit to England, and he definitely noticed an overall change in attitudes. Flecky mentioned that there seemed to be much more poverty and pollution. The morale was much more pessimistic.

Blue printing as a process can be done on almost any organic material such as wood or cloth. To use the process, one must first use a large negative such as a 4"x 7." The surface to be printed on then must be covered with a light sensitive chemical emulsion.

When the surface is dry, one can then place the negative over it and prepare to expose it to light.

Where the chemically treated surface is exposed to light it turns blue, where it isn't, it turns white.

Blue printing as a process was used many years ago. Flecky had used the process before, but while in England teaching he became quite fascinated with the process. It was then that he decided to use the process more.

The exhibit itself was not a planned idea to shoot for when he went over. Flecky had already committed himself to an exhibit about a year ago, but had not decided what it was going to be.

Toward the end of his stay things started falling together said Flecky. But, it wasn't until he returned to Creighton that he decided to use the blue print process for the photos.

Rev. Michael Flecky, S.J.
Photo by Stephanie Heller