Flecky photo exhibit focuses on Irish poet

Mindy Lafferty

REV. MICHAEL J. FLECKY is an art exhibition titled "Hopkins in Ireland." It represents a different approach to his photography. "Hopkins in Ireland" focuses specifically on a collection of letters, journals, and poems written by the late Irish poet and Jesuit Gerald Manly Hopkins.

The photographs accompanying the collection are of places associated with Hopkins and were taken by Flecky during two trips to Ireland.

"These photographs are literal and specific," Flecky said. Typically, his photographs have not depended on such items as letters and journals for the basis of his studies.

Flecky describes Hopkins as "one of the most remarkable writers of the Victorian Age" and this exhibit is to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Hopkins' birthday, Flecky said.

The exhibit was first displayed at the International Hopkins Summer School in Ireland, where Hopkins taught during the last five years before his death in 1889.

It wasn't until 29 years after Hopkins' death that his collection of writings was published. After the publication in 1918, people became aware of the spiritual and visual qualities distinctive in Hopkins' works, setting him apart from other writers.

Flecky is an associate professor of photography in the Fine Arts Department. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree as well as masters in English and Divinity from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Flecky has taught at Creighton for 15 years and "Hopkins in Ireland" is one of several exhibits that he has displayed in the Creighton Art Gallery.

Flecky has held approximately 28 one-person shows and more than 40 group shows throughout the United States.

"Hopkins in Ireland" will run through Sept. 29 in the Creighton University Gallery. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building.

Karen Thomas, Arts and Science Sophomore, views the Rev. Michael Flecky's photo exhibit on Irish poet Gerald Manly Hopkins. The exhibit is on display in the Fine Arts building open to the public from now until Sept. 29.