



**Br James Lee, S.J.
(1925-2020. In Zambia 1988-1992)**

19 November 2020

Brother James Joseph Lee, SJ, who served in the Jesuit missions of Alaska and Zambia, died November 19, 2020, at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California. He was 95 years of age and had been a Jesuit Brother for 43 years.

Jim was born in Everett, Washington, on June 22, 1925, where he attended local schools. During World War II, he served in the South Pacific in a Seabee unit, providing potable water to military camps. For many years he worked in construction jobs in the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska, where he was employed in building the Alaska Pipeline.

In the 1970s, he worked as a maintenance man at the Jesuit-run St Mary's School in St Mary's, Alaska, where he discerned a calling to the religious life. Jim entered the Jesuit novitiate in Portland, Oregon, on January 15, 1977, at the age of 51. Upon completion of his novitiate training in 1979, he returned to St Mary's, serving as director of maintenance. He also assisted in the building of a church and residence on Little Diomed Island.

In 1985 Jim was assigned to the Loyola Renewal Center in Portland, Oregon, where he directed the maintenance of a busy retreat house. In 1987, he did a year of spiritual training at Gonzaga University before embarking overseas.

In Zambia. Jim was in charge of maintenance at the Canisius Secondary School in Chikuni Mission, until 1992. The Provincial wrote to him after he returned to the States: "By working in your own quiet way, you made great strides in trying to get the secondary school back into reasonable repair. You also had a fine way with the school boys who worked with you. The community enjoyed your company and in spite of your allergies and other illnesses, you never complained or were you a burden on them."

Returning to the U.S., he underwent a double operation for hernia and prostate and then spent the next year in Seattle before taking over house administration at the Jesuit retirement community in Spokane. He moved to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California, in April 2017 for a ministry of prayer.