



"Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus."
"That in all things may God be glorified."
(1 Peter 4:11)

St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter

Vol. 40 No. 1 Spring and Summer 2019



"Ora et Labora"
"Prayer and Work"
(Benedictine Motto)

Monastic life is entrance into new way of thinking

By Paul Paproski, OSB

Brs. Denys Janiga, OSB and Luis Cruz, OSB entered another stage in their faith journey, March 20, when they became novices at St. Peter's Abbey. Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB presided over an investiture ceremony where the novices were clothed with habits. Brs. Denys and Luis had been living as candidates in the abbey for six months.

Entering a monastery is not an easy vocation, Abbot Peter remarked. The

decision to become a monk reaches far beyond the desire to choose a new way of life. The choice is centered in leaving an old way of thinking behind. The habits symbolize being stripped of everything from the past and being clothed in what belongs to the monastery.

The habit symbolizes an outward appearance, but points to an inner reality that is much more important, Abbot Peter said. Benedictines centre their lives around prayer and work which is entrenched in putting away the old so

they can put on something new. Monastic living in community life is a means to conversion.

Br. Denys, 48, said, in an interview, he first learned of St. Peter's Abbey in 2017 after searching for monastic communities on the Internet. He felt called to the monastic life and since entering St. Peter's Abbey he has learned that monastic life has a strong spiritual dimension. A monastic community is a spiritual family.

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TRANSITIONS — The beginning of fall brings lower temperatures, shorter daylight hours and longer shadows. The leaves of the elm trees that lead to St. Peter's Cemetery transform from verdant green into brilliant yellow and gold. Cut off from life, the foliage breaks out into a display of beauty. The splendor of the fall prepares everyone for the final season of the year — a season of hope. The cold and darkness of winter always give way to new life in the spring.

A message from Abbot Peter's desk

This year saw a growth – of sorts – in the monastic community here in Muenster.

Most evident was the acceptance last September of two candidates: Robert Janiga and Edmundo Cruz. Both lived in the Toronto area. They made profession of vows in March and have made a significant contribution to our regular community life. For the past few months, Joseph Do has become a working guest and joins the community in our prayer and work.

Other monks have returned home.

Fr. Cosmas returned to the abbey in February from his assignment to Carlyle and surrounding parishes in the Regina Archdiocese. He is mixing community life with an eremitical vocation. He spends his evenings in the hermitage Fr. James used to live in while joining the community for prayer, meals and work.

Frs. Lawrence and Richard both “retired” from their pastoral assignments this summer and returned to the abbey. Fr. Richard lived in Watrous and is now abbey treasurer, to replace retired Kathy

Tumback. Fr. Lawrence loves to nurture his garden at the abbey as well as volunteer for weekend assistance where needed. He served three years as pastor in Southend and La Ronge in northern Saskatchewan.

Fr. Joseph spent over a month in the hospital this summer after a fall at his retirement residence in Bruno. He has since returned to the abbey where he needs minimal care. Much of his heart is still at the Bruno Prairie View home where he has spent his retirement years after serving 19 years as pastor of Bruno and Peterson.

St. Peter's College, in September, began a new term with a lower number of students. The number in residence is 16 again, the same as last year. After a year characterized by a “quiet” group of students, this year's class is more lively and engaging.

Meanwhile the past year has seen a nice increase in the number of guests and groups using our guest residences. With the current closure of the Lumsden con-

ference centre, a number of groups have migrated to St. Peter's Abbey. It's always nice to welcome new faces and they appreciate the monastic presence and beautiful grounds St. Peter's can offer. Fr. Demetrius has served 22 years as guest master and 18 years as director of student residence. I took charge of managing the student residents last year.

This summer created a lot of anxiety for local farmers and gardeners. The last decade has seen a lot of moisture in spring – and too much in some years. This year we experienced drought in early spring, which created uncertainty. Finally, rain began to fall in mid-June, bringing a sigh of relief to those who make farming their livelihood. While the moisture was a bit late for pastures and hay lands, it seems to have produced a good harvest this fall – though a bit spotty across the province – and also later than usual. So far, the frost has held off. Farmers are some of the biggest gamblers on earth, as they depend so much on the vagaries of the weather. Thank

heaven we don't have to worry about the hurricanes and tornados we hear about in other countries.

Next year I will turn 75 years old. Our Benedictine constitutions advise that abbots resign at age 75. That will mean that the community will hold an election for abbot. While no date has been set yet, it will likely be in spring. Next fall, a Congress of Benedictine abbots will be held in Rome. There are usually 250 abbots present from around the world. Congresses are held every four years.

We pray that God bless all of you.

Please see our abbey website: stpetersabbey.ca



NORTHERN MISSION – Abbot Peter visited Fr. Lawrence DeMong at Southend in northern Saskatchewan (the south end of Reindeer Lake) in August of 2018. Fr. Lawrence became acquainted with the aboriginal cultures during his ministry in Southend and La Ronge.

Monastic life is entrance into new way of thinking

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“Like any family, there is enjoyable fellowship, inevitable conflict and alone time can be very valued. I cannot say that I am bored. Part of the conversion process, for me, seems to be about offering up my ambitions to God, learning to focus on loving more and not getting too attached to things,” he commented.

Monastic life has brought Br. Denys to understand there is a delicate balance between being aware of the skills he brought into the community and learning to listen so he can be open to learning new tasks.

Br. Denys was born in Bowmanville, Ontario. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario; Master’s in Environmental Studies at York University in Toronto; and Master of Arts in public policy and administration at Ryerson University in Toronto. He worked in the public and broader public sectors.

Br. Luis Cruz, 50, discovered St. Peter’s Abbey on the Internet while searching for a monastic community. He looks on monastic life as a spiritual home immersed in a community “of seekers” who support one another in



GENERAL CHAPTER – Every three years, abbots and delegates from the 20 abbeys of the American Cassinese Congregation gather to discuss common concerns. Fr. Paul Paproski and Abbot Peter attended the June, 2019 meeting at St. Anselm’s Abbey in Manchester, NH.

their journeys to God. Br. Luis said he is surprised how monastic life – centred in prayer and work – is so different from the secular world.



BELLS REPAIRED – After a summer of repair work on the abbey bells, we heard them ringing again on Sept. 9, much to the delight of the monks and guests.

Br. Luis is finding that his role as a novice is deepening his understanding of religious life which he knew only from the outside. Now, as someone living in a religious community, he is aware of how meaningful a communal setting is where everyone has a common goal of seeking God. The time served as a candidate and novice has brought Br. Luis to learn new things about his vocation.

Br. Luis was born in Makati City, Philippines. He has a university degree in business economics. He moved to Toronto in 2007 where he worked as an IT Technician. He served in banking as a Cheque Clearing Clerk and Cheque Signature Verifier. He has done bookkeeping as well.

St. Peter's Parish celebrates two milestones

By Paul Paproski, OSB

St. Peter's Parish of Muenster celebrated two milestones this year. The paintings in the sanctuary turned 100 years old. Count Berthold Imhoff painted the inside of the church in 1919, covering the holy space with 80 life-sized figures. His work was a personal gift to his friend, Abbot Bruno Doerfler, OSB. The project, May to August, cost the parish only \$3,000, the value of the material. The sanctuary art depicts persons and scenes from the Gospels.

Another milestone was reached in June, when the entrance to the church was demolished by parish volunteers to prepare for the construction of a new welcome area (vestibule). The front of the church that had greeted parishioners and visitors for more than a century was changed to prepare for a new look and new space. The welcome area, 28 ft. by 20 ft., was constructed to enhance parish life. The new space will be used for, among other things, parish socials, meetings, children's liturgy and overflow crowds. The welcome area, as well, will provide a buffer against the outside cold and wind.

The welcome area has four windows which will be covered in stained-glass. Each window will reflect the theme of one of the four seasons, and of a family gathering. Sponsors are being sought for the windows.

Vern and Helga Hoing of Surrey, B.C. are the sponsors of the welcome area. The Hoings first contributed to the parish when it was renovated between 2008-2010 to prepare for the centennial of the building of the church.

St. Peter's Parish began in 1903 as a log building. In 1910, the present Romanesque building was constructed. The building became known as a cathedral on May 6, 1921, when the German-Catholic settlement of St. Peter's Colony was raised to a territorial abbey (diocese) later known as St. Peter's Abbey (Muenster Diocese). The colony was administered by Benedictines whose abbot was the spiritual leader of the abbacy. The church became the focal point of religious celebrations in St. Peter's Abbey. The Benedictines lived in an abbey east of the cathedral. In 1921, the



HISTORIC DAY – The front entrance of St. Peter's Parish was removed by parish volunteers, June 1, to prepare for the building of a new vestibule (welcome area). The church front that greeted parishioners for more than 100 years has been expanded to provide space for, among other things, meetings, children's liturgy, parish socials and overflow crowds. The addition will provide additional protection from the outside wind and cold.

Benedictines relocated to their present location south of Muenster. The abbacy was discontinued in 1998 when it was absorbed into the Diocese of Saskatoon.

St. Peter's Parish sanctuary brings the Gospel to life through its art and statuary. The west entrance of the church opens to scenes of 'The Agony in the Garden' and 'The Crucifixion'. In the centre (ceiling below the choir loft) is 'The Good Shepherd'. Rising above the nave at the entrance is 'The Ascension', commemorating the first Mass in the district on May 21, 1903.

Other illustrations above the aisle depict: 'The Sacred Heart of Jesus', 'Annunciation', and 'Eucharist' (above the altar). 'The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary' adorns the left and right aisles. Disciples line the archways of the inside nave and west wall in the choir loft. The 14 Stations of the Cross depict scenes of Jesus on his way to his crucifixion.

The Heavenly Court, in the apse of the church, features nine arches with saints who were important historical figures to the pioneers of St. Peter's Colony. In the centre arch is St. Peter (holding keys), who is in the presence of other monastic saints. Next to St. Peter are St. Benedict and his twin sister St. Scholastica.

On the apse ceiling is the sacrificial Lamb of God with the cross banner portraying the Lamb of Victory. (Rev. 4:12) A dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit. God the Father is depicted with a triangular halo, representing the Trinity. The Son has a crown and his arms are outstretched embracing creation. Next to the Son is St. Joseph, holding a lily symbolizing purity. St. John the Baptist, near God the Father, announces the Lamb of God. Mary, the Mother of God, stands on a globe. The German inscription around her reads: "You are beautiful, Maria. And there is no stain of sin in you." Below her are the faces of the Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. The archway of the Heavenly Court has scripture in German, which reads: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." (Mt.16:18)

The faces of Benedictines are depicted on some saints. St. Paul (south-east pillar) is a portrait of Abbot Bruno who died at the age of 52 on June 12, 1919, the week Imhoff finished painting the apse. Saints Gregory (tiara) and Jerome (red hat) beneath St. Peter are portraits of Frs. Bernard Schaeffler and Peter Windschiegel. St. Chrysostom (arch 3) has the facial image of Fr. Chrysostom Hoffmann.

Oblates are welcome presence at St. Peter's Abbey

By Paul Paproski, OSB

The Oblates of St. Peter's Abbey are a blessing to the Benedictines where their presence, prayers and support have always been greatly appreciated. Oblates are lay persons who are attached to a Benedictine community and strive to live the Rule of St. Benedict in the world. New members are always welcome.

Since becoming Oblate director in 2010, I have been edified to be able to meet Oblates and welcome new members to the abbey. Many Oblates said that they are pleased to know the monks are praying for them. Some Oblates enjoy visiting the abbey and helping with work, whether in gardening, lawn or court yard maintenance. Others have volunteered with mailing out Oblate and abbey newsletters and looking after the Oblate library.

The financial support of Oblates has been used to fund a handicap lift, new windows and a new heating system for the abbey. One Oblate donated haskap plants

which are used to grow haskap that is made into jam. Another used her expertise in monastic prayer and computers to simplify the monastic prayer books. She assists the Oblate director in managing the Oblate files and records.

All the volunteer work means so much to our community of 13 which isn't able to keep up to the demands it once did

with many more members. There are presently 75 Benedictine Oblates attached to St. Peter's Abbey who live primarily in Saskatchewan. The remainder reside in communities across Canada. There is one Oblate of St. Peter's Abbey who lives in the United States.

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ABBEY COURTYARD – Annette Zawada of St. Gregor, an Oblate of St. Peter's Abbey, is a volunteer in the abbey courtyard. She plants flowers, each year, and enjoys transforming the courtyard into a beautiful flower garden. Among her plants are wildflowers in the central courtyard. Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, helps with some of the work and keeps the bird feeders full of seeds.

2020 OBLATE DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m. Lauds

10:40 a.m. Noon Hour Prayer

11 a.m. Eucharist

Meeting in Jerome Assembly Hall

1 p.m. — Welcome and Prayer

1:05 p.m. – Presentation in Jerome Assembly Room

2 p.m. Coffee

3 p.m. – Vespers

Oblate Days: March 21, July 11, October 17

People and events around the abbey

2018

May 13-17 – St. Peter's Abbey held its annual retreat with Fr. Gregory Hrynkiw of Saskatoon as retreat Master. The theme was: *The Spirituality of the Holy Spirit*. Fr. Gregory is serving the Eparchy of Saskatoon. Six Ursulines of Saskatoon, one of Muenster, and three Elizabethan Sisters of Saskatoon attended. The monks and visitors held Vespers in the abbey cemetery on May 15. Everyone felt comfortable in the unusually warm temperatures and bright sun. There were very few mosquitoes.

May 17 – Francis Swyripa of Edmonton, retired history professor, discussed her work in upgrading the abbey archives. She has been working in the archives, three months each year, during the past five years.

May 17 – Some rainfall brought relief from the dusty weather.

May 17-22 – Ten deacons with the Archdiocese of Regina attended a retreat at the abbey. They had planned to meet at the retreat centre in Lumsden. The retreat centre, once owned by the Franciscans, had to be evacuated after a fire caused damage to the roof.

May 18 – Leaves, that had been slowly budding, were in full bloom.

May 18 – Oblates Bernie and Shirley Karstad of Saskatoon, and Annette Zawada of St. Gregor helped prepare potatoes for planting.

May 18 – Students of St. Dominic and St. Augustine schools held a retreat at the abbey.

May 18-21 – Nine candidates for diaconate in the Archdiocese of Regina went on retreat at the abbey. Their director was Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI of Saskatoon.

May 20 – The temperatures were very warm and the air calm, making for a nice long Victoria Day weekend.

May 22 – Abbot Peter attended the



Fr. Gregory Hrynkiw

St. Thomas More Feast Day and Farewell for President Terrence J. Downey. The Mass and banquet were held at St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon.

May 25 – Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB presided at the funeral Mass of his aunt, Marie Schneider, at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. Concelebrating were Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB. Marie was an Oblate of St. Peter's Abbey.

May 29 – Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB listened to Rance Cardinal address students and staff of Muenster School. Rance, 24, spent 48 days walking from Sioux Lookout, Ontario, to Humboldt. On May 27, he was greeted by hundreds of people in Humboldt, when he arrived following his 1,200 kilometre journey. Rance is a former Junior B hockey player. His walk was in honour of the victims of the April 6 Humboldt Broncos bus crash, which killed 16 and injured another 13. The crash hit close to home for Cardinal, who lost his brother and a close friend in 2013. The walk, he told the students, was to help bring healing for everyone, including himself.

May 30-31 – Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB attended the Canadian Catholic Historical Association 85th Annual Conference in Regina. He listened to reports on Canadian Catholic history, and gave a presentation with the theme: *"100 Years of Prophetic Journalism by the Benedictine Monks of St. Peter's Abbey"*. The monks began publishing a German-Catholic newspaper, St. Peter's Bote, in 1904. They inaugurated an English edition, St. Peter's Messenger, in 1923, which later became the Prairie Messenger. The Bote closed in 1947. The last Prairie Messenger was printed on May 9, 2018.

May 31 – The offices of the Prairie Messenger and St. Peter's Press closed for the last time.

June 12-15 – The Eparchy of Saskatoon held its annual clergy retreat at St. Peter's Abbey. Most Reverend James Weisgerber, Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg, was the retreat master.

June 22-25 – Matthew Meadows, 37, of Barrie, Ontario stopped for a rest in the abbey guest wing. He was walking from Barrie to Anchorage, Alaska after taking leave from his work as an environmental technician.

June 23 – Fr. Demetrius attended the 10th anniversary celebration of the Episcopal Ordination of His Excellency Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR. The celebration was held at St. George's Cathedral in Saskatoon.

June 26-28 – Fr. Paul planted 40 saskatoon trees to bring the number of trees in the orchard to 120. He also replanted 10 saskatoon seedlings from the orchard.

July 5-9 – Br. Benedict attended a formation meeting at St. Mary's Abbey, New Jersey.

July 11 – The Benedictines celebrated the Feast of St. Benedict. Oblates and friends gathered for Mass and a festive dinner afterwards.

July 14 – Annette Zawada of St. Gregor made her Final Oblation at Mass

celebrated during Oblate Day. Oblate Ken Roberts of Saskatoon gave a presentation, in the afternoon, with the theme: Growing in Friendship with Jesus by Meditating on Scripture and by Looking at the Hidden Years in the Life of Jesus.

July 16-17 – The Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus hosted its Annual Clergy Sports Days at St. Peter's Abbey.

July 19 – SaskPower technicians began placing St. Peter's College power lines underground.

July 21 – The Saskatoon orchard yielded 65 gallons of berries. Ardel and Freda Paproski of Hudson Bay helped pick 30 gallons. Another seven gallons were picked, the following week, for a total of 72 gallons.

July 22 – Bishop Mark Hagemoen was the celebrant for the annual Mount Carmel Pilgrimage.

July 31 – A farewell gathering was held for Al Vedress of Muenster, a maintenance employee of St. Peter's Abbey for 26 years.

Aug. 6-9 – Abbot Peter attended the

Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Aug. 16-19 – Abbot Peter visited Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB at Southend and La Ronge. Abbot Peter volunteered to serve as pastor.

Aug. 23 – Br. Pierre Rouillard, OSB came home from Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon where he is being treated for cancer. Br. Pierre, 57, has acute leukemia.

Aug. 31- Sept. 2 – Sheldon Oleksyn and his son Noah of Spruce Grove, Alberta gave the outside of the hermitage of the late Fr. James Gray, OSB a new coat of paint. Fr. James died in 2009.

Sept. 4 – The students of St. Peter's College were welcomed back to another year of studies at Orientation Day. Teachers and staff gave presentations and served lunch. The college registered 100 full and part-time students.

Sept. 11 – The students of St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno picked potatoes for the monks and themselves. Br. Basil Schaan, OSB, Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB and Oblate Neil

Adams of Allan helped with potato picking.

Sept. 20 – Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB of Bruno turned 94. Abbot Peter came for a visit and helped Fr. Joseph celebrate the festive day.

Sept. 21 – Robert Janiga and Edmundo Cruz were accepted as candidates in a special ceremony at Vespers. The ceremony was on the Feast of St. Matthew.

Sept. 22 – Students were honored at the annual St. Peter's College Scholarships and Awards Day. Students received more than \$70,000 worth of awards. The scholarships ranged from \$250 to \$7,000. Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB took photos of the presentations. Abbot Peter welcomed everyone on behalf of the abbey. Abbot Peter, Fr. Demetrius and Br. Kurt Van Kuren, OSB were among the presenters of awards.

Sept. 22 – A friendly cover of snowfall greeted the first day of fall. The snow looked splendid on the colourful fall leaves.

Sept. 24-28 – Abbot Peter attended the annual meeting of the Canadian bishops in Cornwall, Ontario. He is the secretary for the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops.

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 – Abbot Peter attended a meeting in Toronto of the Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes.

Oct. 1 – A cover of snowfall greeting the first day of October. The drop in temperature brought wet, cold harvesting weather.

Oct. 3 – St. Peter's College sponsored its annual Opportunities Edge which was attended by 400 students who came to view displays by 36 exhibitors. The students came on buses from 15 schools in the Horizon School Division. Some were from Carlton Trail Regional College.

Oct. 6-8 – Fr. Demetrius participated in the Revive Youth Retreat of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

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40 YEARS LATER – Sr. Delphine Bershiminsky, OSE of Saskatoon stands in front of a photo taken about 40 years previously when she worked in the abbey kitchen. One of her jobs was baking bread. She used 100 lbs. of flour per day for bread and 100 lbs. of sugar for making jam. Sr. Delphine died in July of 2018 at the age of 90.

People and events around the abbey

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Oct. 17 – Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch and the day that marijuana became legal in Canada.

Oct. 19-21 – Frs. Demetrius and Paul facilitated an Engagement Encounter retreat at St. Peter's Abbey.

Oct. 23 – Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB left to begin his service in three parishes in the Archdiocese of Regina.

Oct. 27 – Oblate Day was held at the abbey. Edgar Neudorf of Saskatoon gave a presentation on the history of the Benedictines.

Oct. 27 – Abbot Peter attended the Knights of Columbus 5th Annual Celebrity Dinner Event in Saskatoon.

Nov. 5 – Early morning rainfall turned into snow which transformed the ground and roofs into white. The snow remained, signaling the unofficial beginning of winter.

Nov. 10 – The funeral of Elgar Petersen, 82, was held at St. Augustine Church, Humboldt. Elgar was well-known for his love and promotion of sports. He was recognized at the Sept. 15, 2000 Humboldt Broncos home opener game where the Uniplex Arena was renamed "The Elgar Petersen Arena". In 1998, Elgar was inducted into the Humboldt Hall of Fame. In 2015 he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Hall of Fame in the Grassroots Category.

Nov. 11 – Sunday, November 11 marked the centennial of the end of the First World War. Following a 2-minute silence at 11 a.m., the bells in the abbey bell tower tolled for two minutes. The parishioners of St. Peter's Parish, Muenster held at 2-minute silence at the end of Sunday Mass, followed by the tolling of the church bell.

Nov. 17 – Fr. Demetrius attended the ordination and installation of Christopher Anthony Harper, 13th bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon. The ordination was held at

the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Nov. 26 – Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated Mass with members of St. Peter's Parish, Muenster. The Mass was held at St. Peter's Abbey in Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Bishop Mark gave a presentation, afterwards, on building parish life. The presentation was in the Jerome Assembly Room. Bishop Mark visited parishes in the Humboldt Deanery, Nov. 24 to 29, to discuss building parish life.

Dec. 2 – Fr. Paul sang with St. Peter's Chorus, directed by Maxine Moore, at St. Augustine Church, Humboldt. The theme of the concert, *Lest We Forget*, celebrated the centennial of the end of the First World War. Rev. Al Hingley, retired United Church pastor, provided vignettes of the war. Fr. Paul accompanied the choir to Melfort, Nov. 30, where they sang at the Kerry Vickar Centre.

Dec. 2 – Fr. Paul sang with St. Peter's Cathedral Choir, Muenster which presented its first evening Christmas concert. Listeners filled St. Peter's Cathedral and then gathered for a lunch social afterwards.

Dec. 5 – Abbot Peter attended a memorial service at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Saskatoon for Sr. Mary Anne (Sr. Suzanne) Mowchan. Sr. Suzanne lived as a hermit at St. Peter's Abbey for 23 years from 1976-99.

Dec. 14 – Abbot Peter celebrated the funeral Mass of Sr. Caroline Sieben, OSE at St. Philip Neri Church in Saskatoon. She was buried at St. Elizabeth Cemetery in Humboldt.

Dec. 26 – Relatives and friends of the Benedictines came for the Monks Family Day gathering where they visited, played cards and sports. Everyone was invited to attend Vespers and join the monks for supper.

2019

Jan. 1 – The Benedictines welcomed the New Year with a New Year's Day

prayer service at midnight.

Jan. 19 – Fr. Demetrius attended 23rd Annual Robbie Burns Night at Quill Lake, sponsored by The Quill Lake Highland Dance Club.

Jan. 23 – Fr. Paul presented a PowerPoint, at a noon luncheon, of the history of St. Peter's College to students and staff. The PowerPoint included the history of the Benedictines and former St. Peter's Colony.

Jan. 25-27 – Fr. Paul attended the Annual Newman Centre retreat at St. Peter's Abbey. The theme was *My Spirit Rejoices in God*. The retreat is sponsored by St. Thomas More College Campus Ministry.

Feb. 10 – Br. Anthony Nguyen, OSB and Abbot Peter attended the Vietnamese New Year celebration in Saskatoon.

Feb. 23-25 – Abbot Peter attended the Annual Abbots Workshop at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama.



MEDIEVAL FEAST – Br. Kurt Van Kuren, OSB sings, March 5, at the annual Medieval Feast celebration of St. Peter's College. The feast is (usually) held the day before Ash Wednesday to commemorate the church season of Lent.



PASS THE PARCEL – Br. Basil Schaan, OSB took part in Pass the Parcel, March 5, during the annual Medieval Feast, sponsored by St. Peter's College Campus Ministry. Beside Basil are Robiel Woldeselassie, IT director and Professor Barbara Langhorst of St. Peter's College.

March 20 – Br. Denys Janiga, OSB and Br. Luis Cruz, OSB were invested as novices.

April 12-14 – St. Peter's Chorus presented two concerts of *The Passion and The Resurrection: The Easter Story in Song*. The first concert was at Philadelphia Mennonite Brethren Church, south of Guernsey. The second concert was held at St. Augustine Church, Humboldt. Fr. Paul was among six in the tenor section. There were 44 singers in the soprano, tenor, alto and bass sections. Maxine Moore directed the choir. Denise German was on piano. Michele Ackerman accompanied on flute and Dale Avison, clarinet.

April 15 – Abbot Peter, Fr. Paul and Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB attended the Celebration of the Mass of Christ at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon.

May 2-6 – Ashleigh Mattern of CBC Saskatchewan interviewed Abbot Peter, Fr. Demetrius and Br. Kurt Van Kuren, OSB for a CBC story on monastic life. She has been at the abbey on personal retreats since 2012. The story aired on CBC Television.

May 5-11 – Fr. Paul led a retreat at Martha Retreat Centre in Lethbridge, Alberta. He was one of the final retreat directors to visit the centre while it was occupied by members of the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The four sisters who resided there left, in

June, to their congregational homes in Nova Scotia. The centre, built in 1968, continues to be owned by the Sisters of St. Martha. It is now managed by a board of directors.

May 10 – Abbot Peter and Br. Kurt Van Kuren, OSB attended the annual Bishops Dinner in Saskatoon.

May 14-15 – SaskEnergy removed the gas line to a former hermitage (Mary House) that was dismantled during the winter and spring. The Mary House was located near the abbey cemetery.



FINAL DAY – Kathy Tumback retired from St. Peter's Abbey on May 31 of 2019 after working for 13 years in the abbey business office. She served as business office manager for 11 years.

May 20-22 – The abbey court yard underwent a transformation with the planting of five rose bushes, a gooseberry tree and flowers. The work was led by Oblate Annette Zawada, who began taking care of the courtyard in 2018. Fr. Paul, Oblate director, provided some help.

May 23 – Kathy Tumback, business office manager, was recognized on her retirement at a gathering of St. Peter's Abbey and College staff. In 2006, Kathy was employed as administrative assistant. She became office manager two years later.

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RETIREMENT GATHERING – Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB helps Kathy Tumback serve cake at her retirement gathering held at St. Peter's Abbey.

People and events around the abbey

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May 26-30 – Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB led the annual monastic retreat with the theme: *The Paschal Mystery and the Rule of St. Benedict*.

May 31 – Francis Swyripa of Edmonton, retired history professor, left after working for six weeks in the abbey archives. She is reorganizing the archives files.

June 1 – It was an historic day for St. Peter's Parish, Muenster. The front porch of the church was dismantled to prepare for the building of a vestibule (welcome area). Parish volunteers, with a tractor, chainsaw and other tools, completed the work in just three hours.

June 1 – Family and friends of Veronica Saretsky gathered at Elizabeth Place in Humboldt to celebrate her 100th birthday. Fr. Paul said a prayer of blessing for his great aunt. Veronica is the aunt of Abbot Peter Novecosky.

June 1 – Abbot Peter and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB attended the 100th anniversary celebration of The



RHUBARB HARVEST – Lorena Pia and Mathieu Cuille of France, Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, standing, Br. Luis Cruz, OSB, and Br. Denys Janiga, OSB, right, cut rhubarb for St. Peter's Abbey kitchen. The gardens of St. Peter's Abbey yielded a healthy crop of rhubarb and mixed vegetables.

Ursulines of Prelate at Holy Family Cathedral, Saskatoon. Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at the Eucharistic celebration. A reception and program followed in the cathedral hall.

June 2 – Abbot Peter presided at the Mass of the Catholic Woman's

Provincial Convention at St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt.

June 4 – Abbot Peter and Rob Harasymchuk, president of St. Peter's College, attended a Eid-Al-Fitr Celebration in Saskatoon, which marked the end of the month of Ramadan. The



PAPER FLOWERS – Joseph Do, working guest at St. Peter's Abbey, created a display of paper flowers for Mother's Day. A bouquet of paper flowers stood in front of the church altar for Easter Season.



SOCCER PLAYERS – Bishop Mark Hagemoen kicks a ball behind Br. Denys Janiga, OSB during a soccer match held at the annual Knights of Columbus Clergy Sports Day. The event, July 15 and 16, was at St. Peter's Abbey.



KC BARBECUE — Paul Mamer, left, and Ron Koberinski of Lanigan operated the barbecue at the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Council Barbecue, June 9, at St. Peter's Abbey.

event was sponsored by the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan and attended by approximately 10,000.

June 9 — The Abbot Severin 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Council held its annual barbecue at St. Peter's Abbey. The monks were invited to join them for supper.

June 11-14 — The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon held its annual retreat at St. Peter's Abbey. Fr. Mark Gnutel of Winnipeg was the retreat master.



FAMILY HERITAGE — Jeff Bergermann of Humboldt, left, and Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB stand in front of a 1946 Minneapolis Moline tractor. Jeff purchased the tractor from St. Peter's Abbey. His great-uncle, Fr. Xavier Benning, OSB used the tractor for beekeeping. Fr. Xavier taught the art of beekeeping to Fr. Demetrius who used the tractor for beekeeping until replacing it with a 4-wheeler quad. Jeff will be using the tractor for his beekeeping operation.

June 14 — A light rainfall began to cover the ground in the afternoon, becoming heavier over the next few days. The rainfall was the first in the spring season. It brought 5 inches of moisture to the Muenster district over the next week, ending a drought which threatened crops and gardens.

June 16-21 — Abbot Peter and Fr. Paul attended the 53rd General Chapter

Meeting of the American Cassinese Congregation at St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire.

June 23 — Jeff Bergermann of Humboldt purchased the 1946 Minneapolis Moline tractor from St. Peter's Abbey. His great-uncle, Fr. Xavier Benning, OSB used the tractor at St.

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EPARCHY RETREAT — Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, left, took part in the annual 2019 retreat of the Eparchy of Saskatoon. Fr. Demetrius is bi-ritual and celebrates in the Roman and Ukrainian Catholic Rites. With him are Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSSR, right, and Fr. Greg Gnutel of Winnipeg, retreat master.



CLERGY SPORTS DAY — Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, left, and Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen visit with Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB. Bishop Mark and Abbot Peter were among the 50 participants in the annual event held July 15 and 16. Fr. Demetrius, guest master of St. Peter's Abbey, helped facilitate activities.

People and events around the abbey

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Peter's Abbey for beekeeping. Fr. Xavier taught the art of beekeeping to Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB. Fr. Demetrius used the tractor for beekeeping until replacing it with a 4-wheeler. Jeff will be using the tractor for his beekeeping operation.

June 28 – Fr. Demetrius attended the Mass of Ordination of Deacon Barry Tkachuk by His Excellency Albert Thevenot, M.Afr., Bishop of Prince Albert. The ordination was held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert. Fr. Demetrius led the priesthood retreat of Tkachuk previous to the ordination.

July 7 – Fr. Demetrius attended the 60th anniversary celebration of the Priesthood of His Excellency Bishop Emeritus Michael Wiwchar, CSsR. The celebration was held at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St. George, Saskatoon.

July 13 – Abbot Peter was the celebrant for Oblate Day Mass where Kathy Tumback, Richard Leuschen and Margaret Meckelborg became Oblates. Br. Denys Janiga gave a presentation on St. Anselm of Canterbury.

July 15-16 – The annual Knights of Columbus Clergy Sports Day was attended by 37 priests, four bishops, one



MOUNT CARMEL SUNDAY – Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB addresses the congregation, July 21, during the annual Mount Carmel pilgrimage. Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB and Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, back, were among the Benedictines attending.

abbot and 10 members of the Knights of Columbus. Bishops attending were: Regina Archbishop Donald Bolen, Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Saskatoon Eparchy Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, and Bishop Andrew Ukwuoma of Nigeria. Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB represented St. Peter's Abbey. The event began with socializing the evening of July 15. Events the following day included: soc-



Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB

cer, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, table tennis and ladder golf.

Aug. 1 – Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB returned to the abbey from Watrous after serving as a pastor of St. Ann in Watrous, St. Pius X in Imperial and St. Patrick of Young. Fr. Lawrence returned to the abbey from La Ronge where he was serving St. John Vianney Church, and Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Southend. The return of the two pastors was an historical event for the monastic community. St. Peter's Abbey had only one pastor, Fr. Paul, serving as a full-time pastor in a parish.

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NEW OBLATES – Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB welcomes new Oblates, Richard Leuschen, left, Kathy Tumback of Humboldt and Margaret Meckelborg of Muenster. They were installed as Oblate Novices, July 13, during Oblate Day.



BLESSING OF FIELDS – Bishop Mark Hagemoen returns to the chapel at Mount Carmel following the blessing of the fields during Mount Carmel Sunday.

Fr. Lawrence serves parishes in northern Saskatchewan

By Paul Paproski, OSB

When a senior Benedictine priest is sent to a new parish, he is often given a congregation close to his monastic community. Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB does not fit into this tradition. He accepted the role as pastor of two parishes in northern Saskatchewan at the youthful age of 79. His parishes were in La Ronge and Southend, some 400 and 600 kilometres north of his home of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster. The parishes were separated by 200 kilometres of gravel road.

Fr. Lawrence DeMong returned to St. Peter's Abbey in August after three-years of service at St. John Vianney in La Ronge and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Southend. The Octogenarian is not a typical 82-year-old. Fr. Lawrence is full of zeal and energy that keeps him busy in the abbey and diocese.

Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas Archdiocese, encouraged Fr. Lawrence to remain connected with St. Peter's Abbey. He suggested that Fr. Lawrence spend his time, equally, at Southend, La Ronge and the abbey. This system allowed him to build a rapport with his parishioners while remaining connected to his Benedictine home. The days were not spent as planned, he remarked. He spent the largest portion of his schedule at Southend, often because of funerals and weddings. In 2018, a forest fire forced him to return to the abbey for a short stay and that made up lost days there.

"I should point out that, in retrospect, the time at the abbey was a brilliant idea for caring for my own personal needs. I'm sure that Bishop Murray's own experience, as well as hearing from his priests, prompted that decision. Fr. Petronilo, my successor, and I went through a particularly stressful time when some tragic events occurred. I invited the new Filipino priest to accompany me to the abbey for a few days of rest and gave a standing invitation to come for future breaks."

Although the mission in the north was an opportunity to evangelize and sanctify God's people through prayerfully celebrating the sacraments, Fr. Lawrence said, it is essential that a priest help build a healthy parish and commu-



AVID GARDENER – Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB enjoys gardening and plants a large garden of mixed vegetables at St. Peter's Abbey each year. He is checking his squash plants.

nity life. The La Ronge community, he remarked, was quite autonomous with an active parish council, lay presiders and well-organized committees. Southend had generous volunteers, though they were shy about taking on church leadership, probably another sign of the need to encourage more Aboriginal traditions and ceremonies within their liturgy.

While serving as a pastor in Saskatoon, Fr. Lawrence attended the sessions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The experience was very helpful in his northern parish work. He was very moved by the personal stories of First Nations people who suffered from abuse.

"It was especially moving to see how individuals can overcome the negative effects of past history and be proud of what they are accomplishing by way of healing and sharing a new vision for all of us on the verge of disaster because of our insatiable greed and abuse of our planet."

Southend presented Fr. Lawrence some unexpected challenges. The church facilities, such as the confessional and outhouse, called for a change. He

worked with a school bus driver, who had a good rapport with the families whom he served. He gathered volunteers who helped to save a building by installing some discarded metal roofing.

"My big 'coup' in doing essential, but non-priestly work, was fixing the church furnace, cell phone in hand with the church maintenance person in La Ronge directing my moves on his cell phone!"

The parishioners of La Ronge had only one Sunday Eucharist each month. The Southend parish had two celebrations each month. Weekday Masses were divided equally between parishes. The people in La Ronge liked celebrating Eucharist around the kitchen table, a practice that began during the cold weather, to save heating the church. Parishioners at Southend preferred to celebrate Eucharist in the church. A larger number attended the celebrations, a sign of their appreciation.

The parish in La Ronge has about 80 families who are regularly involved in the parish. The parishioners come from a

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St. Peter's has close association with 18 monasteries

By Paul Paproski, OSB

St. Peter's Abbey is a member of the American Cassinese Confederation (ACC), an association of 19 autonomous

Benedictine monasteries in Canada and the United States. St. Peter's Abbey is the only ACC monastery in Canada. The confederation, founded in 1855, provides administrative and pastoral support and other charitable services to its member monasteries. The congregation is led by an abbot president and president's council. Benedictine monasteries, throughout the world, are attached to congregations, which have a similar role to the ACC.

The ACC holds meetings every three

years that are attended by an abbot and delegate from each member community. Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB and Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, represented St. Peter's Abbey at the June 2019 meeting, hosted by St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Delegates to the 2019 confederation meeting discussed, among other things, the challenges of witnessing in a world that is indifferent to Christianity, and attracting vocations in an era where church attendance has plummeted.

Delegates to ACC meetings are often reminded of the zeal that Boniface Wimmer brought to North America in 1846 when he established the first American Benedictine monastery. In spite of many obstacles, Wimmer continued his mission of providing priests for German-speaking immigrants and schools for their children.

Boniface Wimmer came to Latrobe, Pennsylvania with only four students and 14 lay-brother candidates. He founded a monastic community which, in 1855, became an abbey. Pope Pius IX, in recognition of Wimmer's leadership, appointed him the first president of the American Cassinese Confederation. In 1892, the abbey was raised to the status of an archabbey.

St. Peter's Abbey traces its origins to St. Vincent Archabbey. St. Peter's Abbey began in 1892 as Cluny Priory at Wetaug, Illinois, under the sponsorship of St. Vincent Archabbey. Oswald Moosmueller of St. Vincent Archabbey was the first prior. He died in 1901.

In 1903, Cluny Priory transferred to Canada where its name was changed to St. Peter's Monastery. The community was led by Prior Alfred Mayer, OSB, a former monk of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota. St. John's became an important financial supporter of the monastery. In 1911, the monastery became St. Peter's Abbey. The first abbot was Fr. Bruno Doerfler, OSB a monk formerly of St. John's Abbey.

In 1921, the abbey became a territorial abbey known as St. Peter's Abbey (Muenster Diocese). The territorial abbey was joined, in 1998, to the Diocese of Saskatoon.



ABBOTS AND DELEGATES – Of the American Cassinese Congregation gathered in June at St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire. The congregation is an association of 19 independent Benedictine monasteries in the United States and Canada. Representatives meet every three years to discuss issues of the congregation. Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB and Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB represented St. Peter's Abbey at the June meeting.

Oblates are welcome presence

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Oblates are invited to meet three times a year at the abbey on Oblate Day which is held on a Saturday. The gatherings give the Oblates the opportunity to celebrate Lauds (morning praise), Mass and Vespers (evening prayer) with the Benedictines and socialize with them at dinner. Meetings are held in the afternoon where everyone is invited to listen to one or two guest-speakers. The topics are always about an aspect of the Rule of St. Benedict.

Oblates are invited to attend special liturgies at St. Peter's Abbey on the feasts of St. Benedict and other special occasions. Many Oblates are not able to participate in Oblate gatherings at St. Peter's Abbey. Oblates are always welcome to become involved in monastic life, indirectly, through their apostolic

witness at home and work.

Oblates of Saint Benedict are Christian men and women who associate themselves with a Benedictine religious community to strengthen their baptism and enrich their Christian way of life. Oblates do not take vows or live in a monastery. They make promises to live the Rule of St. Benedict which immerses them in the Gospel. People of all Christian backgrounds may become Oblates.

The word "Oblate" comes from the Latin *offerro* (to offer). Families once offered their sons and daughters to monasteries and convents for religious education and vocational training. These children were called Oblates. Adults eventually expressed the desire to live the spirituality of the Rule of St. Benedict outside monasteries. They, too, became Oblates as adults in their own homes and communities.

Fr. Lawrence serves parishes in northern Saskatchewan

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First Nations and diverse international background. There are almost an equal number of Cree and Metis there, as well as some Dene. Some recent additions have come from the Philippines.

The community of Southend has about 70 families who are very welcoming and accepting, Fr. Lawrence remarked. The people, with the exception of the police and a few nurses, are almost entirely Cree. Names such as Cook, Clarke or Morin indicate a connection with settlers who originated from Europe.

School staff positions, as well as other professional jobs in Southend, are held by members of the First Nations. All ethnic backgrounds in La Ronge are represented in the work force. First

Nations Peoples, in both communities, are employed in hunting and fishing. Southend is an island on the southern tip of Reindeer Lake and the community once had an important commercial project involving Kinasao which prepared fish for export.

Fr. Lawrence is pleased he was able to form many friendships in the communities he served. He became involved with the La Ronge Ministerial Association and appreciated the ecumenical cooperation there. Both he and Heather Wyatt, United Church minister, delivered the Remembrance Day Service reflection. The evangelical pastor in Southend was very welcoming. He and his wife worked with Fr. Lawrence to prepare Christian Unity Week services. The Catholic community provided a lunch.

"In my Christmas letter when I

knew that it was my final year in the north, I mentioned that I hoped to spend the balance of my energy trying to help save our home ("oikos" — ecology in Greek, our home, our planet). Scientists are giving us about 11 more years to stop abusing and polluting our 'home' and already millions of climate refugees are looking for a new place to live because their own spaces are unlivable. Besides being a monk and priest who loves to celebrate communal prayer and liturgy, I hope I can do something for those little ones including our own children."

Fr. Lawrence concluded, "I hope my short time in the north might be like those Cree classes with the Grade One kids, opening up new and huge treasures of wisdom, helping us all to learn from each other, to build a world of mutual enrichment, justice and joy."

People and events around the abbey

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Aug. 13 – Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB returned to St. Peter's Abbey after spending more than a month in the Humboldt hospital.

Sept. 3 – The students of St. Peter's College were welcomed back to another

year of studies at Orientation Day. Teachers and staff gave presentations and served lunch. Fr. Paul took student ID photos. The college registered 85 full and part-time students.

Sept. 9 – After a summer of repair work on the abbey bells, they were heard ringing again, much to the delight of the

monks and guests.

Sept. 16 – Hot temperatures in the 30s C brought relief to farmers who were behind in their harvesting due to excessive moisture.

Sept. 17 – Fr. Demetrius, beekeeper of St. Peter's Abbey, completed his final extraction of honey. The abbey beehives yielded 350 lbs. for 2019.



VISIT ROSTHERN – Brs. Luis Cruz, OSB left, Benedict van Ginkel, OSB and Denys Janiga, OSB, visited Rosthern, Saskatchewan in August. They stand in front of the former train station where the first settlers of St. Peter's Colony arrived. The settlers came in 1903 and walked some 150 kilometres from Rosthern to their homesteads.



KITCHEN HELPER – Donna Remenda, left, supervisor of St. Peter's Abbey kitchen, receives help from her mother Mildred Beedle, 92, in baking. Donna has been kitchen supervisor for 10 years.

Fr. Joseph Ackerman shares joy at abbey

By Paul Paproski, OSB

Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB was known for his sense of humour and gentle disposition while serving as a parish priest. He continues to share his joy with the Benedictines of St. Peter's Abbey where he attends daily Mass, prayer and meals. Fr. Joseph is always pleasant and the Benedictines hope he can continue to enjoy good health, said Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB. Fr. Joseph turned 95 on September 20 and was recognized by the monastic community and friends. He is the oldest member of the community.

Fr. Joseph retired in August of 2016 at the age of 91, after serving the parishes of St. Bruno in Bruno and St. Agnes, Peterson for 19 years. In 2017, he was honoured by the community of Bruno for his support of local events. A park was named after him. It is appropriately called: Fr. Joe Park. In 2017, Fr. Joseph moved from the rectory at Bruno into the Prairie View residence. He transferred to St. Peter's Abbey in August of 2019.

The enthusiasm for serving parishes has enabled Fr. Joseph to work in parishes for almost 60 years. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1958. He was recognized, in 2018, at St. Peter's Abbey for his 60 years of ordination. The parishes of St. Bruno and St. Agnes recognized Fr. Joseph in 2008 for his 50 years of priesthood. A jubilee celebration was held at the abbey as well. Fr. Joseph has been a monk of St. Peter's Abbey for 67 years, receiving his profession in June of 1952.

Baptized Peter, Fr. Joseph was born in the village of Balgonie on Sept. 20, 1924, to Andrew and Emilia Ackerman. He was among 15 children in this family. His father was employed by the Canadian Pacific Railroad Co., which necessitated moving to various locations. The family was poor, remembers Fr.

Joseph, but his parents kept everyone happy and united. He received his early education in Wolseley, Estevan and Regina. After a brief period of employment, Fr. Joseph enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving overseas in the Second World War from 1943-45.

A new direction was taken by Fr. Joseph (Peter) from 1947-51 when he attended St. Peter's College and then entered the Order of St. Benedict where he received his present name "Joseph". He completed a year novitiate at St. Peter's Abbey and then continued his seminary studies at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn. Fr. Joseph was ordained to the priesthood in St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster by Bishop Francis Klein. Following ordination Fr. Joseph taught at St. Peter's High School, assisted in various parishes, served as assistant business manager at St. Peter's Abbey and became pastor of the Muenster and St. Gregory parishes.

In 1970, Fr. Joseph went on a sabbatical where he studied at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and then Duke University, Durham, NC. Fr. Joseph then served the parishes of St. Anthony and St. James, Lake Lenore. His next assignment was to the Pilger and Middle Lake parishes. His final parish work was in Bruno and Peterson.



60TH ANNIVERSARY – Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB was honored by the Benedictines in 2018, on his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained June 8, 1958 at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster by Bishop Francis Klein.

Wherever Fr. Joseph served, he was active in parish and community groups and clubs. He enjoyed the outdoors having a fondness for hunting, fishing, skating, hockey and golf.

Donations and Bequests

We seek to provide prophetic witness through a monastic lifestyle of prayer and work that gives priority to the praise of God. We embrace service to God's People through hospitality to guests, involvement in parish ministry, education and sustainable agriculture.

Please remember the monks of St. Peter's Abbey when considering making donations to charities or bequests.

Donations will help, in particular, towards helping us finance needed improvements to our infrastructure, promoting vocations and providing for the needs of our elderly.

Donations can be sent to: St. Peter's Abbey, Box 10, Muenster, SK, S0K-2Y0.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations.

For credit card donations please visit either:

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Or www.stpetersabbey.ca and click on the Donate Now button on the right hand side of the page.

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