

ST. PETER'S ABBAY

newsletter

Vol. 10, No. 4

Spring

1987



Our oblates helped us celebrate the feast of St. Benedict, March 21 by joining us for Oblate Day. Pictured is the festive noon meal.



St. Peter's College annual Open House, Feb. 11, attracted over 70 high school students from the area. They visited, toured and became acquainted with the college facilities.

Abbot Jerome's activities

The meeting of the W-CC-O, Catholic Bishops of Western Canada, was held at the Grey Nuns' Centre, Edmonton, Feb. 27-March 1. It was a pleasant drive to and from Edmonton, in the company of Bishop Mahoney of Saskatoon and Bishop Morand of Prince Albert. One of the principal topics discussed was the Catholic Bible College in Canmore, Alta., which is now in its third year.

I enjoyed very much being present for part of the Catholic Youth Conference held at Holy Cross High School, Saskatoon, March 6-8. It was most encouraging to see 450 Catholic youth and their lively and enthusiastic response to the talks given by Fr. Don Kimball, of California, and at the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Mahoney.

I attended the meeting of the Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon on March 16. A good part of the meeting was with the Catholic trustees of the province to reflect on various aspects of Catholic schools.

The next day we met with the three

Anglican bishops of our province. The main topic dealt with marriage between Roman Catholics and Anglicans.

On April 22 I celebrated Holy Mass at the annual diocesan convention of the CWL held at Lake Lenore. It was also the 60th anniversary of the CWL in the abbacy.

The Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan held their annual convention in Regina later in the week, and I was present for the banquet on Saturday, April 25. The state deputy is Joe Kammernayer of Saskatoon, a former student of St. Peter's.

ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask. four times a year: January, April, July and October.

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 Photographer: Damian Yaskowich, OSB

All photos in this issue by Damian Yaskowich, OSB.



From left, Abbot Jerome Weber and Father Werner Renneberg chat with Sisters Timothy Prokes and Sarah Doser.

Discernment day

On April 9 the ordained members of St. Peter's Abbey met for a day of prayer and discernment. The purpose of this day was to share and exchange ideas and suggestions concerning our future ministry in the Abbey.

The day was facilitated by Sisters Timothy Prokes, SSND, and Sarah Doser, FSE, of the Ain Karim Body Theology Centre, Saskatoon.

Discussion focused on sharing regional personnel and resources, closing or retaining mission parishes and churches, and whether we should specify age limits for retirement. The day was spent sharing our ideas in small groups and in the large body. All the observations were posted for us to continually reflect on.

It is hoped that by prayerfully and jointly sharing on these vital issues, the Council of Priests and Abbot Jerome Weber will have a better feel of how our pastors and their people best envision our service in the abbacy over the coming years.

The Abbacy Council of Priests, comprised of Abbot Jerome Weber, Fathers Leo Hinz, Lawrence DeMong, Werner Renneberg and Andrew Britz will propose the changes they feel necessary and in the best interests of those we serve. It will be up to Abbot Jerome to finalize those proposals.

Celebration

The monks of St. Peter's Abbey are hosting a celebration honoring the Sisters of St. Elizabeth on the occasion of their 75th anniversary of prayer and labor at St. Peter's Abbey. This special day is set for May 18.

The day will begin with a eucharistic celebration at 10:00 a.m. A festive banquet is planned for noon, followed by a special program beginning at 1:45 p.m. This program will be followed by lunch, tours and visiting.

Abbey chronicle

Around 70 students from high schools in this area attended the annual St. Peter's College Open House on Feb. 11.

Father Andrew Britz conducted a liturgy workshop for natives in Qu'Appelle on Feb. 14.

Brother David Gauthier was home from the University of Saskatchewan for the mid-term break, Feb. 13-21.

Father Andrew Britz taught a session on liturgy at Canmore Bible School in Canmore, Alta., Feb. 17-21 and again April 1-4.

Father George Brodner was guest speaker at the spring mini-convention of the CWL in Humboldt, March 3. His topic was the sacraments.

March 19 is listed as the day the water officially broke into our large dugout, assuring us of an abundant water supply for the coming year.

Father Rudolph Novecosky returned home March 20 after a two-week stay in the Plains Medical Centre, Regina. He underwent more back surgery eliminating most the chronic pain which he has had for the past 10 years.

The German Heritage Society of Humboldt adopted as their official logo a design submitted by **Father Damian Yaskowich**.

Novices **Richard Meidl** and **Thomas Ward** made a discernment retreat April 13-16.

Fathers Leo Hinz and **Florian Renneberg** gave presentations at the spring marriage preparation course, March 22, 29 and April 5. **Fathers Daniel Muyres** and **Martin Brodner** spoke at the two additional sessions for couples entering "Inter-Faith Marriages" March 25 and April 1.

On March 31, **Abbot Jerome Weber** signed a contract for a teacher to suc-



Accumulated water east of our large dugout eventually made its way into the dugout to bring the water level high enough to assure us of an adequate water supply.



Carol Ann Gotch and David Walsh of Winnipeg animated an Enneagram Workshop at St. Peter's, April 24-26. An earlier workshop was animated by David Walsh, April 22-24.

ceed him next year as teacher of the university history class which he has been teaching for many years.

Father Werner Renneberg attended the National Federation Council of Priests (Western Region) meeting at Kelowna, B.C., April 20-22.

Father Andrew Britz attended the annual convention of the Canadian Church Press in Toronto, April 24-26. The Prairie Messenger is a member of the Canadian Church Press. At this convention, Father Andrew was elected a member of the executive.

Brother David Gauthier completed his studies at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, on April 22 and returned home for the summer.

Brother Alex Mullie, who has been in Arborfield with his parents since Feb. 2, returned to the Abbey April 24 to ac-

cept and sign his dispensation from triennial vows. He had professed those vows July 11, 1985.

Father Augustine Nenzel who is a patient at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt, was able to visit the abbey on a day-pass April 28 and May 5.

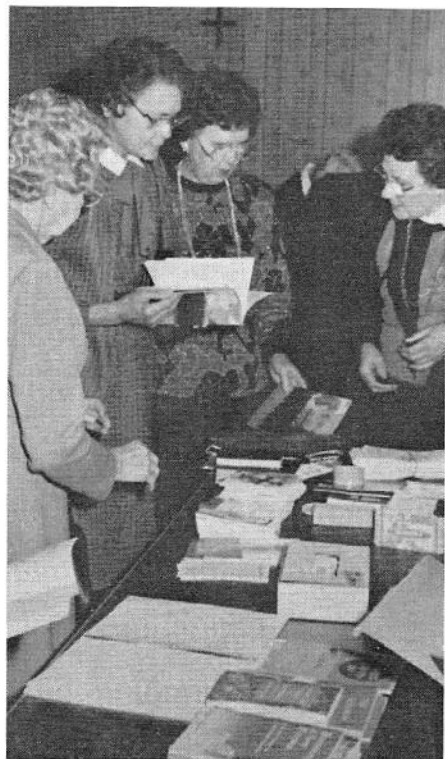
Upcoming anniversaries

Father Matthew Michel, 70th anniversary of profession (July 11, 1917)

Father Francis Lohmer, 65th anniversary of profession (July 16, 1922)

Abbot Jerome Weber, 50th anniversary of profession (July 11, 1937)

Father Rudolph Novecosky, 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood (June 9, 1962)



Oblates browse through a book display at Oblate Day, March 21.

Our oblates

The oblates were doubly fortunate with their spring gathering on March 21 in that this day happened to fall on the Feast of St. Benedict and so they were able to celebrate the feast with the monks of our abbey. Forty-three oblates signed the register. As in the past a letter from the director to the oblates is being enclosed with this issue of the Abbey Newsletter.

The summer Oblate Day will take place on July 25. We are reasonably certain Father Albert Ruetz will return from the Holy Land by that day and resume his direction of the oblates. Meanwhile, for information about the Oblates of St. Benedict of our abbey, kindly write to Rev. Francis Lohmer, OSB, Box 2272, Humboldt, Sask., S0K 2A0.

Update

Father Augustine Nenzel was admitted to St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt, Feb. 6, where a series of tests disclosed a blockage of the bile duct. This accounted for his yellowish, jaundice-like color. On Feb. 17 he was transferred to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, for further tests and diagnosis. Ten days later surgery was performed to insert a by-pass tube into the gall bladder to correct the blockage.

By March 6, Father Augustine was transferred back to St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt after the doctors discovered he had cancer of the pancreas. His condition is slowly weakening — with some good days, others not so good. He was able to spend the afternoon back at the abbey on April 28.

Father Edward Benning continues regular therapy to help restore more use from his left side which was paralyzed as the result of the stroke he suffered in February, 1986. He now celebrates at the daily community eucharist and attends Vespers and Vigils in chapel. Father Edward also is able to attend all the community meals.

Father Rudolph Novecosky, who had surgery on his back to sever the sensory nerves in November, 1986, returned to Regina for further surgery on March 4. Recovery this round was faster, and now Father Rudolph reports that most of the pain and discomfort is gone. He is quickly recuperating from the surgery and reports he feels much, much better.

Community retreat

Our annual community retreat will be held June 8-12, 1987. It will be conducted by bishop Frederick Henry, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of London, Ont.

PM wins awards

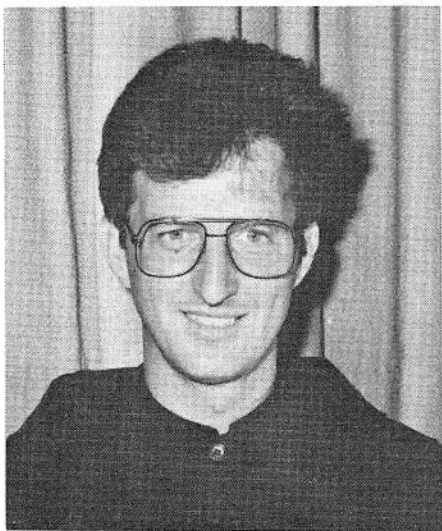
The Prairie Messenger won three major awards at the annual convention of the Canadian Church Press, April 26.

In its category, diocesan and regional church newspapers, the PM won the top award of general excellence. The judges praised it for its comprehensiveness, for offering something for every member of the family, and for its balance of international, national and local news. The judges also commended it for its media page, noting that "families need special aids to make effective use of the media."

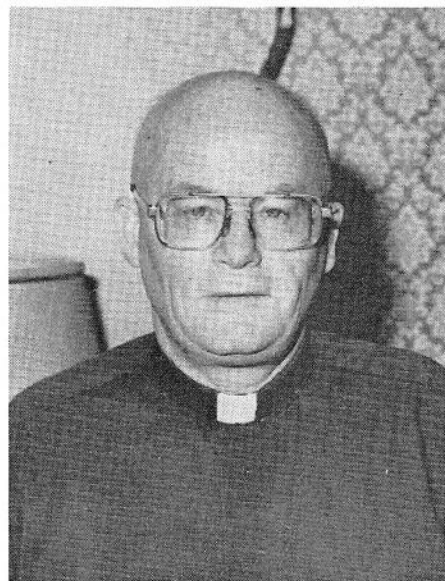
The PM also won an award for the best feature for its article on Father Bob Ogle. The feature, The Kid from Rosetown Looks over the Horizon, by Father Andrew Britz, was praised for its sensitivity in dealing with a striking subject matter.

Best column award also went to Joan Eyolfson Cadham's column, Issues at

Home. The judges noted especially her columns on commercials as the most dangerous part of television.



Brother Kurt Van Kuren has been selected to be a Siehl Scholar of Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN, for the academic year 1987-88. He is one of 97 Saint John's students recognized both for academic achievement and leadership qualities.



Father Harvey Wingfield, administrator of St. Ann's Parish, Anaheim since Sept. 1, 1985, will be returning to St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, at the end of May. His abbot has assigned him to pastoral duties in Prineville, Oregon.

Rest in peace

In your prayers please remember our deceased confreres:

Father Casimir Finley, 54, Newark Abbey, Newark, New Jersey, died on Jan. 9.

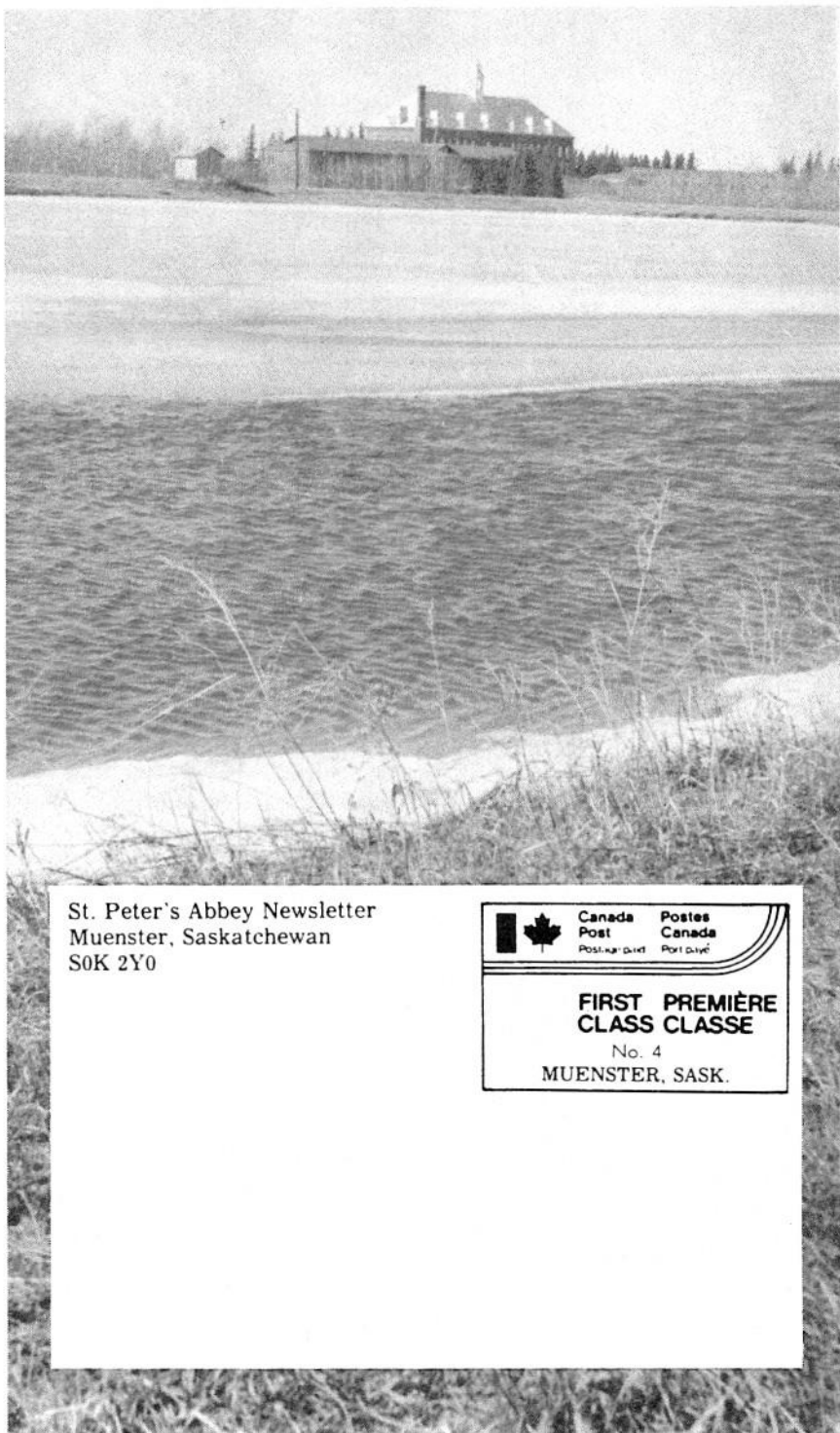
Father Xavier Ackle, 72, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, died on Feb. 7.

Brother Godfrey Meyer, 75, Saint Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, died on Feb. 15.

Father Clarence Meyer, 87, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, died on Feb. 20.

Father Michael Leap, 63, Saint Leo Abbey, Saint Leo, Florida, died on March 16.

Father Alexander Korte, 83, St. Mark's Priory, South Union, Kentucky, died on April 9.



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S0K 2Y0

