

ST. PETER'S  
**A B B E Y**

*newsletter*

Vol. 11, No. 1

**Summer**

1987



**From left, Brothers Michael McAllister, Kurt Van Kuren and Basil Schaan  
professed solemn vows, July 11.**



Honored on their anniversaries, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29 were, from left: Abbot Jerome Weber (50th anniversary of religious profession), Father Rudolph Novecosky (25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood) and Father Matthew Michel (70th anniversary of religious profession).

## Abbot Jerome's activities

I attended a seminar on *Humanae Vitae*, its liberating implications. It was held in Saskatoon, May 1-2. Five married couples spoke very convincingly about their commitment to follow the principles given by Pope Paul VI in his instruction on human life.

On May 15 Deacon Murray Chatlain was ordained to the priesthood in Holy Spirit Church in Saskatoon by Bishop James Mahoney. Murray was at St. Peter's several times for a retreat, and so I was happy to be able to celebrate at the mass of ordination.

On June 1-2 the provincial CWL held its annual convention in the Uniplex in Humboldt, since it was the turn of the abbacy to host the convention. I attended the banquet on June 1, and celebrated the closing Mass the next day.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) held its annual meeting this year in Saskatoon. As part of the program the members present made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Mary at St.

Laurent on June 13. I joined them there to celebrate the Mass at the shrine. Later in the evening all of us travelled to the farm of Ken DeMong, near Cudworth, and enjoyed a delicious outdoor supper.

From June 14-21 I was at the Precious Blood Monastery in Regina for a directed retreat for some of the sisters. I had to interrupt the retreat for a time to be able to be present at the funeral of Fr. Augustine. (Some of the Sisters came to St. Peter's on July 27 for an outing and a visit.)

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### 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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*Photo credits:* p. 3 (top) — Joe Novecosky

*All other photos by Damian Yaskowich, OSB:*

# Parishes honor Father Rudolph

On Sunday, June 14, the parish of St. Scholastica, Burr, honored Father Rudolph Novecosky, a native son. Another celebration was held by the parish of St. Gregory, St. Gregor, the parish he is presently serving as pastor, the previous Sunday. Father Rudolph is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Rudolph was born and raised in Burr. His final years of high school and first year university were taken at St. Peter's College.

In 1955, Father Rudolph joined the community and took his novitiate year, philosophy and theology studies at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.

Father Rudolph was ordained by Bishop Francis Klein at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster, June 9, 1962. Immediately after he joined the staff of St. Peter's College, as teacher, prefect and sports director. In 1972, when the



**Father Rudolph Novecosky at the St. Gregor parish celebration.**

college dropped its high school, Father Rudolph increased his pastoral duties. He became assistant to Father Werner Renneberg who was pastor of Muenster and St. Gregor. In 1976 he became pastor of St. Gregor.

It was during these years that he also served as subprior, then prior of the abbey, as well as novice master and work co-ordinator for the novices and juniors.

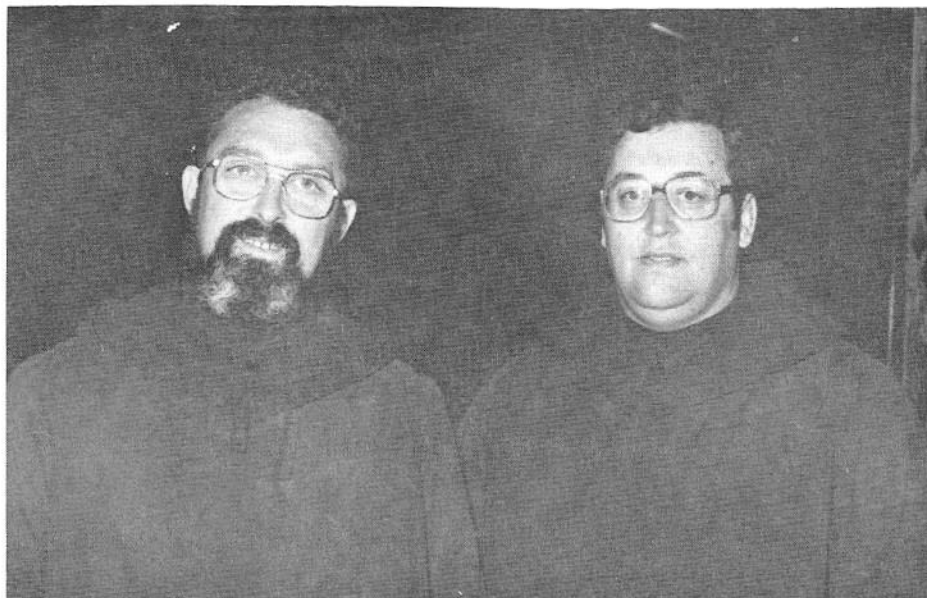
His pastoral duties were interrupted in November, 1977, when a hunting accident resulted in a severed spine with the resulting loss of feeling from the waist down. After months of recuperating and aided with crutches and wheelchair, his mobility resumed. On March 4 of 1987 further surgery on the sensory nerves has relieved almost all the pain he has been enduring since 1977.

Father Rudolph has, over the past few years, spent countless hours working on the abbey stamp collection. In recent years he has resumed the fishing trips which he enjoyed so much before the accident.

This fall Father Rudolph will become resident pastor of St. Ann's Parish, Annaheim.



**Received as novices on July 10 are Brothers Rene Boulanger, Montreal, and Randy Senecal, Rosetown.**



**Brothers Thomas Ward, left, and Richard Meidl completed their novitiate and professed temporary vows on July 11.**

## **Monks make temporary vows**

Two monks completed their year of novitiate and professed three-year temporary vows during the eucharistic celebration on the feast of St. Benedict, July 11. The celebration took place at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster.

**Brother Thomas David Ward** was born in Birmingham, England, where he received his early education. After spending six months with the Dominicans, he joined the family firm of Manufacturing Jewellers, W. J. Sutton Ltd., and remained with them almost a year.

In 1967 Brother Thomas entered the British army as a chef. During his nine years with the army he travelled to places like Hong Kong, West Indies, Northern Ireland and Belize.

While in the army he got married. After leaving the army and separating from his wife he went to work on the oil rigs in the North Sea as chef manager for two years, then head chef

in a hotel in Cumbria, England, for one year.

Brother Thomas left England in January, 1981, and went back to Belize. He worked as a chef in a hotel until he entered the Benedictines in Belize, after getting a marriage annulment. He was sent to New Subiaco Abbey, Arkansas for novitiate. He discontinued the religious life after six months.

Since then Brother Thomas has worked mainly in Northern Canada as chef and then manager of a cafe in Churchill.

Brother Thomas looks after the abbey pig operation and is infirmarian at the abbey. He plans to take some university classes this fall. He lists his interests as scouting, camping and hiking.

**Brother Richard Edward Meidl** was born in Cudworth, but lived in Dauphin, Manitoba, since he was six years old. After receiving his BA and B.Ed. in

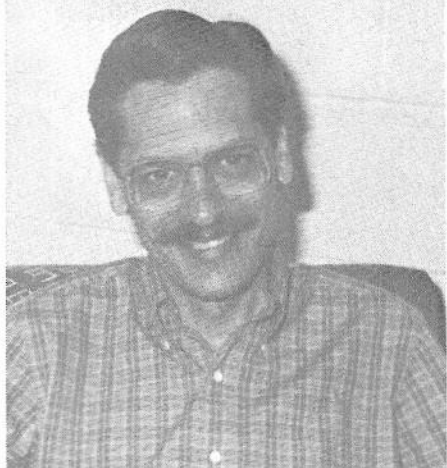
for six years in various Manitoba schools.

For the 11 years prior to entering St. Peter's, Brother Richard worked as office manager/accountant in Dauphin, then Portage la Prairie and Regina.

Among his many jobs around the abbey, Brother Richard spends a day per week doing bookkeeping at the press.

Brother Richard had been very involved with the Archdiocese Lay Ministry Formation Program, the Knights of Columbus and Manitoba Pro-Life. He lists his interests as crafts, photography, genealogy and local and Canadian history.

Brother Richard plans to attend the College Graduate (Pre-Theology) program at St. Meinrad's Seminary, St. Meinrad, Indiana, in the fall.



**Father Raymond Douziech, CSsR, of Edmonton, conducted tests with our postulants and novices in early June.**

## **Pastoral changes**

A movement toward regionalization with the sharing of resources has brought some changes to our ministry in the abbacy. Abbot Jerome Weber announced that these changes would be effective Aug. 23.

Bruno and Peterson have been formed into a pastoral region with

Father Werner Renneberg as pastor and Father Albert Ruetz as assistant.

Cudworth and St. Benedict have been linked together with Father Roman Schneider as pastor and Father Andrew Britz as assistant.

Carmel, Fulda, Pilger and Middle Lake become a region with Father Damian Yaskowich as pastor (residing in Carmel) and Father Philip Loehr as associate pastor (residing in Pilger).

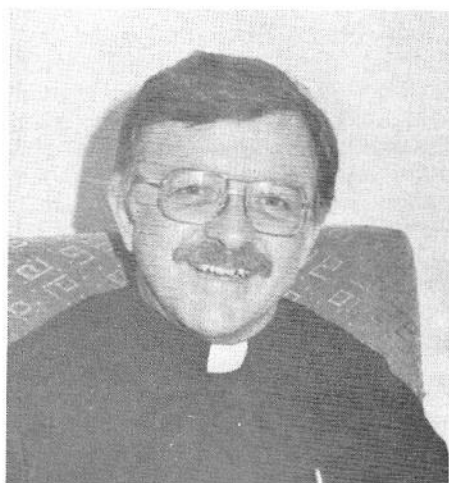
A new pastoral region has been formed of Englefeld, LeRoy and St. Gregor with Father Florian Renneberg as pastor and Father Maurice Weber as assistant.

St. Scholastica now forms a region with Humboldt. Father Leo Hinz is pastor and Fathers Francis Lohmer and Lawrence DeMong are assistants.

Muenster and St. Gertrude have been made a pastoral region with Father Martin Brodner as pastor and Father Xavier Benning as associate pastor.

Naicam and Watson are a new region with Father George Brodner as pastor and Father Alfred Engele as associate pastor.

Father Rudolph Novecosky has been named pastor of Annaheim.



**Bishop Frederick Henry, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of London, Ont., conducted our annual community retreat, June 8 -12.**



# Abbey chronicle

Fathers Leo Hinz and Werner Renneberg attended a seminar entitled, *Humanae Vitae: It's Liberating Implications* in Saskatoon, May 1-2.

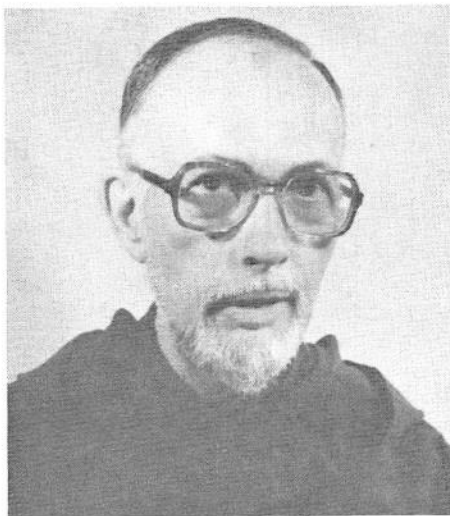
Father Lawrence DeMong spent a few days in Edmonton, May 7-9 offering his expertise in the field of religious education.

On May 11, Father Albert Ruetz returned home ahead of schedule. Ill health forced him to cancel his plans to tour Greece and parts of Europe.

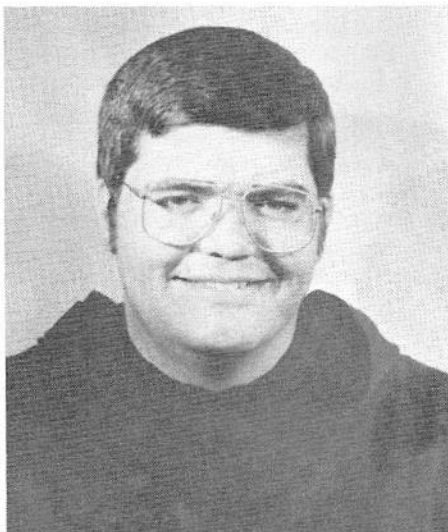
Brother Basil Schaan returned home May 11 from Mount Angel Abbey, St. Benedict, Oregon. He will return in August to continue his studies in theology there.

Brother Bernard Lange reported that the spring seeding was completed by May 15.

This year's shipment of chicks arrived May 15 and again are in the care of Brother Nicodemus Van Amelsvoort. Brother Nicodemus has also resumed care of the repair shop.



Brother Gerald Moran is attending the Summer Monastic Institute for Junior Monks at St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, July 12 - Aug. 8.



Brother David Gauthier received a scholarship toward his tuition for the coming year at St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon. The scholarship was awarded on last year's academic achievement.

Father Werner Renneberg attended the Catholic Hospitals Conference in Ottawa, May 21-24.

Father Maurice Weber travelled to St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, on May 25 to drive Father Harvey Wingfield back. Father Harvey spent the past two years with us serving as administrator of St. Ann's Parish, Anaheim. Father Maurice returned June 6.

Prior Peter Novecosky attended the Formation directors of Canada Workshop at St. Jerome, Quebec, May 25-June 3. He travelled back with Father Lawrence DeMong who spent May 17-June 4 in Quebec and Ottawa assisting with the Canadian Catechism.

The Naicam parish celebrated the 45th anniversary of the ordination of Father George Brodner on May 31. Attending



**A farewell was held at the abbey on May 23 honoring Father Harvey Wingfield. Father Harvey returned to his home abbey in Lacey, Washington after spending two years with us.**

from the abbey were **Fathers Martin Brodner and Matthew Michel, Brothers John and Gregory Brodner and Bernard Lange.**

St. Gertrude Parish celebrated its 40th anniversary June 19. All former parishioners were invited back for the occasion. Father Lucien Larre, of Bosco Homes, Regina, was guest speaker. St. Gertrude's has been in the charge of Father Xavier Benning for many years.

In early July, **Brother Thomas Ward** assumed responsibility for our pig operation. At that time we sold our farrowing sows and now simply have a weanling-to-finish operation.

**Father Albert Ruetz** attended the Ruetz reunion in Mildmay, Ontario, on July 5.

Most of the monks attended a come-and-go tea honoring Leo and Mary Torborg on July 8. It was the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. Both Leo and Mary have been on staff here for many years.

**Fathers George and Martin Brodner, and Brothers Gregory and John Brodner** were present for the unveiling

of a new cairn marking the site of St. Henry's Church near Dysart on July 13. This country parish, no longer in existence, was the parish the Brodners belonged to.

**Father Francis Lohmer** marked his 65th anniversary of religious profession on July 26 with a come-and-go tea. Many of his confreres were present.

**Brother Basil Schaan** spent 10 days at St. John Bosco camp near Smeaton as counsellor, July 26-Aug. 5.

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## Rest in peace

In your prayers please remember our deceased confreres and relatives:

**Brother Leo Rotter**, 84, St. Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, died on April 13. **Father Luke Koller**, 72, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, died on April 25.

**Father Augustine Nenzel**, 85, St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask., died on June 15.

**Father Otto Weber**, 53, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on July 12.

**Gerald Loehr**, 53, Nelson, B.C., brother of Father Philip Loehr, died on May 15.

**Mrs. Irene Boulanger**, 84, Ottawa, Ont., mother of Novice Rene Boulanger, died on June 26.



**Elizabethan Sisters who worked at St. Peter's over the past 75 years.**

## **OSE appreciation day**

The monks of St. Peter's Abbey on May 18 honored all the Sisters of St. Elizabeth who have worked here over the past 75 years.

The day began with a eucharistic celebration at 10 a.m. Following this a group picture was taken and the sisters and monks enjoyed a few minutes of socializing. Pictorial displays chronicled

their service among us over the years. A festive banquet was held at noon.

The afternoon began with a formal program of songs and skits depicting the arrival and work of the sisters. Abbot Jerome expressed gratitude to all the sisters who served us over the past 75 years.

Lunch, tours and more visiting followed this program.



**The festive meal at noon, and a program of skits in the afternoon.**



# Father Augustine Nenzel dies

On June 15, Father Augustine Nenzel passed away in St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt. He had been confined to hospital since February when it was discovered he had cancer of the pancreas.

Father Augustine (Albert) Nenzel was born in Nenzel, Nebraska, on December 19, 1901, and came to Muenster with his parents on March 21, 1903. He began his elementary education at Muenster, continued it at the

mission school at Cranbrook, B.C., where his father was ranch foreman, and completed it at St. Louis College of the O.M.I. Fathers at New Westminster, B.C., in 1917.

He returned to Muenster with his family in June 1917, and in the fall of 1921 he became a day student in the newly opened St. Peter's College, continuing to work on his father's farm.

He entered the novitiate of St. Peter's Abbey in 1925, made his vows on July 17, 1926, and was ordained at Muenster on June 29, 1932, by Bishop Joseph Prudhomme of Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Father Augustine resided at St. Peter's Abbey for 30 years after his ordination, teaching at St. Peter's College, and assisting on weekends and at festival times in the parishes of St. Peter's Abbey.

Alumni of St. Peter's College remember him especially as student prefect for 8 years, student chaplain for 11 years, and director of dramatics for 20 years.

From 1955 to 1962 he was editor of the *Prairie Messenger* and weekend chaplain at St. Ursula's Academy and Convent, Bruno.

After 1962 he was assistant pastor and chaplain at Bruno and Humboldt, and pastor at Carmel (1964 - 1967), Bruno (1969 - 1970), St. Benedict (1970 - 1978), and Middle Lake with Bethany Village of senior citizens (1972 - 1978).

From 1978 to his retirement at St. Peter's Abbey in 1984 he was chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Saint Mary's Villa, Humboldt, beloved by all for his friendly availability and humor.

— NS



**Father Augustine Nenzel**

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## Address

Abbacy Mission Team  
C. P. 161  
Maceio, Alagoas  
57,000 Brazil

# Monks make solemn profession

Brothers Michael McAllister, Basil Schaan and Kurt Van Kuren made their solemn profession of vows as Benedictine monks on July 11. The ceremony was held at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster.

**Brother Michael Joseph McAllister** was born in Toronto but lived all his life in Oshawa. He has always been involved in charitable works, ministering as lay pastoral hospital visitor and doing prison ministry under Cursillo for seven years.

Brother Michael has inherited some of the cleaning jobs formerly done by Brother John Brodner. He is also responsible for keeping our fleet of cars clean. Brother Michael is also involved in the abbey candlemaking craft and helps print the *Prairie Messenger*.

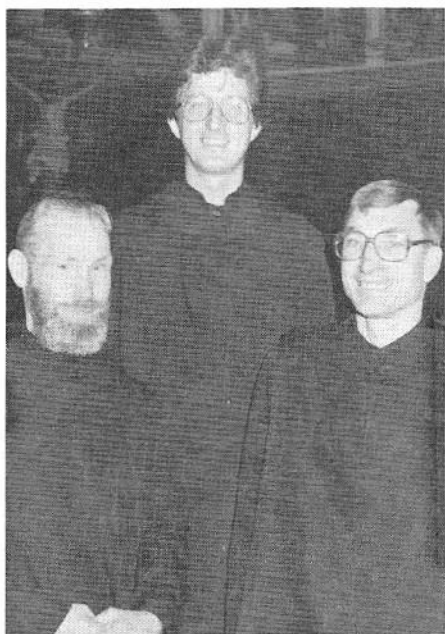
Brother Michael is a self-taught ventriloquist and lists writing poetry as another of his interests.

**Brother Basil Schaan** was born and raised in Young, Sask. He began working part time at the Young Credit Union in 1968. At this time he was completing correspondence courses in basic studies in credit and in airline traffic control. In 1970 he started working full time with the Young Credit Union and the small town credit unions in Loreburn and Denzil.

Since 1976 Brother Basil has been involved with social justice activities such as CCODP, SCIC, CDF and other church-related organizations.

This past year Brother Basil has been attending pre-theology classes at Mount Angel Abbey, St. Benedict, Oregon. He will be returning in August to continue the program.

Brother Basil enjoys manual labor and has worked as work co-ordinator for the junior monks. This summer he volunteered to assist at St. John Bosco Camp as counsellor for 10 days.



From left, Brothers Michael McAllister, Kurt Van Kuren and Basil Schaan.

**Brother Kurt Van Kuren** was born in Windsor. He studied for a year at the University of Windsor doing pre-med. In 1978 he enrolled in the electronics technician program at St. Clair College, Windsor, and in 1981 took a year of mechanical drafting at the same college.

He worked as a professional musician (guitarist) with country and popular groups throughout Western Canada from 1974-82. He spent a year as a studio guitarist in Detroit in 1980.

Brother Kurt often plays guitar at our liturgical celebrations, and is a regular cantor. Like Brother Basil, he is one of the abbey barbers.

For the past two years Brother Kurt has been attending St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. He plans to return in the fall and complete his BA degree and is considering continuing for a masters degree.



**Oblates who made their final oblation on July 25 are, from left, back row: Shelley Engle, Mary Wasserman, Frances Kimmin, Deloris and Frank Steier, Father Albert Ruetz, oblate director; front row: Florence Reinhart, Marie Eggen, Agnes Rauw and Veronica Schurman.**

## Oblate news

The summer oblate day was held on July 25. It marked the return of oblate director, Father Albert Ruetz who returned from a sabbatical year in early May. Father Francis Lohmer acted as director in his absence.

Oblates of St. Benedict are Christians who have associated themselves with a Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life.

St. Paul tells us that each member of the body of Christ, the church, has a special function to perform. Most are called to the married state and the raising of a family. Some are called to the single state in the world and others to the life of a priest or religious man or woman.

The role of Oblates is to live in the world, to become holy in the world, to do what they can to bring the world to God by being witnesses of Christ by word and example to those around them. — AR



**Mrs. Georgina Rakoz of Camrose, Alta., made her final oblation July 20. She is seen with oblate director Father Albert Ruetz.**



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Muenster, Saskatchewan  
S0K 2Y0

