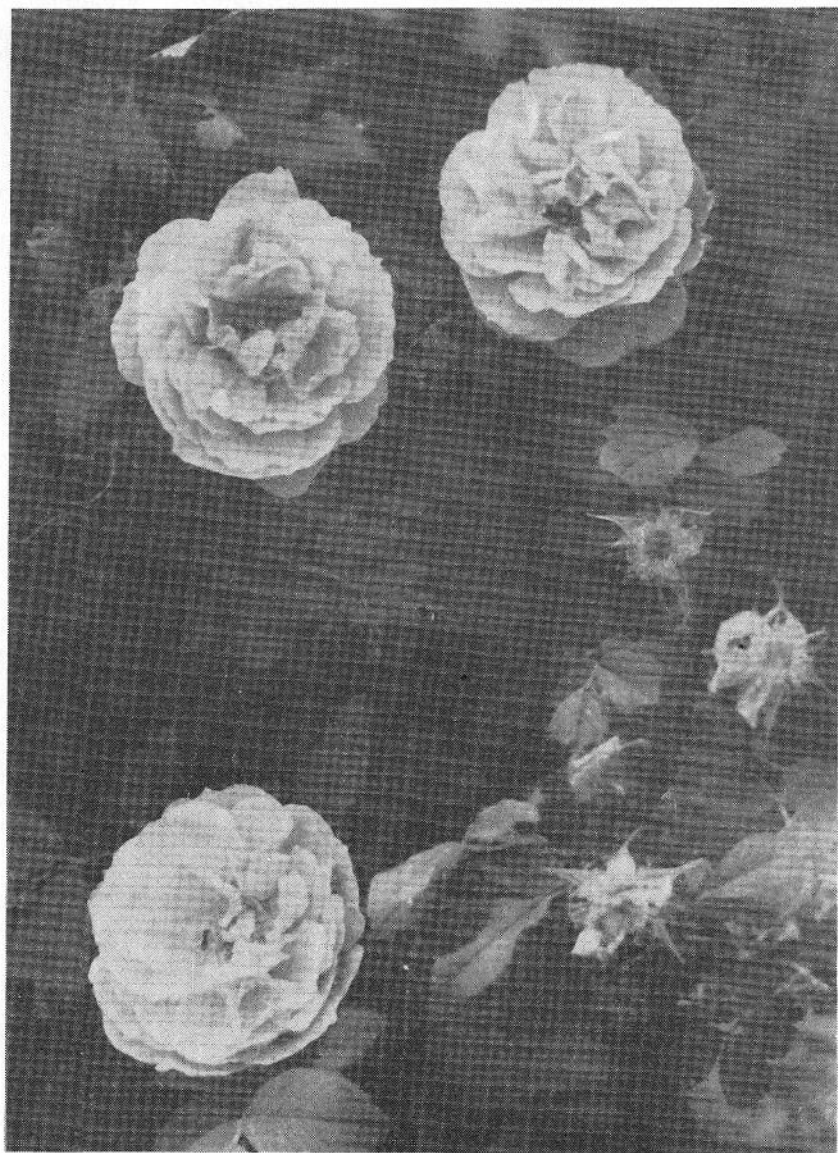


ST. PETER'S
ABBEY

newsletter



Vol. 12, No. 1 Spring 1988



Abbot Jerome's activities

By Abbot Jerome Weber

The Western Canadian Catholic bishops had their annual meeting at the Grey Nuns' Centre in Edmonton, Feb. 26-28, and they met with the major superiors of Western Canada at Providence Centre on Feb. 29. It was during this time that the Saskatchewan bishops met and finalized the letter on respect for human life that was published in Saskatchewan on March 3.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan met in Saskatoon on April 5. During this meeting the Catholic school trustees executive met for a while to discuss common concerns: e.g. French schools in view of the French language rights, and education of natives.

I attended the banquet of the provincial convention of the Knights of Columbus held at Saskatoon, April 18.

I participated in the Ukrainian Millennium Celebration for the province of Saskatchewan at the Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon on May 29. There was a liturgical celebration in the afternoon during which icons of Our Lady of Victory were blessed and given to parish representatives. The festivities concluded with a banquet in the evening at 6:30.

Oblate Days

Come, join us in prayer and feasting, in the style of Benedict:

November 12, 1988

March 18, 1989

July 8, 1989

November 4, 1989

For information on the spiritual benefits of belonging to the Oblates of St. Benedict, contact:

Oblate Director
Fr. Albert Ruetz, OSB
St. Peter's Abbey,
Muenster, Sask. S0K 2Y0



March 21 — Abbot Jerome makes the first "incision" in a huge cake baked and decorated by Mary Torborg for the feast of St. Benedict.

ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan, S0K 2Y0, three times a year: February, June and October. Deadline: the 15th of the previous month.

Editor: Gerald Moran, OSB

Regular contributors: Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB; Albert Ruetz, OSB; Maurice Weber, OSB

Photo credits: Gerald Moran; Montreal Priory.

Logo designed by Kurt Van Kuren, OSB.

Fr. Norbert's Abbey Chronicle

Edited by Brother Gerald

March 5:

Br. Basil Schaan attended the Rural Inter Church Development Education Co-op Project held at Cudworth this weekend. This Co-op member organization is dedicated to building and maintaining a global justice network of volunteers in Saskatchewan. They address such issues as: world hunger and poverty, superpower intervention in Third World countries, refugees, human rights violations, nuclear weapons, international aid and debt crisis. The brochure lists the members aim to educate themselves and their communities by actual visits to the Third World to study or work, hosting speakers, etc. by letter writing and lobbying government officials, as well as consciousness raising thru education. Another worth-while enterprise by CO-OP!

March 9:

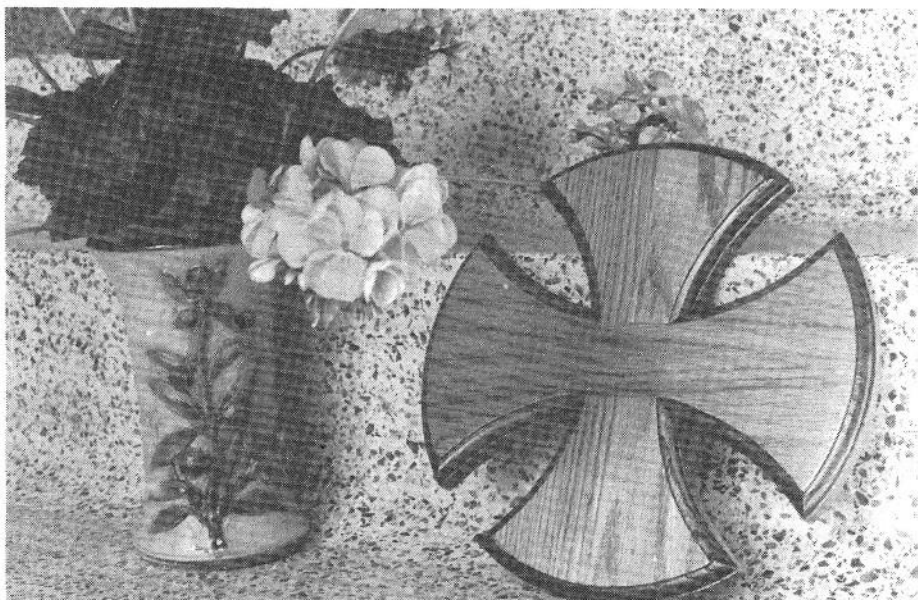
Today the community had the first of three scheduled meetings with representatives of architectural firms interested in planning for our new Abbey church.

March 13:

Community meeting on the subject of the farm. Three presentations were given: 1) Stewardship by Fr. Peter Novecosky; 2) Ecology by Fr. Lawrence DeMong, and 3) Apostolic Farming by Br. Basil Schaan.

March 19:

Oblate Day this year falls on the feast of St. Joseph. There were no new members; however, a very good turnout of familiar Oblate faces came to share our prayer and food.



March 2 — The last of the Catholic Bible College students have departed. Their chaplain, Father Camillo, OMI, who is a professional potter, presented the Abbey with a beautiful flower vase. Also pictured above is one of the 14 Benedictine crosses made by the CBCC student Michael Conroy of Calgary. Michael's professional work can be seen in the main guest entrance; and the flower vase has a permanent place in the Abbey chapel.



March 4 — The seminarians of Emmanuel-St. Chad College, U of S. are on retreat this weekend. Bishop Barry Curtis of Calgary was retreat master. Three St. Piux X seminarians spent the weekend as guests of the Abbey; Michael, Dean and Ron had the weekend free of pastoral duties in the city.



March 11 — Grosvenor Park United Church parishioners on retreat in Severin Hall. The maternity ward in the large aquarium where several fish were born five days ago is attracting much interest.



Father John Main, OSB. Photo courtesy of Tesza Repka.

March 13:

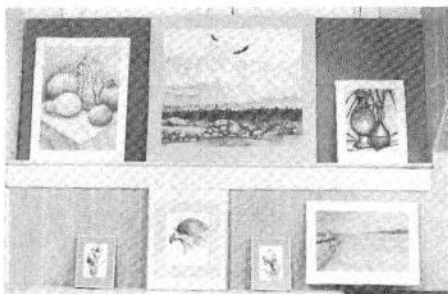
About 20 members of the Transcendental Meditation group of Saskatoon spent the weekend initiating new members. The founder of the Benedictine Priory in Montreal, Fr. John Main, based his Christian Meditation on the TM method which he learned in India.



Leo Torborg in a familiar pose.

March 23:

The entire monastic community joined Mary and Leo Torborg in the large dining room for supper tonight honoring Leo Torborg on his retirement. A plaque was presented by Fr. Daniel Muyres.



March 24 — An art exhibit of Sr. Christine Loehndorff's class of art students began today on the top floor of the college building. The exhibit will remain until April 5.

March 27:

The Abbot Bruno Doerfler Council (Muenster) of the Knights of Columbus have begun a Squires program for the young boys of this area. It is believed that this will be the only Squires group functioning in the province. Fr. Norbert and Br. Francis Fortney attended the initiation of the 18 boys.

March 28:

The winter's most severe blizzard began yesterday and shows no sign of letting up. It was thought that it would end with the change in wind direction; however, it seems to be a brand-new blizzard, giving us that much needed snow for the spring run-off which fills the reservoir. The blizzard finally blew itself out this evening after many of the day classes and all the night classes were cancelled.

March 31:

The beautiful aroma in the main lobby is from the large Easter lily donated to the monks by the lay staff. It will probably end up in chapel.



March 25 — A Lenten reconciliation service replaced the monk's regular Vigil service tonight. The impressive service lasted over 30 minutes. Postulant Vince Regnier is attending a YES (Youth Encounter Spirituality) retreat at the Ursuline Convent in Bruno this weekend. Guests this weekend include the members of the Holy Spirit R.C.I.A. program from Saskatoon who are staying in Severin Hall, while 80 young broomball players, 20 of them from Quebec, are occupying the dorms in the arena complex. Above, Holy Spirit RCIA.



March 29 — Our guest, Ed Dyck was stranded in Saskatoon because of the storm. In the photo above, Brother Bernard is seen clearing the parking lot of snow drifts after the two-day storm.



April 2 — The Porter's Office might as well have stayed closed; as expected for Good Friday it was unusually quiet — as it should be for that day. It seems that the "Big Thaw" has begun. The snow is quickly melting and one more day and our reservoir should be full.

April 4:

There was a rumor that Fr. Peter Novecosky, prior and novice master, is going to attend this year's Formation Director's workshop in New Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas. Well, he did leave today and will be away for a week. These workshops are attended by all formation personnel of all the Benedictine federations of North America.

April 10:

The school children of Mt. Carmel parish presented our four postulants with "hand-made" greeting cards after announcing that each class had adopted a postulant and promised to remember him in their prayers and good works. The four postulants, Denis, Vince, Leo and Joe, who will enter the novitiate July 10, were very impressed with the children's gesture of love and concern.

April 12:

Br. David Gauthier is spending a week with his brother in Alberta. Novice Rene Boulanger from Montreal has decided to terminate his novitiate program. He will spend a few days in Saskatoon before continuing on to the Trappists at Holland, Man.

April 13:

Dave Carpenter of the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild, who has spent a couple "colonys" at the abbey will be featured on the arts section of the CBC's Friday night Journal (News) program. Three staff members of the Toronto CBC accompanied Dave to St. Peter's where Dave was pictured with the guest-master on the abbey grounds.

April 14:

Abbot Jerome has hung a large poster-size (21 x 66 cm) thank-you card from the students of the Canadian Catholic Bible College on the bulletin board. Each of the 18-19 students had a "hand" in preparing this artistic creation which expresses each student's impression of their stay with us.



April 9 — Mark Blom of Saskatoon and Jonathan Bonato of Emmanuel-St. Chad College in Saskatoon are busy labelling the Abbey Newsletters for mailing. The Engaged Encounter couples are guests in Severin Hall this weekend.



April 16 — Another youth support group is making use of our arena dorms. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program, sponsored by the Co-Op movement, held a workshop in the gym and college buildings. A picture of the directors and peer counsellors appears above.

April 17:

The annual concert of the St. Peter's Chorus, under the direction of Maxine Moore was performed in St. Peter's Cathedral.

April 18:

Abbot Jerome and Fr. Norbert are in Prince Albert to visit the Diocesan Archives. They were invited to look at the early history of St. Peter's Colony and Abbey by Sister Josephine Ouellet during her visit to Muenster last month. She claims "archives hold fascinating details."

April 19:

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is having their second business meeting of the year at St. Peter's. The Sask. Wheat Pool is one of the supporters of the Co-operative Youth Program mentioned above.

April 20:

By the sounds heard at evening recreation, today was the big day for bird

migration to the northern nesting areas. Robins and blackbirds have been back for at least one week, and the crows even earlier. Concern is for the preservation of smaller birds which are preyed upon by larger ones like crows, magpies and blackbirds. Two birds we want to welcome are the Sparrow Hawk, which is known for the control of the English Sparrow, and the Purple Martin, which helps control the mosquito infestation.

April 21:

The kitchen staff and the community are concerned about the health of kitchen manager, Mrs. Mary Torborg. She is in St. Paul's Hospital undergoing tests. Today was the last training session for the lay presiders. The grand finale was a liturgy conducted by lay presiders.

April 22:

Fr. Lawrence DeMong, Bros. Basil Schaan and Thomas Ward have motored to Edmonton to hear a talk by

Gustavo Guierrez titled "Liberation Theology and Spirituality." The conference was sponsored by Newman Theological College.

April 24:

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and Vocation Sunday; Postulants Denis Fortin, Vince Regnier, Leo Graf and Joe Wasylyniuk were invited to several parishes in the abbacy to tell about their "call" to the monastery.

April 25:

To free Br. Basil Schaan for more time to work on the farm, Br. Thomas Ward was named work-coordinator (again). Please see our feature Farm News in this and every issue of the Abbey Newsletter.



April 27 — Today is the last college exam to end the 87-88 university year. Grant Marshak of Lake Lenore, a familiar figure in the library over the past 8 months, is shown using the library for study and a resource centre.



April 29 — A busy day in Severin Hall (guestwing); Sr. Christina Loehndorff, OSU will conduct an Artists Workshop for two days (see photo) and University of Regina music student, Douglas Chase, formerly of Toronto, will present a recital on stage of the college gym. This recital is a repeat of the recital given April 7 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Douglas's bachelor of music degree. He is a third year student of the Performance Program.

May 1:

Unofficial word has it that Fr. Lawrence will replace Fr. Sylvester during his leave of absence this summer. However, plans are still being finalized and official word may be made in a months time. Denis Fortin is making the "Live-in-with-Christ" weekend retreat in Saskatoon.

May 2:

Br. Nicodemus van Amelsvoort returned from Calgary where he joined some former confreres of the Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes for an anniversary celebration. The community came from Holland and have been in Alberta at Taber, Calgary and Edmonton for a number of years.



May 3 — The Nipawin Bible College Choir on a tour of the abbey property.

May 1:

Fr. Ray Douziech, C.Ss.R. of Edmonton arrived today to give psychological tests to our four postulants. Much speculation and more rumors circulating re the need, value, validity and results of these tests. One positive result of these next five days which the Postulants appreciate is a variation in the daily monastic schedule.

May 4:

A small gathering of mostly monks to honor Ed Dyck was held tonite when Ed related his experience of the past nine months while working, tutoring and writing in a hermitage at St. Peters. Ed Dyck in the short time he was with us, became a very valued member of our larger community by sharing so much of himself, his talents and training, with students, monks and everyone connected with St. Peters.

May 5:

Sister Marian's mother, who is also an Ursuline, Sr. Mary Noll, OSU, passed away yesterday. Shortly after Sr. Marian's father died, Sr. Mary joined the Ursulines of Bruno and was a member for 29 years. R.I.P. Sr. Marian is the managing editor of the *Prairie Messenger*.

May 8:

Fr. Lawrence DeMong is back to Ontario to work on the next stage of the Canadian Catechism. He will be away three weeks.

May 10:

"... I know I will never become a monk." This was a written comment by one student of the pre-vocation class which had invited Br. Gerald to answer questions on life in a monastery. The students asked questions for 30 minutes past the allotted time for the English class. Another student wrote: "This Brother Gerald is very happy serving God and being happy about who he is and what he is doing." — a much more consoling comment.

May 11:

Br. Patrick Grennan left this morning to visit his sister in the Toronto area. Br. Bernard Lange, awaiting heart surgery in Saskatoon, had the operation re-scheduled for the 13th. Fr. Albert Ruetz and Oblate Elizabeth Saretsky of Humboldt will attend the funeral of Caroline Germain, Oblate of St. Benedict, at Carmel.

May 13:

Br. Bernard's heart surgery was again cancelled; reason given was that there

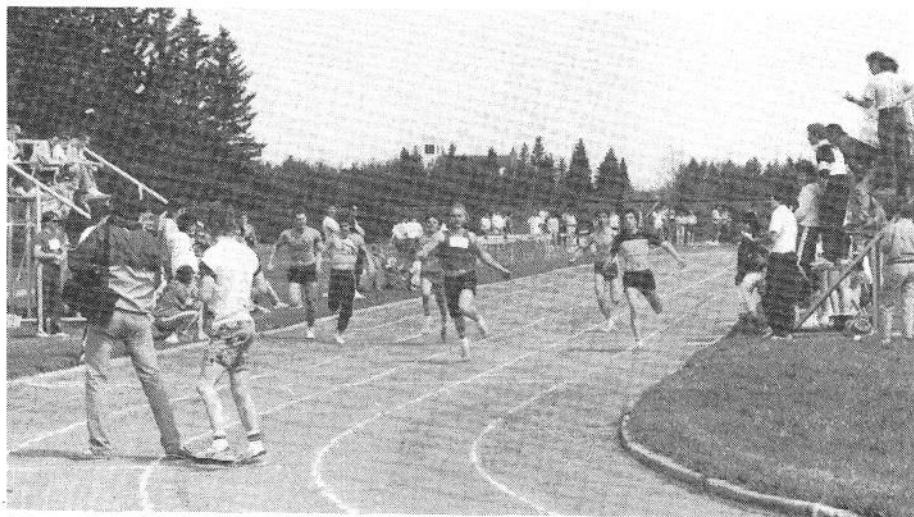
had been a serious car accident and the intensive care ward was busy. In St. Paul's Hospital, also in Saskatoon, Tony Saretsky of Humboldt had an operation to remove his spleen. Prayers were offered for both patients.



May 15 — Bishop James Mahoney of Saskatoon administered the sacrament of Confirmation to seven members of the Deaf Community in the abbey chapel. Everyone seemed to enjoy the informality of the liturgy. A liturgical dance shown above was part of the ceremony and performed by the deaf.



May 14 — This weekend the guest department is full of "signers." A retreat for the deaf community of Saskatoon is being held here under the patronage of the diocese of Saskatoon and the direction of Sr. Doreen Smith, CSJ. Retreat director is Sister Ann Albrecht, CSJ, of Kansas City, who works with the deaf community in that city. Pictured above is Sister Doreen "signing" for the deaf.



May 19 — This is the second day of the local track and field day, which is always held at this time of the year on St. Peter's property. The photo above was taken at yesterday's meet and shows pupils from the surrounding towns in this school district.



Monks of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan taken during the annual retreat, June 9, 1988. Front Row (left to right): Dominic Distel, Xavier Benning, Albert Ruetz, Damian Yaskowich, Philip Loehr, Lawrence DeMong, Francis Lohmer, Abbot Jerome Weber, Edward Benning, Gregory Brodner, Rudolph Novecosky, Conrad Abs, Joseph Ackerman; (center) Denis Fortin, Nicodemus van Amelsvoort, Bernard Lange, Florian Renneberg, Francis Fortney, George Brodner, Norbert Schwinghammer, Daniel Muyres, Peter Novecosky, Randy



Dennis Lieffers Photo

Senecal, Patrick Grennan, Richard Meidl, Wolfgang Thiem, Gerald Moran; (back) David Gauthier, John Brodner, Michael McAllister, Kurt Van Kuren, Alfred Engele, Leo Hinz, Martin Brodner, Leo Graf, Maurice Weber, Thomas Ward, Andrew Britz, Vincent Regnier, Werner Renneberg, Stanley Vindevoghel. Missing from photo are Matthew Michel, Bernard Stauber, Sylvester Vredegoor, Roman Schneider, William Thurmeier and Basil Schaan.



May 20 — The start of the tree removal from east of the press building got underway. The trees were in the way of the sewer line and underground cables and were relocated in two main areas: around the race track and the east lawn of the abbey building.



May 20 — Some very excited youngsters, age 9 to 13 registered for the second Camp Colossal tonight. The two-day camp-out will consist of games, sports, campfires, face-painting interspersed with serious topics for discussion like drugs, peer pressure, self-esteem, sexual abuse, judging, and alcohol. The chief organizer and director of the camp is Sybil Knights who was with the program last July when it was first sponsored by TOC ALPHA. The resource people for the weekend include Ann Murphy, Miss Knights, Tracy Muggli and Kevin Harrington of the Humboldt RCMP. Pictured above are the counsellors and assistants: Dawnette Kunz, Tina Schwint, Russell Klitch, Jeff Germaine, Karla Germaine, Raina Dale, Andrew Pray and Sherry Johnson. Missing from the photo is Darren Zary.



May 20 — Camp Colossal

May 16:

Fr. Peter took Br. Thomas Ward to Saskatoon where he will depart for

England for his home visit. Br. Thomas, who made simple profession last July will return from his trip on May 31.

May 17:

Two S.T.C. busses full of senior citizens from Saskatoon visited us for a tour of the abbey grounds and St. Peter's Cathedral. The 90 people are members of the Saskatoon Seniors Cultural and Creative Studies Incorporated group, a portion of the 190 members who attend classes at the University of Saskatchewan called, Senior Enrichment Classes. Murray Smith is president and the vice president, Fred McKinnon accompanied the 90 seniors on the day-long tour. Including the cathedral, the St. Peter's tour took 2½ hours.

May 18:

Br. Richard Meidl arrived home from St. Meinrad's Archabbey where he is taking pre-theology studies. Br.



May 21 — About 10 members of the Saskatoon Actor's Guild spent the Victoria Day long weekend in workshop at the abbey. A photo of all the masks made during the weekend was accidentally cut in half and had to be replaced by the above photo of their God-given masks.

Richard, who is in his first year intends to return to St. Meinrad's in September.

May 23:

An outdoor farewell supper honoring Sr. Zita Maier, OSU, and Professor John Thompson was held on the con-

vent lawn. The Benedictine' community presented both with an inscribed plaque acknowledging their many years of work at St. Peter's College. That same evening after Vigils, former student Jerry Johnson of Lumsden presented an interesting talk with slides of his exchange-visit of a three month-long stay in Shri Lanka.



Fr. Peter Novecosky, Fr. James Gray, Br. Basil Schaan, Br. Stanley Vindeghel and Sister Zita Maier.



Patricia and John Thompson with Abbot Jerome.

May 21:

Fr. Andrew invited Br. Randy Senecal and the four postulants, Vince Regnier, Denis Fortin, Joe Wasylyniuk and Leo Graf to his parish of St. Benedict for their final class on the psalms and for dinner. After they were well fed Fr. Andrew took them to John Kelly's cabin at Wakaw Lake for . . . coke and chocolate bars.

May 23:

Sisters Cecile and Immaculata of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth dropped in to visit Fr. Edward Benning. Fr. Edward is always very pleased to received visitors.



May 24 — Stanley Park, unofficially named after Br. Stanley Vindevoghel's work on the project, has received its first resident. The above unnamed species was caught sunning him/herself this afternoon but has not been seen since. We think he has an aversion to watered lawns and sprinklers.

May 27:

Br. Bernard Lange finally had his heart operation this morning and is in stable condition. The Sisters of St. Elizabeth who have been in the abbacy since 1911 have begun a 10-day period of discernment re their apostolates. Besides working at St. Peter's College from the early years, they staff the hospitals in Humboldt, Cudworth and Macklin, Sask.

May 27:

At a community meeting all four postulants were accepted for the noviti-

ate and Novice Randy Senecal was accepted for temporary vows. Taking the habit on July 10 will be: Vincent Regnier (Saskatoon), Denis Fortin (Amos, P.Q.), Joe Wasylyniuk (Watrous, Sask.) and Leo Graf from the Abbey (Fulda).



May 28 — The "Sprachschule" of Saskatoon met with the Humboldt German language school on the grounds of St. Peter's Abbey where they planted a Linden tree to commemorate the occasion. The main purpose of the group is to preserve the German language and to honor German pioneers of the province, of whom there are many in St. Peter's Colony.

May 29:

The Abbey catechists have invited our four postulants to Waldsea Lake for the afternoon, for their help with the confirmation classes. Brother Kurt van Kuren, who completed his final year at St. John's University in Minnesota, arrived home this afternoon. The Prairie Messenger, the Catholic weekly for Saskatchewan and Manitoba, printed by St. Peter's Press, received six awards at this years' annual Canadian Church Press convention. A photographer for the paper, Donna Rauck-

man received honorable mention for a black and white photo of her daughter cradling an injured chickadee. The judges used the words: "sense of tenderness" and "child-bird relationship" in describing the photo. For further details see the June 6, 1988 issue of the *Prairie Messenger*.



May 30 — Srs Leonardine Novecosky of Cudworth and Margaret Mary Predeger of Humboldt paid a visit to Fr. Edward Benning this afternoon.



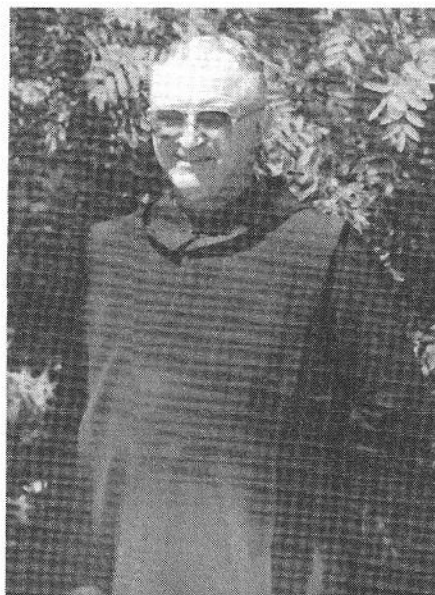
June 2 — Deer have been sighted on the property before today, but whether the event has ever been photographed before is unknown. Novice Randy Senecal is credited with first seeing the deer and informing the photographer.

June 4:

The Saskatchewan Writer's Guild will spend the months of June and July in the guest department. The first to arrive for the "Colony" were Elizabeth Warnock, Peter McGehee and Rick Hillis. A possible 26 writers and artists will spend from two to four weeks at St. Peter's Severin Hall.



June 3 — The Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon, shown above, are here for a weekend retreat. And the gym will be busy with the Teen-Aid Talent show which hopes to raise money for support of positive premarital lifestyles and for healthy and mature relationships. Fr. Matthew, who feels a bit weak these days, was anointed by Abbot Jerome after our Vigil service tonight.



June 5 — Br. Bernard Lange returned from the University Hospital where he underwent surgery for a triple by-pass. As can be seen from the photo above, he is in very good health although a bit thinner. This must be the hottest day on record for this date: +41 Celcius.

June 6:

Fr. Matthew Michel, who has been feeling weak and dizzy the past few days was taken to hospital for examination. He is 91 years of age. The monks annual retreat began tonight with Fr. Paul Facht, OMI, the Scripture professor for Newman Theological Seminary in Edmonton, as retreat master. Fr. Paul is well known to the monks having spent some of his summer months working with us on the grounds. The theme of the retreat will be "Who do you say I am?"

June 10:

Postulant Joe Wasylyniuk left on his vacation a day early due to the funeral of his uncle. Two more postulants Leo Graf and Vincent Regnier departed immediately after the noon meal. Another departure from our midst for the summer months is the secretarial instruc-

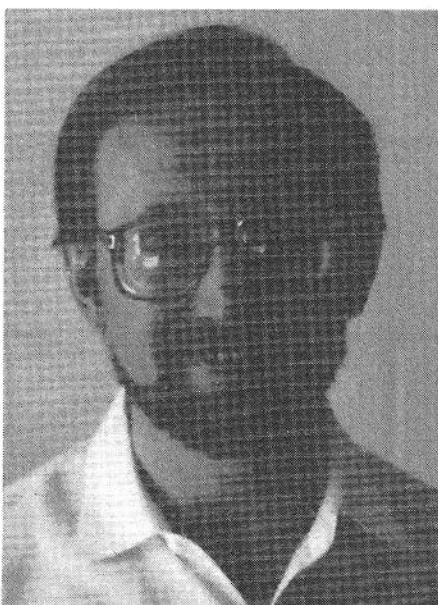
tor Laurie Schmit. Laurie has been "acting dean of the rez students" for the past school year in Br. Stanley's absence.

June 12:

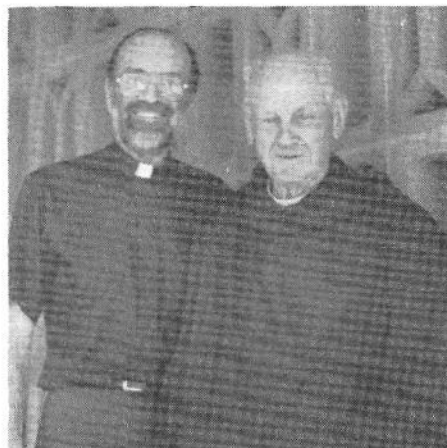
About 20 members of the Saskatoon Camera Club visited and toured the Abbey grounds and St. Peter's Cathedral. One of the members of the club Jerry Horbay is a brother-in-law of Mary Torborg. The Newsletter photographer was too embarrassed to take a picture of experienced photographers.

June 13:

Fathers Edward Benning and Rudolph Novecosky have gone fishing at Deschambault Lake in Northern Saskatchewan. Frs. Florian and Werner Renneberg are expected to join them at Northern Lights Lodge, a fully developed resort for the handicapped. Sr. Suzanne Mochan left today for a tour of Marian Shrines including Medjugorje in Yugoslavia.



Fr. Paul Facht, of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



June 12 — Two Abbacy parishes honored jubilarians today. Fr. Xavier Benning (right) was honored in his parish of St. Gertrudes on his 60 anniversary of ordination, while in St. Benedict's parish, Fr. Lawrence was welcomed back to his home parish for his 25th anniversary of ordination. On July 11, the feast of St. Benedict, the monks will celebrate the two anniversaries when all the pastors will be present.



June 16 — Scheme II of the proposed Abbey Church was presented to Senior Council today: Fr. Andrew, who is part of the building committee, answered questions on the second plan of architect Etienne Gaboury of Winnipeg. Father Abbot, who is pictured above with Mr. Gaboury, has called a chapter meeting for June 29 (3 p.m.), at which time the Church Building Committee will lead a discussion on the proposed sketch provided by the architect. Up-to-date information will be shared with the entire community before the chapter votes on the scheme submitted. An outdoor supper will follow the Vespers for the special feast of St. Peter, our Patron. While the Abbey does not plan to solicit funds for the building, there are three categories where donations can be made if anyone so wishes. The three special funds are: bells, pipe-organ and stained-glass windows. The new Abbey Church will be a suitable monument to our pioneer monks, and provide an appropriate location for todays monks who give praise and glory to God five times each day. Hopefully, it will be a great source of edification to our guests and visitors also.



June 15 — Today is the first anniversary of the death of Father Augustine Nenzel. A special remembrance was made during the Eucharistic liturgy.

**WHEN YOU HEAR
GOD'S VOICE TODAY,
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART!**

Vacations Are Everybody's Business.

St. Peter's farm news

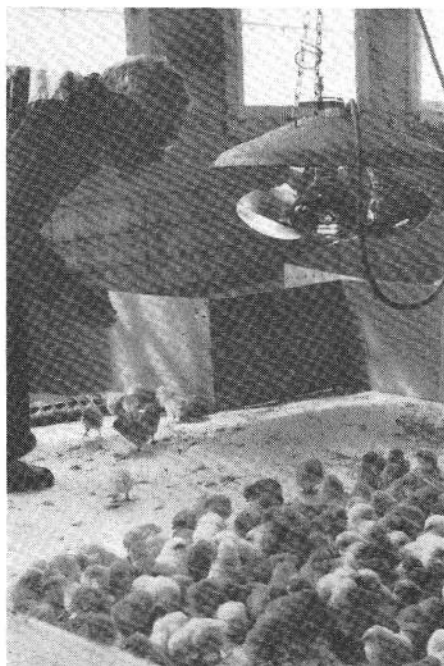
By Basil Schaan, O.S.B.

(Because of the scheduled and re-schedule heart operation for Brother Bernard Lange (see Abbey Chronicle), the farm operation has seen some changes. At the beginning of May Brother Basil started working full time on the farm, taking over many of Brother Bernard's responsibilities. Below, Br. Basil reports on the Farm News from his perspective — Ed)

A few new experiences made life interesting and challenging for everyone involved on our farm this spring. Postulant Joe Wasylyniuk, who has been a resident student for the past 8 months, "manned" the controls of the potatoe planter, and Brother David Gauthier was seen at the controls of the corn planter. Of course, the abbey photographer was nowhere in sight. I experienced a few anxious moments when the rock-picker got stuck in the soft, wet dirt. Assisting with the management end of this Spring's work were Frs. Peter Novocosky and Daniel Muyres, who enhanced their popularity by bringing/taking the meals out to the work fields. Working along with the new management were our regulars, Al Lange, Ron Back and August Toennies.

We purchased a 30-foot John Deere hoe-drill which seeded our 979 acres of wheat and 328 acres of barley. Another new item on our farm is the heat exchanger. This air-refreshener was installed in the hog "finishing" barn by myself and our electrician, Br. Francis Fortney.

Again, this year we received our yearly quota of 600 chicks — 350 red and 250 white (Cornish). The red ones are the laying hens and have a lifetime of one year over the white chickens which were bred for eating. This white breed will be ready for eating at approximately five months of age, when they will weigh about eight lbs. The red hens provide us with more eggs than we can use at the Abbey, so we sell and



some to the poor.

Br. Nicodemus van Amelsvoort took over the care of the chickens again. (see photo). He claims to be a good story-teller since he has to tell all 600 chicks a bed-time story each night. The hog operation shows that Br. Thomas and August Toennies are doing a good job; they only lost five pigs this past winter and spring. Br. Randy Senecal and Postulant Denis Fortin were a great help to Br. Thomas Ward, along with Vincent Regnier and Leo Graf (also Postulants) who occasionally joined in the fun also.

The bees we received this spring came from New Zealand. Fr. Xavier Benning and Br. Wolfgang Thiem say the long trip overseas didn't do them any good as they have lost a fair number because of the distance travelled.

The garden work proceeded well, with Br. Wolfgang adding to his bee-keeping responsibility the growing of radishes, lettuce and 12 foot-high tomatoe plants in his greenhouse. Now

the monks don't have to worry about spraying them for bugs — they don't dare go into his greenhouse! We planted extra peas at the request of the faithful kitchen staff who will can most of them.

I'm sure Br. Bernard Lange, farm manager, would agree he had new experiences also. With a triple by-pass heart operation scheduled he was admitted to hospital only to return three days later because the Intensive Care unit of the hospital was too full. On May 27 he had his operation and all continues to go well.

What will the summer bring? More experiences to grow with the Lord. To feel the tensions and joys of weeding the garden, repairing barns and corals and cleaning up bush piles made by the R.M. road construction crew. This summers work and experiences may get us dusty, dirty and smelly but it will give us experiences that help us to sing praise and thanks to the Lord.

Rest in peace

In your prayers please remember our deceased confreres, relatives and Oblates:

Father Donald Hardesty, OSB, St. Procopius Abbey, Illinois — March 16.

Father Charles B. Aziere, OSB, St. Benedict's Abbey, Kansas — March 22

Father Brendan McGrath, OSB, St. Procopius Abbey, Illinois — March 30.

Fr. Adrian Donauer, OSB, St. Bernard's Abbey, Alabama — April 1.

Father Alexander Devereux, OSB, St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania — April 23.

Father Ivan Lynn Havener, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minnesota — April 24.

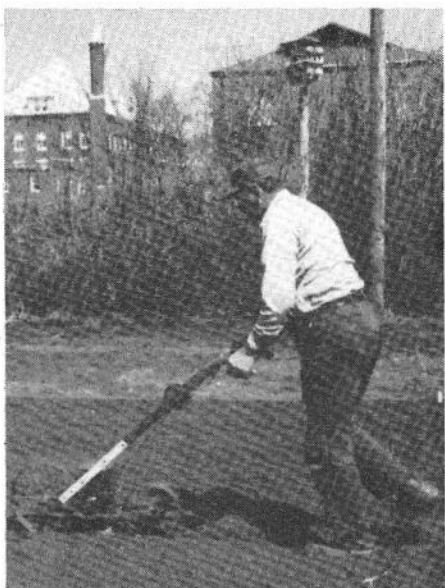
Father Robert Schuetz, OSB, St. Vincent's Archabbey — May 4.

Caroline Germaine — Oblate, Carmel, Saskatchewan — May 8.

Father Michael Blecker, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minnesota — May 12.

Father Edward Martineau, OSB, St. Leo Abbey, Florida — May 25.

Father Brendan Forsyth, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minnesota — June 1.



August Toennies planting mixed vegetables in the garden directly south of the Abbey. This garden is irrigated from the dug-out close by.



St. Peter's Cathedral (above), as seen from St. Peter's Abbey, will be featured in the next newsletter under the heading "Parish Profile" — a column which will eventually include all pastors and parishes of the Abbacy.

Abbacy summer camp planned



May 25 — The Vocation Committee and the Family Life Committee for the Abbacy held a barbeque followed by a joint meeting. The mosquitoes drove us from the Sister's lawn into the Abbacy Centre for most of the meeting. The main topic of discussion was a proposed 5 day summer camp for children of the Abbacy, aged 9 - 12 to be held at St. Peter's College in 1989. The camp would give the Abbacy children an opportunity to grow in their faith and become acquainted with each other. A number of children from this area are attending other similar style camps and their parents have expressed a desire for a camp where emphasis is placed on spiritual values. The above photo shows only the members of the Family Life Committee in attendance.



Sister Climacus Hund, a Franciscan sister from Wisconsin, came to visit her first cousins, Fathers Edward and Xavier Benning this past winter.

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