

# ST. PETER'S ABBAY

*newsletter*



Vol. 12, No. 2    Autumn    1988



St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster, Saskatchewan. See Parish Profile inside.

# Abbot Jerome's Activities

By Abbot Jerome Weber

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clandinin, of St. Claude, Man., donated \$35,000.00 to the Abbey as a scholarship fund, the interest of which each year is to help pay for the education of priesthood students. I went to visit them on Aug. 24, to thank them personally for this great act of generosity. I stayed overnight at the nearby Trappist Monastery of Our Lady of the Prairies and enjoyed the hospitality of Abbot Marcel and the monks.

On Sept. 14 I left for Collegio Sant' Anselmo in Rome to take part in a Congress of Benedictine abbots and priors, Sept. 16-27. About 230 were present, and they came from every continent and many countries. There were several papers read on the topic "The Holy Spirit and monastic life." These formed the topic for discussions among various language groups: English, Italian, French and German. There were also several discussions about the school in which liturgy, philosophy and theology are taught.

During those days we also visited Subiaco, where St. Benedict began his life as a monk. On Sunday, Sept. 23, we went to the square in front of St. Peter's Basilica for the Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II during which he declared blessed Cardinal Joseph Dusmet who had been abbot of the Benedictine abbey in Sicily before he was appointed bishop of Catania, in Sicily, and a cardinal. He was chosen by Pope Leo XIII to reopen the Benedictine College of S. Anselmo in 1887.

The next day, Sept. 26, we had an audience at the Vatican with Pope John Paul II. Later in the day we went to the Basilica of St. Paul to celebrate Mass in honor of Blessed Joseph Dusmet along with Cardinal Mayer, a Benedictine who was principal celebrant and homilist.

I was privileged to have a private audience with Pope John Paul II on Sept. 27. As abbot ordinary of Muenster, I am required every five years,

like every bishop for his diocese, to make a report on the abbacy, to make a personal visit to the visible representative on earth of Jesus Christ, and to visit those congregations at the Vatican with which I have some contact from time to time. It is also required to go to the tomb of the apostle Peter, who was appointed by Christ to be head of his church, and to that of St. Paul. In this way the local church keeps in direct contact with the very origins of our Catholic faith.

The bishops from the Maritime provinces of Canada were making such a visit at the same time as I was in Rome, and I was able to follow them after each bishop had a private audience with the pope. After all the private audiences were over, we all gathered with the pope who then gave an address to us at the end of which there was a picture taken of the whole group with the pope in the centre.

On the following days, I went to some of the congregations and also to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of Mary Major. In the latter, according to tradition, the bones of St. Jerome are in a small vessel under the high altar. It happened to be Sept. 30, the feast day of St. Jerome and my nameday. On the following Monday, Oct. 3, I returned to Canada, happy again to be at home.

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## ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Logo designed by Kurt Van Kuren, OSB.



**Abbot Jerome Weber visits with Pope John Paul II on Sept. 27, 1988.**

# Father Edward Benning dies

Father Edward Benning, 78, died of a heart attack Sept. 21 in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon.

Father Edward (Clarence) Benning was born in Arcadia, Wisconsin, in 1910. He took his high school studies and first year university at St. Peter's College from 1924-29.

He was preceded by St. Peter's by three brothers, Leonard and Xavier, already doing their seminary studies as members of St. Peter's Abbey, and Anthony, a senior high school student.

As a student, Clarence distinguished himself in several dramatic productions and oratory contests, and also played the violin in the school orchestra.

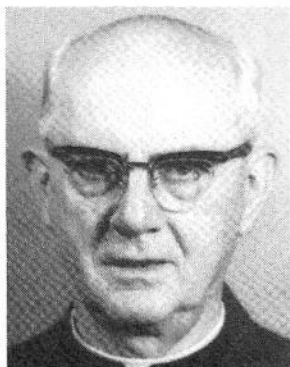
In June 1929, Clarence was invested as a novice, receiving Edward as his monastic name. After completing his novitiate at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., he made his first profession of vows on July 22, 1930. He received the BA degree from St. John's University in 1932, with special credits in Greek and French.

Father Edward was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936, at St. John's Abbey.

From 1936-43 he taught a variety of high school classes at St. Peter's, including French, Latin, and religion. He continued his interest in music and dramatics, played violin again in the college orchestra, and supplemented the annual major dramatic productions by a special Red Cross benefit program for several years.

During the summer of 1942 he assisted Father Rudolph Palm, OSB, at Lake Lenore, and then was administrator of the parish after the latter's death in August of that year.

In the fall of 1943 Father Edward was appointed pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth, and St. Maurus Parish, Dana and chaplain of St. Michael's Hospital. From 1945-61 he was Pastor of St. Michael's and St. Leo's north of Cudworth. During this, his first parochial assignment, he began his devoted service to the CWL,



which continued through his ministry.

Since then he had the following pastoral and chaplaincy assignments: Bruno and St. Ursula's Convent, Dana and Peterson, 1961-1967; St. Augustine's, Humboldt, 1967-74; Fulda and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 1974-76; Englefeld and Leroy, 1976-81; Cudworth and St. Michael's Hospital, and CFS Sagehill (Dana), 1981-86.

During his pastoral ministry Father Edward supervised the building of three churches: St. Leo (1947), St. Maurus, Dana (1962), and the new Holy Guardian Angels Church at Englefeld (1980).

In all these assignments and projects, Father Edward distinguished himself by his dedication and his quiet and friendly leadership.

In February 1986, Father Edward suffered a cerebral stroke which left his right side paralysed. After several weeks in St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, he returned to St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, where he co-operated valiantly with the V.O.N. Home Care therapists from Humboldt who visited him several times a week.

At the time of his death he was in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, beginning his recovery from successful hip surgery.

Funeral services for Father Edward were held at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster. Interment was in the Abbey Cemetery.

May he quickly enter into the "joy of the Master" promised to the good and faithful servant.



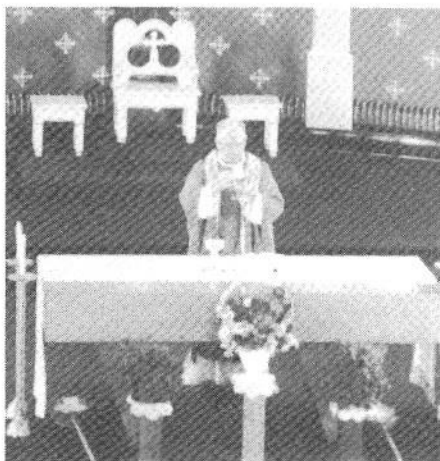
# Parish Profile

**St. Peter's Cathedral** — church of the abbot-ordinary.  
(Compiled from *Fifty Golden Years* and edited by G.M.)

The first mass celebrated in the Muenster district was one mile south of the town-site on May 21, 1903. A cairn erected at the location commemorates the occasion. Father Peter Windschiegel offered the first parish mass on June 28 of the same year. That summer a log church was erected just east of the present cathedral which served the parishioners of St. Peter's Colony until 1910.

The present cathedral, as it now stands, was begun in 1908 and officially opened on July 10, 1910. Bishop Albert Pascal of Prince Albert, in whose diocese the parish was located, blessed the new church on October 2, 1910.

Until the opening of St. Peter's Abbey/College building in 1921 at its present location southeast of the town of Muenster, the history of St. Peter's Parish was so closely linked to that of St. Peter's Abbey that the history of one is really the history of the other. After the Benedictine community moved to the new building in November 1921, the old abbey was used as the parish house, with Fr. Peter Windschigel as first resident pastor.



**Fr. Martin Brodner celebrating the Sunday Eucharist in St. Peter's Cathedral.**



In 1919 from January to June, the entire inside of the church was decorated by Count Berthold Imhoff, a friend of St. Peter's first abbot, Bruno Doerfler. Count Imhoff, who won an Art Academy Award in Berlin at the age of 16, was born in Germany but left his homeland to settle in Pennsylvania at the age of 24. In early 1914, he joined a band of settlers heading for Saskatchewan's isolated frontier where he settled in the St. Walburg area. During his career he decorated numerous churches throughout Saskatchewan. Imhoff's paintings may be found at Leipzig, St. Benedict, Denzil, Prince Albert, Reward, St. Leo, Humboldt, Paradise Hill, St. Walburg, North Battleford, and Bruno, as well as St. Peter's Cathedral.

In 1939 Imhoff died at his home in St. Walburg at the age of 71, leaving well over 200 paintings which are now exhibited in the Barr Colony Museum Building in Lloydminster — a town on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border.

For his paintings in St. Peter's

Cathedral, Imhoff used the monks for models. The most famous one is that of St. Paul which is modeled after Abbot Bruno Doerfler. Abbot Bruno passed away unexpectedly (aged 53), just a few weeks after the paintings were completed.

The majestic evergreen trees around the cathedral were planted first in 1932 by August Olthass and completed in 1933 by John W. Korte.

In the summer of 1970, in preparation for Saskatchewan Homecoming '71, the outside of the church was repaired and repainted, making the inside secure against the weather. The canvas paintings were cleaned and protected with a thin coat of varnish.

During the years 1984-85, a major renovation amounting to \$60,000.00 was undertaken, and the property on which the cathedral and cemetery sits was surveyed and purchased by the parish from the abbey for \$1.00. This was the final step for the building to become an Historical Site.

Over 20 ladies from St. Peter's Parish have joined the convent. While the names are too numerous to list here, it will be of interest to note that four members of the Albert Nenzel family joined the religious life in various convents: Sisters Demetria Nenzel, CSJ, Carmelita Nenzel, CSJ, Mary Clare Nenzel, SA, and Ambrose



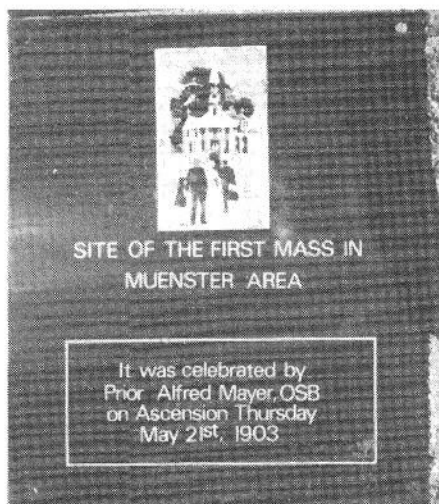
Altar boys with Fr. Martin are, L. to R.: Ian Wasserman, Jeff Thoen and Brent Loehr. There are a total of 33 altar boys in the parish.

Nenzel, OSU.

Five sons of the parish have joined the Benedictine order: Augustine Nenzel, Philip Loehr, Jerome Weber, Leo Hinz, and James Gray. Those joining the clergy of other religious groups were: Francis Lenz, OMI, William Kroetsch, CSsR, Gerald Biwer, OFM, and Robert L. Maney (no community affiliation listed).

The first visit by Bishop Albert Pascal, OMI of Prince Albert was in 1905. He later became a close friend of Abbot Bruno, having named him vicar general and administrator of the Prince Albert Diocese in his absence. On August 20 of that year he ordained deacons and confirmed 57 persons while he stayed in the colony for 15 days. The first ordination in the parish by Bishop Pascal took place on April 29, 1906, when he ordained Leo Ojdowski and Casimir Cismowski as priests for St. Peter's Monastery. Fathers Leo and Casimir were pioneer monks born in the United States.

Bishop Pascal's love for the Benedic-



tine monks was very evident. A few months before his death, he requested the Holy See that St. Peter's Abbey be elevated to an abbey-nullius and that the territory in charge of the Benedictine community be directly subject to the Holy See as is an ordinary diocese. This request was granted on May 6, 1921 in a document referred to as an

apostolic constitution. In effect, this now made St. Peter's Church a Cathedral — the seat of the abbot-ordinary.

Since 1971 visitors from all over the world have signed the cathedral guest-book after viewing the many life-sized paintings and the architecture of St. Peter's Cathedral, located near a small Saskatchewan town named Muenster.



Often seen in the cathedral congregation are the three Muenster resident Ursulines: L. to R. Srs. Miriam Spenrath, Lenore Moldenhauer, and Marian Noll. They have a reputation for whipping up a fast and delicious batch of pancakes for Sunday breakfast. Sr. Miriam is the principal of the St. Peter's Pre-Vocational school, St. Lenore teaches in the Muenster Public School, while Sr. Marian is managing editor of the Prairie Messenger.

## Missionaries and student monks addresses:

Rev. Lawrence DeMong, OSB  
C.P. 161  
Maceio, Alagoas  
57,000 Brasil  
Phone: 011-55 82-221-6815

Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB  
Collegio S. Anselmo  
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00153 ROMA  
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Rev. Br. William Thurmeier, OSB  
St. Basil's College  
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Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R9  
Phone: (416) 925-4368

Br. Bernard Lange, OSB  
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Br. Richard Meidl, OSB  
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Un./San Francisco, 650 Parker Av  
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# Fr. Norbert's Abbey Chronicle

*Edited by Brother Gerald*

## June 24

Fr. Peter Novecosky left for St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota. He will be away for three weeks attending summer courses. Bro. Gerald Moran will join him in one week for courses on the liturgy and Virgil Michel.

## June 28

We just learned today of the death of the abbot of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon. Abbot Bonaventure preached the community retreat two years ago. He died of cancer on June 22.

## June 29

Today, the patronal feast of the abbey, Saints Peter and Paul, a community meeting was held in the abbey church. Fr. Andrew resigned as editor of the Prairie Messenger so that he could devote more time to the building of the new abbey church.

## June 30

Fr. Don MacGillivray, a Saskatoon missionary in Brazil, visited the abbey

today. †Bro. Michael McAllister departed for the Bosco Camp where he will work with children for the next two weeks. †Bro. David Gauthier will not go on for final vows and has left for Saskatoon where he will take summer courses at the University of Saskatchewan.

## July 1

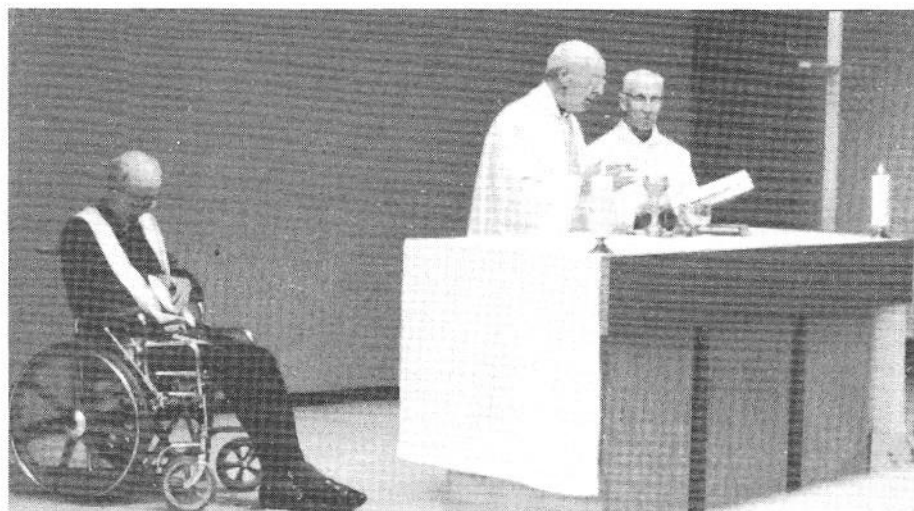
The Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society toured the abbey grounds again this Canada Day. St. Peter's Cathedral was also part of their tour.

## July 2

Bro. Richard Meidl will be acting guestmaster while both Fr. Peter Novecosky and Bro. Gerald Moran are at St. John's Abbey for summer school. Fr. Bernard Stauber returned home from Brazil.

## July 9

Oblate Day was considered to be very successful.



Fr. Xavier Benning was the main celebrant for his 60th anniversary of ordination on July 2 when his brother, Fr. Edward, and Abbot Jerome joined him as concelebrants. About 50 relatives, all descendants of another brother, Tony Benning, attended the Mass. Fr. Xavier's special thanks went to Tony and Mary for providing so many nieces and nephews to help celebrate the occasion.

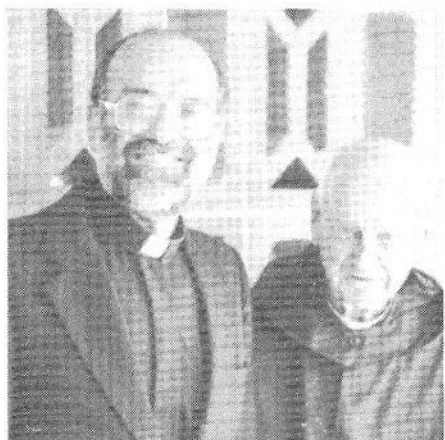




**On the Feast of St. Benedict, July 11,** Randy Senecal from Rosetown made simple profession in the presence of the community and most of his relatives.

#### **July 10**

Bro. William Thurmeier arrived home from Rome where he has been attending Sant' Anselmo the past three years. His final year before ordination will be in Toronto at St. Basil's Seminary. †Fr. Martin Brodner was admitted to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for irregular heart beat. †Three postulants are invested in the novice's habit: Vincent Regnier, Joe (now Demetrius) Wasylyniuk and Denis Fortin. Earlier in the day, the fourth postulant made a last minute decision not to enter the novitiate program.



Celebrating ordination anniversaries with the community on July 11 were Fr. Xavier Benning, his 60th, and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, his 25th.

#### **July 12**

Fr. Martin returned home from the hospital where he was recuperating from an "accelerated heart rate." †Brothers Thomas Ward and Nicodemus Van Amelsvoort departed this morning for Morristown, New Jersey, where they will attend the Monastic Summer Institute for Juniors at St. Mary's Abbey. They will be away for the entire course which lasts four weeks.

#### **July 16**

Fr. Joseph Ackerman drove to St. John's Abbey earlier this week, where he renewed acquaintances before driving Fr. Peter and Bro. Gerald back from the summer liturgy course. After staying overnight with the Benedictine sisters in Winnipeg, they arrived home safely for supper.



The Muenster Fire Department held a practice/drill session at the college building on July 13. They were able to force water high enough to hit the bell tower, the highest point on the property.

**July 18**

Fr. Maurice Weber ended up in Shau-  
navon Hospital with high blood pres-  
sure while visiting his relatives.

**July 23**

Fr. Andrew Britz' father, Anton Britz  
of Lake Lenore, passed away in hospi-  
tal shortly after being admitted for  
heart problems. Mr. Britz was 84 years  
of age.

**July 26**

Some of the abbey community attend-  
ed the funeral of Anton Britz today. An  
informal farewell for Fr. Lawrence  
DeMong was held after Vigils tonight.  
Fr. Lawrence is going to the abbey  
mission in Brazil for one year while Fr.  
Sylvester Vredegoor is on sabbatical in  
Rome.

**July 28**

Br. Basil Schaan travelled to Melfort  
for a Crop and Livestock Field Day. †  
Fr. Xavier Benning left to attend his  
sister's funeral. Sr. Benedicta died in  
South Dakota.

**July 30**

For the second time this year the  
aquarium fish have been disturbed by

night visitors. The fish maternity ward  
and kindergarden pen, as well as the  
hermitage were lying at the bottom of  
the tank. The beautiful blue Chinese  
fighting fish donated by a friend of the  
abbey was stolen.

**Aug. 1**

August came in very wet with 43 mm  
(1¾ inches) of rain; late but still ap-  
preciated. The garden vegetables are  
ready for harvesting.

**Aug. 6**

Fr. Maurice has left for the Universi-  
ty Hospital where he will undergo tests  
for the next week.

**Aug. 11**

All the monks, except for four, attend-  
ed the 75th anniversary celebrations at  
the Ursuline Convent in Bruno. Reli-  
gious celebrations will take place on  
August 15.

**Aug. 15**

Brs. Basil Schaan, Conrad Abs and  
Francis Fortney travelled to St. Laur-  
ent for the ordination of Phil Relland  
as deacon.



A farewell gathering was held in the community room on Aug. 25 for the student-monks who will be departing in the next few days for further study. They are from left: Bros. Kurt VanKuren, William Thurmeier, Thomas Ward and Richard Meidl.



**Last year's St. Pius X seminarians who have returned for the opening retreat held at St. Peter's Abbey are pictured above. The retreat which began on Sept. 2 and ended on Labor Day was conducted by Prince Albert's Bishop B. Morand. The new rector, Fr. Ken Beck, planned for a shorter retreat this year and as a result the seminarians did not take part in the annual potato picking and throwing "contest".**

#### **Aug. 16**

Fr. Albert Ruetz, Oblate director for the abbey, will attend the Oblate conference to be held at Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon. †Another community meeting re the abbey church is scheduled for tomorrow.

#### **Aug. 21**

The juniors and novices enjoyed a cool afternoon at Waldsea Lake with the Ursulines. Corn-on-the-cob, roasted over an open fire, helped warm the weather up. Another all-day outing to Waskesiu Lake is planned for next Tuesday. See group photo in this issue.

#### **Aug. 22**

The Abbey Liturgy Committee meeting was held today.

#### **Aug. 27**

Bros. Michael McAllister, Thomas Ward and Gerald Moran attend the priestly ordination of Guy Rivard. A



**Melissa Stockbrugger presents Fr. Albert Ruetz with a cheque for \$538.74 on behalf of the 1987-88 student body toward the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The money was realized at the year-end social sponsored by the students.**



Sister Victoria, OSE, the newest member of St. Scholastica's community, admires the art and hand-work done by "retired" Sister Martina, OSE. The quilt was made out of "old" Mass vestments no longer in use.

Dominican friar, Guy was ordained by Bishop James Mahoney in St. Paul's Cathedral. Five of Fr. Rivard's confreres from Ottawa attended the ordination and reception which followed.

#### Sept. 1

The community's major annual chapter meeting today.

#### Sept. 3

Bro. Randy Senecal is visiting his mother Elaine in the Rosetown Hospital. She was experiencing irregular heart beat and will be under observation for a few days.

#### Sept. 6

Today was Secretarial Arts registration day. First-year university Arts & Science registration and photos will take place tomorrow.

#### Sept. 10

Charlie Mankowski, a long-term guest, has missed out on our annual potato-picking day. Charlie left two days ago for the Catholic Bible College of



Roxanne Strueby and Darcy Loehr who worked most of the summer in the abbey gardens are seen here with Rob Clark picking peas. Roxanne and Darcy live in the Muenster area and Rob, who most recently comes from Edmonton, is a student at St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan.



Canada at Canmore, Alberta, where he will be a first-term student.

**Sept. 11**

Marriage Preparation Courses begin this afternoon and St. Peter's Chorus resumes rehearsals tomorrow evening at 7:30 in the College building.

**Sept. 13**

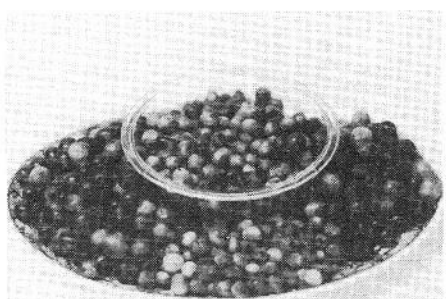
Abbot Jerome left for the Abbot's Congress in Rome and for his 'ad limina' visit. The same day, Fr. Edward fell and broke his hip.

**Sept. 14**

Fr. Edward was transferred to St. Paul's Hospital where he will undergo a hip operation for placement of a steel pin.

**Sept. 16**

'Mountains, that you leapt like rams or yearling sheep' (Ps 113). He may



Some of the tastiest plums grown in Saskatchewan and nurtured by Fathers Xavier Benning and James Gray in the abbey orchard are pictured above. All four brands of plums shown produced a good yield this summer. Unfortunately, the supply quickly dwindled after the first picking.

not have resembled a yearling sheep but when Bro. Randy Senecal leapt



Fr. Rudolph Novecosky, pastor of Anaheim invited the juniors and novices, including their formation director, Fr. Peter Novecosky, to his rectory for a small informal social. From L to R are: Frs. Rudolph and Peter, Brothers Demetrius, Vincent, Randy, and Richard. Denis is hidden behind Sr. Genny, OSE, the housekeeper.



Sister Victoria Koenig, OSE, joined the list of "monk-porters" in September to help us in the Information Office on the switchboard. Sister Victoria recently joined other members of her community who live on the abbey grounds in St. Scholastica's Convent.

over the dishwashing machine in his habit, he was escaping from an imaginary danger. Sensing danger from an empty bucket of water while drying the supper dishes, he cleared the machine in his monastic garb like a deer over a garden fence.

#### Sept. 18

Bro. Vincent Regnier and Prof. Ed Dyck entered the annual Terry Fox Run in Humboldt. There are conflicting versions of which one came first.

#### Sept. 21

Fr. Edward Benning died of a heart attack in St. Paul's Hospital while recuperating from a hip operation. See special obituary in this issue.

#### Sept. 22

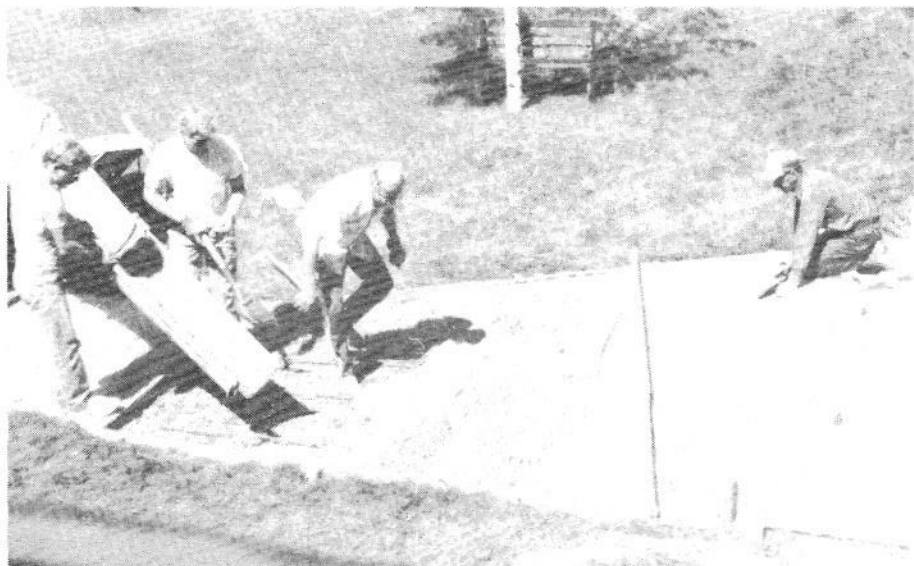
Bro. Wolfgang Thiem left for a home visit to Germany this morning. The same day Bro. Gerald Moran departed for his nephew's wedding in Medicine Hat. Bro. Nicodemus Van Amelsvoort will be leaving for his son's wedding in Ontario in a few days.



It has been a long time since three deacons were gathered in the abbey at the same time. From left are Friar Guy Rivard, OP of Ottawa (formerly from Vonda, Sask.), Bro. William Thurmeier, OSB (St. Peter's) and Rev. Phil Relland of the Prince Albert diocese. Friar Guy was ordained to the priesthood on August 27. Bro. William and Phil will be ordained next year.



After installing two new and longer culverts on Wolverine Creek, the roadway was raised about 5 extra feet by the graders shown above. The job was completed in two days.



**Br. Stanley Vindevoghel, known for his ability to get things done with dispatch, is seen directing one of the many college summer projects — replacing cracked and raised cement walks. Besides the cement truck driver Marty Ruthven (second from left), and Leo Torborg (right) assisted Br. Stan.**

**Sept. 24**

Fr. Edward was buried in the abbey cemetery after mass at St. Peter's Cathedral.

**Sept. 30**

Denis Fortin decided to terminate his novitiate program today. His departure has saddened the remaining novices quite noticeably.



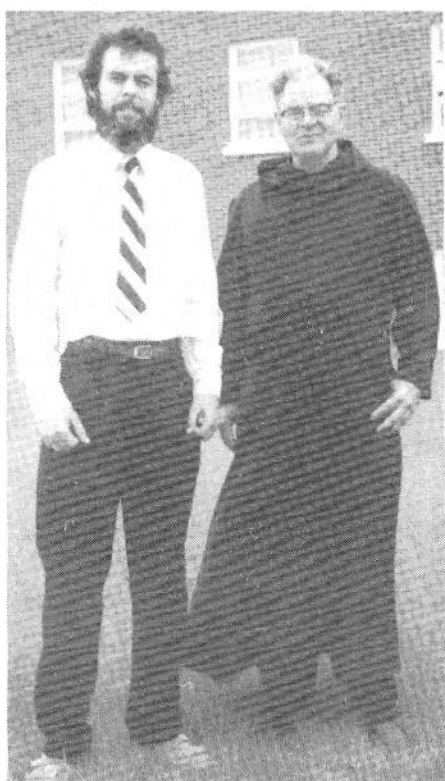
**The annual "staff" social was held this year on August 28 with softball games, card games and fried chicken dinner.**



One of the longest outings of the summer for the juniors and novices was a day-long trip to Waskesiu Lake. It was a memorable one for the editor, being his first visit to Canada's National Park in Saskatchewan. The photo was taken by Mirella Fortin, mother of Denis Fortin who accompanied the monks on the trip. From left: Brs. Thomas Ward, Demetrius Wasylyniuk, Richard Meidl, Gerald Moran, Vincent Regnier, Denis Fortin, Randy Senecal and Fr. Peter Novecosky.



Petronella Anderson and R. Dale Jeffrey, both of Saskatoon, were enrolled as Oblate Candidates at the Mass which began the Oblate Day. Fr. Albert Ruetz, who appears in both photos, is the Oblate Director.





**Some of the other Oblates present were**



**from Muenster and St. Gregor**



**from Humboldt**



**from Saskatoon**



**from Winnipeg, Camrose, Alberta, and Denver, Colorado.**



from Carmel and Cudworth

## St. Peter's College

*Maurice Weber, OSB, Principal*

St. Peter's College classes began on September 8, 1988, with 73 full-time students enrolled, as well as 71 part-time students. Last year we began with 85 full-time students. In addition to the college students, there are 24 office education students here and 29 pre-vocational students. Thus we have about 125 students here during the day. There are also six students staying in residence in Severin Hall.

Most of the teachers are the same as in previous years but we have added Denis Favreau for French 120 to replace Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, who is now in Brazil; Murray Bradbury for History 112 to replace John Hart; Professor James Penna for Philosophy 110 to replace Steve McCullough; Gareth Cook for Music 100 to replace Sr. Zita Maier, OSU; Rod Bantjes for Sociology 110 to replace Professor John Thompson. Mr. Ed Dyck is teaching English 253, Canadian Literature in English, while Ms. Colleen Murphy is teaching Psychology 221, Social Psychology. Debbie Sarauer

is in charge of the Book Store.

The number of monks involved in the college seems to be decreasing. Abbot Jerome quit teaching History 112 last year. Bro. Stanley Vindevoghel, OSB, is dean; Fr. Florian Renneberg, OSB, teaches Biological Science 100; Fr. Albert Ruetz, OSB, teaches Mathematics 104 and 175, and also supervises sports; Fr. Maurice Weber, OSB, acts as Principal and teaches Chemistry 110; and Fr. James Gray, OSB, teaches the day section of English 110.

Bro. Stanley, OSB, has done a marvellous job of keeping Michael Hall in good order and repair. He also did a lot of work on the grounds, planting trees and grass and flowers. In this he was helped by some community members and Martin Ruthven who worked at St. Peter's during July and August.

A problem has arisen with the government grant system to the college. The minister of education has noted that the grant would be based on the 1986-87 number of students. Unfortunately this is the year we had the least

number of students for the last eight years. Thus our grant is down to less than it was three years ago. This will cause some problems in budgeting and planning. We hope to be able to sway the government that a fairer assessment be made for our grants.

Although it is too early to make an accurate assessment of this year's crop of first-year students, they seem

to be fitting in well and appear to be adapting quite eagerly to university studies. The first quarterly examination the third week of October will give us a better idea of their potential.

We look forward to having a Benedictine teaching philosophy, sociology and psychology in the years to come. At the moment some are being prepared for these opportunities.

## St. Peter's Press — Prairie Messenger

This fall marks the beginning of the 84th year of operation of St. Peter's Press. *Fifty Golden Years* tells us that the *St. Peter's Bote*, begun in February 1904 and first printed in Winnipeg, had its first issue printed at Muenster carrying the date of Sept. 5, 1905. This took place after the new printing shop was set up and equipped with typesetting equipment at the old monastery behind St. Peter's Cathedral.

Well, a lot of things have changed in the field of typesetting, editing and

printing in the last 80 years. Some monks have lived through most of those changes.

Bro. Conrad Abs, 81, still puts in a full day after working 49 years at the press. He would gladly put in longer hours if only the *Prairie Messenger* would have a bigger subscription list.

Bro. Dominic Distel surpasses Bro. Conrad's record; he has worked at the press for more than 59 years. Bro. Dominic, who turned 83 on Nov. 1, still helps out on mailing day to wrap the



Frequently hot food has been disappearing from the kitchen right at meal-time. It seems from the photo above the press staff, the abbacy staff, and an occasional pastor have been socializing over roast corn, tomatoes and roast potatoes at noon-time. Some of the lucky ones at the outdoor meal are; L. to R: Rose Marie Strueby, Fr. Rudolph Novecosky, Randy Weber, Sr. Yvonne Billesberger, Emily Greter, and the "meals-on-wheels" manager, Fr. Peter Novecosky.



Prairie Messenger. (An interesting historical coincidence: Bro. Dominic was born just two months after the press was "born" at Muenster.)

There is some young blood at the press too. Glenda Pomedli, originally from Pilger, started full time work as lay-out artist for the *Prairie Messenger* on March 1 of this year. She replaced Donna Rauckman of Muenster. Christie Thoen has been working at the press part time since last year, when she was a Grade 12 student at Muenster.

Some changes are taking place at the *Prairie Messenger* staff too. The major one is the hiring of Art Babych of Saskatoon as editor, effective Nov. 1, 1988. Father Andrew Britz has been named editor-in-chief and will be able to reduce his workload with the paper to about two days.

The press and *Prairie Messenger* have 10 full-time and part-time lay

staff, in addition to the monks who work there in various capacities.

The press has expanded its printing operation in the past several years, most significantly perhaps in printing history books. Various communities and families have put together history books, ranging from 50 pages to 750 pages, and the press is now well equipped to serve the printing needs of the surrounding area. At present the press is preparing to print a thousand copies of a 750-page history of the Archdiocese of Regina.

As a contribution to the current interest in the early history of this area, the press has reprinted the account of Fr. Bruno Doerfler and his companions' trip from Minnesota in 1902 to seek a place to establish a German Catholic colony in Western Canada. The booklet, entitled *Quest for a new homeland*, also contains Abbot Jerome's history of St. Peter's Abbey up to 1921.

## Terry Fox Run

*in aid of Cancer Research — alternate views*

Distance: 10 kilometres (6 miles)

Time: 51 minutes 5 seconds

Total Pledges: \$132.00 (for the Cancer Society)

### The Experience

It was a good day for a run; the temperature was cool, the wind was low, and the sun was shining. A good day for sure!

Upon arriving at the start of the run I inquired about our English professor Ed Dyck; he had already begun his run. I then began mine confident I would catch up to him. On 7th Ave. and 10th St. I did catch Ed and passed him for the first time.

Continuing on, I felt good and was planning on a strong finish. Suddenly, after 5½ km. I discovered myself back at the starting time. After a brief discussion there on discerning the hidden meaning of the red line on the map I was back running. On 3rd Ave. and 6th St. I did catch Ed Dyck and passed him for the second time.

I still felt good, although somewhat silly and much more cautious. Not cautious enough though! I should have brought my skates, seeing as how I was running around the arena, anyway. Backtracking, I regained my bearings. On 8th Ave. & 13th St. I did catch Ed and passed him for the third time.

This was to be the last time I was to see the back of Ed's head. I strove, wearily, to finish the run, and after disregarding an arrow which would have sent me on my way to Bruno, completed my first Terry Fox Run.

I thank the Abbey for its pledge of \$50.00.

Sincerely  
Br. Vincent

September 19

Dear Brother Gerald:

Several people have asked me how I enjoyed the Terry Fox Run yesterday in Humboldt, so I thought I'd share the

experience with the community. I ran with Brother Vincent, but his interpretation of the run, as I understand it, differs somewhat from my experience.

The day was wonderful for running: cool but not cold, calm but not deathly quiet, sunny without being too bright. I wish I could say that the map provided by the organizers was as wonderful as the day. A 10 km route should take an older man like me about 1 hour (I have been running for 20 years so I do know my speed), but this one took at least 10 minutes longer. I wasted some time, therefore, making sure I was on track. But the route was reasonably interesting, the fall colours were out, and I didn't really mind that much.

My running companion, however, had even more difficulty with the map than I, and some of the time I wasted was spent making sure he was on track. I am notorious for my sense of direction (put me in a building, turn me around, and I'll think east is west and left is right), but I'm pretty good at reading maps. Brother Vincent no doubt has a much better sense of direction than I, but the poor fellow kept getting lost! He started a few minutes later than I, and since he's a good runner (and, I might add, about half my age) he caught up with me soon enough. We ran together for a few minutes, complaining about the bad

map, before he "took off," as he put it.

Well, take off he did — right off the route, as it turned out. About five minutes later he caught up with me again, grinning sheepishly and muttering something about "getting lost." I didn't say anything (when I run, I try to conserve my breath); I just pointed straight ahead and made a right-hand turn signal with my arm. But Brother Vincent apparently doesn't read traffic signals any better than he reads maps. Five minutes later, and he caught up with me again. This time I did speak: "Thirteenth," I gasped, "then right." The effort nearly cost me the race — I tripped on a kleenex lying directly in my path and was saved from falling only by the timely intervention of a white-haired lady who was walking the same route. "Look where you're going, young man," she cried as she struck me on the leg with her cane. I immediately recovered my balance, and one block later the leg no longer hurt very much. Brother Vincent, meanwhile, was again "taking off" on paths uncharted.

To make a long run short, both of us finally did finish the route and picked up our certificates and pledge sheets. When I suggested to him that a much better route could be laid out on the grounds of the abbey, he shook his head. "Think of the map," he said.

— Ed Dyck

## St. Peter's farm news

*By Bro. Bernard Lange, OSB*

The summer has been hot and dry with record amounts of wind and much below average rainfall.

The temperature and wind and lack of moisture were fatal to some of our crops because the weeds thrived in the heat and drought and choked out the grain. In July we plowed down about 360 acres. This made harvesting a lot faster, with fewer acres and a light crop. No grain bins are bulging and the elevators are almost empty.

The corn crop came through very well with the help of Bro. Basil Schaan

and the irrigation pumps.

Most of the garden vegetables were good with the exception of some cabbage which suffered a heat stroke in June. Some carrots decided not to grow. The rest was very co-operative; the cucumbers grew big and fat, the peas and beans were plentiful.

The potatoes produced very well, considering they received no extra water. All our surplus potatoes were sold to people who requested them in advance.



During the Vigil Service on the eve of St. Benedict, July 10, three postulants were invested as novices. L. to R. they are: Denis Fortin, Demetrius (Joseph) Wasylyniuk and Vincent Regnier. The novitiate is a twelve month period of prayer, study, work, community living, made possible only with God's grace.

### Stamp Exchange

U.S.A. used stamps exchanged for Canadian used stamps. Write: Fr. Rudolph Novacosky, OSB, Box 120, Anaheim, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K 0G0

### 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

### Rest in peace

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

Br. Mark Barton, OSB; St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma — June 9/88.

Fr. Martin Taylor, OSB; St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas — June 5/88

Fr. Christopher Abair, OSB, St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington — June 17/88.

Fr. Michael Messer, OSB, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D. — July 10/88.

Mr. Anton Britz (father of Fr. Andrew Britz, OSB;) Lake Lenore — July 23/88.

Sr. Benedict Benning, OSB; Rapid City, South Dakota — July 27/88.

Fr. Herbert Smith, OSB, St. Anselms Abbey, Manchester, N.H. — July 28/88.

Fr. Daniel Regimbal, OSB: St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Wash. — July 31/88.

Fr. Philip O'Connor, OSB, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas — Aug. 1/88.

Fr. Edward Benning, OSB; St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask. — Sept. 21/88.

**Me? A Monk?**

**COME, TRY IT for a week or two**



**Experience life in a monastery  
with Benedictine monks at St. Peter's Abbey**

Make arrangements now by contacting:

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St. Peter's Abbey  
Muenster, Sask., S0K 2Y0  
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