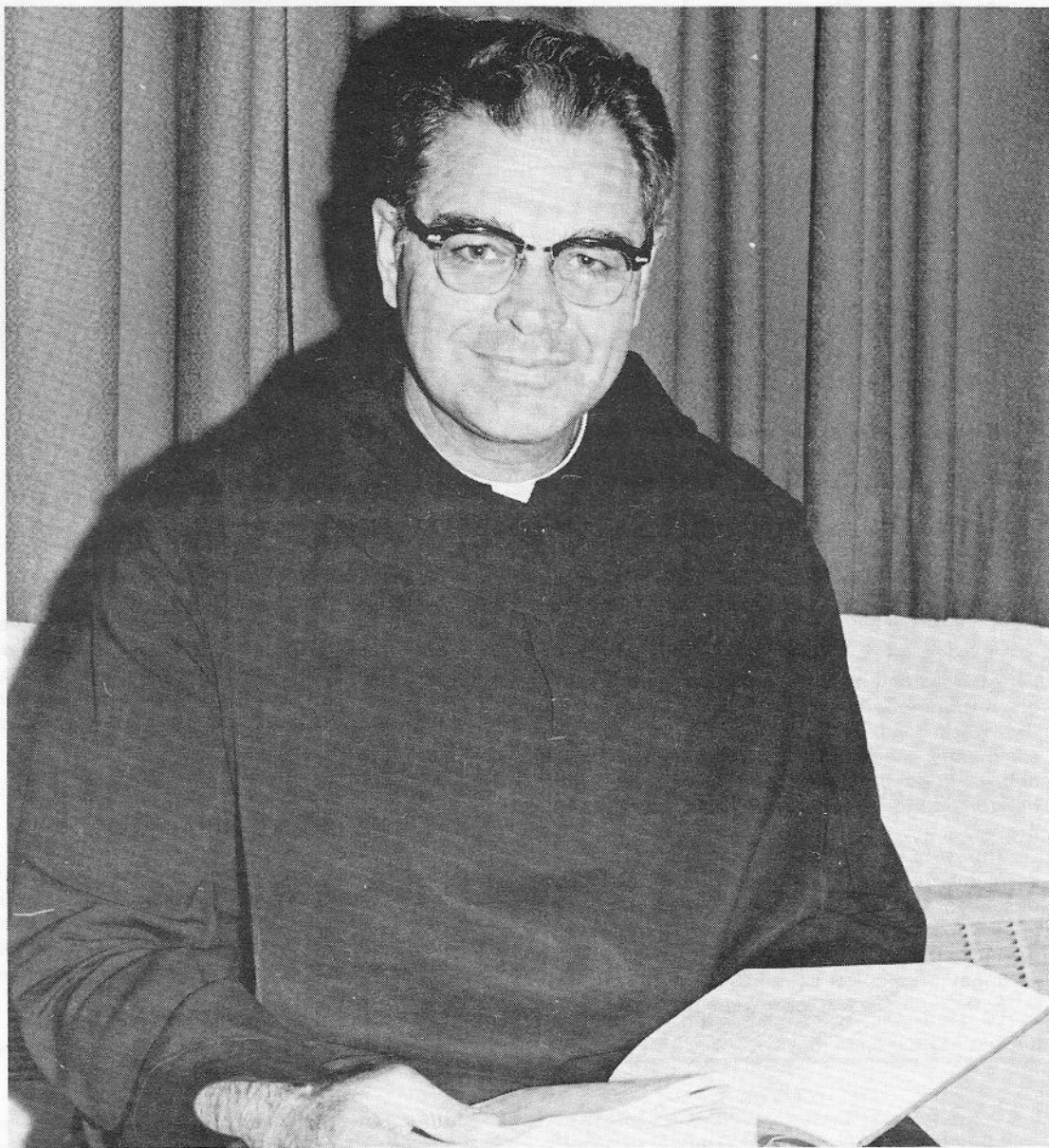


ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Prior, subprior appointed

Abbot Jerome Weber announced the appointment of Father Albert Ruetz as prior and Father Peter Novecosky as subprior of St. Peter's Abbey on Sept. 2.

They replace Fathers Rudolph Novecosky and Daniel Muyres respectively.

The primary function of the prior is to be in charge of the community in the absence of the abbot. When both are absent, the subprior is responsible.

In his rule, St. Benedict makes no mention of the office of subprior. He does however refer to the prior in two chapters: a brief reference in chapter 21 and the whole of chapter 65. In that chapter the prior is instructed to "carry out respectfully the instructions given him by the abbot, doing nothing contrary to the will or direction of the abbot; for as he is placed above the rest in office, so it is his duty to observe the precepts of the Rule with all the more care."

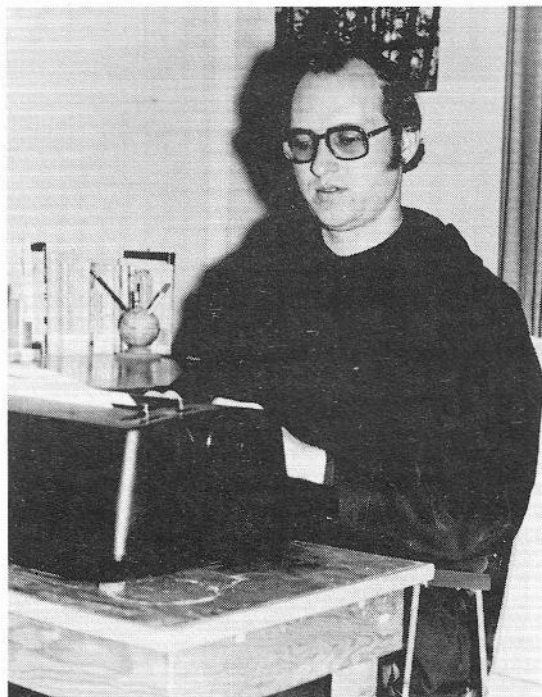
In a clarification of the role and functions of the prior and subprior at St. Peter's, the senior council several years ago approved the following statement:

Both the prior and subprior are concerned with the participation of individual monks in community life and prayer; and are concerned with monastic discipline.

The prior, in the absence of the abbot, gives the permissions and makes the assignments regularly given and made by the abbot; is concerned with the work load and involvement of individual community members; co-ordinates and assigns abbey work projects; and schedules readers, hebdomadarians, celebrants, etc. for the daily prayer.

The subprior gives permissions and makes assignments for the abbot and the prior in their absence; schedules, publicizes and sends out invitations for informal community gatherings; arranges the community theological meetings; and arranges ecumenical activities for the abbey.

Father Albert was born and grew up in Gull



Father Peter Novecosky

Lake, Sask. He made his first profession of vows at St. Peter's on Aug. 13, 1944, and was ordained on June 5, 1949. Father Peter was born and grew up at Burr, Sask. He made his first profession of vows at St. Peter's on July 11, 1964, and was ordained on July 11, 1970.

Personnel notes

Abbot Jerome Weber attended the annual fall meeting of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Ottawa, Sept. 25-29. He also concelebrated Mass at the alumni reunion, Oct. 8, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the beginning of Campion College in Regina.

Father Albert Ruetz took part in a Faith and Sharing retreat in Edmonton, Aug. 18-22.

Father Peter Novecosky helped organize the first provincial meeting of vocation directors and

COVER

Father Albert Ruetz, the new prior

directresses for Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Sept. 16. *Father Maurice Weber* also took part in the meeting.

Father Matthew Michel spent several days at the end of September travelling around the abbacy with *Lois Volk* of Regina, who is doing her MA thesis on rural electrification in Saskatchewan. *Father Matthew* was extensively involved in initiating this project in the 1940s.

Father Augustine Nenzel suffered some cracked ribs and lost most of the sight in his right eye in a car accident July 17 near St. Benedict, as he was returning from the colony jubilee celebrations in Muenster. After more than a week in the hospital, he came to the abbey to recuperate further for a couple of weeks.

Father Martin Brodner chaired the annual meeting of the Western Liturgical Conference at Edmonton, Oct. 3-4. Dr. Bernard Cooke gave four lectures on "Initiation into the Christian Community". *Fathers Martin and George Brodner*, along with *Brothers Gregory and John Brodner*, travelled to St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., to take part in an alumni reunion, Oct. 8, with their 1938 university graduation class.

Father Leo Hinz took part in the Canadian Canon Law Convention in Banff, Oct. 2-5.

Father Werner Renneberg left Aug. 16 for Chicago to take part in a week-long training session for World Wide Marriage Encounter. On the first weekend of October he was part of a team that put on a marriage encounter in Regina.

Father Maurice Weber was appointed Vocation Director for the abbey in early September.

Father Rudolph Novecosky returned to the University Hospital, Saskatoon, Sept. 18, to see what the doctors could do to relieve the nerve pains in his feet. He underwent a gall bladder operation on Sept. 25.

Father Lawrence DeMong spoke at catechetical workshops in Fort Smith, N.W.T., Aug. 14-15, and in Estevan, Sept. 1. He will also speak at the Cold Lake, Alta., Canadian Armed Forces base, Oct. 20-22.

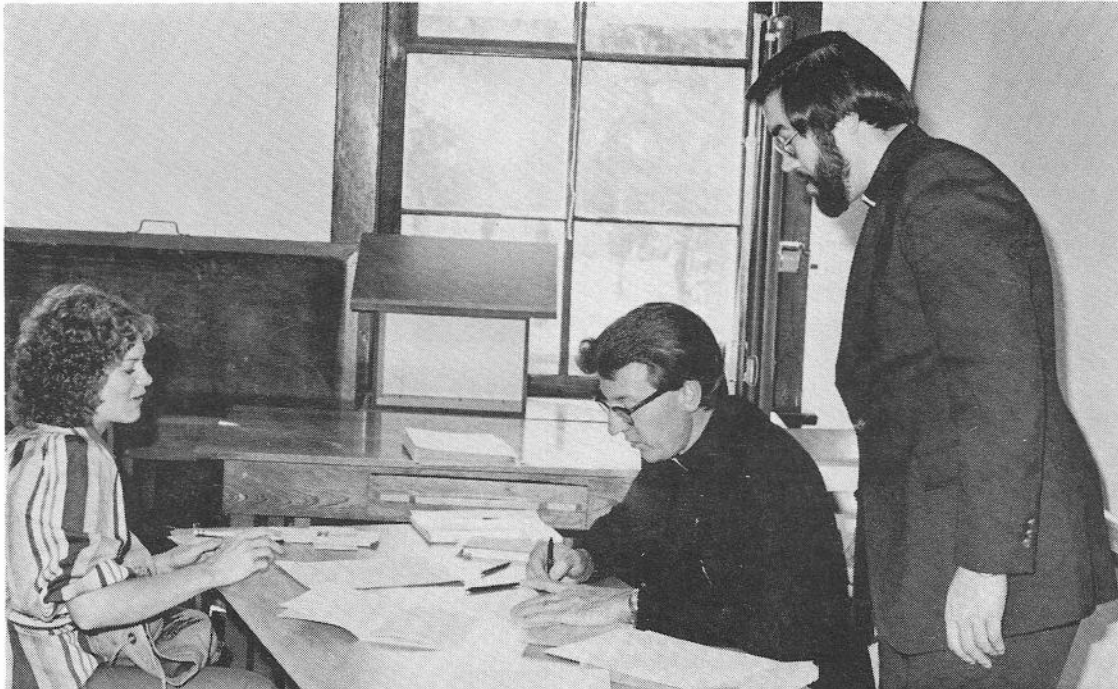


Four new novices, Aug. 5: *Brothers Clement (Joe) McSheffery, Mark (George) Hunt, Guy Herriges, and Patrick (Lawrence) Genois.*

Father Andrew Britz is teaching a night class in Saskatoon, through St. Thomas More College, for the second year in a row. His class is Introduction to Christianity.

Brother Bede Hubbard was a visitor to Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., Aug. 6-12. He attended a regional meeting of the Catholic Press Association in Vancouver, Oct. 5-7.

Brother Wolfgang Thiem left Sept. 15 for a month-long visit to his relatives in Germany.



Father Maurice Weber, dean, and Father Andrew Britz, principal, register a new student on Sept. 10.

Dream on boys of 1921-72!

The high school student body is no longer at St. Peter's but many activities are going on today. In fact, plans for next year include the possibility of adding a first year business course as well as a program covering the Tomatis hearing approach. These would be additions to the present Arts and Science program (first year), the Office Education, and the Special Education programs.

The school year began at St. Peter's College on Sept. 11 for the Arts students, with 28 full-time students — a few less than last year. Of this number the majority are ladies. This continues a trend that began about four years ago. It seems that we came from an era of having a segregated boys' school to one where we now have more ladies. Perhaps it is a sign of the times.

It is notable that 17 students come from Humboldt, five from Muenster, and the others from towns outside the school district.

The Office Education students began about a week earlier. There are 28 as well. The program is taught at St. Peter's but is sponsored by Carlton

Trail Community College and organized from Saskatchewan Technical Institute, Moose Jaw. Carol Zubiak is now beginning her fourth year of teaching this course while Linda Reynolds is new on the staff. No man signed up, so 30 more ladies add to the ensemble using Michael Hall at St. Peter's.

These two groups have their separate classes, but the Arts and Office Education students join together for sports in a two-hour period each Wednesday. So far there has been enthusiastic participation in volleyball and racquet ball. Father Albert Ruetz is in charge of sports and hopes to develop a ladies volleyball team to represent St. Peter's at some interschool competitions.

Father Andrew Britz directs the activities at the college as principal. Father Maurice Weber is the new dean and advises the Arts and Science students about their study programs. Bother Stanley Vindevoghel is social activities coordinator.

Teachers include: Biology 102, Vladimir

Murawsky, assisted by David Hall for the laboratory instruction; Chemistry 102, Maurice Weber, OSB; Economics 101, Dr. Richard Lansing; English 102, James Gray, OSB; French 201, Lawrence DeMong, OSB; History 102, Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB; Mathematics 174 & 175, Albert Ruetz, OSB; Physics 111, Paul Tan; Psychology 101, Gabriel Varkonyi; Sociology 101, John Thompson; Biblical Literature 202, Andrew Britz, OSB; Educational Psychology 316A and 317B, Raymond Logan and Wally Lejbak; and Sociology 239A and 232B, Kathleen Storrie.

Sister Miriam Spennath, OSU, and Palmer Ruten continue with their endeavors in Special Education. Father Lawrence DeMong assists them, together with Doris Puetz and Mary Sarauer.

The three-year program has 21 teenagers: five girls and 17 boys. They have their facilities on the third floor of Michael Hall and they command the most imposing view of the countryside.

At this writing the various groups of students have been attending St. Peter's for close to a month and most have adjusted well to the atmosphere here. It is hoped that occasionally these different groups of students can come together for meetings or some social events so they can benefit from the presence of each other in Michael Hall. The faculty members may well benefit from each other's expertise and abilities as well.

Some college faculty members from the Benedictine community may dream about the good old days when we had a high school composed of only high school boys and some men in Arts. Some of our ladies at the present time might desire a more comparable situation for themselves. However, for the boys of 1921-72, your dream has come true more than you ever thought possible. The ladies are now here. Please send us more men!

As regards facilities, improvements have continued throughout the year. Since the pottery program has not been so active the last two years the basement rooms have been panelled and carpeted. This allows us to have four rooms for groups of 16 to 30. This was a need since St. Peter's remodeled the old dormitories in Severin Hall and has been taking in many guests.

Besides the panelling of the bottom corridor, improvements have been made in regard to heating, as well as remodeling of the washrooms on the second floor of Michael Hall. Insulation has been placed on the floor of the attic to ensure that less heat escapes into the cold winter

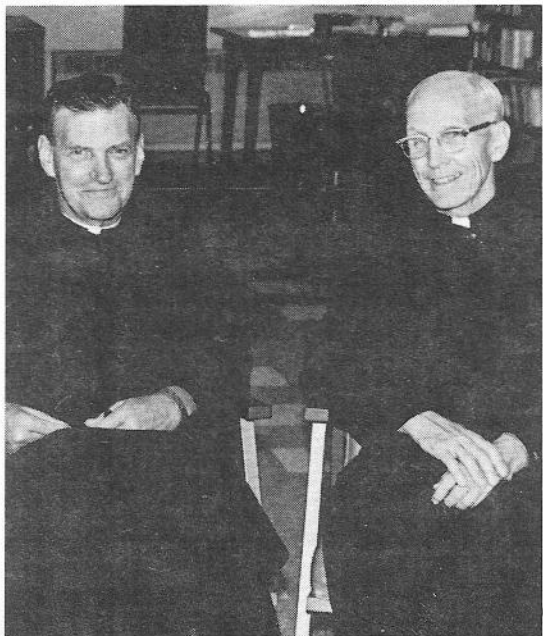
Saskatchewan atmosphere. The attic is now quite empty, with the books moved into various library rooms as well as into the old band room on the fourth floor.

The museum has been housed on the south half of the third floor, but plans call for moving it to the former music rooms on the top floor. This will give extra space for the proposed classes in the business and the Tomatis programs for next year.

The open area between Michael Hall, Severin Hall and the Chapel wing is slated for remodeling as an open area and parking lot. Plug-ins will also be installed for cars in winter.

From the above it can be seen that though 1973 (after the dropping of the high school in 1972) seemed like a very quiet period with only a few Arts and Science students here, the number of activities taking place on the premises continues to grow. Muenster school makes full use of the gymnasium. Night class students this year total 65 in addition to our usual day students.

If our facilities can fill a need in the area we hope to be of service. After all, this may be one of the best ways of continuing the ancient tradition of Benedictine hospitality.



Abbot President Martin Burne visited the abbey for the July 23 celebration.



Supper at the get-together of Religious communities, Aug. 7.

Around the abbey

This summer was a busy one for all abbey members, especially with the St. Peter's Colony 75th jubilee celebrations in July, with Brother Thomas Gerwing directing the traffic.

Central celebrations were held at Mount Carmel on July 16 and at the abbey on July 23 and Aug. 31. Pastors were busy with parish celebrations in each community and a number of monks from the abbey took in several of these. Brother Conrad Abs has made up a detailed book of all the activities, with pictures and commentary, and Father Aloysius Herriges has also compiled a complete pictorial record of the celebrations he attended.

Archabbot Egbert Donovan of St. Vincent's Archabbey, Latrobe, Penn., Abbot John Eiden-schink of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., and Abbot President Martin Burne of St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, N.J., came to help us celebrate.

Part of the celebrations included a get-together

here, Aug. 6, of the Religious communities in the abbacy. The day included a Mass at the cathedral, supper, and historical (and hysterical!) presentations by each of the communities.

The community got a first-hand account of developments in the Brasil mission when Sister Imelda (Maria) Doepker, OSU, visited briefly on Sept. 15.

The harvest this year has been very bountiful. Brother Gregory Brodner took advantage of the bumper Juneberry crop as he engineered the picking of over 300 gallons this year, with the community getting their first taste of them on the table, July 1. Brother John Brodner looked after the picking of 160 gallons of Raspberries.

Through the efforts of Brothers Gregory and John, and Francis Fortney, helped by the novices, the community enjoyed their first meal of Rainbow Trout on Sept. 29, and are anticipating several more feedings! Sept. 9 was the Saturday set aside

for the potatoe harvest, and with the help of many community members and neighbors, the cellar was filled and a supply was taken to the hospital and villa as 1,000 bags were picked. Another 800 bags were sold to neighbors in the following weeks.

The grain harvest looked very promising this year, with Brother Bernard Lange and the harvesters getting a good start in early September. But once again wet weather set in and the harvest was finally finished on Oct. 11 in fine style, with five combines putting a quick end to it. Father Xavier Benning had another good year with the bees, and he harvested over 5,000 pounds of honey.

On July 4 the community had a farewell supper for Mrs. Tony Taphorn, who retired after working in the laundry for 14 years. Mrs. Ron (Anne) Back was hired to replace her.

During the summer, the senior council voted in favor of acquiring a St. Benedict statue before 1980, the 1500th anniversary of his birth; to donate \$1,000 to Father Bernard Stauber's parish in Alagoas, Brasil, as he requested; and it suggested the Thanksgiving weekend of October 1979 for the next abbey visitation.

Monks were involved in several personnel changes this summer, too. In the parishes, Father Edward Benning moved to Englefeld, Father Matthew Michel to St. Benedict, Father Aloysius took on the pastورشip of Quill Lake, Father Augustine Nenzel moved to Cudworth hospital, Father Philip Loehr stayed at Carmel but is also pastor of Peterson, Dana and Fulda (assisted by Father Damian Yaskowich), Father Alfred Engele moved to the hospital at Humboldt, and Father Maurice Weber became the weekend assistant at Humboldt, in October.

Fathers Edward Benning and Andrew Britz were elected to the Senior Council. Other members include Abbot Jerome Weber, Fathers Albert Ruetz, Leo Hinz and Daniel Muyres and Brother Bede Hubbard.

Father Martin Brodner was elected and Father Werner Renneberg appointed to the Priests Senate. They join Abbot Jerome Weber and Fathers Edward Benning and Roman Schneider.

On the new Grounds Committee are Fathers Albert Ruetz, Peter Novecosky, Rudolph Novecosky, and Brother Francis Fortney.



Archabbot Egbert Donovan, St. Vincent's Archabbey, and Abbot John Eidenschink, St. John's Abbey, spoke to the gathering at Mount Carmel, July 16.

Brother Thomas' guestmaster's diary

Except for a directed retreat for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, the guest wing was not used by organized groups during July. It was reserved for relatives of the monks and for participants in St. Peter's Colony 75th jubilee celebrations. Lots of fine Wisconsiners and Minnesotans lived in while attending Father Xavier Benning's 50th anniversary festivities. Hilaire Belloc's sister wrote an autobiography called, "I, too, have lived in Arcadia" — and that's the name the Wisconsin home town of the Bennings took for itself. We enjoyed the visit of these modern Arcadians and hope it will be repeated.

The Globe Theatre cast of "With Plough and Prayer" resided in Severin Hall for the duration of the play's run. They were missed like family when they left.

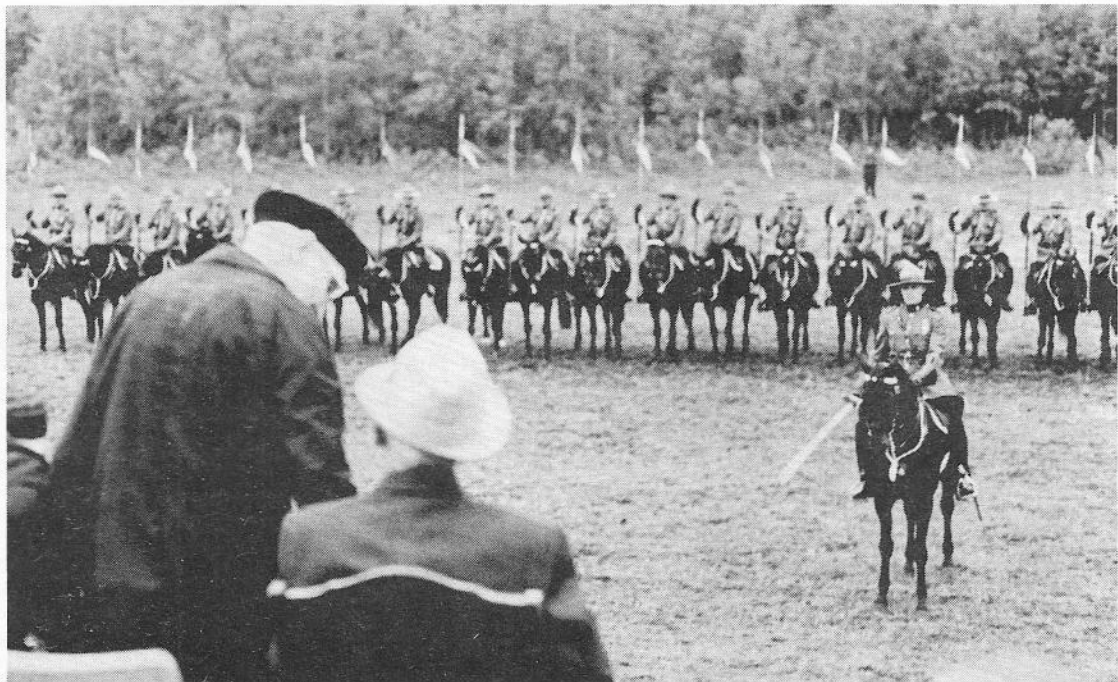
Marikay Falby of Saskatoon, Wayne Pelttari of Montreal, Grant and Vivien Maxwell of Ottawa, Dennis Campeau of Sudbury, Winston Dow of Quebec, Dorothy McSheffery of New Brunswick, Carl Perreca of Calgary, Ted Wood of Regina,

Celine Wolsfeld of Cudworth, and Jim Moss of Toronto all spent part of their summer break at St. Peter's, some of them for an extended visit including work on the abbey grounds and in the gardens.

Hundreds of boys and young men attended the annual hockey camps in July and August. Alumni of the hockey camps are beginning to show up in various professional seminars and workshops.

Carlton Trail Community College conducted its fifth annual two-week summer school of arts and crafts at St. Peter's, Aug. 7-19. I taught a Kodaly course here to some 40 teachers Aug. 20-26.

The last week of August was an exciting one at the abbey: two large groups simultaneously, a study week for the Lutheran Student Movement, and the men of the RCMP Musical Ride. The Mounties were specially friendly and thoughtful guests, belying the media image of recent years. Their horses, stabled in our arena, drew many visitors. The route they rode from abbey to the riding site in Wolverine Creek passed through



Abbot Jerome Weber accepts the salute at the RCMP Musical Ride, Aug. 31, at the scenic Wolverine Creek site.



Father Peter Novcosky and Brother Stanley Vindevoghel work on the abbey float for July 23, depicting the four major apostolates of the abbey. Brother Peter Dougan is missing from the picture.

abbey grounds, garden, farm and wended down the east banks of the Wolverine in a long "S". A photographer from the National Geographic magazine captured the most scenic moments of the route as well as the Aug. 31 ride. The mounties made many friends in their two-day visit to St. Peter's.

One hundred men and women of the Canadian Legion held a two-day study session at the abbey in early September — a fine group of people.

The Lutherans returned in September, this time as seminarians and theological students. There was lots of joie-de-vivre in this group.

Lois Volk of Regina spent several September days at the abbey and through the area with Father Matthew Michel, researching the rural electrification story in which Father Matthew played a major role.

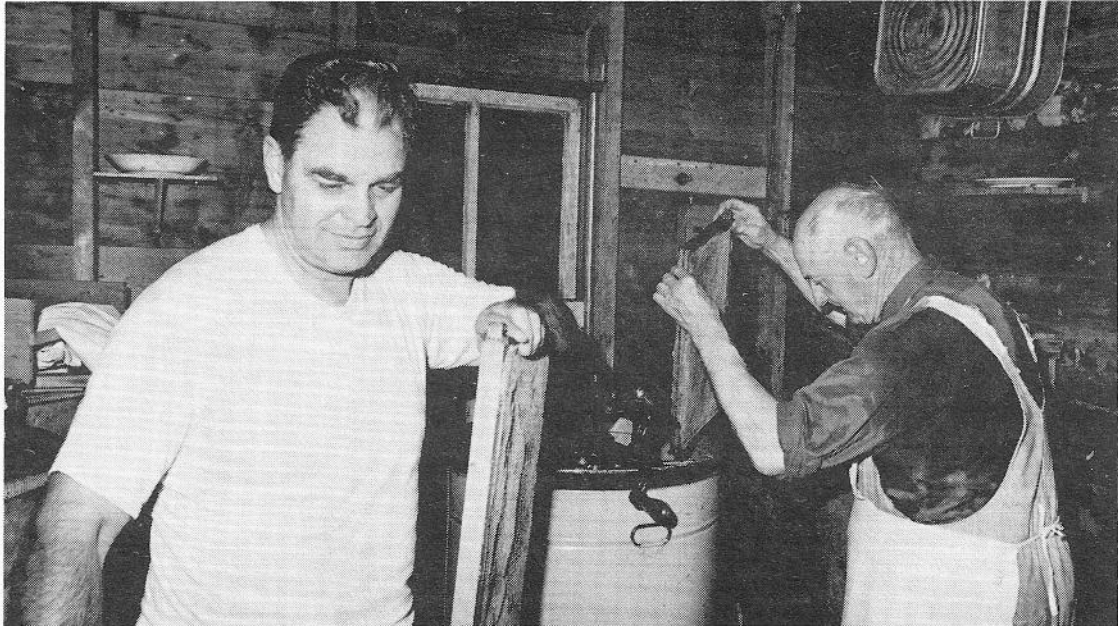
The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and College of Education conducted two in-service training seminars for teacher interns and their supervisors in the last weeks of September. Both sessions hit the only fine days September gave us

this year and so were able to work outdoors part of the time.

Sisters and lay people continue to come, singly and in two's and three's, for days of retreat and recollection.

The St. Peter's College administration, under the direction of Father Andrew Britz, principal, prepared four meeting rooms on the lower floor of Michael Building (College building) for use of guest groups. With carpeting and wood panelling, they are inviting discussion and lecture centers.

Joe Bernard, a periodic visitor at the abbey, has been here again several weeks this summer. He spent the past six months in Helsinki, working at the problem of getting entrance to Russia to carry out his own personal bridge-and-peace-building project between the U.S.A. and Russia. His next project is to attempt to see the new pope to beg him to write an encyclical forbidding Catholics under the strongest penalties from bearing arms in any future war. His thesis is that such a moral imperative (if it "took") could dry up war.



Father Albert Ruetz helps Father Xavier Benning extract honey.

Hermitess accepted

At the community's annual meeting, Aug. 30, Sister Suzanne Mowchan was accepted to stay at St. Peter's indefinitely as a hermitess. She has been here for three years already.

She is one of six hermits and hermitesses at the abbey, each living in his(her) own house. The community provides them with their needs. The hermits spend their day in prayer, reading and work.

St. Peter's Abbey began accepting hermits on an experimental basis in 1969. Though hermits have been part of the life of the church throughout history, this lifestyle has had a revival in recent years. The proposed Code of Canon Law acknowledges this fact by having a special canon for hermits.



Sister Suzanne Mowchan



Community day in the potatoe field, Sept. 9.

Letters from Brasil

Last Sunday, after more than six hours officiating in the various churches here, I was bushed. I wish there were as many priests here as we have doctors . . .

I am not really resigned about no Muensterite pitching in here while I am on my "sabbatical" year in the "desert" . . . I have high hopes to find a conducive monastery in Brasil. (There are some 17 houses, and I am not at all excluding the possibility to make this second "novitiate" in a cloister of *moniales* if that seems better.) Dom Miguel Camara has repeated his request to see into the possibility of encouraging a monastery right here in Maceio, and I want to pray over that as well . . . Many thanks to all the monks that wrote of late. (Father Sylvester Vredegoor, Aug. 25)

The last four months have been busy for me because we remodeled the parish house here in Colonia Leopoldina. The kitchen wall was beginning to cave out. Once the workers started to repair it, it was necessary to demolish the whole outer wall of the kitchen . . . The parish council and myself decided to remodel that whole part of the house . . .

The rainy season is now coming to an end and soon I will again be serving the various chapels and

rural communities on a regular monthly basis. The change of many people from the country to the city is changing a lot of the areas. Some areas I went to are diminishing, but other population concentrations are showing interest in having regular services . . . I am trying to concentrate more on the main population areas, especially the cities, towns, sugar mills and those places where it is possible to build up some sort of community. (Father Bernard Stauber, Aug. 24)

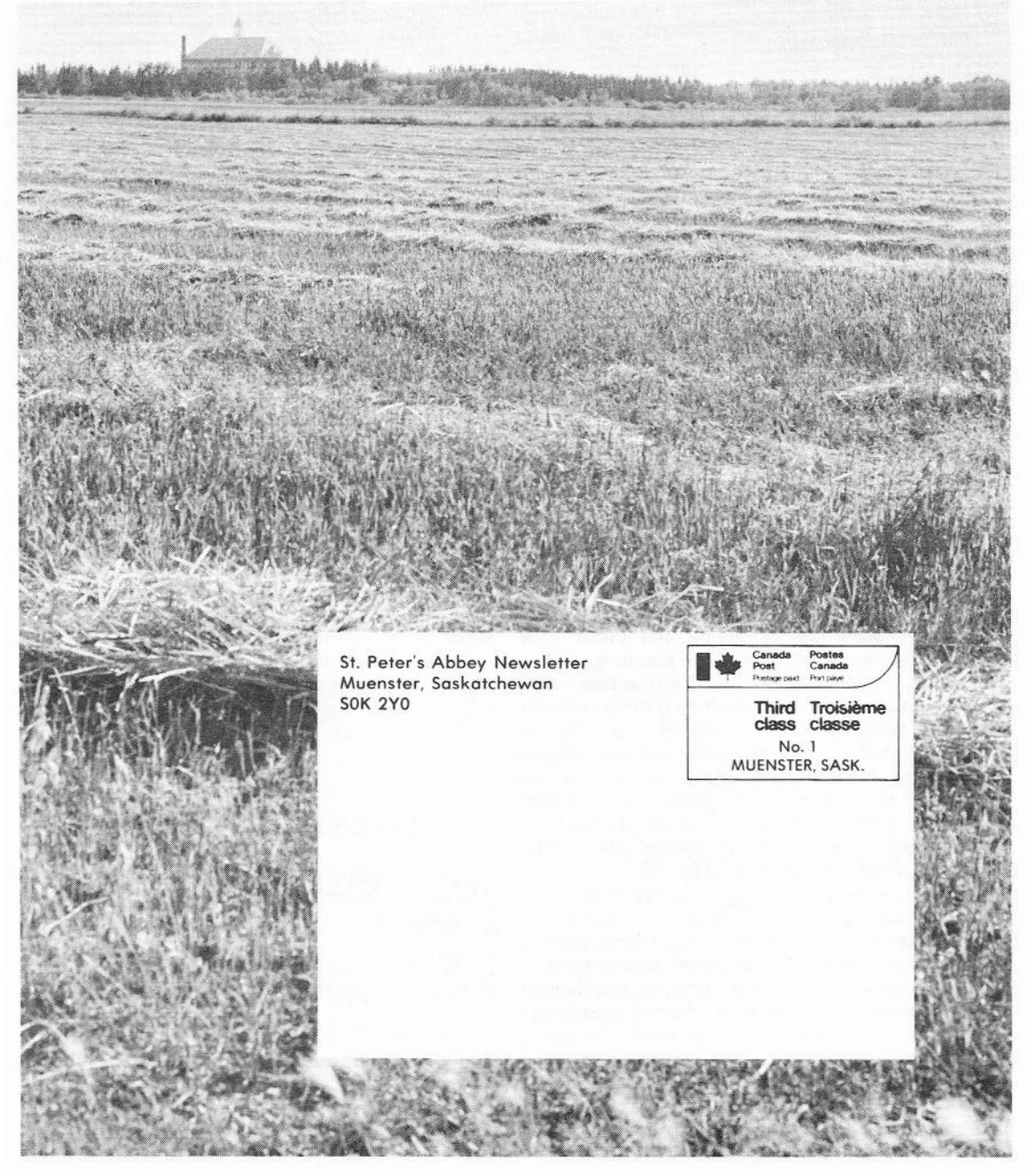
Deceased brethren

Father Gabriel Robert Germann, 68, St. Bernard Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama, died on June 25, from cancer.

Father Malachy Patrick Murphy, 58, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., died on July 4.

Brother Stephen James Schober, 47, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, died suddenly on Aug. 28.

Brother Boniface Reinhard Spiegelberg, 78, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Ill., died on Aug. 29.



St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter
Muenster, Saskatchewan
S0K 2Y0

